

FOR THE ONE

Newsletter



GRACE
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

THE FUTURE IS NOW

SOME REMINDERS

Dear Church Family,

I am blessed to share this update with you all. One of the most frequently asked questions in our ministry right now is, "When will we start building?" Truly, we are currently in the quiet phase of our construction project. We started a few months ago. We have worked through the final phases of drawings and closeout documents with our architect as well as our general contractor. We have started the civil engineering, permit paperwork, surveying, soil sampling, and environmental and wet weather studies. We have also moved topsoil onto our property, which we will use to level our building site this spring. In the spring of 2027, we will be, Lord willing, completely underway with site work and the next phase of our construction.

I want to encourage each of you to continue to faithfully pray daily, especially at 3:25 p.m., for God's provision, wisdom, and help with this project. Prayer works because God works through our prayers.

Be encouraged as you read this report and update. God is at work in the hearts and lives of our people and in the details of this project!

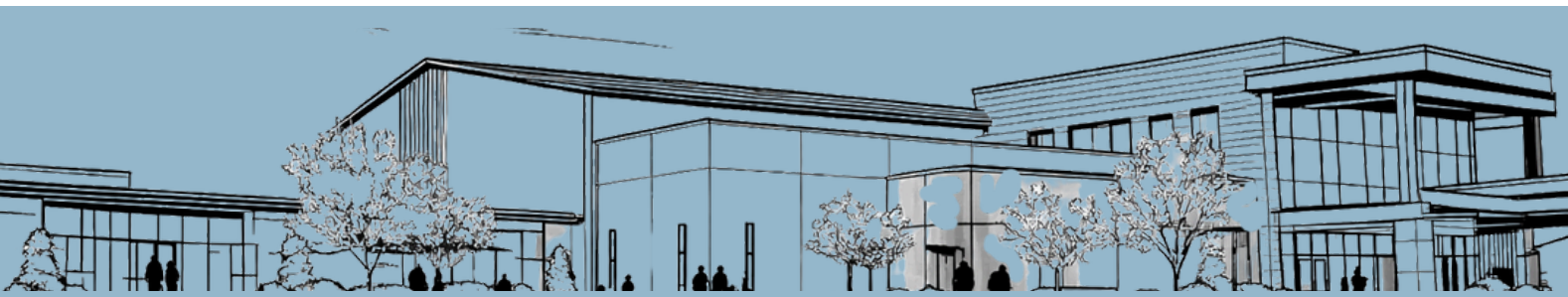
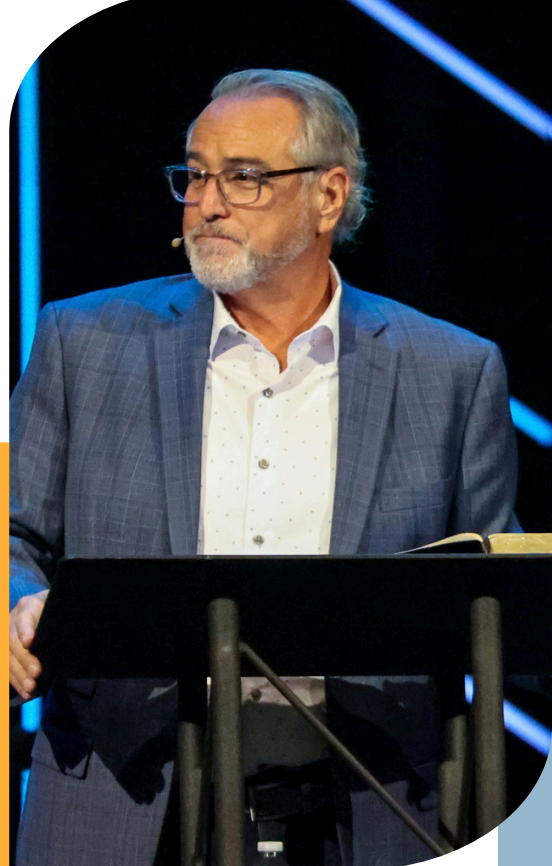
Pastor Roy Mack

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

As you read the encouraging stories of God's provision, answered prayers, and faithfulness in the lives of people in our church, I want to remind you of a few simple biblical principles about giving.

