

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 1	3	4	5	6	7	8 2 3
9 4	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 5	20	21	22
23 6	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

1 - First Step
■ - gsYOUTH High School Over Nighter
2 - gsMEN's Breakfast

3 - Seasoned Sisters
4 - Membership Class
5 - gsYOUTH The Gathering
6 - In Service Baptism

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 1 2
14	15	16	17 3	18	19 4	20
21	22	23	24 5	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1 - gsMEN's Breakfast
2 - Seasoned Sisters
3 - gsYOUTH The Gathering

4 - An Evening of Remembrance
5 - Christmas Eve Services at 4:30PM and 6:00PM



Find the full calendar and extra information about these events online!
Head to gracespringchurch.org/events

A Prayer for Awareness

Father,

Help us open our eyes to Your work all around us. May our hearts come alive to the promptings of Your Spirit. Help us to love those You put in our path, as we are all on a journey of discovering Your goodness. Give us the humility to be curious about those who are different than us so we can enter into their story and invite them into Your story.

Jesus, walk with us and lead us in Your way. Amen.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES to Engage with Advent

READ

Winter Fire: Christmas with G.K. Chesterton
by Ryan Whitaker Smith

Let Earth Receive Her King: Daily Readings for Advent
by Alistair Begg

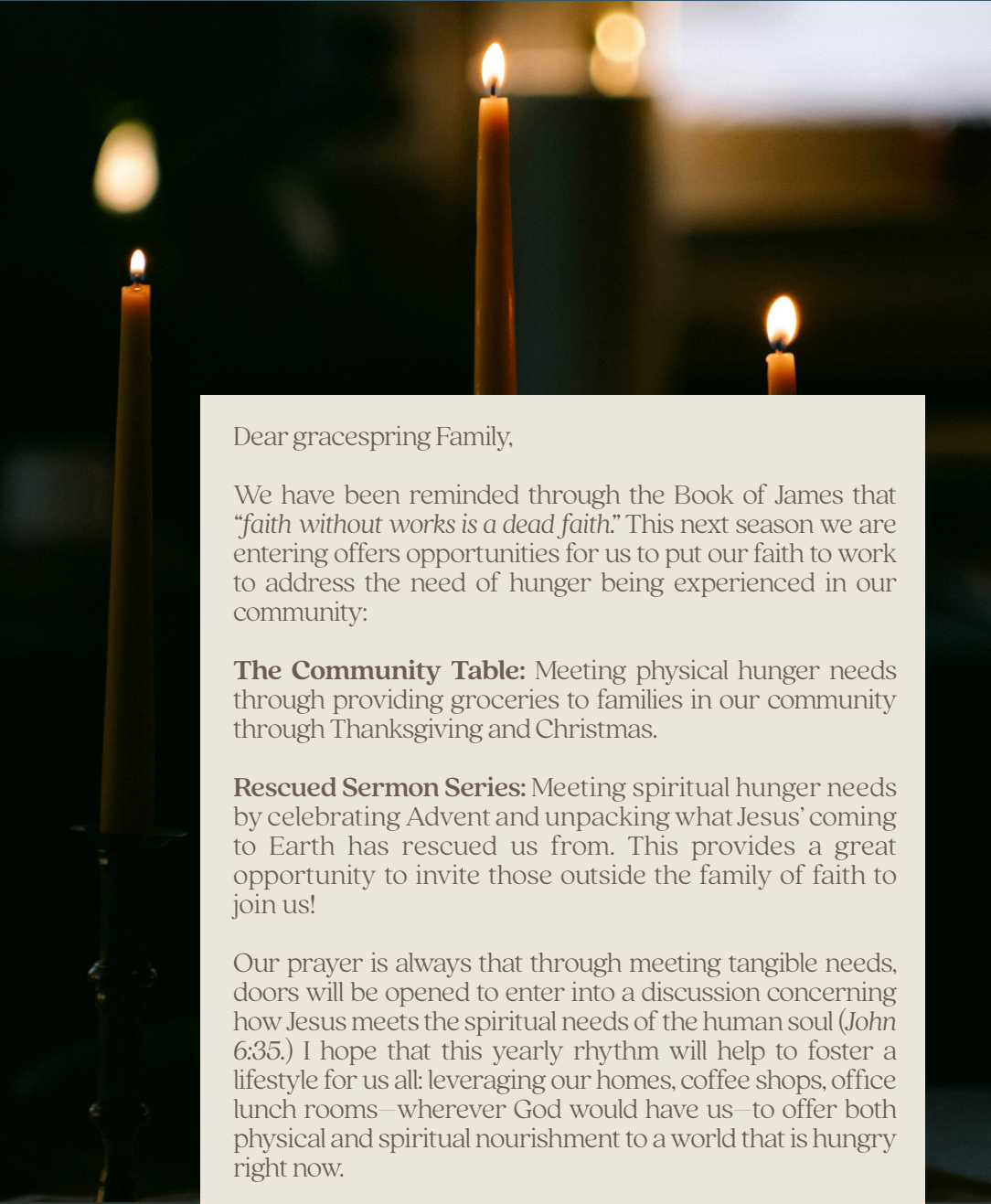
STUDY

Awakening Wonder Advent Bible Study
by the Daily Grace Co.

The Advent Adventure Famiy Devotional
by the Daily Grace Co.

