

Grace of Christ Presbyterian Church
Together at Grace

GRACE ALIVE

Loving God & Loving Others

Iglesia Presbiteriana Gracia de Cristo

NOVEMBER 2025 VOL 153
YAKIMAGRACE.COM





Pastor

— *Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr*
Lead Pastor



Dear Friends of Grace of Christ,

Concluding a recent textbook on the church, Finnish theologian Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen writes, “In our fragmented world, with so many people searching for their roots and for meaning, a community with purpose and hope for the future will be something to look for.” (*An Introduction to Ecclesiology*, 267. IVP: 2021).

I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Kärkkäinen a few years ago and while he comes from a different tradition (Pentecostal), his work gives a great global perspective on how different people groups think about being and doing the church.

Did you know that the majority of Christians are now in the southern hemisphere? Yet, all across the world, we’re asking a similar basic question, which Dr. Kärkkäinen presents through the words of Swiss theologian Emil Brunner,

WHAT is the Church? This question poses the unsolved problem of Protestantism. From the days of the Reformation to our own time, it has never been clear how the Church, in the sense of the spiritual life and faith—the fellowship of Jesus Christ—is related to the institutions conventionally called churches. (Preface to *The Misunderstanding of the Church*, 1953).

This is the question I’ve been presenting to you and offering a biblical framework for answering as we’ve considered the church as:

The people of God on the mission of God becoming the image of God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This, I’ve proposed is a key part of the good news we find in the Bible. In spite of the world, in spite of all human attempts to find God in nature, in themselves, in their ideologies, in their pleasures, or in their identities, there is a hunger for something beyond us, some truth that we couldn’t just make up for ourselves, and some way to be a people together that doesn’t feed into the world’s havoc.

Grace of Christ is a church institution. It’s one that we all have a shared ownership in and responsibility for. But it’s up to us to transform something human into a people who are on a mission as we grow one another up into the image of God in Christ as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and not just normal human techniques.

Being the church means that we together bear Christ to the world. It means we form relationships with others that seek to show them what the love of Jesus looks like. And it means we can, with confidence, use the resources we have to good effect.



Pastor



But here's the thing... resources can't form relationships. Buildings and programs cannot do "love." But they can be very helpful tools to provide a space where we equip one another to do this and practice the love of God in a rich community together that can't help but build bridges with the wider world of Yakima and beyond.

In November we're going to focus on the resources of Grace of Christ and how you can support the life and ministry of this organization. Nonprofit fundraising campaigns can feel like a whole lot of hype. "Give your money and we will change the world!" I think of the grocery stores that ask you to round up your bill to help "end hunger." Would that ending hunger was just a matter of donating a few cents! Church is different though. The promise of the church is not to guarantee some great outcome. It's to create a kind of community that equips one another to be that same kind of community that we experience on Sunday in the wider world. While our money doesn't really go to God (which bank does he use anyway?), it does go to fund the vital work of creating a "community of purpose and hope for the future" that will make the world wonder what kind of mysterious thing is going on with this Jesus person Grace of Christ keeps talking about.

– Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr



KOINONIA - Meals with the Wagenfuhrs

You are invited to join us for fellowship and a potluck meal with our new pastor, Gregory and his wife Ainhua.

The host will provide the main dish and connect with you to coordinate a possible side or dessert. To sign up for an upcoming meal, go to yakimagrace.com/koinonia and click on the day and time that work for you!

Interested in hosting a future event? Click on "Be A Host" to find out more.



ONE SERVICE SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2

Pastor Installation

On Sunday, November 2 we will have one worship service at 10:00am. This service will include Communion as well as the Installation of Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr as our Lead Pastor. We will have a reception in the Garden Room following the service.



ONE SERVICE SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 23

Stewardship – Commitment Sunday

As we look to the new year, please prayerfully consider how God is asking each of us can give back to Him what He has so graciously given to us. Time, talent, and treasures – may we glorify our Lord!



Kara Brown
Student Ministry
Director



Jahzeel Garcia
Student Ministry
Assistant

Student Ministry



Jesus is our truest friend

With October ending, it is finally sweater weather. The mornings are chilly, the leaves are changing, and hot drinks sound much more appetizing. Times are changing. Sometimes, change can look different depending on the perspective. To one person, a used item doesn't have the same worth, but to another, it is still worth something.

We can't control how people around us view things, but we can control how we see things. We can trust that God's timing and judgment are good and pray and hope that others come to see it that way as well.

This can be applied to any situation. Just as we've been learning these first three weeks, the friendships we have are our responsibility in the end. Week 1, we learned that we must be the friend we want to have before we look for our people. Week 2, we learned that we must be wise when we choose our friends, and finally, in Week 3, we learn that friendship changes, and that's okay. Even when we do everything the Bible tells us about friendships, (being a good friend, and finding good friends) it doesn't always mean those friends will be in our lives forever.

