

Grace Church of Central Point

100 Oak Street

A praying, family-centered congregation that loves Jesus!



GRACE NOTES

VISION 2025: Planting God's Word in our hearts

March 2025

From the Pastor's Desk...

Let's Talk About Time

When you think about the subject of time, we can come to some interesting conclusions. 1) It affects all of us. 2) We all have the same amount on a day to day basis. 3) Regarding the subject of time and specifically the spending of same, there are no do overs. 4) You can't share your time with another person. They have their pool of time, and you have yours. 5) You can't bank your time, storing it away to be used later. 6) None of us know what the time ahead holds for us. 7) Time is precious and we need to use it wisely. This last one, number seven, is what I want to focus on in this month's column.

We read in Ephesians 5:15-16, " ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." Here Paul makes it abundantly clear in verse 16 that we are to use our time wisely, judiciously, and carefully. It emphasizes in verse 16 "making the best use of the time." So let me ask, for you, what would you consider the best use of your time? Spending it with family? Spending time in the Word of God? Spending time in prayer? Being in church? Serving in some capacity in your church? Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with unbelievers? All of these would be excellent suggestions, but if we look at the last part of verse 16, I think it tells us, even nudges us, in the direction to take. The latter part of verse 16 says "because the days are evil." Let's talk then about the "evil days."

We know we are in the last days. All around us we can see the darkness, the way our society has slid toward internal division and the threat of world war. Recognizing that the days are evil just reiterates all the bad news that is constantly spewed at us, which results in depressing people, giving them little hope, and leaving them to flounder in the times we live in. But something we as Christians know is that there is truth available, and it is not man's truth, it is not fallible truth, it is not "relative" truth; it is 100% rock solid truth! So, imagine this scenario – walking up to a person and asking them "Hey, have you heard the good news?"

In a situation like this people, after hearing so much bad news will do one of two things. If they are a Christian they will give you that knowing smile and nod... understanding what you are communicating. Or, if they are lost, they will respond with a "No, what good news?" or "Is there some good news you've heard?"

And from there, just as Peter tells us in I Peter 3:15 " ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." From there we have the opportunity to tell them the Good News of Jesus Christ; and possibly bring one more person into the Kingdom of God. What a time to be alive! What a time to share the Good News! And what a great use of the time that we've been given!

ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

Sunday:	Morning prayer	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
Tuesday:	Women's Bible Study	10:00 am
	Men's Bible Study	5:30 pm
Wednesday:	Mid-week prayer meeting	6:30 pm
Thursday:	Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- March 1 Beyond: Defying Jihad, Mountain Church 9 am-12 noon
- March 8 Shoebox Celebration event: The Path 1pm
- March 11 No women's Bible Study
- March 18 Women's Bible Study is having brunch at Punky's at 10 am
- March 20: Shoebox ministry at the church 1:00 pm



March 23 Scriptorium:

Memorize a new Scripture verse – stay after church for a light lunch and sharing by the group of the verses they have memorized. Please sign up on the registration sheet posted at the bottom of the stairs.

Beyond: Defying Jihad speaker: Esther Ahmad

(for the ladies)

Mountain Church, 1 E. Main St. Medford

March 1: 9 am-12 noon

Register at mtchurch.org Cost \$10

Esther believed her ultimate purpose was to serve Allah by dying as a Jihadist. At 19, she volunteered to become a suicide bomber. Two nights before she was to leave, she had a dream that changed her life.



MARCH 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Ethel Pose
2 Terry Pruett	3 Cathleen Winchell*	4 Cynthia Pruett	5 Teri Ramirez	6 Bill Shelton	7 Irene Blanchard*	8 Bea Shelton
9 Amanda Sill	10 Marie Simmons	11 Pete Slade	12 Jessica Speece	13 Tamara Fielding*	14 Linda Redmond*	15 Stephanie Speece
16 Richard Murray*	17 St. Patrick's Day Pauline Stephens	18 Tony Vaccarino	19 Nicole Vaccarino	20 Ron Walch	21 Judi Walch	22 Melba Waters
23 Ed Whetstone*	24 Bill Shelton*	25 Annita Wheeler	26 Nancy Whetstone	27 Carole Allen*	28 Ernest Kronquist*	29 Matt Winchell
30 Franklin Line* Gale Mattern*	31 Helen Winchell					

Please pray for one another each day – those with a birthday are shown with an *



Sunday Evening, March 16, from 6-8 pm we will have a concert at our church with Northgate Revival (Luke Yates, previously with New Legacy Project and Dillion Campbell). It will be an evening to inspire spiritual renewal through a powerful night of testimony, music and worship. Mark this time on your calendar and invite someone to join you.

PRAYER NOTES

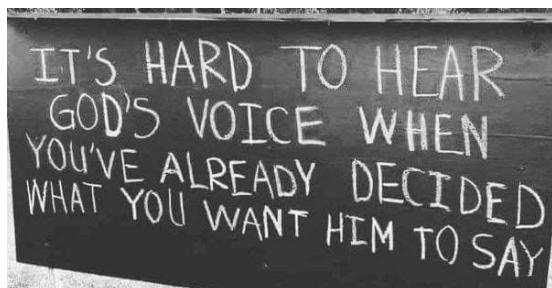
Grace Church just recently sent a gift to the pastor we are supporting. He thanked the church body and said the gift arrived just when he was needing some medical care. Remember to pray for Pastor Paul and his family.

Pray for those in our congregation who need God's healing touch.

Continue prayer for the man and his family that God has chosen as pastor for our church and for the search committee.

Our nation and our leaders.

Isreal and the conflict in the mid-east.



Isaiah and Malana Oliver married December 14, 2024

Practice the pause

When in doubt, PAUSE.

When angry, PAUSE.

When tired, PAUSE.

When stressed, PAUSE.

And when you pause,

PRAY