WATCH

Advent Video Series
by The Bible Project



Dear gracespring Family,

We have been reminded through the Book of James that “faith without works is a dead faith.” This next season we are entering offers opportunities for us to put our faith to work to address the need of hunger being experienced in our community:

The Community Table: Meeting physical hunger needs through providing groceries to families in our community through Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Rescued Sermon Series: Meeting spiritual hunger needs by celebrating Advent and unpacking what Jesus’ coming to Earth has rescued us from. This provides a great opportunity to invite those outside the family of faith to join us!

Our prayer is always that through meeting tangible needs, doors will be opened to enter into a discussion concerning how Jesus meets the spiritual needs of the human soul (*John 6:35*.) I hope that this yearly rhythm will help to foster a lifestyle for us all: leveraging our homes, coffee shops, office lunch rooms—wherever God would have us—to offer both physical and spiritual nourishment to a world that is hungry right now.

My prayer is that you never underestimate the Holy Spirit’s purpose of working both in you and through you to make much of Jesus to a world in need. This was Jesus’ invitation to us all. Let’s seize this moment and join Him in this!

In His Grip,
Pastor Bryan



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AHEAD



This Christmas season, we are turning our hearts toward the greatest rescue story ever told. Beginning November 30, we'll enter our **RESCUED** series—a journey through the truth that *God came to earth on a rescue mission*. Jesus entered our broken and weary world, not as a distant observer, but as our Savior, bringing light to the darkest corners of the earth and the human heart. Just as He was sent, we too are invited into that same mission—to go into dead and dry places that long for the life-giving saturation of the Gospel. This is a season to remember that no darkness is too deep, no distance too far, and no heart too lost for the light of Jesus to rescue and redeem.



In the midst of celebration, we also acknowledge that Christmas can be a tender season for many. **On December 19**, we invite you to **An Evening of Remembrance**—a sacred space for those who have experienced loss of any kind. This gathering will be a time of reflection, comfort, and hope as we come together to honor what we have lost while holding tightly to the promises of God. We'll share dinner and communion, allowing both sorrow and joy to sit together at the same table, resting in the truth that *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes..."* (Revelation 21:4). Whether your grief is fresh or years old, this evening is an opportunity to experience the tender care of our Father.



Our **Christmas Eve services at 4:30PM and 6:00PM** will continue in the heartbeat of our **RESCUED** series, celebrating the birth of the One who came to save. Together, we'll lift our voices in worship, hear the story of redemption that began in a manger, and reflect on the light that continues to overcome the darkness. Families are encouraged to join us—our **gsKIDZ classes (birth through third grade)** and **gsSHINE classes (for all ages)** will be available during the **4:30PM** service, providing a meaningful experience for every member of your family.

GUATEMALA SERVE TRIP | OCTOBER 2025

Recently we sent a joint team from gracespring and Agape Christian Church to visit and encourage those at the Centro de Alcance Pinula CarePoint in Guatemala. We were able to serve both those who serve full time at the CarePoint and those who receive services at the CarePoint or in the community. We shared work, mistranslations, laughs, games, updates, stories, hardships, and the encouragement that God is working in peoples' lives far from Southwest Michigan.

The CarePoint moves through different phases, and the updates are so encouraging: God's Masterpiece (a bakery and rental space for events) has been growing and is already showing a profit; the Joseph Project has graduated their first students in programs relating to electricity, beauty, learning English, and computers to help those related to the CarePoint community earn higher, regular wages that will further support the CarePoint in addition to those working; and Phase 3 will include modifying an area of the CarePoint for a coffee shop with the hope that it will become productive and profitable for the CarePoint by the end of 2026.

2025/2026 is a critical time for continuing support to the CarePoint as Phase 4 (the last phase) reaches its target projections. Please continue to pray for those at the CarePoint, to hear from and trust God, that we may rejoice together in His goodness.

NICARAGUA SERVE TRIP | SEPTEMBER 2025

During our time in Central America, God showed us an excellent example of disability ministry. Their model of educating and training church staff and congregations to become inclusive by proactively reaching out to people with disabilities of all kinds is truly beautiful and inspiring! Our exchange of information was valuable to both our team and theirs, and I hope we will implement some of their brilliant ideas into our gsSHINE ministry going forward.

God used two previous personal experiences (one of mine and another of a gracespring teammate) to bring very specific encouragement to a sweet 18-year old girl who has suffered from epileptic seizures and panic attacks for about three years - there was no doubt this home visit was a God appointment for her to receive and be reminded of His hope, love, power, and peace. We literally watched the tension and anxiety melt away during our time with her, and we were blown away when she chose to come with us on her own to a gathering at her church afterwards...we had been told she rarely leaves home, and never without her mom. For me, this was one of the most clear and powerful moments I've had yet of being used by God for His distinct purpose... I didn't see it coming, it was all God, and it was an amazing, humbling experience!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

This year IDOP is observed on November 2. It is a particular Sunday in November in which congregations worldwide acknowledge and pray for Christians who are persecuted for their faith. Sometimes the stories that sound exciting to us who are in places of greater safety and comfort generate different reactions and emotions in others. "Secret basements", "hidden Bibles beneath floorboards", "possible imprisonment for talking about Jesus", "singing but only mouthing the words without the sound", are the reality and bring emotions of isolation, exhaustion, fear, feeling forgotten and feeling alone.

Our thoughts and first words may be, "I wish I could do more than just pray". Praying **is** the need. That **is** the request. That **is** the power. One thing our persecuted brothers and sisters consistently say is that knowing Christians worldwide are praying sustains their faith.

Please pray on November 2 this year, and remember to pray for our Christian siblings we have never met throughout the year. They are a part of our extended family.

"Our prayers can go where we cannot. There are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed when we pray."
- Brother Andrew

