

2019-2020 Atlas

Grace Avenue UMC | Grace Chapel

Welcome Home.

JONAH

Gratitude
the 5th G

What do you
Expect?

Flesh it Out

EXODUS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
OF THE *Sacred*
KIND

WHAT MAKES
YOU COME
ALIVE?

This marks the 5th year we have created the Atlas. It is intended to be a road map of what we will study together in worship during the 2019-2020 school year. It also includes supplemental resources that can

be used in individual or group study. In addition to several themed series, we will be exploring two major works from the Hebrew Scriptures in depth; Jonah and Exodus.

To further help us along the journey we are implementing a resource for daily scripture reading and reflection called the Guide for Prayer & Study...the **GPS**.

This year we are excited that we can share this road map across a variety of campuses and worship expressions. From our **Sanctuary Worship** services to our **Modern Worship** services at our main campus to our Worship services at **Grace Chapel** (see more info on the back page), we welcome the opportunity to be united in God's living Word and God's empowering Spirit.

Let the journey begin!

Welcome Home.

We live in a world full of homelessness. Henri Nouwen states: "But in this world millions of people are homeless. Some are homeless because of their inner anguish, while others are homeless because they have been driven from their own towns and countries. In prisons, mental hospitals, refugee camps, in hidden-away city apartments, in nursing homes and overnight shelters we get a glimpse of the homelessness of the people of our time." He continues, "Probably no better word summarizes the suffering of our time than the word, 'homeless.' It reveals one of our deepest and most painful conditions, the condition of not having a sense of belonging." We belong to God but that also means we belong to one another; we belong together. The Church is a gift from God which provides belonging in its most essential form. The grace of God beckons us to places and experiences where we can most fully be ourselves. The invitation of God welcomes us "home."

Our Mission is to eradicate homelessness in whatever form it presents itself.

Everyone needs a spiritual home, an emotional home, and a physical home.



Spiritual Home

Sept. 7/8 | Ephesians 2:17-22



Emotional Home

Sept. 14/15 | Romans 12:9-21



Physical Home

Sept. 21/22 | Matthew 25:31-46

Suggested Resources & Reading

Searching for Home: Spirituality for Restless Souls
by M. Craig Barnes

Them by Ben Sasse

Let Go: Leaning into the Future Without Fear
by Matt Miofsky

Rising Strong
by Brene Brown

Lifesigns
by Henri Nouwen

Threshold of Discovery: A Field Guide to Spirituality in Midlife
by L. Roger Owens

The Path Between Us: An Enneagram Journey to Healthy Relationships
by Suzanne Stabile

The Loveable Podcast
with Dr. Kelly Flanagan

Up!
Pixar Feature Film

Family Resource!

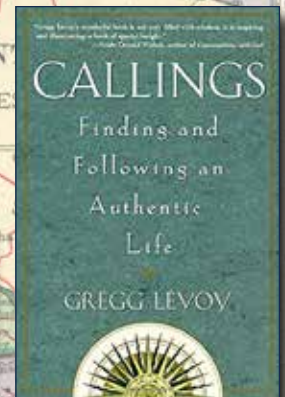
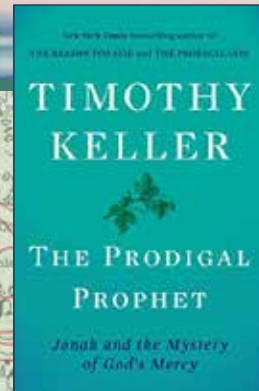
JONAH

Though God's grace is bountiful and amazing, being a disciple of Jesus Christ is difficult; it requires humility and a willingness to enter uncomfortable spaces. The story of Jonah is one of the clearest and most comprehensive examples of this in our Scriptures. The story of Jonah functions almost as an allegory for the Christian life, showing us that we often run from God, and even when we eventually say yes to God's call on our lives, it's hard work that doesn't always go the way we want. Most of us can relate to the struggle of Jonah, which is what makes this text so wonderful. Together we are going to study this story, hoping to learn humility, determination, and comfort in knowing that we all struggle to say yes to God, but when we do, God does amazing things through us.

Sept. 28/29 | Jonah 1
Oct. 5/6 | Jonah 2
Oct. 12/13 | Jonah 3
Oct. 19/20 | Jonah 4

"When my endurance was weakening,
I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came
to you, to your holy temple."

Jonah 2:7



Suggested Resources & Reading

*The Prodigal Prophet:
Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy*
by Timothy Keller

*Callings: Finding and
Following an Authentic Life*
by Greg Michael Levoy

*Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in
Vocational Holiness*
by Eugene Peterson

Called: Lessons from Six Biblical Characters
by Susan Robb

I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening),
by Sara Steward Holland

Moana
Disney Feature Film

Family Resource!

