

# Grace Church of Central Point

100 Oak Street  
Central Point OR 97502



A praying, family-centered congregation that loves Jesus!

GRACE NOTES

Vision 2024: Being light in a dark world

July 2024

From the Pastor's Desk...

### Celebrating Freedom and Liberty

In the Old Testament we read in the book of Exodus how God's people were set free from their bondage in Egypt. Their freedom was not a result of how smart they were, how good in battle they were, or based on any one particular event that transpired. No, their freedom was a result of the orchestration by God of a series of miracles which God demonstrated to Pharaoh through His servant, Moses.

As the people were freed and they fled Egypt, one would think they would have been oh so thankful to the Lord for His gracious provision of freedom for them. But no, that was not the case as we read in Exodus 16:3, "3 and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Again, they cried out in rebellion in Numbers 11:4-5, "4 Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic." And one more time in Numbers 14:3-4, "3 Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt." We look at these passages and conclude in our minds, "how ungrateful the children of God were at the freedom God gave them."

Then, we can take time and think about us today, and the freedom that we have in Christ. Let me ask a question, "What do we do with our freedom that God has given us in Christ?" Are we a thankful people, recognizing the price that was paid to give us spiritual liberty? Or are we like the person who upon receiving a hundred dollars complained that he didn't have an envelope to put it in? In Christ and the freedom He offers, do we thank Him, live for Him, and share Him so others can have the same freedom we have? Or, are we like the Israelites who desired, longed for, and had their eyes and heart on returning to from where they had been freed?

As we come to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July here in America, we once again will recognize all the freedoms that we have, not as a result of our government, but these are God given rights; life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And no one can take away what God has given us. No one! So, the Statue of Liberty proclaims to the world our freedom and liberty. Just so, for the Christian, the cross proclaims our freedom and liberty! The price paid for American liberty is in the lives of each who dutifully gave their all to defend our freedoms.

And, in our spiritual freedom and liberty, it comes down to one selfless act, Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross, giving His one life as a ransom to free the many who are bound in sin and darkness.

I encourage you, don't just celebrate America's freedom this month, but also celebrate and share the liberty that is available in Christ. Who do you know, that needs to know, that there is freedom and liberty in Christ.

### 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

### CAMP FOR ALL AGES at FIR POINT

Camp dates

July 8-12: High School Camp '24

July 15-19: 7th & 8th grade Camp '24

July 21-24: 5th & 6th grade Camp '24

July 26-28: Family Camp Weekend '24

July 30-Aug 2: 3rd & 4th grade Camp '24

Registration forms are on the Greeter Counter in the back of the church.



### Tiny Little Church Groups

Sunday afternoons July 7-August 25:  
2-4 pm. This year's study is "Names of God" These will be held in a home on Sunday afternoon. Sign up at the Greeter Counter at the back of the church.



Sunday, July 7: special called business meeting for pastoral vote.

July 13: Trustee Meeting at noon

July 14: Cakes, Cookies & Collectables sale

July 21: Mid-year business meeting after the morning service.



# JULY 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Whitney Spelber	2 Pauline Stephens	3 Tricia Sullivan	4 <b>July 4th!</b> Tony Vaccarino	5 Nicole Vaccarino	6 Ron Walch
7 *Pete Slade	8 *Ella Fredinburg	9 Melba Waters	10 Annita Wheeler	11 Ed Whetstone	12 Nancy Whetstone	13 *Jim Hamilton *Teri Ramirez
14 Matt Winchell	15 Cathleen Winchell	16 Pastor Howard	17 Evie Collins	18 *Judi Walch	19 Helen Winchell	20 Joshua Petsche
21 *Mike Sullivan	22 Leisha Young	23 *Amanda Sill	24 Perry Allen	25 Carole Allen	26 Nina Anselmo	27 *Kyle Spelber
28 *Cheryl Young	29 *Kim Pence	30 Steve Ashton	31 Debbie Ashton			

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

## MISSIONARY MOMENTS

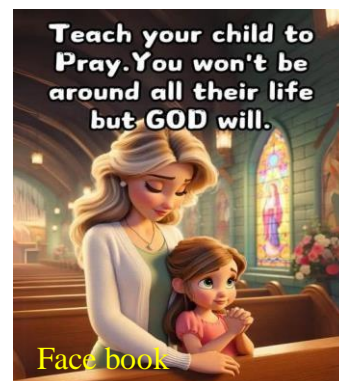
### Add THEM TO YOUR PRAYER LIST

Grace church helps support ten mission organizations or missionaries. Pray for them as many people are being helped through these organizations and come to know the Lord.

**Samaritan's Purse: Heal our Patriots.** Wounded service members and their spouses receive marriage enrichment, physical refreshment and encouragement that only comes through the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they spend a week at Alaska's Lake Clark.

**The Pregnancy Center.** The Pregnancy Center provides parenting classes, new moms club which help prepare the moms for bringing home their baby safely, post-abortion support and medical services. An Earn While You Learn class for dads to teach practical life skills and support that help dads be the best parent they can be. These services are provided NO COST to them.

**Pastor Paul (location unnamed)** continues to minister to his church, but his family have had to leave home and move to the jungle temporarily, because of civil unrest in the city.



Cakes, Cookies & Collectables sale July 14 after the worship service. The proceeds go to help pay for postage for the shoeboxes that will be sent out in November. Last year Grace Church filled and sent 84 shoeboxes.