If we trust God's timing and judgment, we will see the good in both life-long friendships and those we only have for a season. Proverbs 17:17 says "A friend loves at all times." And isn't that the truest of Jesus? Jesus is the truest friend we have, for he is a friend who will love us at all times. Let us follow that example and do our best to love our friends at all times.

Please pray for us as we love one another as best we can. That we trust the judgment God has given us to find our people, and that the environment we create here at Grace is the best place to do so. Whether it is during an outing, such as the Corn Maze and Middle School Retreat, or a regularly scheduled Wednesday or Sunday.

Parents keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter for event dates or on our Instagram.





Family & Children's Ministry



— Sarah Huck

*Family & Children's
Ministry Director*

Greetings Grace Family,

I came out of my house this morning and saw that a single red leaf had fallen from our tree. I was so excited and exclaimed, "Fall is here!" My two children looked at me with total disdain. I often get excited about things in a way that is too loud and intense for my sleepy children early in the morning.

Although I am sad to see summer leave (we all grieved closing the pool this year), I look forward to fall. I do not know whether it is age or state of mind that makes me more aware of all the little things to be grateful for. Much to my kids' dismay, we drove to school that morning with me excitedly pointing out every tree that was changing color. They would have preferred to ride in silence, but how can we not delight in creation when God is reaching out His paintbrush and so elegantly dipping it into the trees around the valley?

One of my unbelieving friends who knows my current struggles left me a message the other day saying how surprised she was to hear so much joy in my voice during a recent conversation. Interesting. I certainly do not feel joyful—not at all. I believe the joy she described comes from the gratitude that has transcended the fires, the storms, and the tragedies. Gratitude for little things, like painted leaves.

**"It is not joy that makes us grateful;
it is gratitude that makes us joyful."**

- Brother David Steindl-Rast



Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* This is no small feat. Everything? Really? Yes. Paul leaves no room to debate what everything is. "Everything" in the original Greek is "all, every, whole, and entire." In the entirety of our lives, in all the regions of our minds and hearts we are to give thanks. Paul does not offer it as a suggestion or a self-help tool, rather as a directive.

It is interesting that for me personally, the directive always follows the invitation. I was invited into appreciating God's creation by proclaiming its beauty, and what followed was profound gratitude that resulted in joy. God once told me peace is the temperature of Heaven. If that is so, gratitude is the gateway to joy.

What are you grateful for today? Yes, Thanksgiving is right around the corner, let's take time with our family and share what is making our heart happy this week, what you appreciate about one another, and how you see God at work in your lives. Join God in his fall painting project and paint a picture of gratitude in your home!



Family & Children's Ministry





Grace of Christ Preschool



— Becca Mailand

yakimagrace.com/preschool

Give Thanks to the Lord!

We are celebrating the cozy fall weather with all things apples, pumpkins, changing leaves, and thankfulness! We spend a lot of time outside observing how our world is changing day by day.

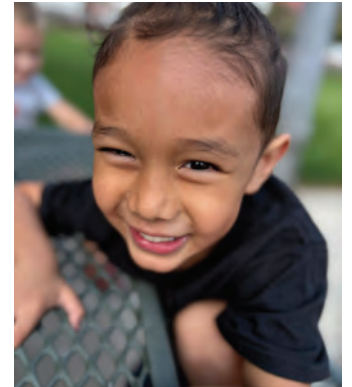
A few of our favorite events continue to be our trip to the pumpkin patch, our Thanksgiving family feast, the pumpkin party, and costume parade on Halloween! We have so many students new to preschool this year, and it has been our privilege to support parents as they experience a school community for the first time. Watch for art and projects lining the hallways near the South Doors. We will wrap up our holiday season with our Christmas Program and Cookies with Santa.



Apply Pies: Order Now!

Everything in stores might be “pumpkin spice” but we are up to our elbows in our 5th Annual Handmade Dutch Apple Pie Fundraiser (\$25 each)! This fundraiser allows us to buy curriculum, purchase art supplies, and continue to provide an affordable preschool to our community. We thank you

for all your support over the years and look forward to delivering another 200 pies to your tables this year.



Calendars and Cards

The 2026 scripture calendars are in! They’re available at the Welcome Center or main office for \$10 each. We also have packs of blank greeting cards with a variety of images and scripture for any occasion. These are also \$10 for a pack of 12 cards. Proceeds help the preschool administrative supply costs.

Giving Grace

Parents and grandparents stop by and ask for tips, tricks, and ideas for engaging their young children in family events and faith conversations. For the next few months, I’ll be dropping a few ideas that have helped us, as teachers and parents!



