

2021 AT GRACE CHURCH

COMMUNITY

Discipleship Groups
Twelve17 Hospitality Ministry Meetings
Moms in Ministry
Music Ministry Meetings
Members Meeting + Membership Covenants
Anniversary Service
Children's Ministry Large Groups
Volunteer Appreciation Sunday
Young Church Gatherings

Focus for 2021:

Grow deeper in our relationships with each other and remember why the consistent work in each of our ministries is so vital and important.

OUTREACH

Easter Sunday + Outreach-Minded Teaching Series (4 Weeks)
National Day of Prayer
Summer Sundays @ The Speedway
Outreach-Minded Fall Teaching Series (5 Weeks)
Twelve17 Outreach + Signage
Race to the Summit Team Relay
Christmas Eve Service
Webpage Updates
Updated Signage on Mission St. & Preston St.
Fall Trip to Myanmar

Focus for 2021:

Reach out in purposeful ways to share Christ with others in our community and introduce them to the amazing things God is doing at Grace Church.

STEWARDSHIP

1217 Exterior Renovations
Ministry Equipment Upgrades
Updates to the Twelve17 Interior Public Spaces & Furniture
Resurface Parking Lots (Mission St. + Preston St.)
Stormwater Management

Focus for 2021:

Wrap up the major construction work at our Mission St. location and equip our ministries to continue to thrive as they serve others.

DISCIPLESHIP

Women's Prayer
Man Camp
Apprenticeships
Women's Retreat
Summer 7's for Parenting
Young Church Summer Retreat
Elder, Deacon, Deaconess Training & Mobilization
Part-Time Staff Positions

Focus for 2021:

Equip and train our leaders to shepherd and care for the Body of Christ and continue to grow in new and intentional ways in our relationship with God.

GRACE CHURCH | 2021

Dear Grace Church Family,

We truly believe God has great things in store for Grace Church in 2021. Shortly after Thanksgiving, we shared a document that explained some more about the needs in our Gifts to the King offering and outlined some of our strategic priorities for 2021, specifically those that will require financial investment over the next 12-16 months. We felt it was important to share this information with you prior to the new year so you could begin praying about how God may be calling you to enter into sacrificial giving in the year ahead.

While the areas outlined in the Gifts to the King document served as a good starting point, we realize they don't represent the full scope of Body Life at Grace Church and the opportunities ahead of us. This document, along with our calendar for 2021, have been designed to give a better sense of how we believe God is calling us to grow stronger in our faith, deepen our relationships with each other, and reach out in new and intentional ways in the year ahead.

As we've planned for 2021, there are four areas that seem especially important for us as a church: *Community, Outreach, Stewardship, and Discipleship & Spiritual Growth*. These areas are very similar to those outlined in our Gifts to the King document, but they give a more complete and well-rounded picture of all we are looking forward to this year!

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that plans can certainly change. Although we've done our best to lay out some important dates for the next several months, we truly desire the Holy Spirit's confirmation and leadership for each and every item listed below. We are also excited about the new ideas and opportunities that will come our way in 2021 that we haven't even thought about yet!

As we look back on 2020, we are so grateful for the ways God has led us step by step. We are continuing to look to him in this new year and trusting God to lead us into greater unity and flourishing as we abide in him. Please continue to pray with us and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or input you may have!

Grateful to be on the journey with each of you,

Team of Elders

COMMUNITY

Focus for 2021: Grow deeper in our relationships with each other and remember why the consistent work in each of our ministries is so vital and important.

