

Spiritual Sons & Daughters

Church can be a strange place. Where else in life do you dress up a little, file into row seating, stand for singing out loud *in public*, bow your head sitting quietly in prayer several times, remain seated and attentive for about an hour while one person shares an essential *Christian* value? Then, next Sunday return to do it all over again.

From the outside looking in, many would call that *being religious*. It is true that there is much *religious* activity going on on any given Sunday. And, if you were to visit other church services, you might even think that *their system* is even weirder than your own. But religion is not the point.

As we mature in our faith in Jesus Christ, coming together is no longer about ritual, rather it is about relationships – vertical to God through Christ and horizontal towards each other of common faith. We are united in community, and in a very real way a loving *family*. “But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

The word “love” is a diluted word today. It has been twisted in every way to justify objectionable behavior. Thank God that no matter what the dictionary says, God gives us the eternal definition to live by. Consider that in John 3:16, God gives us the clearest understanding of love. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” Notice that for love to be true, it must be given. You don’t fall into love; you give and are given love. And it almost always requires sacrifice. For God it certainly did!

So, let’s make a connection. God has called us to love others the way that he loves – giving sacrificially of our time, talent and abilities. The author of Hebrews offers this challenge for the family of God. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us

consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:23-25). Putting the two



together, *we habitually assemble in love to stimulate spiritual growth and participate in noticeable engagement with each other.*

So, who do you engage with spiritually. In Titus 1: 4, we say Paul refer to Titus as, “my true child in a common faith”. Titus was Paul’s *spiritual* son. While Titus was with Paul, he gave him the best he had much like a father would give his son. There was no blood relation between Paul and Titus, but there was a bond that went deeper. Using modern lan-

guage, “they were tight!” Paul taught him while he was a young Christian, encouraged him to grow in faith, commissioned him to use the wisdom he gained to help others find their way too. In a sense, Paul was telling Titus, “Go adopt others and treat them the way I treated you,” so that they too will, “...press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

The church IS strangely out of place until you realize that the true purpose is not ritual or religion. Rather it is establishing relationships for the betterment of God’s people and his kingdom. In a very real sense, it is our duty (if you will) to *adopt* spiritual sons and daughters, teaching them to follow, grow and mature in the principles of Christ. So that one day, they too will be able to adopt spiritual children of their own. It is in this that the Church can begin to embrace it’s true calling.

Someone in the congregation needs a spiritual mom or dad. Are you up for it? That is why you are here, right?

Pastor Robert

God is Our Perfect Father

In the dictionary, there are many meanings to the word “father.” Here are a few of them:

Father can be a man who has a child. (You might call him “your real dad.”)

Father can be someone who begins something.

Father can be an older man.

Father can be one of the leaders of a city.

Like the dictionary said, a father can be an older man. In the Bible there’s a story about an older man who became like a father to a young man. The older man’s



KIDS CORNER

name is Paul, and the young man’s name is Timothy. The Bible doesn’t tell us anything about Timothy’s real dad--it just tells us about his mom Eunice, and his grandmother Lois (II Tim.1:4-6). Those Bible verses tell us that his grandmother was the first one in

his family who loved God, and then his mother loved God, and then Timothy loved God. We don’t know where Timothy’s dad was, but we know that Paul, an older man, wrote letters to Timothy and taught him about God. He was like a father to him.

In Psalm 68:5 it says, “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.” There were some words people used in the Bible when they would pray to God. They would say, “Abba, Father.” Do you know what those words really mean? They mean “Daddy God.” God is our perfect Father. We can trust

him completely. He wants you to talk to him like you would with your dad or with a good friend here on earth. We call that praying. Praying is just talking to God like you talk to anyone else. He loves you so much. He wants you to love Him too. Why don’t we talk to Him right now?

PRAY: Father, thank you for letting us be here to celebrate Father’s Day today. Thank you for putting people in our lives that can be like a father to us. Most of all, thank you for being my heavenly Father. Thank you for loving me. I want to love You too. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

JUNE 2026

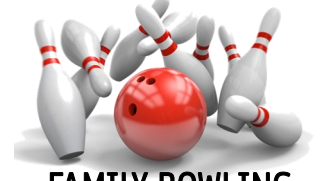


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	3	4	5 Men's Bible Study 10 am	6
7 COMMUNION	8	9 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	10	11	12 Men's Bible Study 10 am	13
14 Blessed FATHER'S DAY!	15	16 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	17	18	19 Men's Bible Study 10 am	20
21 Monthly Birthday Celebration!	22	23 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	24 SUMMERFEST	25	26 Men's Bible Study 10 am	27
28	29	30	SUMMERFEST FAMILY FESTIVAL SAT., AUG. 1, 10 am -3pm 3-4 committee members needed to plan this event! First committee meeting is June 7 after church. See Linda interested!			

COMING SOON

Sat., June 6
GCC, 8-1
See Linda for info
Set-up help needed

YARD SALE



FAMILY BOWLING
Sun. June 28, see Yvette



PRAYER ANGELS PROJECT

Every week, place your name in the basket near the front door. Before you leave, pull a name out. Pray for that person all week! Participation is voluntary.

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY ON OUR WEBSITE! ONLY 2-3 SENTENCES NEEDED. SEE PASTOR ROBERT IF INTERESTED!

GCC Birthdays This Month

Diane McMurry, Brian Johnson, Casey May Gaines, Eliana Alander

Foster Children Ministry

Male 17 years old 06/05/2008
Male 10 years old 12/10/2015
Male 1 month old 01/05/2026

If you would like to sponsor a child see Patricia Johnson

Charlotte County Senior Needs

Grace is supporting local DSS by donating the following items: Depends sizes Medium/Large, Boost, Ensure. See Yvette for more information.

Hospitality

Our fellowship meal is an extension of our service where we gather together to share the love of Jesus. The meal is served buffet style with guests and seniors going first. **VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED.** If you would like to help out see Diana Matthews

Join Our Family

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Grace family, see Pastor Robert.

Supplemental Bag Ministry

Each month GCC prepares and distributes bags filled with paper products, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items to members of our community. Help is needed to deliver bags as well as donation of items. For more info, see Patricia Johnson.

GCC Online

Want to watch our sermons online? Go to www.connect2gcc.org. scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the watch or sermons link. This will take you to our YouTube channel, where you will find one years worth of sermons. Or if you prefer, go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/connect2gcc to watch live every Sunday morning or whenever you like!

June Fellowship Menu

- June 7: Baked Potato Bar
- June 14: Appetizers
- June 21: Ham Dinner
- June 28: Sandwich Bar



The function of the Board of Grace Community Church is to support a Holy Spirit-led movement for all people to discover and demonstrate a growing relationship in Jesus Christ.

Grace Community Church Board Members:

Robert Perrin, Pastor and Chairman of the Board; *Glen Matthews*, Church Representative, Facility and Maintenance Coordinator; *Tracy Wood*, Church Representative, Operations Coordinator; *JoAnn Garmen*, Treasurer; *Betty Shook*, Secretary. Please contact Tracy (434-825-9112) or Glen (434-664-5202) with any concerns or suggestions you would like the GCC board to address.



Awana's starts again on Sundy, August 26! If you would like to volunteer or register a child, go to connect2gcc.org or see Betty Shook, Director of Awana, Yvette Perrin, Awana Secretary, or Pastor Robert.