October 26 - November 17, 2019

Gratitude

the 5th G



We were created by a generous God for generosity. The path to generosity travels through the experience of gratitude. Awareness of our blessings transforms us from the fear of scarcity to the joy of God's abundance. But gratitude is a muscle that must be exercised. It is a territory that must be explored. It is the next generation in the development of our faith that leads to grace-filled living.

Oct. 26/27 | Mark 10:17-27
Nov. 2/3 | Luke 17:11-19
Nov. 9/10 | Genesis 12:1-4
Nov. 16/17 | Luke 19:1-10



Suggested Resources & Reading

*The Generosity Challenge:
28 Days of Gratitude, Prayer, and Faith*
by Kristine Miller & Scott McKenzie

Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks
by Diana Butler-Bass

The Gratitude Podcast
with David Steindle-Rast

November 30 - December 22, 2019

What do you Expect?

Nov 30/Dec 1 | Jeremiah 33: 14-18
Dec 7/8 | Isaiah 40: 1-11
Dec 14/15 | Music Weekend
Dec 21/22 | Matthew 1: 18-25

There are times when our best expectations turn into hopeless resignation. The “most wonderful time of the year” can quickly turn into disappointment if we do not align our hearts with God's purpose for the season. Advent is the springboard to the true hope of God coming to be among us in the Christ child. The question is not whether our expectations are realistic or unrealistic. The question is whether we are preparing to enter into God's great narrative or whether we are attempting to squeeze some irrelevant religious decoration into our over-scheduled, overdone holiday “festivities.”

Suggested Resources & Reading

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas
by Selected Authors

Celebrating Abundance: Devotions for Advent
by Walter Brueggemann

*Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas
Meaningful (Again)* by Rick McKinley

Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience
by Magrey R. deVega

The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations
by Howard Thurman

*Engaging the Word: The New Testament
and the Christian Believer* by Jaime Clark-Soles

A Christmas Carol
1984 Feature Film

Family Resource!

January 4 - 19, 2020

Flesh it Out

The new year of 2020 seems like a watershed moment in our lives. It feels like we are turning a corner, not just to a new decade, but a new moment in history. Imagine the things planned and unplanned that are likely to occur in 2020.

Will we be active participants or victimized spectators? Will we embrace the journey or avoid it? Are we prepared to “flesh it out”? In Jesus Christ, God makes a clear choice to enter into our lives at a personal and integrated level. We call this “Incarnation”. Jesus is God joining us in the messiness, uncertainty, excitement and joy of our day-to-day lives.

Jan. 4/5 | John 1:1-18
Jan. 11/12 | Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 18/19 | Galatians 2:15-21

Suggested Resources & Reading

The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe
by Richard Rohr

Original Blessing: Putting Sin in its Rightful Place
by Danielle Shroyer

Howard Thurman: Essential Writings
by Howard Thurman

An Altar in the World
by Barbara Brown Taylor

White Fragility
by Robin Diangelo

January 25 - February 23, 2020

EXODUS

Jan 25/26 | Exodus 2:1-10
Feb 1/2 | Exodus 3:1-15
Feb 8/9 | Exodus 11:1-10
Feb 15/16 | Exodus 14:10-31
Feb 22/23 | Exodus 40:34-38

Whether we focus on the concept of freedom or liberation, it is important to acknowledge that we worship a God of deliverance. The central narrative in the Hebrew Scriptures is the story of the Exodus. Much more than a historic account, The Book of Exodus challenges us about our fear of change even to the point of choosing captivity and inspires us to trust God explicitly with our promised future even when that future includes wilderness wanderings. In Moses we find a connection to one who is flawed but finds his true calling as a servant of God. Like him, through faith, we are drawn in God's mighty acts of salvation.

Suggested Resources & Reading

Harriet
Feature Film, November 2019

America's Prophet: How the Story of Moses Shaped America
by Bruce Feiler

Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet
by Adam Hamilton

The Prince of Egypt
1998 Animated Feature Film

Family Resource!

February 29 - April 5, 2020

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE *Sacred* KIND

The season of Lent is an invitation to deeper intimacy with God. It is a time for God's grace to remove the barriers that hold us in a superficial relationship with God. The Gospel of Mark is a paradox of fast-paced narrative and vignettes of Jesus involved in deeply personal encounters with people and places that were considered "off-limits". In these encounters we discover that God's love can reach us in ways we never dreamed possible.

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.