1. WE GIVE BECAUSE WE LOVE.

Our motivation for giving to God should never be what we hope to get from God. We do not give to get; we give because we love. We love Him. We love His work. We love His people. And we want to do for others what has already been done for us. Giving is ultimately an expression of gratitude and worship—a response to the generosity God has already shown us.



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

2. WE GIVE FROM WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN US

Everything we have ultimately comes from God. Our time, abilities, opportunities, resources, and finances are gifts from Him. We are not giving because God needs something from us; we are giving from what He has already entrusted to us. Giving is not about creating something we don't have. It is about recognizing what God has already placed in our hands and choosing to return a portion of it to Him for His purposes. We don't give because we are lacking. We give because God has already blessed us. **This changes the way we see generosity. Instead of asking, "What can I afford to give?" we begin to ask, "What has God already given me, and how can I faithfully steward it for Him?"**

3. WE GIVE WITHOUT PRESUMPTION

We should never give with an expectation of exactly how God will bless us in return. When we begin to expect a specific blessing because of our giving, we can quickly develop an attitude of entitlement and put ourselves in a position of presumption. God is faithful, but we do not get to determine what His faithfulness will look like.

4. GOD BLESSES IN MORE WAYS THAN WE CAN COUNT

God's Word is filled with promises of His blessing and provision connected to our obedience in giving, and God is faithful to care for His people. But not every blessing comes in the form of financial gain. Sometimes we can miss the blessings God has already placed in our lives because we are looking for something else. Health. Meaningful work. Good relationships. Abounding friendships. Peace. Contentment. Joy. Be thankful in every season of life, recognizing that God's blessings are often far greater than what can be measured in dollars.



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

5. GIVING REVEALS AND TESTS OUR HEARTS

Sometimes, especially when someone is learning to live generously, giving becomes a test of faith. Unexpected circumstances or financial setbacks can challenge us to trust God in ways we may not have anticipated. God already knows our hearts, but these moments can help us see what is truly in our hearts. Are we giving out of convenience? Are we giving with selfish ambition—giving because we hope to gain something in return? Or are we genuinely trusting God with our finances, believing that He can do more with what we give than we could ever do with what we keep? Ultimately, we want our giving to flow from a sincere love for the Lord and a genuine desire for Him to use what we give to draw others to Himself.

6. WE GIVE BECAUSE JESUS GAVE FIRST

The greatest example of generosity is Jesus Himself. Paul writes:

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)

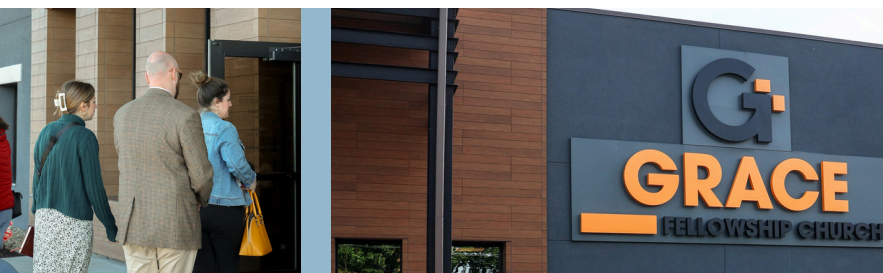
Jesus willingly laid aside His riches and became poor for our sake. His generosity toward us was not motivated by what He would receive from us, but by His love for us. So the question we ultimately have to ask is:

Are we willing to become a little poorer for the One who became poor for us?

When we give, we aren't simply giving money. We are responding to the grace we have already received, trusting God with what He has placed in our hands and joining Him in what He is doing in the lives of others.



God has done
great things
at the 325
already!



SHARE YOUR STORY

Have a story to share?
Send it here!