- **Discipleship Groups** | We will continue with two more rounds of Discipleship Groups in 2021. Our first round of groups will begin the week of January 25th and we'll meet for 5 weeks. We'll be sharing more information soon about a new study that we'll be doing as groups in Jan/Feb.
- **Twelve17 Hospitality Ministry Meetings** | Our Hospitality Team will continue to meet quarterly for a time of encouragement, fellowship, and training. The 'meeting' scheduled for Saturday, June 19th is unique because it will be a time for our baristas, kitchen team members, and coffee roasters to have some summer fun and get to know each other better.
- **Moms in Ministry** | We're excited to continue Moms in Ministry in 2021! This is a time for our kids to be challenged academically while also participating in some extra-curricular activities prepared by our Young Churchers. Our moms will also spend a portion of their morning together where they will be encouraged in their ongoing, daily ministry to their families and in the community.
- **Music Ministry Meetings** | Our Music Ministry is such a blessing to our Body every week, so we're excited to add a few opportunities to our calendar this year to encourage these faithful servants! These meetings are an opportunity to build stronger relationships among all of our band members and remind them why their ministry is so essential and important.
- **Members Meeting + Membership Covenants** | As we prepare for our Annual Members Meeting in March, we'll be updating and sharing our Membership Covenant and asking each of our members to prayerfully consider their role as members for the year ahead.
- **Anniversary Service** | This year we'll be celebrating our 23rd anniversary as a church, and we're shooting to have the Sanctuary renovations complete so we can get everyone back under one roof at Mission 1217! We'll do some creative things leading into this weekend to allow everyone to share how God has used the people at Grace Church to help form Christ in each of us.
- **Children's Ministry Large Groups** | Our Children's Ministry workers do such an amazing job bringing the Word of God to life for our kids each and every weekend. We have three Large Group Meetings scheduled this year designed to bless and strengthen our CM teams.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Sunday** | We're looking forward to incorporating this year's Volunteer Appreciation into our Sunday Service just before Thanksgiving! As leaders, we are so grateful for the faithful service of so many in every aspect of life at Grace Church. Volunteer Appreciation Sunday is a simple opportunity for our Leadership Team to say THANK YOU!
- **Young Church Gatherings** | A team of Young Churchers has been seeking the Lord for the last several weeks about what God has in store for our Young Church in 2021. We'll be sharing more information soon about a fresh approach to Young Church in the weeks ahead.

OUTREACH

Focus for 2021: Reach out in purposeful ways to share Christ with others in our community and introduce them to the amazing things God is doing at Grace Church.

- **Easter Sunday & Outreach-Minded Teaching Series (4 weeks)** | We're going to make the season between Easter and our Anniversary Service one of intentional outreach, including Sunday Services designed to present the gospel clearly, share our story as a church, and highlight some of the ways God has moved in so many of our lives to bring healing, conviction of sin, and hope.
- **National Day of Prayer** | The National Day of Prayer is taking place the Thursday following our Anniversary Service. This is a great opportunity to bless the wider Body of Christ in Central Michigan as we pray together for our nation, state, and central Michigan region.
- **Summer Sundays @ The Speedway** | This summer, we'd like to meet one Sunday a month out at the Speedway. We'll have our usual Sunday service, along with special activities and teaching for the kids, and then hang out afterwards and have lunch together.
- **Outreach-Minded Fall Teaching Series (5 weeks)** | As students return in the Fall, we're going to make an intentional effort to meet students and let them know about our services on Sunday, as well as our Twelve17 Hospitality Ministry. Each of our services in September will highlight testimonies, different aspects of ministry at Grace Church, and ways to get connected.
- **Twelve17 Outreach & Signage** | This past Spring and Summer we took a few intentional steps to update our signs and let community members know they were welcome to stop in. We've been encouraged by the response, so we're going to continue those efforts to share the blessing of this ministry with others, while continuing to minister to those who regularly visit.
- **Race to the Summit Team Relay** | We are excited to offer another installment of the Race to the Summit this Fall! This time around, we're going to be much more intentional about getting the word out to runners in our region early in the year and encouraging our Grace Church teams to invite friends and coworkers to be a part of this unique event.
- **Christmas Eve Service** | Christmas Eve is such a great time to welcome visitors and speak some words of hope and encouragement into their lives. We're already looking forward to Dec. 24th!
- **Webpage Updates** | It's been a few years since we've gone through each page on our website and updated it to better reflect all that God is doing at Grace Church. We've already started to make some updates and improvements, and we're going to continue over the next several weeks.
- **Updated Signage on Mission St. & Preston St.** | Later this year we're going to be updating our signage along both Mission St. and Preston St, which will include signage on the building that lets people know that 1217 S. Mission St. is home to Grace Church.
- **Fall Trip to Myanmar** | We're ultimately trusting God with the timing of our next trip to Myanmar, but it is our earnest hope and desire to get a team there in 2021 if at all possible!

