

▶ **March 2019**



DAZZLING VICES:

A LENTEN LOOK AT THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Yeah I get it. A seven-part sermon series on sin in the middle of winter doesn't rank too high on the excitement meter. Your subconscious may have just let out a sigh of disappointment reading the upcoming sermon title. Plus... what's the deal with *deadly* sins? Do we actually believe in deadly sins...whatever they are? Couldn't we have come up with a more inspirational or impactful series for the next two months?

Actually though, throughout Church history, pastors, writers, and Church leaders have considered a careful investigation of the seven deadly sins a very rewarding venture for the Christ-follower. These sins, or vices, were considered *root* problems that fed into a variety of destructive behavioral patterns and character deformities. Think addictions that have a powerful, deceiving, and ultimately corrupting influence on our lives. Naming them, understanding why they hold such allure in our lives, and bringing them before God's throne of grace was all part of a good process of finding deeper joy and satisfaction in life. Addressing them, according to spiritual guides, would help nurture a more genuine love for Christ. Knocking down one of these fundamental sin pillars in our hearts could lead to victory

over a whole host of sins. Rightly thinking about them gives better understanding of the world we live in. And for our purposes here in Lent, spending some time on these sins should lead to a deeper appreciation of Christ's sacrifice and our desperate need of it.

So short answer – no. I can't really think of a potentially more beneficial series to settle into during the season of Lent. As I've been researching and preparing for this series, I'm actually kind of excited to gain a deeper understanding of these sins and Lord-willing gain greater freedom, joy, and devotion in my own walk with Christ. And I'm trusting you will find benefit from letting God's Word expose and refine certain patterns of living that have perhaps robbed you of similar experiences.

In his book, *Weight of Glory*, C.S. Lewis says, "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea." Our goal in the weeks ahead will be to name the mud and press on to the sea!

~ Pastor Aaron Susek

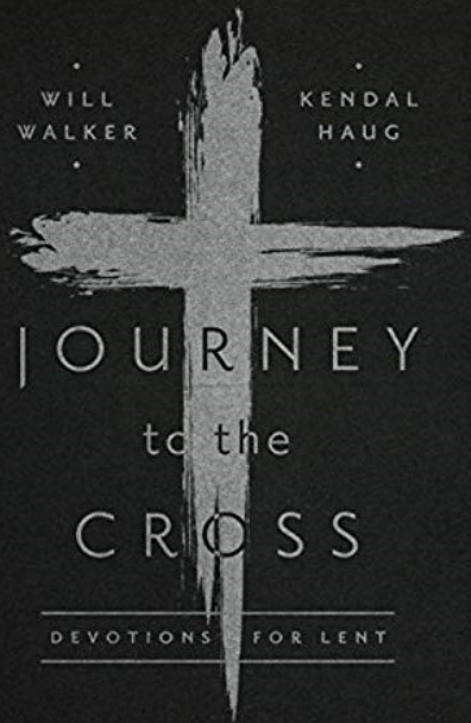
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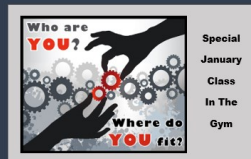
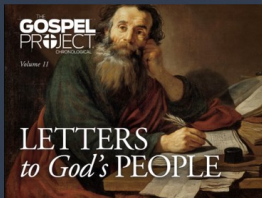
Lenten Devotional

Journey to the Cross: Devotional for Lent is available in the church lobby. Includes daily Call to Worship, Confession, Gospel Reading, Prayer of Thanksgiving, Devotion, Reflection Questions and Closing Prayer. (Lent begins March 6)



Bible Classes – Sundays 11 am - Noon

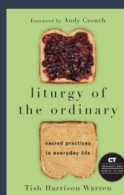
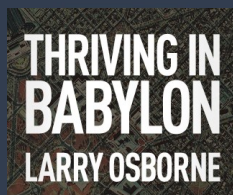
Join us in the gym for coffee, refreshments and fellowship between Worship and Bible Classes



Special
January
Class
In The
Gym

Family Night – Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:15 PM

January 9 – May 15, 2019



Bible Classes

Sundays at 11 am

Family Night

Wednesdays at 7 pm

NEW Wednesday Group

Thriving in Babylon - These are confusing times for many Christians. Traditional biblical values are not only rejected; it seems as if they're attacked on every front. It's all happened at warp speed, leaving many of us spiritually and culturally disoriented or even fearful, frustrated, and angry. How can we spiritually survive in this spiritually hostile environment? Is there any hope for the next generation? Video discussion begins March 6. Join the conversation.

