



# February News

2026



## God's Magnificent Grace!

*"For from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."* John 1:16-17

Grace. When you see that word, what immediately comes to your mind? Maybe God and the grace He's given you today. This might have been an unexpected blessing in your day. Maybe you think of your favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace." Perhaps when you are sitting at the table for dinner you're asked to "say grace." Our encounters with the word grace can mean different things for everyone.

In the context of the church and the Christian life, grace is a word that is familiar to many. As I've shared many times on Sunday mornings, being familiar with the things God provides for us is not always a good thing. When we get used to grace it can easily lose its significance. As I'm typing these words, I'm trying to think deeper and longer on grace. I'd like to invite you to do the same.

Maybe we think of grace as some kind of "substance" that God stores away in His heavenly warehouse and distributes to people here on earth. The issue with thinking like this is that grace becomes "stuff" that God gives to us apart from Himself. Grace is not a thing. God doesn't run out of it and then find ways to produce more for mankind.

With all this in mind, can I challenge your thinking on grace? When it comes to grace, consider that God gives us Himself when we don't deserve it. That is grace! The God who made the world and everything in it, has chosen

to come near to us. Grace is indeed a gift, but God is not only the giver, He *Himself* is the gift.

In John 1:16-17, John shares that we have received "grace upon grace." What can we learn from these verses in John's gospel? In Scripture, we discover that God's first step in His revelation is through Moses and the law. But the law could only do so much. God in His wisdom and love chose to come and reveal His grace in the ultimate way: in the person of Jesus Christ. As believers, we are constantly being inundated with the grace of God, because of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the greatest revelation of God that is superior to Abraham, Jacob, and Moses.

Coming up late this month, we will spend time in worship looking into the pages of Scripture to rediscover grace in a new sermon series called "God's Magnificent Grace." We will first look at Jesus to see the "grace upon grace" that He offers. From there we will focus on a theology of grace and finally explore the practice of grace in our own lives.

Let's discover at Journey Church what it means to **Make Much of Jesus** as we look closer at grace. The refrain from the hymn "Grace Greater Than Our Sin" should call us all to thank God for His grace!

"Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin."

Celebrating God's Grace,  
Pastor Michael

## Standing Strong: A Call To Faithful, Courageous Living

In a world that constantly redefines strength, Christian men are invited to live by a higher, steadier standard. Strength is not found merely in physical power, professional success, or personal control, but in a life anchored in Christ. God calls men to walk daily with integrity, humility, and courage—qualities forged not in comfort, but in faithfulness.

Every day brings responsibility: providing for families, serving others, making decisions that shape the future. These tasks can feel heavy, yet Scripture reminds us that we are never meant to carry them alone. Jesus' invitation remains open: "Come to Me... and I will give you rest." Real strength begins when a man kneels before God, acknowledging his need and trusting God's power to work through him.

Men are called to lead—not by dominance, but by example. Leadership in God's Kingdom looks like loving sacrificially, speaking truth with grace, and choosing righteousness even when it costs something. It is the quiet decision to be honest when no one is watching, to forgive when pride resists, and to stand firm when culture pressures compromise. These moments, though unseen by many, are seen by God and shape a legacy that lasts.

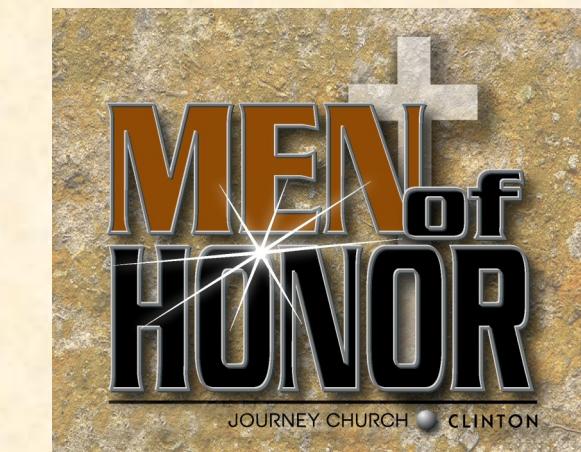
Daily living also requires perseverance. There will be setbacks, doubts, and weariness. Yet the Christian man presses on, not because he is flawless, but because he is faithful. He remembers that God's mercies are new every morning and that growth is often slow, steady, and deeply meaningful. Prayer, Scripture, and fellowship are not signs of weakness—they are lifelines that keep the heart aligned with God's truth.