Thankful Pumpkins: This is a tradition I started with my boys and continue to this day! Pick out a small pumpkin as a family. Each day, everyone takes time to add one thing to the pumpkin that they are thankful for (sharpie works well for this). This centerpiece will warm you up on the bleak, chilly days to come.



Familiar Foods: There is a reason why your child only eats rolls at Thanksgiving... Did you know that they researched picky eaters and it can take 8 to 15 tries before a person’s tongue adjusts to the flavors and textures of a new food? If you’re planning a holiday meal that includes a lot of recipes only seen once a year, try out similar foods ahead of time, let kids help with the shopping, cooking, and serving of food, and be ready with a healthy “holiday charcuterie” full of fruits, veggies, cheese, and other things your child enjoys. This will help them feel like part of the family meal, even if they are reluctant to eat the green bean casserole or candied yams.



Deacons

The Gift of Communion

This year is my first year as a Deacon at GPC. As many of you may or not be aware, one of the many tasks that our Deacons perform is serving alongside Pastors and Elders in serving Communion during services in the Sanctuary. Among the other tasks that Deacons are privileged to perform is visiting people that cannot for any variety of reasons attend services in-person. Sometimes they are in rehabilitation facilities, hospital, or maybe just homebound. Since many of these people have not had an opportunity to take Communion at the Church, the Deacons often bring the elements to them and share communion with them.

At its heart, Communion is a memorial of Jesus Christ's sacrificial death. When believers partake of the bread and wine (or juice), they recall His body broken and blood shed for the forgiveness of sins.

The gift of Communion is considered one of the most profound and sacred practices in Christianity.

It is as an invitation to remember, receive and renew. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23b-26 *"...the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

This verse reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus, the new covenant, and hope in the prophecy of His Return. All of these items are powerful on their own, but when combined into

the sacrament of Communion, it achieves, in my opinion, a much greater opportunity for remembrance and renewal.

I didn't realize how significant taking Communion was for people who are denied a chance to take it regularly until God created a chance for growth and realization in my Ministry. Ericka Clark is among our amazing staff that assists in communication and maintaining our ability to act as one body towards fulfilling the goals of the Church, and God's Kingdom. I mention her specifically in this case because she was instrumental in providing the information that led to an encounter that changed my paradigm on the gift of Communion. One day Ericka sent out an email to the Deacons asking if there was someone that could make time to visit a person that was in a local rehab facility, recovering from surgery. She was from out of town, and her son had reached out to the Church asking for a visit, as he felt she was feeling disconnected. I replied, and made arrangements to go visit her. On my first visit, I found out that she hadn't been able to attend church in person or take Communion for several years and missed it. I asked her if she would like me to bring Communion for her. She was very pleased with my asking and welcomed the chance. On the next visit, I brought and shared Communion with her. She was VERY thankful, and I observed a visible change in her disposition. It looked like a feeling of peace, and contentment. It was then that I realized that by sharing this gift with her, I was receiving a blessing, a gift myself. As I have had several opportunities to share communion with others that can't attend Church regularly, I have continued to be blessed as I bless others by sharing God's Communion.

– Dave Geho





Hospitality

— Linda Mathews

Join us as we welcome one another

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” – Psalm 133:1

I recently read in ECO Essential Tenets that “We trust that when God’s glory is so lifted up and when His nature is thus made manifest in the life of the body, the church will be a light that draws people from every tribe and tongue and nation to be reconciled to God...In Christ, we are adopted into the family of God and find our new identity as brothers and sisters of one another, since we now share one Father.”

This is only a small part of the ECO Tenets, but to understand this can make it easier to understand our role in welcoming others into our church and our role as volunteer helpers. At Grace of Christ we offer multiple ways to be a part of making those who come through our doors feel comfortable and warmly received. Several options are available through the Hospitality Team, which include the Welcome Center, our Greeters, the Refreshment Committee, being an Usher and assisting with Baptisms.

Our team has been struggling to fill volunteer positions and in September we were excited to welcome wonderful volunteers who happen to be part of our Intern program at Grace. They are Alex, Belen, Eli, Jasmine and Linda. If you haven’t seen them yet, look for their smiling faces at the Welcome Center, greeting at the doors as you enter the church and the sanctuary, working with the Ushers and helping out with the Refreshment Team. We are so happy to have them and it has helped us tremendously.

If you have any interest in working alongside one or more of them, please sign up at the Welcome Center or talk with Dave Whiteside for Refreshments or Donnie Ide for Ushers. You would not only be helping our committees, you would be helping build relationships with these wonderful young student volunteers.

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:1

WELCOME CENTER AND GREETERS

It is clear we have fewer people to draw from than in years past, and the students have really helped, but we need your help, too. The sign-up sheets have changed - giving you an opportunity to look ahead and to space out your time commitment. Prayerfully, we will have enough people signing up that we can have two volunteers at the doors and two volunteers at the Welcome Center.