Couple's Fellowship

Fourth Fridays from 7-9pm

Couples

Fri. March 1

At the Seal's Home

Fri. March 22

At the Harper's home

7PM Both Nights



**Set Your Clocks Ahead One Hour
Sunday Morning, March 10**

Community Meal

Sun. March 10

After Worship

Worship at a special
time - 10am - then
join us for an Italian
meal. All welcome.
Invite your friends!

COMMUNITY MEAL

**Sunday
March 10
After 10am Worship**



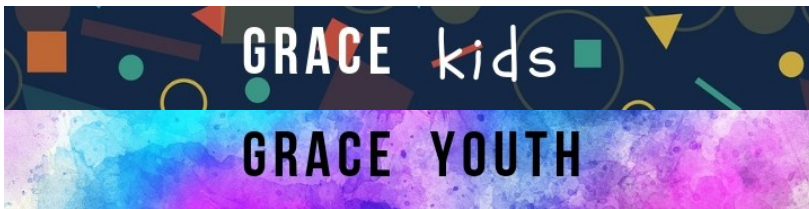
**Kelsey Yori
Stories
From the
Dominican
Republic**



Young at Heart

**Tues. March 12
Noon-2pm**

*Special Guest: Kelsey
Yori sharing on her
time in the Dominican
Republic.*



Upcoming Events for Youth

Mark your calendars for Spring Retreat, **April 26-28**
at Camp Orchard Hill

Child / Youth Worker Clearances

Reminder that in order to maintain your child protection clearances you must complete our new online training and return all paperwork to Fuzzy by **March 1**

Updated Child Protection Policy, training details and all forms available in Information Hallway by room 103.

Children's Contact: Fuzzy (Dan Phillips) at dphillips@gracebfc.org

Youth Contact: Leadership Team at gbfcyouth1@gracebfc.org

Summer Children's Outreach

While we have been richly blessed to partner with CEF for the past two summers in hosting Backyard Bible Clubs, we are planning to shift gears slightly this summer. We are looking for a few families who can commit to visiting at a park/public location in close proximity to the church on a weekly basis over the summer. The intention would be to meet other children/families who could be ministered to. At some point between mid-July to early-August the church will host a 3-day Bible club at those parks, geared towards the children who frequent the park. Our goal would be to share the hope of the Gospel while building lasting relationships with families who are not already connected to a church. **If you are interested in engaging a local park, please reach out to Fuzzy** (dphillips@gracebfc.org). Grace will also host special Wacky Wednesdays scattered throughout the summer as well as our annual kid's carnival. Lastly, if you live further from the church and are interested in hosting a Backyard Bible Club through CEF, we would love to get you connected with them.



"Every shoebox gives us the opportunity to touch the life of a child in Jesus' Name" Franklin Graham

It is time to start thinking about shoeboxes for 2019. Last year was a great year, our best year yet, thanks to all of you. Our goal this year is to send 400 boxes!

For the months of February and March, we will be concentrating on collecting hygiene items such as toothbrushes, washcloths, soap (ivory is preferred because it floats), Combs, brushes, girl's hair items, etc. Please note we are **NOT PERMITTED TO INCLUDE TOOTHPASTE**. The bin for Shoebox donations is located in the corner of the coat room by the sanctuary.

The sewing group meets on Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 in the fireplace room, we would love to have you join us. Once again we will be making feminine hygiene kits for the older girls boxes and pencil cases for all the boxes. You don't have to sew to be part of this group, last year we had ladies that cut the material for us, and that was a tremendous help. The Fellowship is sweet in the sewing group but you can sew from home if that works better for you. We will supply all the fabric needed. If you are interested in helping in this area, please contact Sue Yavor, Kathy Mills or Janet Letsche.

We have been notified of the **destination of our shoeboxes from 2018**. This year our boxes were sent to 3 countries. On December 4th some shoeboxes were shipped to the Dominican Republic, on December 6th some of our boxes were sent to Columbia, and on December 10th some of our boxes were sent to Malawi. Please continue to pray for the children who have received, or will receive the gospel at Shoebox distribution. Operation Christmas Child is so much more than delighting a child in need with a gift-filled Shoebox. It is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship - transforming the lives of children and families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Good News, Great Joy.....the power of a Simple Gift.

GRACE CONNECT



We provide those who are a part of the Grace family access to an online directory as well as group communication tools provided by REALM.