Have you seen God working in your finances since making your commitment? We want to share your story to encourage others and celebrate God's goodness!



"When my husband and I filled out our pledge card, we committed to giving more than what initially felt comfortable. We trusted that if God was asking us to take that step, He would be faithful. Just two days after turning in our pledge card for the For the One campaign, I received an inquiry with my business for an event that was almost the exact amount of our entire pledge. The only catch? It was scheduled during the same week we had already planned a vacation. After talking it through together, we both felt that God had clearly opened this door, and I needed to be obedient. We postponed our vacation and I accepted the event. I never expected **to see God move so quickly or so specifically**. It was such a tangible reminder that He sees every step of obedience, no matter how small or uncomfortable it may feel. That experience strengthened my faith in a way I'll never forget and I'm so grateful I got to witness His faithfulness firsthand!"

-Brittany S.

It's ironic sometimes what life throws your way. Just after committing to For The One campaign, we had to have our A/C and furnace replaced (\$18k). Regardless, **I know Who is in control and Who ALWAYS provides**. We will continue to faithfully commit to this campaign and feel blessed to be a part of it. Keep preaching the Truth!!

-Mark S.

My wife Janice and I had been praying together and separately for our tithing and contribution to the "For The One" campaign. We were, at that time, tithing 10%. After weeks and weeks of prayer, God began to put a number on our hearts: 15%. Fifteen percent of our net monthly income. Holy flooded carburetors, Batman! We are a retired blue-collar family. To be honest, we have never had that kind of faith in God until we started attending Grace Fellowship Church and He saved us! Now, **if that is what God asks for, He will get it**. Not two months later, a check arrived in the mail that covered ONE FULL YEAR of tithing and the "For The One" contribution. Our love and faith in God has never been greater! May He continue to bless Grace Fellowship Church. Amen!

-Randy and Janice Stidom

SACRIFICE

This story was asked to be shared anonymously.

**Have a story to share?
Send it here!**

When our church announced the capital campaign, my husband and I began praying about what we should give. God has been incredibly good to us, and because we are in a stable financial position, a bold thought kept pressing on my heart: I wanted to donate my entire retirement account. I reasoned that since we are comfortable and still young, we would have the time and ability to make that money up over the coming years. Shortly after making that decision, our lives changed completely.

My dad passed away unexpectedly at just 62 years old—right on the cusp of his own retirement. He had worked hard his entire life, yet he never got the chance to enjoy the retirement he saved for. Instead, his accounts were dispersed to his children. When I received my share of his estate, I was stunned to find that the amount was only \$81 different from what was sitting in my own 401k. It felt like an undeniable sign, so we immediately donated my dad's retirement funds to the campaign.

But as we did, 2 Samuel 24:24 had came up in my Bible Recap reading. When David went to build an altar to the Lord, he was offered the land and sacrifices for free. He refused, saying, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing." I realized that while giving my dad's inheritance was a blessing, it had cost me nothing. I didn't work for it, and I hadn't sacrificed for it. It was a gift that fell into my lap. Because of that, my husband and I knew our original commitment still stood.

We decided to still commit to donate my own retirement account on top of his inheritance. Every family's financial journey and calling looks different, and my goal is simply to share how the Holy Spirit moved in our specific circumstances.

For me, losing my dad was a profound wake-up call about the uncertainty of life. The money we aggressively save for a distant future is never a guarantee. We are simply not promised tomorrow. What we do have is a guaranteed need right now. There are lost people right outside our doors who need to be saved, and a kingdom mission that needs to be funded today. I realized there is no greater or more urgent use for our resources than to invest them where they will matter for eternity. We chose to give what truly cost us something, trusting that God holds our future.

**"WE CHOSE TO GIVE WHAT TRULY
COST US SOMETHING, TRUSTING
THAT GOD HOLDS OUR FUTURE."**



FOR THE ONE

The future is now!