Dave Whiteside
Refreshments Team Leader

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS OUR NEXT REFRESHMENTS TEAM LEADER?

Dave Whiteside continues to be ready to step back. **If you have an interest in overseeing this team and have questions about what this position entails, please contact him at 509-945-3719.**

He has a wonderful team and could use some additional team members to make it a little easier for everyone.

USHERS NEEDED

The ushers could also benefit from additional team members. **For more information, please contact Donnie Ide at 509-952-0238.**

With Christmas right around the corner, planning is already happening. More to come on that.



“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” – Colossians 3:12

Hospitality

Baptism Celebrations

On August 10th we celebrated two baptisms. Pastor Curt McFarland baptized Siegie Daniel who joined our church in May of 2024. Her choice to be baptized now was very important to her and she was happy to have her family by her side. Pastor Curt also baptized Kennedy Bacon—parents William and Holle, big brother Foster, grandparents Bruce and Rosanne Bacon and Gwin and Kris Kaercher, and great grandparents Bill Kennedy and Frank and Suzanne Bacon.

On August 31, Pastor Curt baptized Hailey Auve who shared her faith journey and how she came to be at Grace of Christ. Both baptisms were very special with our church family standing in affir-

mation to come along side both families as they grown in love and grace with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The next baptism is scheduled for November 23rd. Because of everything involved in putting together a baptism, there has been a change in how they are scheduled. They will be scheduled ahead and will likely occur about three times a year.

When infants and toddlers are baptized, we give them a quilt, made by people in our church family. This quilting team is looking for more people to sew! They also need lots of new white sheets (for backing.) To donate or for more information, please contact Joann Benson at 509-965-2258.



Siegie Daniel
Baptized August 10



Hailey Auve
Baptized August 31



Kennedy Bacon
Baptized August 10



In loving memory of Jake Weber

It has been with great sadness that we have had to say good-bye to Jake Weber. He was a very special member of the Hospitality Team. The opening between the 9:00 and 11:00 services is the most difficult time to schedule volunteers at the Welcome Center. If it wasn't covered on any particular day, Jake would step in and fill the slot. I didn't even have to call him, he would come and check. If no one was there, he would stay until the 11:00 person came. He was so appreciated and he is dearly missed.

Adams Giving Tree

- 1 **Pick Up Gift Tags** – Beginning November 23rd from the Giving Tree in the Garden Room.
- 2 **Bring New, Unwrapped Gifts** back to church (office or Garden Rm) by Sunday, December 7th.
- 3 **Help Wrap Gifts** on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00pm in the Church Gym.
- 4 **Help Deliver Gifts** on Thursday, December 11th (Call the church for more info: 509-248-7940).
- 5 **Volunteer at the Adams Giving Tree Party!** Thursday, December 11th at Adams Elementary School. (*Volunteers come at 4:00pm and the party starts at 5:00pm!)
- 6 **Join the Team Serving Dinner!** Thursday, December 9th at 4:00pm at ADAMS Elementary School Gym.
- 7 **Sign-Up for these Volunteer Opportunities** by calling the Church at: 509-248-7940.



Mission Ministry



**Find Your Mission.
Find Your Passion.**



THE MADISON HOUSE

has a long history of serving students and families on Yakima's east side. In 1989, the Union Gospel Mission purchased the old Madison Elementary School building for \$28,000, saving it from demolition and transforming

it into a center for youth. From 1992 through 2022, Madison House was a safe place where kids found meals, mentoring, and hope. When the Mission closed the program during Covid, community leaders led by Mary Broussard formed a new nonprofit, secured grants and loans, and reopened the doors—determined that this ministry would continue.



Gerardo Mendoza
Director of Programming
Madison House

No one represents the story of Madison House better than Gerardo and Jenny Mendoza. Gerardo, who is one of our church's missionaries, grew up around the corner and began attending in 2005, finding safety, friendships, and a deepened faith in Christ. He graduated from Eisenhower High School in 2010, served with Young Life, and later joined staff to mentor students. Today, he is the Director of Programming at Madison House while continuing his Young Life ministry. He and

Jenny, the lead counselor at East Valley High School, were married in 2018. They have two boys, Noah (9) and Jonah (6), and a baby girl born the end of October. They are members of Grace of Christ, and their boys are regulars in Kidzone. For Gerardo, the work is deeply personal—Madison House changed his life, and now he wants to give that gift to others.

Today, Madison House is alive with activity. Students enjoy nightly meals during the school year, tutoring support, soccer leagues, art on Wednesdays, and weekly Bible studies. One of our Interns, Jasmine Barriga, volunteers there three days a week. The summer and winter bring sports camps and trips to the mountains.

This fall's "Back to School Bash" drew 400 families and gave out 232 backpacks, and a Trunk-or-Treat with a hayride was enjoyed for Halloween.