Above all, the purpose of a man's life is not self-glory, but to **Make Much of Jesus**. When Christ is at the center, work gains meaning, relationships gain depth, and trials gain purpose. A life focused on Jesus becomes a testimony—pointing others – old men, middle-aged men, young men and youth – not to personal achievement, but to God's grace.

So stand tall, men of faith. Walk boldly, love deeply, and trust fully. God is at work in your daily obedience, shaping you into a man of strength, character, and hope. Keep going—your faithfulness matters more than you know.

So, let's walk together and support each other as we Make Much of Jesus here at Journey Church!

Pastor Michael and the Elders



## Breakfast

Saturday, February 7  
8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

At Jenny's Diner  
Adults \$10

Young Men (18 and under) \$8

Please put your payment in the offering

**Sign-up Deadline**  
**Sunday**  
**February 1**

## Missionary Focus - Ross and Mary Hunter

In 1993 Ross and Mary Hunter responded to the call of God to serve as missionaries with the organization Pioneers and serve the Quichua people of Ecuador. Their ministry, the past 42 years, has been centered in discipleship. Ross teaches the Bible at a Quichua seminary, church, and to Venezuelan migrant refugees. Mary teaches the Bible to groups of Quichua women and is intentional to meet new arrival refugees to listen and offer support. She also teaches means of trauma healing.



Ross is currently working towards his PhD in Orality Training. He experienced the value of teaching his students in ways outside of the “book”. His students responded to stories related to their culture and concrete examples compared to abstract ideas. His research results in orality-based Bible training.

Orality is defined as the use of speech rather than writing as a means of communication. The use of music, drama, and storytelling help the orally predominate learner receive the message intended. Purely oral societies pass along everything that matters, including their cultural traditions, from one generation to another without putting anything into writing. They rely on the spoken word, including its sung and chanted forms.  
(From <https://orality.imb.org/basic/>.)

### How did Jesus teach?

Jesus' teaching was primarily verbal. He spoke in the language and terminology of the day, using examples from the culture. Even today it is estimated that 60% to 70% of the people in the world can't, don't, or won't read. Even if this is overestimated, it is alarming that most literacy-based ministry models originating in the West today will have inconsequential results. Up to 4 billion people respond to God's written word as if they were deaf, unable to hear because it comes to them in written form. Their lives are more likely to be transformed if it comes to them through stories, songs, drama, proverbs, and media.

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17*

Ross and Mary conclude: “We want our ministry to be productive.” Please, pray for their outreach as Ross continues his PhD studies in orality training and ministers to Quichua pastors and church leaders. Pray for Mary as she serves the women in spiritual formation and trauma healing ministry. The Hunters are currently on home assignment in Ohio. Pray for their preparations for ministry presentations. Pray God will increase their personal monthly support. Pray for various health issues they are trying to attend to while on home assignment.

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### Interested in learning more about Journey Church?

There will be a Membership Class on Tuesday evening, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the church for anyone interested in learning more about Journey Church and/or the Evangelical Free Church denomination.



If you have decided to place your membership with Journey Church, this class is your first step and is required for membership. However, attending this class does not require you to join the church. If interested, call the church office at 563-243-4164 or fill out a Connection Card no later than **February 22**.