To get an account or with any questions contact Pastor Mark at mbickel@gracebfc.org

Let's get connected.

Download our Connect app today.

- 📱 Update your personal information
- 📱 Communicate with groups & teams
- 📱 Follow church announcements
- 🔍 Look up members
- 💰 Manage giving
- 📅 Create and join events

Let's be the church... together.



GROUNDBREAKING NEWS this Spring!

(Get it? "Groundbreaking"... because, ya know, it's spring time?)

MEET YOUR NEW DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE.
You now have **free** access to thousands of video Bible studies and supplemental materials for study individually and with groups of any size.

Get started in two easy steps:

1 Check your email for the invite from RightNow Media. *Let us know if you don't see one

2 Open the email and click "Get Started" ...yeah, it's that easy.

Email mbickel@gracebfc.org for a log-in

rightnowmedia.org

Download the app: **android** **ios** **Roku** **Apple TV** **amazon firetv**



Grace BFC Online Directory - Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who Has Access?** Only those that Grace has set up an account for - each person needs a unique password, which can be revoked at any time.
- **Who is Listed in the Online Directory?** Only those who have filled out an Adult Information Form and checked the box saying they want to be in the directory.
- **What Information is Included?** Your name, photo, primary address, phone and email, as well as birthday (month and day only), what Grace groups you are a part of, and who is in your family.
- **Can I Update my Information?** Yes. You can edit your profile and change any of your basic information, including uploading a new photo (if you had a directory photo taken that is in there already, but can be changed). You can also email changes to office@gracebfc.org
- **Can I Change What is Visible?** Yes. In your profile you can select the "Privacy" setting. You can choose if your information is visible to staff (including elders and deacons), leaders of groups you are in, all those in groups you are in, or everyone with a login. You can set that separately for each line of your contact information. (ex. You can list phone but not email) The default is Groups + Leaders + Staff.
- **What About Children and Teens?** Anyone under 18 is considered a child. If a parent has indicated they want their family in the directory, then we will list children as part of the parents family with their name and photo. Whether the child's contact info and birthday is visible is controlled by their Privacy Settings, which the parent sets. Child privacy defaults to Staff and Group Leaders Only. Also, note that if our office staff ever adjusts a child's privacy level the head of household will be notified or if any group leader sends an email to a group that includes children the parents will receive the email as well
- **How Do I Sign-up / Ask Questions?** Email Pastor Mark at mbickel@gracebfc.org



GRACE FAMILY NEWS

Welcome

Miles Daniel Kessler

born on February 11, weighing 7 lbs 13 oz and 21 inches long. Miles is the son of Matt and Trina Kessler.

Ava Faith Martino

born on February 15, weighing 7lbs 3 oz and 20.5 inches long. Ava is the daughter of Bill and Ashlee Martino.

Grace Family Directory

Our printed photo directories are here! You can pick up a copy in the church lobby or from the office. They are free, but we can only provide **ONE PER FAMILY**.

"Look away from me, that I may smile again..."

by Pastor Emeritus Richard Taylor

God does not give out sugar coated stories of people who are valiant in their holiness. God lets us see it as it is, something both unsettling and comforting at the same time. David had sinned. In Psalm 39, he agonizes and goes through a thought process that some of us understand all too well. I won't do it again. I know I am weak. I need your help. Remove the consequences. Give me a break.

I wish the psalm had another ending. "Look away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more." What? He just cried out to God. He repented and asked for help. Doesn't that mean that a corner has been turned and everything will be all right? He asks to be left alone. This doesn't sound much like encouragement.

This was a moment in David's life but a moment in life is not the end of the story. The story continues as David goes on in Psalm 40. "I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock." (Psalm 40:1-2) Here is the end of the story. Sometimes we face hard times which come as a result of our own sin. And we struggle through the consequences and feel that we can't make it or wish as David did that God would let up.

The writer of Hebrews takes this a step further. "And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? 'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.'" (Hebrews 12:5-6) Probably David would not have appreciated it if you pointed out that his misery was evidence of God's love. But, that is exactly what it was.

Your savior, Jesus, is seated at the right hand of God where He guarantees that the miserable consequences of your sin are not the end of the story. A difficult time is the evidence that your Father in heaven cares about what you do and who you are. The end of the story comes when you, a sinner who has repeatedly failed, stands forgiven in the presence of your gracious God.