They have several needs: 10 new computers (They are using Windows 7 now), someone to build bookshelves in their library, and volunteers to tutor students. At its heart, Madison House continues to be what it has always been: a place where students are fed, cared for, mentored, and reminded that they are not alone.



Mission Ministry

*Celebrating the life of Demeke Tekle-Wold*

Demeke Tekle-Wold
 Project Mercy
 Co-founder and
 Beloved Father
 March 22, 1932 -
 July 31, 2025
 Born in Ethiopia
 Husband of the late
 Marta Gabre-Tsadick



Marta Gabre-Tsadick and Demeke Tekle-Wold

Known for his exemplary life as a passionate role model in the service of his Lord, family, community and country, Demeke Tekle-Wold, Project Mercy Co-founder, passed away in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on July 31, 2025. Deme was 92 years old.

“My association with Deme was one of God’s greatest gifts to my life,” shares Suzanne Bacon, Grace of Christ member and long-time friend of Deme. “He was humble, faithful, and faith-filled man of God who modeled to me what it means to be a true servant of the Lord. Deme showed me through deeds—not mere words—how to walk every day listening to and obeying God as he treated everyone he met as a child of God who deserved kindness, fairness and love.”

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia is in mourning and rain is softly falling. Men dressed in black suits complete with white dress shirts, ties, and heads topped by trilby hats with hands dressed in white gloves, lead the large community funeral procession through the streets of Addis Ababa. Following is a black limousine adorned with white roses that form a cross on the



“Deme prayed ALWAYS, believed in miracles and saw them regularly. My dear friend Deme gave me courage, hope, and faith that the Lord is in control of EVERYTHING. God is good – all the time.” – Suzanne

front of the vehicle whose car body is entirely lined in white roses, guiding a somber group of slowly walking mourners. Demeke (Deme) Tekle-Wold is being honored and remembered as a man of integrity and dignity who has given much to his Lord, family, community and country. And, all around the globe, he is being commemorated.

On Monday, August 4th funeral and burial services were held in Addis

Ababa, the very city of Deme’s birth and place of his death on July 31, 2025. A blanket adorned with prints of praying hands drape his coffin. Ethiopian-grown white roses are woven into massive beautiful arrangements throughout The International Evangelical Church. Women – dressed in traditional Ethiopian clothing (mostly black), white and black shawls, and heads covered with scarves – cry out in grief. Wailing and beating of chests and foreheads, along with rhythmic movements can be heard as expressions of deep pain and sorrow that help to console and offer support for the bereaved. Ethiopian men can be seen with new beard growth to symbolize their bereavement.



“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord...”
 –Psalm 37:23 These words reside next to Deme’s coffin and serve as a summary of the life he lived.

YETEBON

Initially, Project Mercy was established to provide emergency relief aid and relocation and assistance relief to African refugees. However, by 1993 when the communist era fell, Project Mercy transitioned into an organization that empowers local communities. It was at this time that Deme and his wife Marta Gabre-Tsadick were invited to a small remote kebele (country) called Yetebon. Working alongside the vil-

Mission Ministry



lage elders, a set of initiatives were launched to address the challenges the community faced. This grass roots level invitation would evolve into Yetebon emerging into the compound of Project Mercy. Here, in Yetebon, Deme Tekle-Wold would become the people's source of hope and a father-figure. It was here that Demeke transformed and saved untold lives.

"We have to start educating the grass roots people: Giving them the capacity of knowledge; at the same time, helping them to understand knowledge by itself is no good unless it is applied into the need of sustaining a personal life." – Demeke Teke-Wold Oct. 29, 2003

A memorial service was held on August 17th in rural Yetebon allowing the community to come together to share their great loss and to honor their beloved Deme. For most, it would be prohibitive to travel to the capital city of Addis, so this additional service allowed for an opportunity to commemorate his life and death.

WASHINGTON, DC

Moreover, on October 11th, 2025, a memorial service for Demeke Tekle-Wold was held at the International Ethiopian Evangelical Church in Washington, DC allowing many US dignitaries and citizens to attend. Bruce Bacon, Grace of Christ member and former Project Mercy board member and present foundation board member, spoke at the service. He stated the following:

"...I witnessed Deme at work; he was a whirlwind of work from early morning until late at night—accomplishing a wide variety of tasks. He was the steady rudder of Project Mercy guiding all of its inner workings, in a quiet but strong way..."

