



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025/26

“And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests!’”

Luke 2: 13-14

A VIEW FROM THE PARSONAGE

Pastor Frank Sawicki

Spiritual maturity. That phrase is thrown around a lot in Christian churches. But what does it

really mean to be spiritually mature? Well, let's take it down to the basics. What is immaturity? According to Merriam-Webster, to be immature is defined as “lacking complete growth, differentiation, or development.”

Spiritual immaturity is often associated with new Christians or those who have not grown in their faith and relationship with Christ.

Read Romans chapter 14 and chapter 15

Signs of spiritual immaturity

Perhaps you've heard those who are spiritually immature are referred to as baby Christians, meaning that they are very new or young in their faith — much like a newborn baby or toddler. Or, maybe, you've been a Christian a while now and you've been told you're spiritually immature or you are just wondering if you are. Just like there are signs of spiritual maturity, there are also signs of spiritual immaturity. Here are some symptoms of spiritual immaturity:

Weekly Events

- Sundays:
 - *Class 101*
Join us at 9:45AM on Sunday for our introductory Bible Study
 - *Worship Service*
Every Sunday at 11AM
- Tuesdays: Class 202
Go a little deeper in the Word during Class 202 Bible Study
- Thursdays: Small Groups
Men's and Women's Small Groups meet Thursdays at 6pm. Men Meet at Frankie's House; Women Meet at Church Building

Intense criticism comes easily to you. Everyone's a critic nowadays — from social media influencers to your co-workers to your friends. Being critical — especially of Jesus followers — is “the thing to do.” But here’s something to remember: We are all sinful humans. Every single person. If you identify with this symptom of spiritual immaturity, you know the truth, but you lack grace. Try giving grace to those around you.

You have a head knowledge vs. heart knowledge of Jesus. You have a great understanding of theology, of Jesus and history — that’s the head knowledge. But how’s your relationship with Jesus? Are you praying? A lack of heart knowledge is often a sign of spiritual immaturity. The great news is that growing your heart knowledge — your relationship with Jesus — is a choice you can make.

Anger comes easily to you. Do you find yourself easily frustrated, annoyed or just plainly angry at people? If you find that you’re easily sucked into an argument, this may be a sign of spiritual immaturity.

You don’t accept constructive correction. If your first thought and saying, “Don’t judge me.” Receiving corrections is rarely easy, but it’s often a catalyst for growth. If you’re not open to constructive criticism and correction and you think you’re right no matter what — you may need to look at your spiritual maturity.

Excessive self-esteem is a struggle for you. Don’t get us wrong, healthy self-esteem and personal outlook is great. However, if you find that your ego is a bit high and you’re tearing others down because “they’re not as good as you” — you’re probably exhibiting signs of spiritual immaturity.

You don’t love your neighbor. Do you offer to help those in need? Are you kind to your co-workers? Loving your neighbor (read: actual neighbors, friends, family members, co-workers, etc.) doesn’t have to be a monetary expense, but it does include kindness and caring for those around you. Is your spiritual immaturity keeping you from loving your neighbor?

What does it mean to be mature in your spiritual walk?

Winter Events

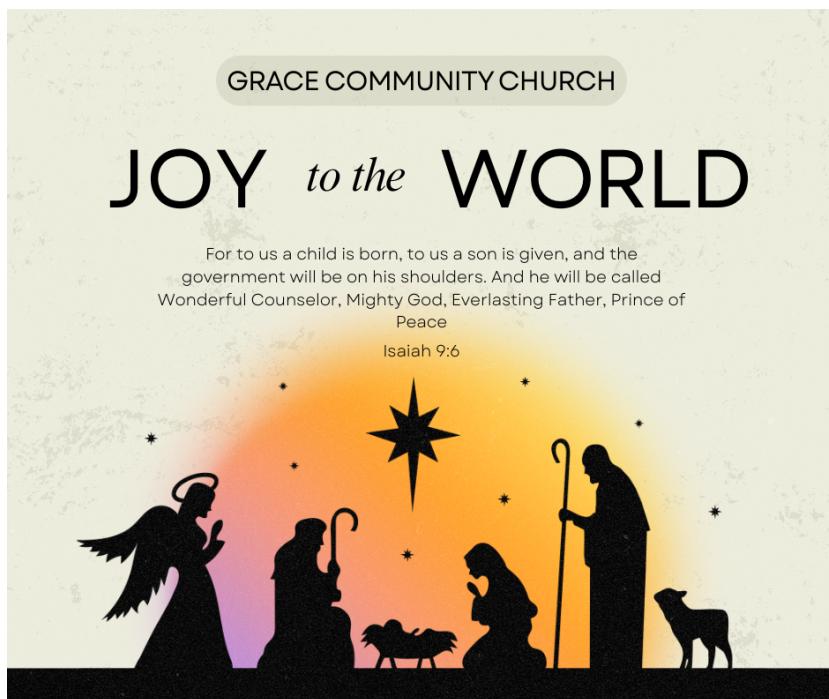
- **Teen Night**
3rd Monday at 6pm.
- **Family Game Night**
Friday 1/16, 2/20 at 6pm at the Sawicki’s house!
- **Dinner and The Chosen**
Continuing Season 3
Thursday 12/18 (Church Christmas Party), 1/29, 2/26 at 6pm! Bring something to share!
- **Annual Family Meeting**
Sunday 1/11 after service
- **Ash Wednesday Service**
February 18 at 7pm
- **Family Sledding Party**
February 21st at Bolens Farm
- **Church Family Potluck Service:**
February 22 at 11am
- **Teen Retreat**
at Berea March 13-15

As Christians, the Bible tells us in Galatians 5:22-26 that if we're walking in step with the Lord our lives will reflect the "fruit of the Spirit." And those fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faith, goodness, gentleness and self-control. Do you see these things in your life or in the lives of those around you?