### Sunday, March 8

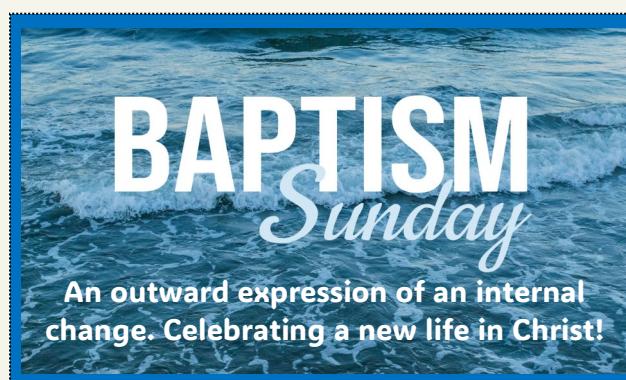
Pastor James Mumo, founder of Brook of Hope home and Christian Academy in Kenya, will be visiting Journey Church Sunday, March 8. He and his wife, Susan, were hosts to our Kenya mission team last summer. He will share about the ministry of Brook of Hope during the Life Group time that morning and be available for Q and A after the service. More details to come!



### Saturday, March 14 | 8:00am - 4:00pm | Rock Island, IL

Sign up at the Sign-up Counter or go online [www.focalpointministries.net](http://www.focalpointministries.net) to purchase tickets by March 8. Contact Mike Ketelsen if you have questions.

**MEN of HONOR**



### Sunday, March 15

If you have any questions or desire to be baptized on this special Sunday, contact the church office by **March 1**.

Baptism is an outward and public profession of one's commitment to Jesus. Participating in baptism is NOT how a person receives salvation or is guaranteed eternity in heaven. (See Romans 6:1-4) Please pray over this invitation to make your faith in Jesus Christ known to the Journey family.

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Below are some service opportunities where you can bless our church family as you are available.  
Look for these cards at Connection Point or contact the office with areas you can help.

## Hands and Feet of Jesus

Are you handy? Like doing small projects?

Please put an **X** where you would like to help.

<input type="checkbox"/> Snow removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Light housework
<input type="checkbox"/> Mow lawn/care	<input type="checkbox"/> Small repairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean gutters	<input type="checkbox"/> Local transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden help	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Snow Bird: unavailable \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this card in the offering plate, thank you!

## Meal Cards

The Deaconesses are updating their calling list for persons who are willing to provide meals to meet the needs of our church family in the event of illness/injury, new birth, etc. or to provide a salad or dessert for a funeral meal.

Place an **X** where you are willing to provide.

MEALS	FUNERALS	COMMENT/S
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Even if you are a "snow bird" please consider signing up for the time you are available.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEXT: Y  N

SNOW BIRD: unavailable \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this card in the offering plate, thank you!

**Women's Chair Exercise Class**  
Mondays in the Fellowship Hall  
4:45p Warm up | 5:00p - 5:30p Class  
Contact Joanne Tietjens or the office with questions.



Awana helpers are always needed.

Wednesdays 6:15 pm-7:45 pm  
September 10-April 22  
Preschool-6th Grade

**Meet & Greet** JOIN US!  
Sunday Mornings  
10:00 - 10:25am  
Fellowship Hall  
A time to connect with others  
Coffee, water, and donut holes will be served.

We need help with setting up for Meet & Greet on Sunday morning. There is a sign-up calendar in the kitchen. This is an easy way to service, and you don't have to do it alone.

**ASK ME ANYTHING**  
Taught by Certified Nutritionist Debbie McCormick  
Monday, February 9, 6:00pm | Fellowship Hall

How do I know if I am getting enough protein?  
How much salt is too much?  
What fats are good for me?  
Is diet soda good or bad for me?

We will meet the second Monday of every month at 6p in the Fellowship Hall.  
Text/Call me if you have questions you want me to answer at class.