The Lord actively guided the life of Deme, the Co-Founder of Project Mercy, from his birth unto his death. After earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA, Deme returned to Addis Ababa to serve his country with posts in the Ethiopian Government. Deme and his wife Marta Gabre-Tsadick – Ethiopia's first female senator during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie – led projects targeted to alleviate poverty and economic and socio-political problems. Learning that the interim military government was going to arrest them and that their lives were in danger, the couple fled their native country in 1975, after the overthrow of Emperor Haile Salassie. After a miraculous journey, Deme, Marta and three of their five children: Michael (Mikki), Bete, and Desalegne (Lali) escaped into Kenya while their eldest son Metiku (Sam) and middle daughter Yemisrach (Yemi) were already residing in the United States. Vowing to help their native Ethiopia, Deme and Marta started to bring famine relief in 1993 and over time – true to Demeke's belief of sustaining a personal life--developed into the bottom-up approach that it utilizes

today to empower rural communities and to address the holistic needs of every human being.

At present, Project Mercy is led by Bete Demeke, son of Marta and Deme. He, perhaps, states it best, **"While it is sad not to have him on earth, but what a great joy that he is in heaven."**



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES - *Sharing the Gospel on and off the Field*

Sports are an arena that permeates deep into our society and way of life.

That is why the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is so strategic when it comes to reaching people with the gospel. There are a lot of coaches and athletes living among us that have never heard the gospel. Wapato is our Judea, Sunnyside is our Samaria, not to mention West Valley, Selah, Naches, Highland, and White Swan.



FCA Leaders Training with students and adults from Selah, Naches, East Valley, West Valley, and Granger.

Our mission is to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his church.

This fall the Lord has opened the doors for FCA to minister to coaches and athletes through "huddles" on the school campuses of Grandview, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Zillah, Wapato, East Valley, Selah, Davis, West Valley, Highland, and Naches. Some of these huddles are all-school huddles that are open to all students. Some of these huddles are team huddles. These huddles happen weekly with a devotional type message after practice.

On Wednesday, October 8th, FCA conducted a special all-valley event called "Fields of Faith." This outreach event was held at Zaepfel Stadium at Eisenhower High School at 7:00 pm. At Fields of Faith students invite peers to meet to hear fellow students share their testimonies, challenge them to read the Bible and to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Ellen and Barry Reifel would like to say thank you and express their gratefulness for the support and encouragement that Grace of Christ Church has been to the ministry of FCA.

Mission Ministry



JAARS

FROM YAKIMA TO INDONESIA...



David and Noni Graves

David trained as a pilot and joined JAARS; its US-based operations are in North Carolina. JAARS sent David to Jakarta, Indonesia, for further training. While there, David met Noni, a former Muslim now an active young Christian and the two fell in love. As newlyweds, David and Noni were assigned to Sentani, Indonesia.

Papua New Guinea is a major island north of Australia. It is divided into two; the east side of the island is the country of

Sentani, Papua, Indonesia is half a world away from Washington State, USA, yet Sentani is where David Graves and his wife Noni call home thanks to JAARS. JAARS is the flying mission organization connected to Wycliffe Bible Translators.

David grew up in Washington state, attending both Grace of Christ and Westside Baptist churches in his youth. After college,

Papua New Guinea, while the west side of the island is part of Indonesia, known as Papua, Indonesia. David and Noni live in the capitol and largest city, Sentani, on the west side. The population of Sentani, as of 2023, is 84,648. The rest of the mountainous island has small, isolated village populations with no roads or infrastructure.

The only way to travel between villages is by walking from one isolated village to another or by air. As a pilot for JAARS, David transports people and supplies all over Papua, Indonesia. JAARS' priority is transportation of Wycliffe missionaries and Bible translation supplies. Most isolated villages have distinct languages requiring individualized language development and Bible translations.

In addition to Wycliffe transportation, JAARS also allows local populations to use the transportation space for a small fee. David has transported a variety of items in his 20+ years on the mission field, anything from people, Bibles, mail, to livestock.

Along with supporting David, Noni's focus is on outreach to her neighbors in Sentani. Noni has organized and run anything from Bible studies, teaching English classes, clothing exchanges, local disaster relief, and hosting visiting missionaries in their home. David and Noni have two grown daughters, Adinda and Shinta, who now live in the US.



Camp Ghormley



MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT - NOV. 14-16

Get excited for a weekend with friends at camp! Middle School Retreat is a classic weekend camp experience: paintball, high ropes course, meadow games, night games, amazing food, and amazing chapel sessions. Our hope for the weekend is not only to have fun, but to encourage and challenge everyone to grow closer to our good and loving Creator with friends, new and old!

Register now at CampGhormley.com

Get excited for:

- Paintball
- Zipline
- Meadow games
- Night games
- Arts & Crafts
- Movie with friends
- Youth Leader Challenges



THANKSGIVING GHORMLEY GOODNESS - NOV. 26

How would you like the team at Camp Ghormley to prepare your Thanksgiving dinner this year?

ALL YOU NEED DO IS ORDER, PAY, AND PICK-UP!