How you can grow in your faith

Sure, those fruits of the Spirit sound great, right? But how do you get them? Have faith in Jesus and this should move us to confess, repent, being baptized, and walking with Jesus. Only faith in Jesus saves us and we do these things because we love Jesus. And we need to grow in Christ. Maturity is a direction that we should all be going in.

Read the Word. Try to spend time reading the Bible daily. This is how Christians build a relationship with Jesus — by reading the Bible to gain a deeper understanding of God's character. There are multiple ways to read, listen, or if you do not have a Bible, we can purchase one as soon as you want one.



faith journey with Jesus. We want to come alongside you and grow with you.

At GCC, our community believes in purpose and passion, and we would love to walk with you on your journey in finding yours. We believe in loving God and loving others. And every journey needs a starting point.

Class 101 Sunday at 9:45am, 202 Tuesday 6:00pm, and women and men small groups Thursday 6:00pm are in-person, stress-free and judgment-free groups that meet periodically at GCC. Here, you can spend some time getting to know fellow group members, reading and having an open conversation about topics like God, the scriptures, faith and Jesus. Completely new to the teachings of Jesus? Returning to church after a long break? Questioning the teachings you were brought up with or just unsure what you believe? Our small groups are here to help you navigate your faithful journey. Get in touch with us to learn when the next classes or small groups. Get involved with one during the week. If these times or days don't work, please communicate this

Cultivate a life of prayer. Do you talk to your friends and family on a regular basis? Probably. If you don't, you most likely don't have a great relationship with them. The same goes for your relationship with Jesus — pray and talk to Him.

Serve others. One of the best ways you can grow in your faith is to serve others. Find a way to get involved in your community or your church. Pray and ask God to open a volunteer or serving opportunity for you.

Grace Community Church is ready to walk with you on your

concern with Dean or Frankie so we can facilitate a group for you. The hopeful expectation is that all the church is in a group plus coming to Sunday morning at 11 am. You cannot grow if we do not grow together. Don't make excuses, make a way to grow with Jesus and others in 2026.

CHURCH BOARD PROJECTS UPDATE

A lot of updates are coming this summer!

- Looking for members to join the board
- Budget is taking shape and planning projects for next summer
- Annual Family Meeting is January 11 after service
- Winter Board Meetings are scheduled for December 14, January 11, and February at 12:30pm - ALL ARE WELCOME!

FINACIAL UPDATE (Aug, Sept, Oct)

Shellie Bresnahan

General Fund Summary:

Beginning Balance: \$23,844.18

Total Income: \$36,430.86

Total Expenses: \$30,394.41

Ending Balance: \$10,179.70

Highlights:

- 1) Building Renovations: Replaced storm door and stained front porch of parsonage, replaced plexiglass on front stained-glass windows, replaced microphone system
- 2) Special Events: Sugar on Snow, Pastor Appreciation, Two Celebration of Life Services, Halloween
- 3) Assisted five families through the Benevolence Fund
- 4) Contributed to 5 missions...Including Teen Retreat deposit and Men's Retreat (Man Camp)

Looking ahead: • Planning for Family Dinner, Christmas Holidays, 2026 Budget

New Resource – Accountable2you

Associate Pastor Dean Neary

In the United States approximately 67% of Men and 41% of Women view Explicit Adult Content online. With those numbers not changing much in the Christ's Church. This is an epidemic that is rarely, if ever, discussed. At Grace Community Church, we want to be here for all our brothers and sisters, to help with anything they are struggling with including hidden sin habits.

The Bible calls us to carry each other's burdens, one way of doing this when someone is struggling with hidden sin is to find and accountability partner. This is someone you can trust with that secret part of your life. They are who you talk to when you are struggling as well as who you go to when you give into temptation. They hold you accountable to God's Word but also can give you support, guidance, and encouragement. In November the board agreed to partner with Accountable2you.

Accoutable2you is an app you can download on to any device; phones, tablets, and computers; that monitors what websites are visited and sends alerts to your accountability partner. There is

a fee of \$9 a month for the individual to use the program. There will be a link on the Church website once it is up and running where you can sign up.

NO ONE aside from your accountability partner is notified or can access the reports from your devices. This is a great tool for anyone struggling with this hidden sin. If you would like more information about the program you can talk to Dean or Frankie or visit www.accountable2you.com. This is a great resource, with help from the Spirit, to overcome a topic no one likes to talk about.



BIBLE STUDY

We want to thank each of you that come to 101, 202, and/or small group! If you haven't checked out one of the groups, we encourage you to! Each group is full of brothers and sisters eager to grow in God's word and talking together is a great way to grow. Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpens iron, as one man sharpens another". We want to make sure you know you are welcomed if you come to every group every week or to one group sometimes, or whatever it looks like for your schedule. But these gatherings are the best way we can grow together and grow in our understanding of God's Word.

PRAYER REQUEST

If you have something on your heart you would like the leadership to pray about, please send us an email, let one of us know, or fill out a prayer request card in the pew and leave it in the box at the back of the sanctuary. We want to pray for you and requests sent to us will never be distributed to anyone outside leadership, unless clearly specified.

If you would like to include something for the Spring newsletter, please email
Dean at colebrookfoodpantry@gmail.com
or call (603) 331-1261