*He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

Mark 1:1-3

Feb 29/Mar 1 | Mark 1:1-13
March 7/8 | Mark 5:1-20
March 14/15 | Mark 7:24-30
March 21/22 | Mark 8:22-26
March 28/29 | Mark 10:13-16
April 4/5 | Mark 11:1-11, 14:3-9

Suggested Resources & Reading

Flee, Be Silent, Pray: Ancient Prayers for Anxious Christians
by Ed Cizewski

Loosing the Lion: Proclaiming the Gospel of Mark
by Leroy A Huizenga

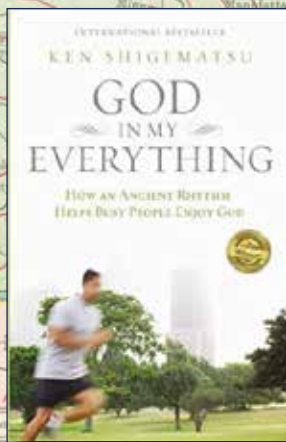
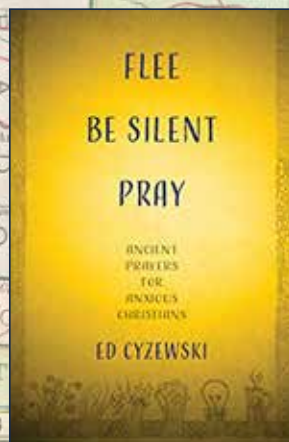
Mark (N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides)
by N.T. Wright

Miracles of Healing in the Gospel of Mark: 16 Studies for Individual or Small Group
by John I. Penn, Sr.

Music Within
2007 feature film

God in My Everything: How and Ancient Rhythm Helps Busy People Enjoy God
by Ken Shigematsu

CoCo *Family Resource!*
Pixar Feature Film



Sunday, April 12 - Easter

"The Eyes of Easter"
Mark 16

April 18 - May 3, 2020

WHAT MAKES YOU COME ALIVE?

Suggested Resources & Reading

*Your Blue Flame: Drop the Guilt and Do
What Makes You Come Alive*
by Jennifer Fulwiler

*The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a
Changing World*
by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu

*A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of
Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey*
by Brian McLaren

*The Story We Find Ourselves in:
Further Adventures of a New Kind of Christian*
by Brian McLaren

*The Last Word and the Word After That:
A Tale of Faith, Doubt,
and a New Kind of Christianity*
by Brian McLaren

Acts, (N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Studies)
by N.T. Wright

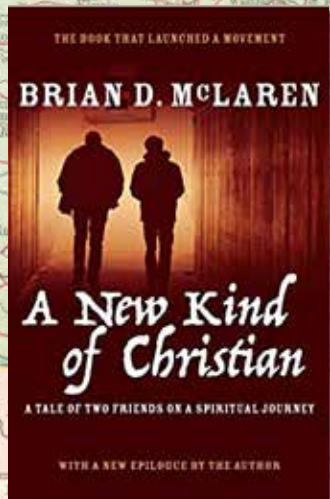
The Greatest Showman
2017 Feature Film

Family Resource!

The great theologian Howard Thurman reportedly once said:

“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

Easter is the reminder that God is in the business of resurrection and making things come alive. A spark of new life in us can set the world ablaze with possibility. The Easter season is a time for us to read and study the Book of Acts because it is filled with stories of the Church coming alive to transform the world. Christ’s resurrection opens the door for us to explore our greatest God-given desires and potential.



April 18/19 | Acts 3:1-10
April 25/26 | Acts 8:26-40
May 2/3 | Acts 16:11-15

Grace Avenue UMC

3521 Main Street | Frisco, TX 75034 | 972.335.2882 | www.GraceAvenue.org

Sabbath Worship: Saturday at 5:30pm | **Communion Worship:** Sundays at 8:30am



Sanctuary Worship

Sundays at 9:45 & 11:00am

Led by:

Rev. Billy Echols-Richter, Lead Pastor

Rev. Laura Echols-Richter, Executive Pastor

Laurie Hanson Roberts, Minister of Sanctuary Worship



Modern Worship

Sundays at 11:00am

Led by:

Rev. Joe Stobaugh, Pastor of Modern Worship

Jesseca Aziz, Minister of Outreach

Wendy Child, Director of Modern Worship

Grace Chapel

14632 Fishtrap Rd. | Aubrey, TX 76227 | 940.440.6626 | www.Grace380.org



Grace Chapel Worship

Sundays at 9:35 & 11:00am

Grace Chapel Ministry Team:

Rev. Courtney Schultz, Co-Pastor

Rev. Alex Williams, Co-Pastor

D'Andre Smith, Youth Director

Rev. Emma Williams, Children's Pastor

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