


Grace Fellowship Baptist Church

The Church

With a Heart 

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Devotional Thought From the Pastor...

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

December 14—20, 2025

Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Int. Harvest Church	1:30 pm
Praise Team	4:30 pm
Evangelism	6:00 pm

Mid-Week

FB/YouTube Bible Study

Wednesday

Bible Study	6:00 pm
Praise Team	7:00 pm

Friday

Christmas with the Pastor	7:00 pm
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Saturday

Dress Rehearsal

Worship Service

TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

TIME TO GATHER

Opening: Lord, Reign In Me

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent—3rd Candle—Joy
Joy to the World! Hymn 87

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:19

Joy Has Dawned

TIME OF GIVING

Offering* and Lottie Moon Video
O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymn 89

TIME IN GOD'S WORD

Message: How To Celebrate Christmas
Luke 2:8-20, Matthew 2:1-2

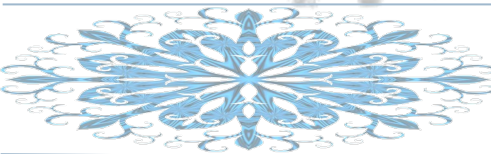
Bro. Oscar

CLOSING PRAYER

*Please place offerings in the wooden box in back of the church.

December Birthday

Stetson Godwin	12/20
Misty Hayes & Christy Leonard	12/07
Bill Jackson	12/18
Tony Pohl	12/08
Nicole Ramirez	12/29
Donna Teneyuque	12/09



Ministry Gifts

Offerings for Budget	\$ 606.00
Designated Offerings	\$ 26.50
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 632.50
10% Taken out for Missions	\$ 60.60
Needed This Week for Budget	\$ 887.61

Love as Strong as Death

Song of Songs 8:6, "For love is as strong as death."

If you were to stroll along the old brick wall stretching between the Protestant and Catholic graveyards in Roermond, Netherlands, you'd discover a curious sight. On each side, flush against the wall stands two identical towering headstones: one for a Protestant husband and one for his Catholic wife. Cultural rules during the nineteenth century required they be buried in separate cemeteries. They wouldn't accept their fate, however. Their unusual headstones are high enough to reach above the fenced obstruction so that at the top there's only about a foot or two of air separating them. Atop each, a sculptured arm reaches out to the other, each clasping the other's hand. The couple refused to be separated, even in death.

The Song of Songs explains love's power. "Love is as strong as death," Solomon says, "It's jealousy unyielding as the grave" (8:6). True love is powerful, ferocious. "It burns like blazing fire" (v. 6). True love never surrenders, won't be silenced, and can't be destroyed. "Many waters cannot quench love," writes Solomon. "Rivers cannot sweep it away" (v. 7).

"God is love" (1 John 4:16). Our strongest love is only a fractured reflection of His ferocious love for us. He's the ultimate source of any love that's genuine, any love that holds fast.

Stewardship Thought...

Matthew 25:1-12—"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise...¹⁰...The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut...¹³Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

These five foolish virgins did not use their resources to prepare for the Lord's coming. When it was too late they rushed out to buy oil. Our spending influences our giving and our relationship to Christ.

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Announcements . . .

•Mid-Week Activities—Bible Study

—EVERYONE is invited to join us for mid-week Bible studies on YouTube prior to Wednesday and at church on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. This week we will begin our study in 2 Chronicles 27. Because of the upcoming holiday season, we will not have Bible study until January 7. Have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.

•**Preschool Leaders Needed**—We need members who are willing to watch little ones during our worship service. We also need a leader and assistant to teach preschoolers during Sunday School whenever new families begin coming.

***All-church Christmas in the Pastor's Home**—12/19 at 7pm—Please bring a finger food to share, a white elephant gift to exchange and your smiles to enhance the fun!

***PT Dress Rehearsal**—12/20 at 10:00 am.

***Lessons & Carols**—12/21 at 11am—Bro. Oscar will share lessons from the Bible and Bro. Bill and the Praise Team will share Carols to enhance the lessons.

•**Donations Toward Our Church and Various Ministries**—Please consider donating toward our CHURCH BUDGET, WHICH IS OUR MOST CRUCIAL NEED. Some of our ministry needs are Sharing the

Load, 2026 VBS, 2nd Floor A/C fund, Together We Build, Children/Preschool fund, Youth fund, Benevolent Ministries, Music Ministry, North American and International missionaries, J & T, Texans on Mission, Samaritan's Purse, etc. You may place your donations in an offering envelope and write the name of the ministry/organization on a "Special Offering" line (the amount goes on the right). Remember to place your regular tithe on the short line after the words, "Budget Offering." Then place all donations in the offering box in back of the church. Or—you may also send your donations through the mail or Zelle. The church's Zelle address is gfbcfw@sbcglobal.net.

•**Church Website**—If you have internet you can go to our website—<https://www.gfbcfw.org>—to find lots of information such as sermon notes, pastor's weekly YouTube messages, Bro. Frank's YouTube Bible studies, giving opportunities, the ability to leave prayer requests and more.

•**Instagram**—Also, please remember to follow our church on Instagram at [@gfbcfw](https://www.instagram.com/gfbcfw) where you can receive inspiration and information!

•**Toiletry Items for the Homeless**—Since the homeless are always in need, please continue to collect travel-size toiletry items, and bring them to Becky at the church.

•**Budget Needs**—Please, prayerfully consider your part in support of our church missions, ministries, utilities, and upkeep. This week we need to pay our building security and copier bills. How can you help? Please pray, trust God and be faithful.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) is an annual fundraising initiative established to support Southern Baptist missionaries around the world. Named after Lottie Moon, a missionary to China, this offering has been instrumental in funding the work of over 3,500 missionaries and their families, enabling them to share the gospel and provide assistance to those in need.

