

Pastor's Pen

Show No Partiality!

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

In the late 18th century, Pew Fees were established in Christian churches in England and America. Families or individuals would pay a yearly fee to rent a specific pew. The idea was that it would help fund the church's operations. If you paid, you got a reserved seat, often marked with a nameplate. The best seats (close to the front or center) would usually cost more. As you can imagine, if you did not have money for these pews, you either had to stand or sit in the free section at the back of the church,

By the turn of the 20th century, these Pew Fees were eliminated. But we must ask ourselves how this ever happened in the first place. As Christians, we all belong to the family of God. At our local church, Grace Harvest, we are called to humbly serve one another and not think more highly of ourselves than we ought. We need to be on guard so someone 100 years from now doesn't say what they were thinking at Grace Harvest when they....!

If the churches that instituted those pew fees had just read James, it is hard to believe they would have instituted those fees.

"My brothers, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in bright clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the bright clothes, and say, 'You sit here in a good place,' and you say to the poor man, 'You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,' 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?" James 2:1-4

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Living Water by Alistair Begg

Jesus said to her, ***"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."***
John 4:13-14

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well and asked her for a drink, she assumed that she would be providing what He needed: a literal drink of water. Instead, she discovered that actually she needed what only this stranger was able to provide: a spiritual drink of living water.

Jesus helped her to see this need with one simple command: ***"Go, call your husband, and come here"*** (John 4:16). He asked her to do what she couldn't do, because although she had been married five times she was now living with a man who was not her husband. He helped her see how her ongoing search for satisfaction had left her wanting. Famed mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote that we have within each of us a God-shaped void. She was no exception.

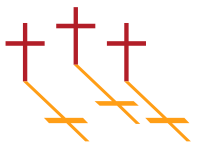
Quote of the Week

"If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation."
-John Owen

Every one of us digs figurative wells all over the place that will never truly satisfy (Jeremiah 2:13)—our careers, our marriages, our friendships, our families, our wealth, our next vacation, or whatever experiences give us a high. But they all leave us thirsty for more. We will keep digging and drinking until we are confronted by our real need: that our sin needs to be cleansed and forgiven, our desires need to be transformed, and our hearts need to be filled with Jesus. He is the only one able to hold the weight of all our hopes and longings.

This woman arrived at the well empty, searching, and desperate. In Christ she met God—the same God who created our inmost being, who knows the words we've yet to speak, who can tell us everything we've ever done (John 4:19; see also Psalm 139: 4, 13). She brought her empty life to this wonderful source of living water: Christ Himself. She brought her sinful past to the cleansing supply that only Jesus provides. She brought her hopes for the future to the one who knew everything about her and loved her still, enough to quench her thirst forever.

On what are you tempted to hang your hopes, other than God? Where do you look for satisfaction, other than to Jesus? He has offered you the drink that will quench your thirst forever and become a spring that can never run dry. He has taken what He doesn't deserve—the punishment for your sin—so that He can give you what you don't deserve: salvation, forgiveness, freedom, hope. Draw from this saving well moment by moment, today and every day, and thirst no more.



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Book Study
Fridays | 6AM Men's Book Study
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please see website for locations

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 04/20/2025

General Offering	\$9,665.74
Building Fund	\$1,325.75
Uganda	\$190.00
Benevolence	\$70.00
G3	\$310.00
Total	\$11,561.49
Attendance	307

G3 so far \$1586.00 Goal is \$2,000

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

April 27, 2025

Welcome