Chef Richard will prepare a delicious turkey dinner with tasty sides. Pick up at Grace of Christ Church on November 26th.

A full menu with prices can be found on CampGhormley.com. Ghormley Goodness is a great way to support our favorite Camp and enjoy a great meal!



MOUNTAIN MEADOW CHRISTMAS - DEC. 13-14

Begin the celebration of Christmas with your family at Camp Ghormley! Continue (or create!) the tradition of crackling fires, gingerbread houses, cookie decorations, sledding and tubing, fantastic food, and Trek for Tree. We look forward to celebrating with you! **More info at CampGhormley.com**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Financial Needs:** As we enter the end of the year, we would appreciate your prayer that God would provide for our financial needs to end the year well.
- **Maintenance Needs:** With an 86-year-old facility, there are always repairs to be done! Please pray for God's wisdom and provision to get needed facility work accomplished as we enter the upcoming winter season and pray for His protection over the camp facilities and staff!
- **2026 Summer Staff:** Pray with our Program Director that the right staff team will come together - that these individuals, who may or may not know they will be applying, are growing, learning, and preparing for next summer's challenges and God-directed growth. Pray for our Program Director to have Holy Spirit's guidance in interviewing and selecting the right members for our Summer Staff Team.

Sharing Life Together at Grace



ONE SERVICE @ 10A

NOVEMBER 2
Installation of the
Reverend Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr
Reception Follows The Service

ONE SERVICE | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2**Pastor Installation**

On Sunday, November 2 we will have one worship service at 10:00am. This service will include Communion as well as the Installation of Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr as our Lead Pastor. We will have a reception in the Garden Room following the service.

**PRESCHOOL PIES ON SALE NOW!**

Preschool Dutch Apple Pies are back in time for Thanksgiving! Order & pay online before Nov 9, or by check at the Welcome Center, or call the office. Only \$25.

**DECORATE THE CHURCH TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 25**

We'd love to have you join us in decorating the church for Christmas. The more the merrier!

A Meal & Fellowship
With The Wagenfuhrs

KOINONIA

reserve tickets online / yakima grace App

KOINONIA - Meals with the Wagenfuhrs

You are invited to join us for fellowship and a potluck meal with our new pastor, Gregory and his wife Ainhua. The host will provide the main dish and connect with you to coordinate a possible side or dessert. To sign up for an upcoming meal, go to yakimagrace.com/koinonia and click on the day and time that work for you!

Interested in hosting a future event? Click on "Be A Host" to find out more.

**WOW WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAYS | 9:45-11:00AM | LOUNGE**

The 2025 fall session of Women of the Word (WOW) began in September and runs through November 18th. We meet from 9:45-11 A.M. in the West Lounge.

We are blessed with a team of teaching leaders who each bring their gifted styles, perspectives and insights into the study of God's word. If you're looking for fellowship, developing new friendships, digging into the Word and supporting each other in prayer, then WOW is the place to be on Tuesday mornings.

Our study this fall has been the New Testament gospel of Mark. In chapter 8 of Mark, verse 27, Jesus asks the question "*Who do people say I am?*" This study in Mark will give us a detailed account of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. To know Him is to love Him. So come and together we'll grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Sunday Services

9AM SUNDAY SERVICE

- 9am** Contemporary style worship, classes for children of all ages. Childcare available.
- 9am** Grace Kids (K – 5th grade) in KidZone 2nd Floor
- 9am** Middle School and High School Clubs (6th – 12th grade) Mezzanine and Lower Level Classrooms
- 9:15am** Deeper Roots Adult Bible Study (Adult Ed Room)



VETERANS DAY – CHURCH CLOSED NOVEMBER 11 FATHER IN HEAVEN, WE GIVE THANKS...

for our Veterans, their sacrifices, and their commitment to our country. We pray You, Lord, protect, bless, and heal their minds, hearts, and families. Amen.



SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: DEEPER ROOTS JOIN US AT 9:15AM IN ADULT ED – SUNDAYS!

Our Deeper Roots class continues to grow! We welcome new believers and longtime believers into discussions that begin with our questions and find responses from God in the context of His Word.

We want to remind everyone that there is no designated calendar for topics and that the content is dependent upon what we study at home and bring back to our group for thoughtful and loving consideration. The concept of faith as a stretching of our souls for us to accommodate God's perspective is principal in our thinking and discussion and the growth of our hearts.

11AM SUNDAY SERVICE

- 11am** Traditional style worship with choir and pipe organ. Childcare available.
- Prayer** Available at the front of the sanctuary after each service.
- Communion** Served the First Sunday of each month at both services, unless otherwise noted.



ONE SERVICE

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 23

Stewardship – Commitment Sunday

As we look to the new year, please prayerfully consider how God is asking each of us can give back to Him what He has so graciously given to us. Time, talent, and treasures – may we glorify our Lord!