"At the prayer vigil I asked for courage and strength to walk out the duties of a Community Ambassador. It was an opportunity appointed by God, one that I was reluctant to accept, though I realized it was exactly what I had prayed for. An opportunity to reach my community, he couldn't have been more clear with the title of Community Ambassador. In walking out these duties through TNP (Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership) they approached me about a grant with one slot left that made them think of our family. It was a lead grant for families with small children to remove the presence of lead in and around the home. Our home was built in 1897. We decided to apply. We have also taken steps to be faithful with tithing and gave to the First Fruits offering. We are planting roots. God is good all the time. His plans are greater than we could ever anticipate. We were approved for the grant! This grant has given us new windows, siding, exterior doors, new porch steps, & the work is still underway. I have prayed over one of the workers, and I am praying for boldness to pray with each of them. We are growing deeper in our faith and God is growing me in obedience. God is providing us the means to make this home a lasting space, **I pray we will remain obedient to all he calls us to do.**"

This story was asked to be shared anonymously.

"Joe and I stepped out in faith and increased our pledge from the original thought. I received an increase in my salary at work last week that covers **almost the exact amount to the penny** to cover the pledge increase! God is good!!"

-Angie Bukus

"I started a business this year. For reference, I'm 23 and just graduated college 7 months prior to starting my business in January. Needless to say, I didn't have much. Getting started is rough, and I didn't have a job when I was studying for my engineering degree since it took up so much time. I tithed what little I could when I was in school and never really thought about being more intentional about it after I started working. Pastor Roy had talked about tithing what he wanted to make when he was starting his ice cream business and that really stood out to me. I decided I would give that a shot and so I wrote a check for \$600 to the For the One campaign. I know God is not my genie and I remember praying over the check after I wrote it saying: "God, I don't care if I ever see this money again. **I know you'll take care of me no matter what happens.**" It took me a minute to realize it when I was doing my books for last month, but I ended up making \$6,000 after my expenses were accounted for. I have been so blessed with work since I started giving. In truly miraculous ways too."

-Caleb C.

My story starts in November 2023. I was literally living credit card to card for many years, but made the sacrifice to give towards missions that year. Let me back up just a bit. I have been wanting, maybe yearning is a better word, for a job out of the fast food industry. Resumes, interviews etc. but nothing came up with the pay I had to have because of my debt.

Fast forward to January 2024. I received a call for an interview for office work. I really didn't even want to go because I was tired of the dead ends. The interview went well and I was offered the job. I know it's because of my faithfulness in giving to the missions in November that God was answering my prayers for a good job in an office doing what I love. I was making just as much as my other job. Therefore, I was still living paycheck to paycheck and credit card to credit card. The prompt to give every week would pop up and I felt so guilty all the time. I wanted to give but I was spiraling out of control in my finances. I kept asking God

should I file bankruptcy and get rid of this debt. For the next year and a half, I was struggling with the fact I wasn't tithing even though I wanted to. God knew my heart.

In October of 2025, a man walked into my office, gave me an envelope and scurried out the door. I opened the envelope and there was a check to pay off every single one of my credit cards and my house. The only debt I have is the loan I took out to pay for my new roof a few years ago. I was able to increase the payment I am making on this loan, instead of just the minimum. Oh, that man who walked into my office with that financial blessing was my ex-husband. The person who caused much heartache in my life, God used.

In 2026, I started to tithe. I committed my amount to the campaign. Because of this faithfulness, I received a raise last month. Not a huge raise but the biggest raise I had ever gotten from any job. Thank you for allowing me to exercise my faith by tithing and giving towards this campaign. **I am truly honored to say I have a part in this.**

–Janet W.

"I have been raised in the church since birth, attending Sunday school, actively participating in youth group, and consistently attending services throughout my life. Despite this strong foundation, it was not until recently after hearing one of Pastor Roy's messages, that I truly understood the importance of tithing and the principles that come with it. When the campaign began, my husband and I chose to commit to tithing together as a family. About a year ago, we began attending Grace Fellowship Church, and it quickly became clear that this is where we want to plant our roots as a couple as we look ahead to building a family with Christ at the foundation. As a young couple in our mid-twenties, we are still in the process of repaying student loans, and finances are always something we are very mindful of. Less than a month after we made the commitment to tithe, someone very important in my life made the generous decision to pay off the remainder of my student loans. Throughout my life, I have felt blessed by God and have witnessed His work in the lives of others. However, this moment was different, it was my first experience that truly stopped me in my tracks and **deeply affirmed my faith**. We are incredibly grateful for Grace Fellowship Church and for Pastor Roy, whose messages continue to teach and impact people at every stage of their walk with Christ."

This story was asked to be shared anonymously.

CONTINUE TO PRAY

As we continue this journey together, we want to keep bringing the For the One vision before God in prayer. This project is about much more than buildings. We are praying for the lives that will be changed, families that will be transformed, marriages that will be restored, generations that will be sent, and people who will say “yes” to Jesus.



Pray for God’s Provision

Ask God to provide everything needed to accomplish what He has placed before us. Pray that He would provide through the generosity of His people and give wisdom and discernment to those making financial and construction decisions.

“God, provide exactly what is needed, and help us trust You every step of the way.”

Pray for Willing Hearts

Pray that every person at Grace would seek God personally and ask, “God, what would You have me do?” Pray that our response would come from obedience, faith, and a genuine love for Jesus—not pressure or comparison.

“God, show me the part You want me to play.”



Pray for the People Who Will Walk Through These Doors

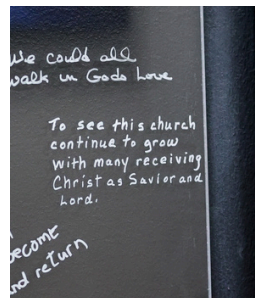
Pray for the people we have not met yet—the families, children, students, and individuals who will one day walk through the doors of this expanded campus.

“God, prepare the hearts of the people You are bringing to Grace, even before we meet them.”

Pray for More “Ones”

Pray for the “one” this campaign is ultimately about: the one more life changed, the one more family transformed, the one more marriage saved, the one more generation on mission, and the one more person who says yes to Jesus.

“Jesus, let everything we do ultimately be for the One who needs to know You.”



Pray for God to Do More Than We Can Imagine

Finally, pray with faith for what only God can do. We are not simply asking God to help us accomplish our plans; we are asking Him to use this vision for purposes far greater than a building.

“God, do more through Grace than we could ask, imagine, or accomplish on our own—and let every bit of it point people to Jesus.”

FOR THE ONE

The future is now!

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How is the project moving forward now?

A: We have worked through final phases of drawings and closeout documents with our architect, as well as, our general contractor. We have started the civil engineering, paperwork for permits, surveying, soil samples being taken, and environmental and wet weather studies. We have also moved top soil onto our property, which we will be using to level our building site this spring. In the spring of 2027, we will be, Lord willing, completely underway with site work and the next phase of our construction.

Q: How will we be kept up to date on the For the One campaign?

A: We will continue to share newsletters on the Grace app and via email. Any major updates you will hear about here or in a weekend service. Please continue to pray over the details of this project. We are just getting started!

Q: How will people that are new to Grace be invited into this journey with us?

A: We will continue to offer PIE parties to anyone who is interested in learning more and getting involved with this project. Our prayer is always that God will continue to grow this church as He reveals Himself to more and more people. We want everyone to have the opportunity to be involved in this exciting adventure!

Q: How can my business place a bid to work on this project?

A: All bids will be placed through Weaver Commercial Contractor. Please note that Grace Fellowship Church will not be deciding on who gets the jobs. The best bids will be chosen by Weaver through Planhub, Bluebook and Builders Exchange. This will take place sometime this winter after drawings are completed.

FOR THE ONE

The future is now!

God is opening doors for us to reach more people than ever before.



See what's ahead for Grace and how we're preparing for the next generation.

TAKE THE JOURNEY WITH US



Have a story to share?
[Send it here!](#)

