

The Grace Notes newsletter



Are You Preparing for Easter?

As we approach the commemoration of the pinnacle event of the Christian faith, are you preparing yourself spiritually? Believers throughout the centuries have practiced active preparation for this time of remembrance. We encourage you to take intentional steps as well to focus on Christ and the meaning of his sacrifice and victory over death.

The sermon series leading up to Easter, focusing on Jesus' last seven statements from the cross, has provided rich material for reflection. Observing the 40 days of Lent by adding elements to your devotional or prayer life is another way to become attuned to the Spirit during this special season.



Good Friday Service

Last year we celebrated a new tradition on Good Friday as we observed a solemn Communion together with our whole church family in the Fellowship Hall. This year we will again gather in the Hall to share Communion together. The service will begin promptly at 6:45 pm. Childcare will be available.

For those of you for whom it is difficult to be driving or out after dark, we will hold a special afternoon observance at 3:00 pm.

We look forward to this important time together as we commemorate Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 20 Sparks / AWANA Games
- Mar. 21 Nametag Sunday
- Mar. 21 Direct Access 6:30 pm
& Kids' Easter Celebration
- Mar. 27 Women's Breakfast 9 am
- Apr. 2 Good Friday Service 6:45 pm
- Apr. 4 Easter Sunday
- Apr. 11 Moody Symphonic Band 6 pm
- Apr. 24 Honduras Team departs
- Apr. 24, 25 Missions Conference

Jesus: El Este Vivo En Misiones!

Whether or not you can read past the first word of the title above, you won't want to miss the annual Missions Conference, coming up the weekend of April 24 and 25!

This year, as you may have guessed, we will be celebrating the work of the Church in Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Many of the missionaries that our church supports will be with us for the weekend, and we look forward to hearing their updates and being able to encourage them in their work. In addition to

activities on Saturday night, the missionaries will be with us on Sunday morning during the services and in the adult communities.

The conference will kick-off with a dinner on Saturday evening, April 24. Tickets for the dinner and reservations for Sunday's lunch with the missionaries must be attained in advance. Please pick up the brochure on the conference that will be made available in the next few weeks for more information. See you there!

How Does *Your* Garden Grow?

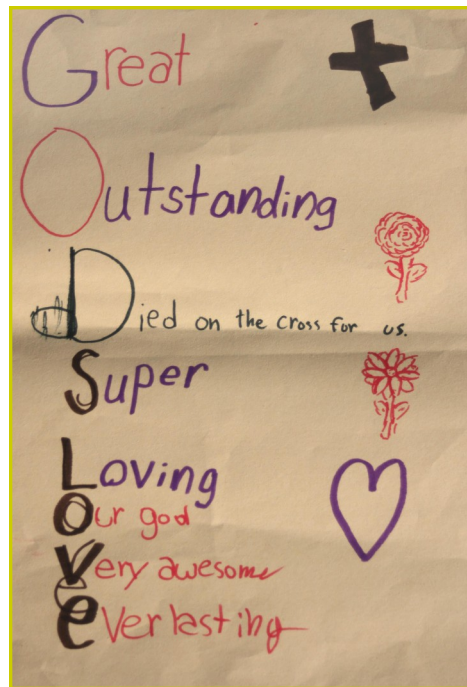
In most areas of life, we learn and grow when we take intentional steps to do so. Academics, fitness, relationships - all these areas require our dedicated focus when we want to move forward. The truth is that our spiritual growth is no different.

Learning to follow Jesus is a life-long process that we call "discipleship." Knowing Jesus is about growing - changing. It's about becoming more like Christ in our thoughts, our

attitudes, and our responses to the people around us.

To help us give careful thought to how we progress in discipleship, in April we will begin to focus on identifying our own next step forward in spiritual growth. Through sermons, seminars, and exercises together, we will ask, "What is the **next growth step** that Christ would have *me* take as I walk with him? Watch for more information coming soon - and stay watered!

A Good Reminder From Our Kids in God's Treasure Island:



The mission is as much about healing for the soul as it is for the body.

To Honduras Again: A Mission of Healing

This year will mark the fourth consecutive year that GEFC has sent a team of people to minister in Honduras. The team is composed of 16 "Glenvites" plus another 15 from other areas.

We have all heard that the Honduras team performs "medical missions" - and we have seen the pictures of team members checking someone's eyes on the refractor, or heard the stories of some pulling

teeth in the dental unit! But the truth is, the mission is as much about healing for the soul as it is for the body.

The sites where the teams work are at or near local churches, who always have people present to meet those coming for help. After being cared for physically, team members talk with each person and learn their spiritual condition, which leads to the opportunity to share the

Gospel - or to celebrate with those who already know Christ! People who make a faith decision receive a Bible and are connected to a local church for follow-up.

We again have the opportunity to help our team through finances, prayer, and medical supplies. Please designate any gifts to "Honduras," and see the flyer in the foyer for more info on supplies. The team heads out April 24th.

Nice to See You! What Was Your Name Again?

Soon you will have the opportunity to make our church a friendlier place! Not that it's not friendly already... in fact, friendliness is one of the hallmarks of our church that many visitors notice their first time here. But friendliness is like ice cream - you can always have more!

To help build on the atmosphere of welcome that we enjoy here, on March 21st we will host a

"nametag" Sunday. On that morning we will ask everyone, long-timer or first-timer alike, to wear a simple nametag.

Wearing a nametag may seem unimportant, but it can make it easier to approach people for the first time. Or to remember the name of someone that you've already met! So we hope you'll join us and give friendliness a boost. There's nothing to lose!

Join us for an evening with the **Moody Symphonic Band**

Sunday, April 11 at 6:00 pm