THANKSGIVING POTLUCK - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking forward to our annual all-church potluck on Sunday, Nov 23 following the 10:00am service.

Saturday | November 22 | Set Up

Volunteers needed for Saturday set up on November 22 from 9:00AM-12:00PM in the Gym.

Sunday | November 23 | Day of Prep & Servers

Volunteers are also needed for the day of event to prep, serve, and greet please sign up at Welcome Center. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy are provided by the church. Please bring a side or a dessert to share, if able.

Weekly Meetings and Classes



MONDAYS

Preschool 9am
Trailseekers 2:45pm Gym
Men's BSF 7pm Sanctuary

TUESDAYS

Preschool 9am
WOW Bible Study 9:45am Lounge
Men's BSF (Satellite) 7pm Lounge
Handbell Rehearsals 6:30pm Mezzanine

WEDNESDAYS

Preschool 9am
Youth Group 6pm Gym
Weds@Grace 6pm Gym/Classrooms
Temple Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary

THURSDAYS

Preschool 9am
Women's BSF 9:15am Sanctuary
Worship Team Rehearsal 6pm Sanctuary

FRIDAYS

Preschool 9:00am

SATURDAYS

On Fire Ministry Youth Bible Study
& Dinner 6pm Gym

Calendar of Events November

DATE	EVENT	WHEN	WHERE
Sun, Nov 2	One Service at 10:00am Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr's Installation & Reception	10:00am	Sanctuary & Garden Room
Mon, Nov 3	Personnel Team Meeting	10:30am	Library
Mon, Nov 3	Preschool Board Meeting	1:00pm	Adult Ed Room
Tue, Nov 4	Staff Calendar Meeting	10:00am	Adult Ed Room
Tue, Nov 4	Mission Ministry Team Meeting	4:00pm	Adult Ed Room
Tue, Nov 4	Worship Ministry Team Meeting	4:30pm	Garden Room
Sun, Nov 9	Deacon Meeting	12:10pm	Lounge
Mon, Nov 10	No Preschool Today		
Mon, Nov 10	Koinonia Lunch with Wagenfuhrs - RSVP on church website	11:30am	Lounge
Tue, Nov 11	Veterans Day / Church Closed	All Day	Entire Church
Wed, Nov 12	Program Staff Meeting	11:00am	Library
Wed, Nov 12	Last Weds@Grace (Dinner & Class)	6:00pm / 6:45pm	Gym / Lounge
Thur, Nov 13	Love, INC Volunteer Potluck	5:30pm	Garden Room
Thur, Nov 13	Sozo Leader Meeting	6:00pm	Adult Ed Room
Nov 14 - 16	Middle School Retreat at Ghormley	All Weekend	Camp Ghormley
Mon, Nov 17	Koinonia Lunch with Wagenfuhrs - RSVP on church website	11:30am	Lounge
Tue, Nov 18	Last WOW Bible Study	9:45am	Lounge
Wed, Nov 19	Youth Group Nerf War	6:00pm	Gym
Nov 19 - 20	Preschool Pies Ready for Pick Up!		
Sat, Nov 22	Set Up/Decorate for Thanksgiving Potluck	9:00am	Gym
Sun, Nov 23	One Service at 10:00am Stewardship Commitment Sunday	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sun, Nov 23	Baptism Celebrations		
Sun, Nov 23	All Church Thanksgiving Potluck	11:30am	Gym
Tue, Nov 25	Preschool Thanksgiving Feast	11:00am	Garden Room
Tue, Nov 25	Decorate Church for Christmas	2:00pm	
Tue, Nov 25	Session Meeting	6:30pm	Adult Ed Room
Wed, Nov 26	No Preschool Today		
Wed, Nov 26	Ghormley Goodness: Thanksgiving Dinner Pick Up	2:00pm - 6:00pm	Pull up to lower parking lot by gym
Nov 27 - 28	Happy Thanksgiving - Church is Closed		
Sun, Nov 30	First Sunday of Advent		
Mon, Dec 1	Personnel Team Meeting	10:30am	Library
	Koinonia Lunch with Wagenfuhrs - RSVP on church website	11:30am	Lounge
Tue, Dec 2	Staff Calendar Meeting	10:00am	Adult Ed Room
	Mission Ministry Team Meeting	4:00pm	Adult Ed Room
	Worship Ministry Team Meeting	4:30pm	Garden Room

Say yes... ...be the Church!

The Church is...

- The people of God (who are we?)
- On the mission of God (what are we doing?)
- Becoming the image of God in Christ (where are we going?)
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit (how do we do it?)



A Celebration of our Commitment to Be the Church

Sunday, November 23 – One Service at 10am

Followed by our Annual Thanksgiving potluck

“...you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that
was given to me for you...” Paul, Ephesians 3:2