

SUMMER 2026

GR.CHURCH

# ACTION

M A G N E



ELEVATE - EQUIP - EVANGELIZE - ENJOY





# RELATIONSHIPS THAT REFLECT CHRIST

We all want relationships that are strong, life-giving, and lasting—friendships that don't fade—marriages that don't fracture—a church that feels like family. And yet, relationships can be one of the hardest parts of life. Miscommunication happens. Expectations go unmet. People hurt us. So how do we build relationships that don't just survive, but actually thrive?

Scripture gives us a clear picture in Colossians 3:12–14:

*“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”*

From this passage, Paul gives us four anchors for relationships that reflect Christ:

**IDENTITY BEFORE BEHAVIOR:** Healthy relationships start with knowing who you are. When you live from the truth that you are chosen and deeply loved by God, you stop demanding from others what only He can provide.

**CHARACTER OVER CHEMISTRY:** Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience—these aren't personality traits; they are daily Spirit-empowered choices that create safety, trust, and depth.

**GRACE IS THE GLUE:** People will disappoint you. Bear with one another. Forgive, not because it was earned, but because Christ has already extended that same grace to you.

**LOVE HOLDS IT ALL TOGETHER:** Love is not something you fall into; it's something you put on. It chooses to stay, to serve, and to believe the best, even when it's hard.

This kind of culture doesn't happen by accident. It happens when ordinary people make the intentional choice to reflect Christ in the way they love one another. You don't have to do it perfectly, you simply have to take the next step.

**WITH LOVE,**

*Pastor Cody*

# AT A GLANCE

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***BEING DISCIPLES  
MAKING DISCIPLES***

Everything we do is intentionally designed to help people grow spiritually and live out God's purpose for their life.

# OUR CORE VALUES

These are the fundamental beliefs and principles that shape our church culture, decisions, and actions.



**ELEVATE  
GOD'S WORD**



**EQUIP ONE  
ANOTHER**



**EVANGELIZE  
THE WORLD**



**ENJOY JESUS  
AND OTHERS**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



## ANCHORED IN TRUTH

***APOLOGETICS WEEKEND WITH DR. MIKE LESTER***

- ◆ NOVEMBER 13-15
- ◆ GR.CHURCH CAMPUS
- ◆ GUEST: DR. MIKE LESTER

Join us for a powerful weekend of biblical teaching and apologetics as Dr. Mike Lester helps us walk through the Scriptures and understand why we can trust God's Word. This weekend will focus on the authority, inerrancy, and reliability of the Bible, equipping believers to stand firm in truth.

# UP NEXT

- MAY**
- 16  MEN'S MINISTRY FIGHT NIGHT
  - 24  CHILD DEDICATION
  - 31  FAMILY SERVICE & COMMUNION
  - 31  STARTING POINT CLASS

- JUN**
- 14  PROMOTION SUNDAY (Student Ministries)
  - 21  BAPTISM AT THE LAKE
  - 28  COMMUNION

- JUL**
- 6-10  SUMMER CAMP @ CAMP COBEAC
  - 26  COMMUNION
  - 26  STARTING POINT

- AUG**
- 2-6  BIG & BOLD VBS
  - 16  BAPTISM SUNDAY
  - 30  COMMUNION

## ***COUPLES REFRESH WEEKEND***

***August 21, Friday @ 7pm • August 22, Saturday @ 9am***  
***Painting Grace: The Art of Marriage***

Save the date for a special weekend designed to refresh and strengthen your marriage. Whether you've been married for years, are newly married, engaged, or on the journey towards marriage, this weekend is for you.



# WAYS TO GIVE AT GR.CHURCH

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## ① **IN-PERSON**

Drop your gift in one of the *offering boxes* spread throughout the worship center and lobby.

## ② **CHURCH APP**

Give quickly and conveniently through your account on the *Church Center App*.

## ③ **BYMAIL**

**GR. CHURCH**  
4525 Stauffer Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

## ④ **ONLINE**

Visit our website at [gr.church/give](https://gr.church/give) or scan the QR code.



