

Jonathan Edwards, the great preacher and theologian whom God used to bring revival to colonial America, wrote:

“I claim no right to myself, no right to this understanding, this will, these affections that are in me. Neither do I have any right to this body or its members, no right to this tongue, to these hands, feet, ears or eyes. I have given myself clear away and not retained anything of my own. I have been to God this morning and told Him I have given myself wholly to Him, I have given every power so that for the future I claim no right to myself in any respect. I have expressly promised Him, for by His grace I will not fail.

I take Him as my whole portion and felicity, looking upon nothing else as any part of my happiness. His law is the constant rule of my obedience. I will fight with all my might against the world, the flesh and the devil to the end of my life. I will adhere to the faith of the gospel however hazardous and difficult the profession and practice of it may be.

I pray God for the sake of others to look on this as self-dedication. Henceforth, I am not to act in any respect as my own. I shall act as my own if I ever make use of any of my powers to do anything that is not to the glory of God or to fail to make the glorifying of Him my whole and entire business.

If I murmur in the least at affliction, if I am in any way uncharitable, if I revenge my own case, if I do anything purely to please myself or omit anything because it is a great denial, if I trust myself, if I take any praise for any good which Christ does by me, or if I am in any way proud, I shall act as my own and not God’s. But I purpose to be absolutely His.”



February 7, 2021

10:30 A.M.

A Discipling Community

VISION

2021

Our Mission Statement

Grace Covenant Church exists to glorify God in worship and to love and serve others through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Order of Service

Announcements

Introducing the ministry of Tim and Holly Howden

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

The Doxology

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration: "Come Thou Fount"

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: "We Believe". Hooper/Fike/Ryan

Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal-----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 8:1

Song of Renewal

"I Have a Shelter" Steve & Vikki Cook/Bob Kauflin

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:24–39 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon: Vision 2021

"A Discipling Community"

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:14-20

Hymn: "Lamb of God". Hansen/Kauflin/LaChance

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"I Will Follow". Tomlin/Ingram/Morgan

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 1/31/2021

Offering: \$1878.00

Attendance: 46

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

Because you have counted the Cost and are committed to being nothing less than a full committed disciple of Jesus Christ you are Driven to Learning what it is to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

Right Now Media

Sunday Morning Worship

Logos Bible Study Software

Faithlife TV

Small Groups

Pod Casts

Read Your Bible

Study the Gospels thoroughly seeking to emulate the way Jesus lived His Life

Attend Corporate Prayer Meetings

Outcomes

- Your Life is not wasted on trivial matters.
- You are a blessing to those around you as you live your life the way Jesus lived His
- Your children, your grandchildren, those closest to you are continually challenged by the strength of your life and commitment to Jesus.
- You are Salt and Light in the World
- You are remarkably generous.
- Your life is marked by self-sacrifice instead of self-fulfillment.
- You are unswervingly committed to the church of Jesus Christ.
- You eagerly await His return.

"God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life that I may burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life but a full one like You, Lord Jesus."

God answered that prayer, and in the flower of young manhood Jim Elliot's life was cut short by the spear of an Auca Indian as he and several other young men sought to take the gospel deep into the jungles of Ecuador.

Addendum

If we are to be saved, as a people, as a nation, it will have to come in the form of a massive reformation and revival. This means real Christians catching fire, nominal Christians becoming Christians and catching fire, false Christians confessing their life of lies, becoming Christians and then catching fire, and then having all the non-Christians come to watch us burn.

The fire will need to be a gospel fire—which is to say, the death, burial and resurrection of the Son of God, coupled with a recognition of the *implications* of His death, burial, and resurrection. The implications are straightforward, and if we do not grasp them, then it should be apparent by this point that we are utterly lost. —Douglass Wilson

Pastor and Theologian

¹Dorioni, D. M. (2008). *Matthew & 2*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Dorioni, Eds.) (Vol. 1, pp. 436–438). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. ³⁴Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Introduction

We are absolutely and totally convinced that the church has a single simplified task as stated by the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28 when He said, *“Go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.”*

The implication of Discipleship is Obedience.

When you become a Christian, in effect, you are saying I choose to be a learner of the Lord Jesus Christ and to submit to such as He instructs. That is the stuff of genuine conversion.

When Jesus called disciples to Himself, He carefully instructed them in the matters of what they would be facing. And consequently, it kept out those **half-hearted people** who weren't willing to make the commitment.

The imitation of Christ is a hallmark of a true disciple.

The point is clear, if daunting. It is our sacred quest to behold the character and the ways of Jesus and to imitate them, as best we can. Christ is the motive, the ideal, and the pattern for every Christian enterprise. —John MacArthur

Wise disciples are alert for friends who set a good example as they follow the Lord. Like the sun, Jesus is our great light. But like the sun, Jesus' light can be too dazzling to behold. We easily gaze at the reflected light of the moon, and we may more easily gaze at the reflected light of Jesus, seen in his disciples.¹

Jesus calls us to conduct our ministry as we have seen him conduct his.