The National Financial Goal for the 2025 LMCO is \$210 million. Last year, we collected \$1,000, and in we have given \$575! These amounts will directly support missionaries and their efforts to spread the message of Jesus Christ globally.

How Can You Participate?

Pray: Even though the Week of Prayer for International Missions ends today, please continue dedicating time to prayer for our international missionaries and the communities they serve around the world.

Give: Contributions may be given through our church or made directly to the LMCO. 100% of your gifts go directly to the missions field. By participating in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, individuals and churches can play a vital role in supporting international missions and sharing the hope of the gospel with millions who have yet to hear it.

We will continue the LMCO emphasis throughout the month of December.

Today's Scripture

Luke 2:19—"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

How To Celebrate Christmas

Luke 2:8-20, Matthew 2:1-2

Come

- We are invited to come to Jesus regardless of _____, geographical _____, level of _____, _____ of the Scriptures, _____ background, _____ status or anything else.
- Shepherds were from the _____ levels of Jewish society.
- _____ were men of wealth and knowledge, professors of the day, men of influence.
- The invitation to come to Jesus is extended to everyone, but it requires us to _____ all our excuses.

Behold

- On the surface there was _____ between the baby Jesus lying in that manger and any other baby.
- We are to stop everything and _____ Him who has been “born the King of angels.”
- Even _____ desire greatly to behold Him.
- Salvation** is as much a mystery to the _____ as **their activities** are to _____.

- We must spend time _____ Him, theorizing about Him and His birth.

Adore

- Adore means to _____ or _____ with reverent admiration and devotion.
- You cannot adore Jesus if the only time He really enters your thoughts is on _____.
- Adoring implies _____, and worship involves _____ not getting.
- What/who we _____ determines what we become.

Conclusion

- We cannot _____ to meet God’s standard of holiness.
- We must spend time beholding, contemplating, theorizing over the _____ of Christ.
- _____ and _____ Christ your Savior and Lord.



Remember in Prayer . . .



†Each week, please read through and update our prayer requests. Let us know if we need to keep praying for something or if the prayer has been answered.

†Please pray for strength and total healing for Kylie from cancer; for health issues for Bill; Alice to continue healing; continued healing for Tony from cancer & broken ribs; for healing for Ben's mother and strength for Ben as he cares for her; healing for Victor from cancer and for Liz's many issues; for Mark H. from cancer; for Lisa from breast cancer; healing for Tonya from surgery; Laura Thompson's vision



loss; for Amy from surgery; for Crystal's dad from fluid on his heart and lungs; healing for Tonya from neurological issues and loss of mobility; Frank's hip and back to heal; for Carmon from her fall & hip surgery; for Gwen from pancreatic cancer and for Dale as he cares for her; for Cliff and Stacey's poor health, and for Sharon as she cares for them; for Kevin to heal from pancreatitis; healing for Herbert, Barbara and Kitty; healing for a growth on Ashlyn's brain; for Paige and Kristie's health issues; healing for Virgie and Rose E; for Oscar A and Robert and Annie, Nora and Doyle; for John's head and memory; for Laura's vision and memory issues; and for Susen's eyes, stomach and feet.

†Miscellaneous praises and prayer needs—Please pray for a spirit of love and peace in Cora's

family; for an unspoken request for Becky; for Jesse H. as he finds himself, his peace and forgiveness; praises and prayers for Paige, Jacob and Stetson; for an unspoken need for Nick; for an unspoken prayer for Donna; for an unspoken need for Tiffany; for an unspoken need for Richard; for Jim and his need; for family challenges for Daisy; for needs of the Polk/Flores family and their needs for God's guidance; for Paige and Brian, Carla and Tony as they continue to care for Dakota's type 1 diabetes; for Jourdeah's best interest in her family and for unity in the Maroney family; for Chris and his little girl—Amiyah, and for their unspoken needs; for Ryan and his unspoken needs; for Genna, Nick and RJ's needs; and for Shannon and Allison's relationship.

†Pray for the Children—❤️ Please pray for the children and youth in our church and who came to our VBS; and for teachers and staff who are leading them this year.

†Pray for our church—for our pastors and their families; for REVIVAL among our members; for a preschool teacher to come forward; and for a miracle involving the demolition of the south building.

†International Harvest Church and Ministries—Please continue to pray for the International Harvest Church and Ministries as they worship and praise God in the GFBC facilities. Pray for the missionaries they are supporting in Myanmar.

†Pray for wisdom, peace and protection in our nation—for state and North American missionaries;

for Texans on Mission and Samaritan's Purse and their work; for first responders and those who have suffered loss from various disasters; for thousands who



have lost homes; for the homeless, refugees and those suffering from

hunger in our nation; for churches that are struggling; for wisdom for our political leaders, including our president, VP, governors, senators and congressmen; for our government officials to pass wise laws.

†Pray for the nations—for Samaritan's Purse as they minister to hurting people around the world; for our International missionaries; for J and T as they minister to Afghan refugees; for a peace agreement in Israel; for the situation in Ukraine to be resolved; for Burmese Christians in Myanmar; and for other Christians, missionaries and refugees who are suffering from persecution in the Middle East, Taiwan, N. Korea, India, Africa, Viet Nam, China, Russia, Turkey, etc. Pray for the OCC shoeboxes and for the children who will receive them.



Prayer Works! ❤️

Prayer Requests & Announcements

You may email new prayer needs, announcements, edits and deletions to gfbcfw@sbcglobal.net or enter them on the website by Tuesday at noon, 12:00 pm. You may also text your prayer requests to 817-937-5974.