*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
– 2 Corinthians 9:7*

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*  
—ACTS 1:8

# WORLD IMPACT



# MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHTS

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1



**ED & RUBY  
BAUSELL**

SIOUX INDIANS • SOUTH DAKOTA

2



**JOSEPH & CINDY  
WICKS**

WORLDWIDE MEDICAL MISSION  
OUTREACH

3



**BRET & KATIE  
ANDERSON**

SPAIN

4



**DENNY & CASSIE  
NUWAGABA**

UGANDA

# WORLD IMPACT



## **North America**

Ed & Ruby Bausell .....	Sioux Indians, South Dakota
Dom & Jackie Burkhard .....	121 Capitol Connection, Michigan
Larry Koontz .....	Neighborhood Bible Time, Illinois
Lighthouse Children's Home .....	Worldwide Orphanage, Indiana
World Orphans .....	Grand Rapids, Michigan
Ben & Mackenzie Schettler .....	Center for Truth in Love, Florida
Sean & Jackie Teis .....	Life Factors Ministry, Pennsylvania
Joseph & Cindy Wicks .....	Worldwide Medical Missions Outreach, Georgia
Bob & Cala Williams .....	Choctaw Indians, Oklahoma
Josh & Melody Mitchell .....	World Orphans
Fred & Joyce Davis .....	British Columbia
Peter Drummond .....	The Persecuted Church
Joshua Amaezechi .....	Lema Institute
Ben White .....	CORE Missions
Navigating Hollywood .....	Hollywood, California

## **South America**

Andy & Kathleen Girwarnauth .....	Guyana, South America
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## **Oceania**

Paul & Martha Daku .....	Fiji Islands
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**MISSION PARTNERS  
SUPPORTED BY  
GR.CHURCH**



**Asia/Middle East**

Christ for the Philippines ..... Iloilo City, Iloilo, Philippines  
Edgar & Rosann Feghaly ..... MAP Missions, Middle East

**Europe**

Bret & Katie Anderson ..... Spain  
Isaiah & Monica Fitch ..... The Spain Project, Spain  
Kevin & Anna Ruwersma ..... Wales, United Kingdom  
Doug & Amber Staley ..... Ireland

**Africa**

Denny & Cassie Nuwagaba ..... Uganda  
Brandon & Kate Snook ..... Togo, West Africa  
Doug & Donna Stamper ..... Kenya



## ***EQUIPPED TO SERVE AT GR.CHURCH***



**FROM  
PASTOR  
TYLER**



**SCAN TO JOIN  
YOUR TEAM**

“Equip” is a word we use often at GR.Church, and for good reason. One of our core values is to Equip One Another, and it shapes how we lead, serve, and grow together as a church family.

As the Operations Pastor, my goal is to equip and empower you to do the work of the ministry. Scripture makes this clear in Ephesians 4:11–12. God has given leaders to the church not to do all the ministry themselves, but to prepare His people to serve. Pastors are called to equip, and the church is called to minister.

That means ministry is not just something you watch. It is something you are invited into.

At GR.Church, we do not just throw you into serving and hope you figure it out. We are committed to training you, walking alongside you, and helping you grow in both confidence and calling. You will be supported by trusted ministry leaders who are equipped to lead well and help you take your next step.

Because when the church is equipped, the church is built up. When each person steps into their role, the body of Christ becomes stronger, healthier, and more effective in reaching others with the gospel.

***Let’s step into the work of the ministry together!***

# JOURNEY

## TEAMS



### **AWANA & JOURNEY KIDS**

LEADER  
NICOLE CLORE

Journey Kids and AWANA teach children God's Word, while the nursery provides safe, nurturing care for infants and toddlers.



### **CARD TEAM**

LEADER  
APRIL CUMMINGS

The Card Team sends personalized cards to encourage, celebrate, and uplift individuals within our church family.



### **CLEANING TEAM**

LEADER  
LIN SANBORN

The Cleaning Team keeps our facility clean and welcoming through consistent, behind-the-scenes building care.