We must return again and again to the life of Jesus. We should read the Gospels and meditate on his ways over and over.

Watch those Christians around us who have followed Christ and learn from them.

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 19—Sunday, February 21

Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Sankanac. Join us for an exciting weekend full of fellowship, worship, games, and a practical study on relying on God in daily life. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table.

Sunday, February 21 6:15-7:15 P.M. (Note the change of date)

GCC Prayer Gathering at the House of Prayer

1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Tim and Holly Howden

Tim and Holly Howden are a missionary couple we will be supporting this year. They are with a ministry named DiscipleMakers. DiscipleMakers is a Christian campus ministry based in Pennsylvania whose goal is to raise up the next generation of leaders for the Church by training college students in Bible study, gospel-driven discipleship, and evangelism. They have a fourfold mission.



Exploring the Bible

We exist to assist people interested in learning more about the essence of Christianity, which is not found in morality or philosophy but in the story of the historical person, Jesus Christ.

Engaging The Campus

We seek to find ways to serve and improve the campus community. We also provide Investigative Bible Discussions for anyone interested in learning more about Jesus Christ.

Experiencing Redemptive Relationships

if you want to experience how the gospel of Jesus Christ can heal relationships, spur people toward authentic community, provide ample opportunities to practice forgiveness, and restore broken people, then we are the group for you.

Captivating The Heart

We were designed to find our fulfillment, rest, meaning, and value in the person of God himself. Christianity is about a paradigm shift to a new central captivation with the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Prayer/Praise.February 7, 2021

- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Justine is home from the hospital. She will get the results of her biopsies on Monday. She does have colon cancer. Pray for wisdom for the doctors to have a treatment plan for her. Please continue to shower Justine with cards and prayers. Justine Schumaker, 217 Cross Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Jonnie. She had a CAT Scan done and found she has three blood clots. Jonnie will be on blood thinners for three months. Pray for healing for Jonnie.
- Pray for Ben Steinmetz's wife, Toni. She has pain and issues from diverticulitis. Praise that Toni is feeling a little better.
- Pray for safety for Nic Collins. The new variant of Covid-19, from South Africa, entered South Carolina.
- Praise that Bob Priest's first grandchild was born on January 28th! Lyra Celeste Prowant, 7lb 13 oz-20 in. Chris and Jillian (Priest) Prowant are doing well.
- Praise that Daisy Roth's mother is feeling better after Covid, but she has a congested cough and is tired. Praise that Daisy is feeling better but is still tired. Praise that Bob is still symptom free.
- Pray for Rindy Lee, whose father passed away on January 27th. Please pray for God's peace and strength for Rindy and her family.
- Pray for healing for the father of Koreen Mace and Gwen Conrad, due to an infection. Pray for Gwen as she has been caring for their father, who lives with Gwen and her family.
- Pray for Mike Row, who has a bruised rotator cup on his left side. Mike is doing a little better. He is still hurting and does not have a lot of movement. Pray for continued healing and relief from pain for Mike.
- Praise that Dawn Fleetman's foot surgery was successful. Pray that she will be not be out of work long.
- Pray for all our college students as they head back to school: Lulu Bocci (Bob Jones University); Nic Collins (S. Carolina School of Leadership); Brandon Crothers (Lock Haven); Tim Deichert (MCCC); Cassie Frame (Eastern); Macie Frame (West Chester); Marissa O'Connor (Pace University); Brenna Pritchard (Cedar Crest College); Dominique Viola (Penn College); Carena Williams (MCCC); Tyler Yensan (Military).
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for travel, safety, and no COVID. Pray for funds to be raised, as they will be helping in the capital with special needs children and teens.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in physical therapy.

Message

Vision Sunday 2021

Our Mission Statement

Grace Covenant Church exists to glorify God in worship and to love and serve others through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Commitment Statements

We love because God first loved.

We come together to Worship.

We grow by obedience to scripture.

We share the Gospel of Jesus Christ

We serve with joy.

We pray to draw close to God.

We give because God has given.

A Ministering Community (1 Peter 4:7-11)

We are to be "Living in Light of the End of All Things"- we need to have a robust, present awareness that the end of all things is at hand and to live – today, right now, and in the days that remain to us – in light of that glorious fact.

Let the world look at Grace Covenant Church Pottstown PA and see an embassy of heaven, a colony of the new creation, people serving each other, forgiving one another, sharing their lives with one another, doing ministry together so that when they look at us they don't say, "Those are remarkable people." They say, "Those are people like me – ordinary, flawed, broken sinners like me – and yet look what grace is doing among them, between them, through them. It's extraordinary! Look what their great God is doing! Look what Jesus Christ is accomplishing in their midst! I want some of that!

A Discipling Community

We are to be a disciple-making culture, people are moving towards Jesus, through means of the word, so that ministry of GCC expands outward toward outsiders.

A Conversion Community

We are to be a Church that in its core identity is simultaneously sent and sending. Our God is a missionary God who sends the church into the world.

Vision Sunday Week 2

A Discipling Community

Disciples have a vision of what they can become.

Matthew 10:24–39 (ESV)

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden