Grace Community Church of Topsail

Sunday, December 14, 2025: Christmas is God's Rescue Mission for His Children Hebrews 2:14-18

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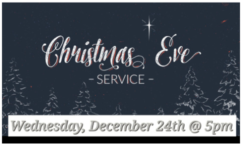

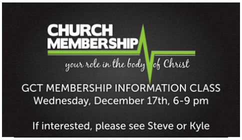
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
your role in the body of Christ

GCT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CLASS
Wednesday, December 17th, 6-9 pm

If interested, please see Steve or Kyle

Luke 2:9–14 ESV

> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For...

Continue reading »

Angels We Have Heard On High (Gloria)

What Child Is This

Isaiah 53:5–6 ESV

> But he was pierced for our transgressions;
> he was crushed for our iniquities;
> upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
> and with his wounds we are healed.
> All we like sheep have gone astray;
> we...

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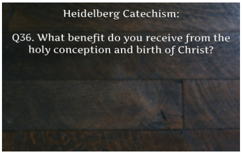
King Of Kings

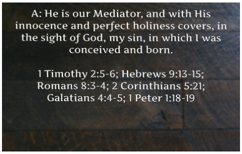
Immanuel

A Saviour is Born



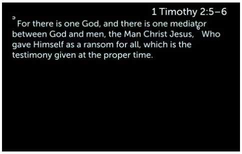
Heidelberg Catechism:

Q36. What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?



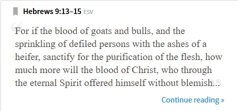
A: He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was conceived and born.

1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 9:13-15; Romans 8:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 4:4-5; 1 Peter 1:18-19



1 Timothy 2:5–6

[5] For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, [6] Who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.



Hebrews 9:13–15 ESV

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish...

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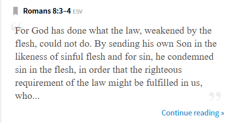

Romans 8:3–4 ESV

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who...

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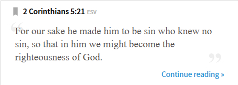

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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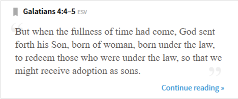

Galatians 4:4–5 ESV

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

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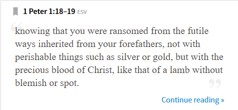

1 Peter 1:18–19 ESV

knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

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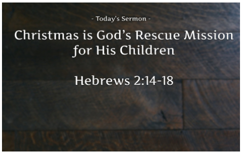

- Today's Sermon -

Christmas is God's Rescue Mission for His Children

Hebrews 2:14-18

Hebrews 2:14–18 ESV

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were...

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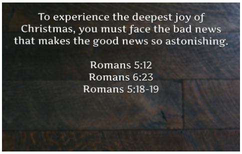

To experience the deepest joy of Christmas, you must face the bad news that makes the good news so astonishing.

Romans 5:12
Romans 6:23
Romans 5:18-19

Romans 5:12 ESV

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Continue reading »

Romans 6:23 ESV

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Continue reading »

Romans 5:18–19 ESV

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made...

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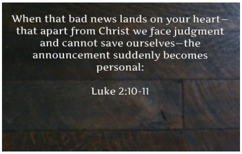

When that bad news lands on your heart—that apart from Christ we face judgment and cannot save ourselves—the announcement suddenly becomes personal:

Luke 2:10-11

Luke 2:10–11 ESV

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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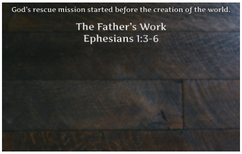

God's rescue mission started before the creation of the world.

The Father's Work
Ephesians 1:3-6

Ephesians 1:3–6 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him....

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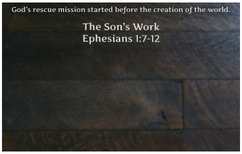

God's rescue mission started before the creation of the world.

The Son's Work
Ephesians 1:7-12

Ephesians 1:7–12 ESV

> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he...

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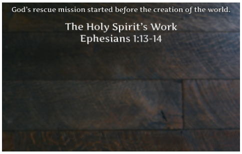

God's rescue mission started before the creation of the world.

The Holy Spirit's Work
Ephesians 1:13-14

Ephesians 1:13–14 ESV

> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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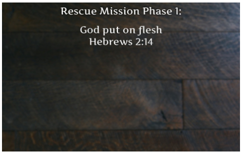
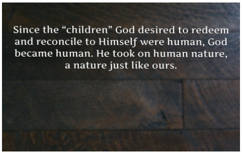


Rescue Mission Phase 1:

God put on flesh
Hebrews 2:14



Since the "children" God desired to redeem and reconcile to Himself were human, God became human. He took on human nature, a nature just like ours.

Hebrews 2:14 ESV

> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

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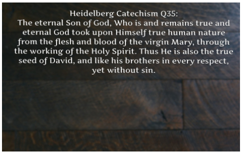

Heidelberg Catechism Q35:
The eternal Son of God, Who is and remains true and eternal God took upon Himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus He is also the true seed of David, and like his brothers in every respect, yet without sin.

Isaiah 9:6 ESV

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Continue reading »

Luke 1:26–35 ESV

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O...

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2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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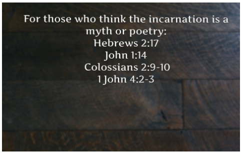

For those who think the incarnation is a myth or poetry:
Hebrews 2:17
John 1:14
Colossians 2:9-10
1 John 4:2-3

Hebrews 2:17 ESV

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

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John 1:14 ESV

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Continue reading »

Colossians 2:9–10 ESV

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Continue reading »

1 John 4:2–3 ESV

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and...

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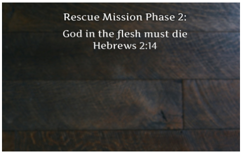
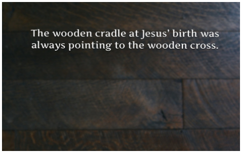
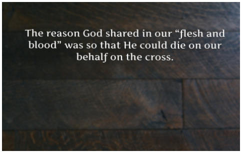


Rescue Mission Phase 2:
God in the flesh must die
Hebrews 2:14


The wooden cradle at Jesus' birth was always pointing to the wooden cross.


The reason God shared in our "flesh and blood" was so that He could die on our behalf on the cross.

Hebrews 2:14 ESV

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

Continue reading »

Mark 10:45 ESV

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Continue reading »

John 10:15 ESV

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Continue reading »

Galatians 1:3–5 ESV

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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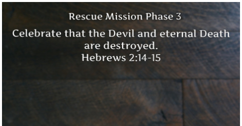
Rescue Mission Phase 3

Celebrate that the Devil and eternal Death are destroyed.
Hebrews 2:14-15

Hebrews 2:14–15 ESV

> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were...

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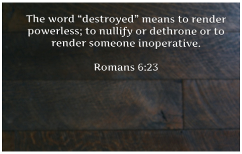

The word “destroyed” means to render powerless; to nullify or dethrone or to render someone inoperative.

Romans 6:23

Romans 6:23 ESV

> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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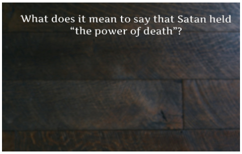
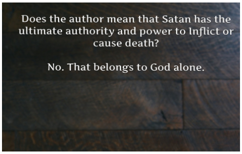
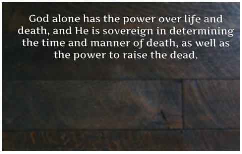


What does it mean to say that Satan held “the power of death”?



Does the author mean that Satan has the ultimate authority and power to inflict or cause death?

No. That belongs to God alone.



God alone has the power over life and death, and He is sovereign in determining the time and manner of death, as well as the power to raise the dead.

1 Samuel 2:6 ESV

> The LORD kills and brings to life;
>   he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

Continue reading »

Deuteronomy 32:39 ESV

> “ ‘See now that I, even I, am he,
>   and there is no god beside me;
>   I kill and I make alive;
>   I wound and I heal;
>   and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

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Ephesians 1:11 ESV

> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Continue reading »

Revelation 1:17–18 ESV

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

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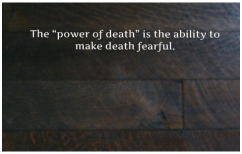
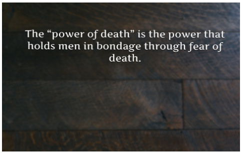
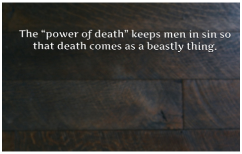


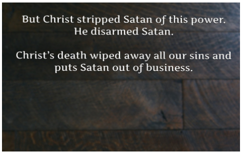
The “power of death” is the ability to make death fearful.



The “power of death” is the power that holds men in bondage through fear of death.

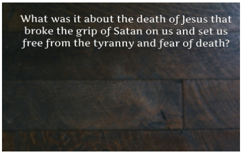


The “power of death” keeps men in sin so that death comes as a beastly thing.

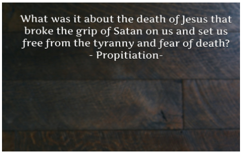


But Christ stripped Satan of this power. He disarmed Satan.

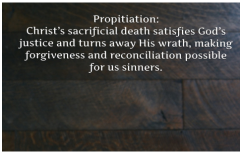
Christ’s death wiped away all our sins and puts Satan out of business.



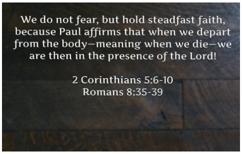
What was it about the death of Jesus that broke the grip of Satan on us and set us free from the tyranny and fear of death?



What was it about the death of Jesus that broke the grip of Satan on us and set us free from the tyranny and fear of death?
- Propitiation-



Propitiation:
Christ’s sacrificial death satisfies God’s justice and turns away His wrath, making forgiveness and reconciliation possible for us sinners.



We do not fear, but hold steadfast faith, because Paul affirms that when we depart from the body—meaning when we die—we are then in the presence of the Lord!

2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Romans 8:35-39

2 Corinthians 5:6–10 ESV

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So...

Continue reading »

Romans 8:35–39 ESV

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded...

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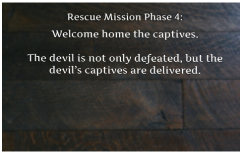

Rescue Mission Phase 4:
Welcome home the captives.

The devil is not only defeated, but the devil’s captives are delivered.

Romans 8:14–17 ESV

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness...

Continue reading »

Hebrews 9:27–28 ESV

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Continue reading »

1 Corinthians 15:54–57 ESV

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”
“O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is...

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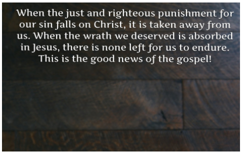
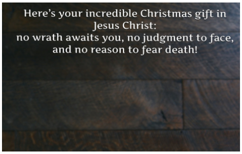
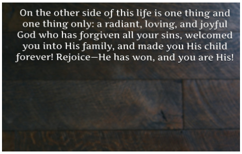


When the just and righteous punishment for our sin falls on Christ, it is taken away from us. When the wrath we deserved is absorbed in Jesus, there is none left for us to endure. This is the good news of the gospel!



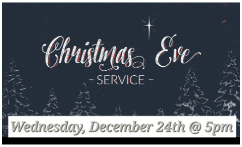
Here's your incredible Christmas gift in Jesus Christ:
no wrath awaits you, no judgment to face, and no reason to fear death!



On the other side of this life is one thing and one thing only: a radiant, loving, and joyful God who has forgiven all your sins, welcomed you into His family, and made you His child forever! Rejoice—He has won, and you are His!

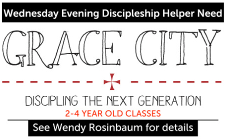
A Saviour is Born

♫ Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee (Ode To Joy)



Christmas Eve
- SERVICE -

Wednesday, December 24th @ 5pm



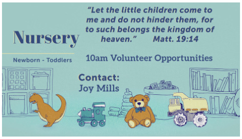
Wednesday Evening Discipleship Helper Need

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

2-4 YEAR OLD CLASSES

See Wendy Rosinbaum for details



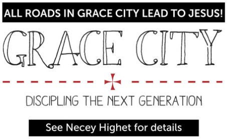
Nursery

Newborn - Toddlers

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14

10am Volunteer Opportunities

Contact:
Joy Mills



ALL ROADS IN GRACE CITY LEAD TO JESUS!

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

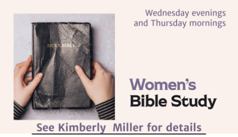
See Necey Highet for details

Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
A Taste of Sunrise Coffeehouse

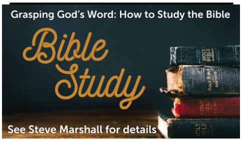
Discussions on Biblical Manhood



Wednesday evenings
and Thursday mornings

Women's Bible Study

See Kimberly Miller for details



Grasping God's Word: How to Study the Bible

Bible Study

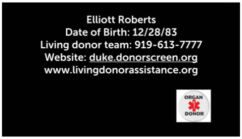
See Steve Marshall for details

GCT Business Directory

Yellow Pages
☐ New! Easier to use
☐ Great days out with visitors
☐ Local maps

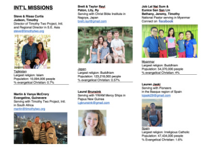
Looking for a handyman?
Need your house power washed?
Need a babysitter?
Need an Uber?

Send your business info to Stacy Leicht to be added to a list of services provided by GCT members



Elliott Roberts
Date of Birth: 12/28/83
Living donor team: 919-613-7777
Website: duke.donorscreen.org
www.livingdonorassistance.org

ORGAN DONOR



INT'L MISSIONS

Steve & Rissa Curtis
Judson, Timothy
Director of Timothy Two Project, Intl.
and Regional Director in S.E. Asia
steve@timothytwo.org

Tajikistan
Largest religion: Islam
Population: 10,094,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.7%

Martin & Vanya McCrory
Evangeline, Guinevere
Serving with Timothy Two Project, Intl.
in South Africa
martin@timothytwo.org

Brett & Taylor Rayl
Paton, Lily, Ry
Serving with Christ Bible Institute in
Nagoya, Japan
brett.rayl@gmail.com

Japan
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 123,218,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.57%

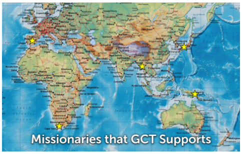
Laurel Brunsink
Serving with YWAM Mercy Ships in
Papua New Guinea
Lgbrunsink@gmail.com

Job Lal Nei Sum &
Eunice San San Lin
Bethany, Jeremy, Timothy
National Pastor serving in Myanmar
Connect on facebook

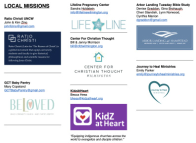
Myanmar
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 54,370,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 4%

Lauren Jaski
Serving with Pioneers
in the Basque region of Spain
lcjaski29@gmail.com

Spain
Largest religion: Irreligious Catholic
Population: 47,434,000 people
% Evangelical Christian: 1.6%



Missionaries that GCT Supports



LOCAL MISSIONS

Ratio Christi UNCW
John & Kim Zino
johnfzino@gmail.com

RATIO CHRISTI
Ratio Christi (Latin for "The Reason of Christ") is a global movement that equips university students and faculty to give historical, philosophical, and scientific reasons for following Jesus Christ.

GCT Baby Pantry
Mary Copeland
GCTBabyPantry@gmail.com

BELOVED

Lifeline Pregnancy Center
Sandra Holdstein
info@lifelinewilmington.org

LIFE LINE

Center For Christian Thought
Bill & Jenny Morrison
bill@cfctwilmington.org

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
WILMINGTON

KidzAtHeart
Becca Hess
bhess@kidzatheart.org

KidZ at Heart

"Equipping indigenous churches across the world to evangelize and disciple children."

Arbor Landing Tuesday Bible Study
Denise Graddon, Gina Brohaugh, Cheri Standish, Lynn Norwood, Cynthia Marion
dgraddon@gmail.com

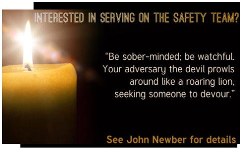
ARBOR LANDING at HAMPSTEAD

Journey to Heal Ministries
Emily Parker
emily@journeytohealministries.org

Journey to Heal Ministries

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9AM in Media classroom. Open to all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE SAFETY TEAM?

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

See John Newber for details

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU!
Fill out a Connect Card and place in the donation box.

Grace Community Church of Topsail

98 members • 24 followers