## BIBLE CROSSWORD II

### Across

8 Religious service (6)

9 Vessel (3)

10 Drive forcibly (4)

11 Christ does this for us (10)

12 Bethesda was the name of this (4)

13 Servant of a prophet (6)

16 One who leaves the straight and narrow path (8)

17 Check the money (7)

18 Fragrant offering; make angry (7)

22 Come out from among them (8)

25 Works with clay (6)

26 Main part of text (4)

27 Chucked it too far (10)

30 Treachery sealed with this (4)

31 Simon washed his (3)

32 Migratory grasshopper (6)

### Down

1 Standard for the tribe of Judah (4)

2 Brother of James; Hardy book (4)

3 Choice by vote (8)

4 Evening glow (7)

5 All sing the tune (6)

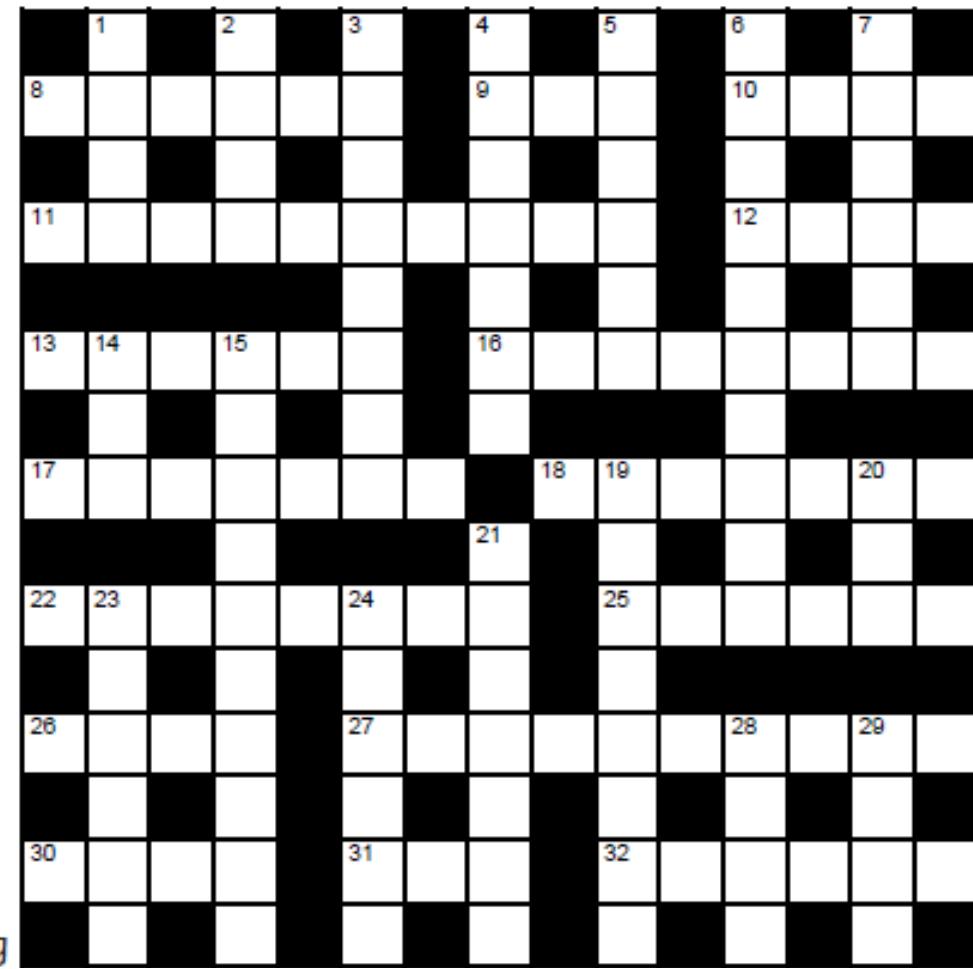
6 To reduce deficiency (10)

7 Take no notice of (6)

14 Look at (3)

15 Alternative Revelation (10)

19 Son of Jacob (8)



Contact the office or email [info@journeyclinton.org](mailto:info@journeyclinton.org) if you get stuck.