### **CREATIVE CLUB**

LEADER  
ANDREW BREEDLOVE

Creative Club captures and shares church stories through photos, video, and digital media to inspire others.



### **MEDIA TEAM**

LEADER  
JOHNNY PEASE

The Media Team supports worship services through audio, visual, and livestream production for a distraction-free experience.



### **PRAYER TEAMS**

LEADER  
JOHN MILLER

The Prayer Team faithfully prays over church needs, services, leaders, and individuals each week.



### **SAFETY TEAM**

LEADER  
NATHAN POTTS

The Safety Team protects attenders by staying alert and assisting during emergencies to ensure a safe environment.



### **WELCOME TEAM**

LEADER  
JEN MIELER

The Welcome Team greets guests warmly, offers assistance, and helps newcomers feel connected and valued.



### **WORSHIP TEAM**

LEADER  
MITCH HOFMEISTER

The Worship Team leads Christ-centered music that prepares hearts for teaching and encourages meaningful worship.

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#### **WANT TO JOIN A TEAM? 3 WAYS TO SIGN UP:**

1. Church Website ([gr.churchcenter.com/teams](http://gr.churchcenter.com/teams)) 2. Scan the QR Code (previous page) 3. Next Steps in the Lobby



# **STRENGTHENING CONNECTION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**



**FROM  
PASTOR  
MARK**

Every church wants to help its members grow in faith and build stronger connections. Small groups add real value by creating a place where people can develop close relationships, study the Bible together, and support each other's spiritual journeys. Here at GR.Church we call our Small Groups, Journey Groups.

These Groups help deepen spiritual growth by creating regular, focused spaces for study, prayer, and accountability that larger gatherings do not always provide. Participants can wrestle with Scripture, ask questions, and apply teachings with peer feedback, which accelerates learning and fosters genuine transformation in daily life.

In small groups, people share struggles and joys in a way that's impractical in large services, forming relationships that sustain members through life events and reduce loneliness. Those close connections also increase participation, a sense of belonging, and long-term commitment to the church's mission.

Journey Groups also develop leadership and multiply ministry capacity. As members lead studies, host, or facilitate discussions, they gain practical skills and confidence.

Finally, Journey Groups foster effective outreach and congregational care. Some people may find it hard to connect in larger group gatherings, but a small group makes spiritual growth and friendships much more personal.



**SCAN TO JOIN  
YOUR GROUP**

# JOURNEY

## GROUPS



### **Breakfast Sermon Review**

Leaders: John Miller & Bill Host  
Location: Full Plate Cafe  
Times: Tuesdays 9-10:30am  
Best for: Everyone



### **Walking in the Spirit's Power: The Book of Acts**

Leaders: Pastor Mark  
Location: Home Group - Byron Center  
Times: Wednesdays @ 6:30-8:00pm  
Best for: Everyone



### **Joy-filled Living: The Book of Philippians**

Leaders: Dr. Verle Bell  
Location: GR Church  
Times: Wednesdays 6:30-8pm  
Study for: Everyone



### **Spiritual Disciplines of the Believer**

Leaders: John Miller  
Location: GR Church  
Times: Wednesdays 6:30-8pm  
Best for: Everyone



### **Praise in Motion**

Leaders: Carrie Hofmeister  
Location: GR Church - Children's Center Gym  
Times: Thursdays 6-8pm  
Study for: Women



### **Recreation & Pickleball**

Leader: Pastor Mark  
Location: South Christian Tennis Courts  
Times: Sundays 4-6pm  
Best for: Anyone with Pickleball paddles

## HOME FAMILY JOURNEY GROUPS

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OF SUMMER



Men digging into God's Word, one verse at a time. This is a small group setting, and we also offer hot coffee to start your day.