Ministry Partner Events

Delco CEF Walk-a-thon

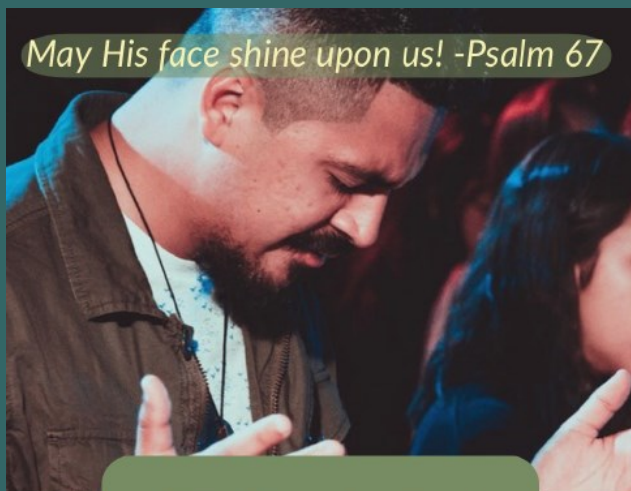
Child Evangelism Fellowship of Delaware County walk-a-thon is **March 4, 2019, 9am-1pm** at Ridley Creek State Park (Pavilion 17). See Justin Gambrell for more information. Support a walker or sign up to walk at cefdelco.com

Silent & Live Auction For Africa

Compassion Corps is having its annual Silent & Live Auction For Africa once again this year. The theme is "Rich in Blessings". **March 16, 2019, 6-9pm** The Ballroom at the Westside. See PJ Hartzell for complimentary tickets or register at CelebrateWithCompassion.com.

Bible Fellowship Church Special Events

May His face shine upon us! -Psalm 67



**Bible Fellowship Church
Day of Prayer 2019
Saturday, March 16th***

**Cedar Crest
Bible Fellowship Church
Allentown, Pa**

Registration
begins at 9:15

*Lunch provided

f @bfcprayer

ig @bfcprayer

REGISTER AT:

2019bfcdayofprayer.eventbrite.com

HEROINES OF FAITH

**THIS YEARS HOST IS
RACHEL KESSLER!**

WOMEN'S
RETREAT

AT PINEBROOK

MAY 3-5 2019

REGISTER ONLINE

@ PINEBROOK.ORG

OR CALL

800-806-5501

SPEAKERS:

LORRIE ARNICK

JUDY HUBBARD

MONA MAURO

WORSHIP LEADER:

JUDY HUBBARD



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Follow us on Twitter: @Gracebfc

Like our Facebook Page

Grace News is normally published the last Sunday of each month. Submit upcoming events and articles to Barb by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send to office@gracebfc.org

Questions and suggestions can be sent to Pastor Mark at mbickel@gracebfc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1	Couples
March 6	Start of Lent (<i>devotionals in lobby</i>)
March 10	10am Worship followed by Community Meal
March 12	Young at Heart
March 16	BFC Day of Prayer
March 17	Prayer and Song Night
March 24	Communion during Worship
March 29-30	Elders Retreat
April 18	Maundy Thursday Meal
April 19	Good Friday Service
April 21	Easter Sunday - Sunrise & 9am Services
April 26-28	Youth Spring Retreat
May 4	Spring Work Day

March Birthdays

2	Chris Kessler
3	Amy Susek
5	Dennis Dragon
7	David Fiorelli
7	Alec Salerno
9	Bob Evans
9	Gerry Feehery
10	Paul Waxman
10	Trish Lawton
11	Betty Ann Simmons
11	Kelli Yacono
12	Bill Batdorf
12	Dan Seal Sr.
12	Jacqueline Sammel
12	Toby Schmidt

12	Pastor Mark Bickel
15	Paige Lawton
15	Madelyn Martino
17	Cindy Klein
18	Betty Hastie
19	Ron Kender
21	Janet Babcock
21	Jim Wiseley
24	Aviva Hobak
25	Carolyn Moyer
26	Don Kaiser
26	Julia McLean
27	Hayley Harper
27	Joe Worrell
28	Kyley Harper
30	Ashlee Martino

March Anniversaries

4	Bud & Eileen Clontz
14	Michael & Kim McManiman
18	Stephen & Audra Bach
27	Nathan & Kimberly Achey
28	August & Laura Fisher
28	Jeff & Joan Linn
31	Pastor Aaron & Amy Susek

Financial Update

January Income	\$45,489
January Budget	\$49,761
Shortfall	\$4,272