GIVING 03.01.26

General Offering	$8,027.67
Building Fund	$2,631.00
Uganda	$175.00
Benevolence	$210.00
Total	$11,043.67
Attendance	266

> "The depravity of the human heart is such that if God did not restrain us, we would destroy all that is good."
> - Johnathan Edwards

VISITORS + MEMBERS

For ALL church announcements, our church calendar, ministries for serving and small groups to join, please see our Church Center app.

ghbcva.org

9821 S Redfield Drive
Amelia, VA 23002

804.561.3742

Welcome to Grace Harvest Bible Church

03.08.26

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES
9:00am

Elders- 1 Samuel
Sanctuary A

Bereans- Luke
Upstairs C

Young Adults- 1 Corinthians
Downstairs B, Gray Room

Surge (5th & 6th)
Upstairs C

Youth (7th - 12th)
Basement A

Children's SS
(Birth-4th)
Downstairs C

SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30am

Worship Service

Children's Church
(Birth-4th)

WEEKDAY EVENTS

Trail Life
Mondays 6:30pm

Men's Book Study
Mondays 7pm/Fridays 6am

Worship Team Practice
Tuesdays 7:00pm

Awana
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Surge (5th & 6th)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth (7th - 12th)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Men's Alliance
Wednesdays 7:00pm

Family Groups
Every other Thursday
6:30 and 7:00pm

Women's Book Study
Mondays 7:00pm

Pastor's Pen

"Basically Good? Basically Wrong."

"Then Yahweh saw that the evil of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5

If you ask most people today what they believe about humanity, you'll often hear the same answer: "People are basically good." We nod politely, we repeat it at funerals, we say it to children, and we cling to it because the alternative feels too dark to face.

If you inquire about people's true nature, you'll receive a confident response. Former President Bill Clinton stated, "I believe in the fundamental goodness of people." Barack Obama agreed, saying, "At our best, human beings are decent, compassionate, generous." Even the young Anne Frank, who wrote in her diary amidst unimaginable evil, expressed, "I still believe… that people are really good at heart."

But Scripture does not conform to what we believe or feel; it states the truth. In Genesis 6:5, when God observed the world before the flood, He didn't see "good people who made mistakes." Instead, He saw hearts filled with corruption—desires inclined toward evil, imaginations immersed in rebellion, and intentions poisoned from the very roots. The passage accumulates these terms like a courtroom indictment: every intent, only evil, all the time.

The Reformers used passages like this to teach the doctrine of total depravity—not that we are as bad as we could possibly be, but that sin infects every part of us: mind, will, emotion, and spirit. We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners. Scripture echoes this diagnosis:

- ***"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"*** Jeremiah 17:9
- ***"There is none righteous, not even one… there is none who seeks for God."*** Romans 3:10–11
- ***"Apart from Me you can do nothing."*** John 15:5

Every generation invents new ways to deny what God has already said: that apart from Him, we are spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). Not sick. Not injured. Dead.

Yet this dark backdrop is not the end of the story—it's the backdrop that makes the light of Christ blaze. God sees our sin more clearly than we ever could, and yet He draws near. He doesn't wait for us to become "basically good." He comes for us because we can't.

- ***"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*** Romans 5:8
- ***"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*** Luke 19:10

The flood narrative is judgment, yes—but it is also mercy. God preserved Noah by grace (Genesis 6:8), pointing forward to a greater Ark: Christ Himself, who carries us safely through the waters of judgment. So, when the world says, "People are basically good," we can answer gently but firmly: God says otherwise—and that is why we need a Savior.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

A Self-loather - Thomas Brooks

"They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices." Ezekiel 6:9

True repentance is a daily turning of the soul further and further from sin-and a daily turning of the soul nearer and nearer to God and holiness.

True repentance includes . . .
a true sense of sin,
a deep sorrow for sin,
a hearty loathing of sin, and
a holy shame and blushing for sin.

A true repenter strives for . . .
a clean head, and a clean heart;
a clean lip, and a clean life.

To repent is for a man to loathe himself, as well as his sin. Is this easy for man, who is so great a self-lover, and so great a self-exalter, and so great a self-admirer-to become a self-loather? To repent is to cross sinful self, and to walk contrary to sinful self. True repentance lies in a daily dying unto sin, and in a daily living unto Him who lives forever.

"Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices." Ezekiel 36:31