**Leaders:** Wes Thrasher, Jerimie Ike, Gerson Almonte, Caleb Holmberg, John Miller, Harrison Hillis

**Location:** GR Church

**Times:**

- Monday & Wednesday @ 6:00am
- Tuesday & Thursday @ 6:30pm
- Saturday @ 8:00am

### **WANT TO JOIN A GROUP? 3 WAYS TO SIGN UP:**

1. Church Website ([gr.churchcenter.com/groups](http://gr.churchcenter.com/groups))
2. Scan the QR Code (*previous page*)
3. Next Steps in the Lobby



# A SEASON FOR BUILDING FAITH AT HOME



**FROM  
NICOLE  
CLORE**

We're finally here; long days, vacations, barbecues, and well deserved breaks in the sunshine. Here in Michigan, spring and summer are golden opportunities to be in nature and focus on time with our families. In fact, summer is one of the best times to intentionally equip our children for their faith journey. (Proverbs 22:6)

## **Introducing Our Summer In-Home Journey Groups**

This summer we want to bring church into our homes. While we will not be hosting any Wednesday evening events at the church, we are encouraging families to join a Summer Journey Group meeting on Wednesday. Families will be put into small groups that will meet in-homes, where children are welcome, as we all study the Bible and the book Habits of the Household by Justin Whitmel Earley. While some of our routines might shift, our mission to raise the next generation to know and love Jesus doesn't take a vacation. I want to equip you to implement practices and routines that bring your family close to God. At the end of the summer all of the family Journey Groups will meet for a cookout!

## **Promotion Sunday**

New class, new adventures! Sunday, June 14 is Promotion Sunday which means our 4 year olds (by Sept.1) are officially part of Journey Kids. Join us in Classroom 1 for drop off and pick up. We encourage our 6th graders to sit with the teens in the auditorium.



**QUESTIONS?  
SCAN TO  
EMAIL US**

# JOURNEY KIDS



## VBS 2026

AUGUST 2-6 @ 6-9PM

“BIG AND BOLD” VBS is in August. This year we will spend Sunday through Thursday learning how to be bold and courageous with our faith.

Day 1 • Love - David the Strong Man (1 Samuel 17-18)

Day 2 • Peace - Tangled Sisters: Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Day 3 • Goodness - Daniel the Lion Tamer (Daniel 1 & 6)

Day 4 • Power - Jesus the Ringmaster (Mark 14:27-72)

Day 5 • Family Night - Recap, Prizes, and a Circus Performance

*FIRST 100 KIDS WHO REGISTER WILL GET A FREE T-SHIRT.*

SCAN TO  
REGISTER



## PROMOTION SUNDAY

JUNE 14



# rightnow MEDIA

The mission of RightNow Media is to work with the global church to inspire people to love others before self and Christ above all. It is the world's largest customizable library of Biblical video resources for every person in the church or ministry.



**SCAN TO  
CREATE YOUR  
FREE ACCOUNT  
& START  
BROWSING**

**BE EQUIPPED + INSPIRED  
BEYOND SUNDAY.**



## **APP FEATURES**

- STUDY RESOURCES
- SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
- MINISTRY VIDEOS
- WATCH TOGETHER
- KIDS SHOWS
- SAFE TEEN CONTENT
- AUDIO-ONLY MODE
- OFFLINE PLAYBACK
- SCREENCASTING
- & MORE

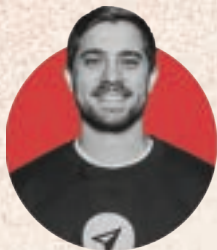


AVAILABLE ON



# GROWING THROUGH GRACE



**FROM PASTOR ANDREW**

One passage that has become a theme for me this year is Titus 2:11–15. I’ve shared it with our teens and young adults, and even had the opportunity to preach it to our entire church. Over these past few months, it has deeply impacted my personal walk and relationship with Jesus.

This passage reminds us that God’s grace doesn’t just save us but it trains us, also. It teaches us to turn away from ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live lives that are self-controlled, righteous, and godly. These aren’t things we can manufacture or force in our own strength. The real action step is this: allowing God’s grace to shape and train us daily.

As life shifts with new job opportunities, camps, preparing for college, or even just enjoying summer and slowing down, it’s easy to lose focus. But this truth remains essential. We must keep it in front of us and allow it to continually transform how we live.

I’m looking forward to this summer. Here in Michigan, we’re blessed with such a beautiful place to enjoy during these months and my hope is that in every moment, we continue to let His grace lead us.

## UPCOMING NEXTGEN EVENTS

### TEENS

June 12  
July 6-10  
August 7

### SUNDAYS @ 6PM

Hike and Lake  
Summer Camp @ CoBeAc  
Sandy Pines

### YOUNG ADULTS

June 6  
July 18  
August 15  
Hike  
Pickleball  
Cookout at Church

# ***STRENGTHENING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD***

I want a closer, more personal relationship with my Father in Heaven, but how do I get there? It comes down to two practices:

## ***LISTEN THROUGH HIS WORD***

Not just reading quickly, but slowing down, reflecting, and applying it. Over time, that's what shapes me to be more like Christ.

## ***TALK TO HIM THROUGH PRAYER***

I talk to Him through prayer. It's not complicated, it just needs to be real. I thank Him in every situation, confess my sins, and bring Him my burdens, trusting that He hears and forgives.

There's also a part we often overlook: being still. In quiet moments, I begin to sense how God may be leading me. I'm learning it's not enough to just hear, I need to truly listen. And prayer shouldn't be routine, but genuine.

If I'm honest, my prayers can be self-focused. But as I spend more time in His Word, my desires begin to change. Slowly, my prayers align more with His heart. I won't do this perfectly. But the more I seek Him, listen, and speak honestly with Him, the stronger that relationship becomes.

Little by little, I become more like Christ.

## ***GET INVOLVED IN PRAYER AT GR.CHURCH***

### ***SUNDAY PRAYER TEAM***

Join us 15 minutes before service to pray for the morning, our Pastor, and everyone involved. We meet just off the lobby—no experience needed.

### ***WEEKLY PRAYER TEAM***

Prefer to pray on your own time? We share weekly requests so you can stay connected and lift others up.

Take a moment to consider how God might be inviting you into prayer. We would love to have you join us.



**JOHN MILLER**  
PRAYER TEAM LEADER

# GR+ IMPACT

DECEMBER  
JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
MARCH

12

PEOPLE  
JOINED AS  
OFFICIAL  
MEMBERS

4

BELIEVERS  
BAPTIZED



186

AVERAGE WEEKLY  
ONLINE WORSHIP



155

FIRSTTIME  
GUESTS



414

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
WEEKLY AVERAGE



179

PEOPLE IN A  
JOURNEY GROUP

32

PEOPLE  
ATTENDED  
STARTING  
POINT

21

PEOPLE JOINED  
A JOURNEY TEAM  
FOR THE 1ST TIME

247

PEOPLE CURRENTLY  
SERVING ON  
A JOURNEY TEAM

20

PEOPLE  
ACTIVE IN  
ONE-ON-ONE  
DISCIPLESHIP





THANK YOU FOR YOUR OBEDIENCE AND GENEROSITY

# GIVING UPDATE

## GENERAL OFFERING

**GOAL: \$599,000**



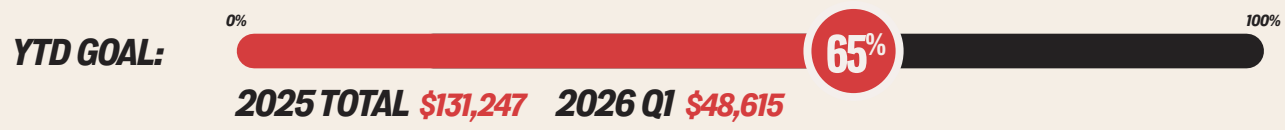
## MISSIONS OFFERING

**GOAL: \$50,000**



## NEXT STEP OFFERING

**GOAL: \$275,000 (BY 2027)**



4525 STAUFFER AVE SE.  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49508

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616.698.7751

VISIT US ONLINE:  
GR.CHURCH



**BEING DISCIPLES.  
MAKING DISCIPLES.**