STEWARDSHIP

Focus for 2021: Wrap up the major construction work at our Mission St. location and equip our ministries to continue to thrive as they serve others.

- **1217 Exterior Renovations** | We're looking forward to finally getting to work on the more 'public' aspects of buildings in the coming year. We've done so much to make the inside of our building beautiful, and now it's time to make some updates to the parts of our building that community members see every day. Our Gifts to the King document gives many more specifics about the work we have planned in 2021.
- **Ministry Equipment Upgrades** | Our Gifts to the King document also outlines a few practical needs in our Cleaning, Hospitality, and Children's Ministries. Although these are just one piece of the broader work to be done this year, these updates will equip our workers in each of these ministries as they continue their faithful service in each of these areas.
- **Updates to the Twelve17 Interior Public Spaces & Furniture** | These spaces were the first to be renovated after we acquired the Embers and they've been used nearly every day since! We'd like to put a fresh coat of paint throughout the front lobby, Baby Church, Ones Church, and the front hallway. We also have several pieces of furniture in each of these spaces that need to be updated.
- **Resurface Parking Lots (Mission St. & Preston St.)** | These lots have been in need of resurfacing since we first acquired Mission 1217 just over 11 years ago. With the amount of construction equipment and dumpsters we've brought in over the last decade, we wanted to wait until the major construction work was done before resurfacing these lots. That time has finally come!
- **Stormwater Management** | This has been an ongoing project over the last several months as we've worked through a number of different scenarios to manage stormwater efficiently and effectively, especially along the North side of our building.

DISCIPLESHIP

Focus for 2021: Equip and train our leaders to shepherd and care for the Body of Christ as each of us continue to grow in new and intentional ways in our relationship with God.

- **Women's Prayer** | Our Women's Prayer meetings are a great opportunity for the women of Grace to bless and strengthen one another through a time of teaching and prayer designed specifically for women. We'll also be incorporating some workouts on Friday mornings for those interested!
- **Man Camp** | We are looking forward to two more installments of Man Camp this year! The first date is coming in early March and we're looking at staying at The Shack. In September, we're looking forward to enjoying the beauty of Glovers Lake!
- **Apprenticeships** | We are so excited about our Apprenticeships in 2021. We will be placing a special focus this year on our 7th-12th graders, giving them an opportunity to make the most of this summer by growing spiritually, deepening their relationships with each other, learning to work as a team, and using their gifts to strengthen and serve the Body of the Christ.
- **Women's Retreat** | We also have two Women's Retreats planned for 2021! The retreat this Spring will be on May 16th-18th back at The Shack. For the Fall Retreat, we're still exploring some other possibilities in terms of location. Both of these retreats are designed to strengthen our ladies, provide some rest and renewal, and give them a vision for the season of life ahead.
- **Summer 7s for Parenting** | We're excited to offer Summer 7s' again in June and July. Last summer we focused on Biblical principles for strong marriages. This summer we're going to turn our attention to the unique blessings and challenges of parenting. We hope all of our couples will join us for a time of teaching from the Word, community, and learning from each other.
- **Young Church Summer Retreat** | We're already looking forward to getting away this summer with our Young Churchers. We'll be looking at group campsites soon and making reservations early this year so that we have a location all set before campgrounds start filling up!
- **Elder, Deacon, & Deaconess Training & Mobilization** | Our team of Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses have been meeting and getting to know each other in deeper ways over the last few months. In the coming weeks, we will continue to study God's Word to better understand our role as shepherds and envision together how God is calling us to lead as a team in the season ahead.
- **Part-Time Staff Positions** | This is a need we've outlined further in our Gifts to the King document. We would love to add three part-time staff positions in the year ahead, each with the primary goal of helping us to better care for those who serve so faithfully. In 2021, we believe this is especially important for our group of Young Churchers, as well as our group of new disciples who were baptized earlier in the spring.