



# Grace ABOUNDS

January 2026

A Center of Mission and Ministry - Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace!



Isn't it a blessing to begin anew...to "start over" after living through some hard times...to be given a "clean slate?" When the New Year begins, we have a chance to start fresh and make the future brighter than before. The beginning of a New Year presents an opportunity for renewal, allowing us to pursue continuous improvement over the coming twelve months.

Certainly, those who follow Jesus have the chance to begin anew each day as they welcome the morning. Throughout Scripture, there are numerous passages that highlight how God renews the lives of people who trust in Him.

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22-23)*

*"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

*"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Accepting Jesus, relying on God's power, and following Christ helps us become who we were meant to be. Guided daily by Him, we can live a renewed life and fulfill God's purpose. Jesus' sacrifice gives us a fresh start and the chance to live fully for our Creator.

As the New Year begins, commit to inviting God into your life and home, and let this presence guide all that you do. Feel the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit fill you with the grace and peace that passes any understanding of what the world tries to provide. With your clean slate mark down those goals to share that Jesus came to show us as he lived as one of us without sin. Our goals in 2026 should start with the two commandments Jesus reminds us of; Love God and Love one another. Everything else will fall into place when the whole world follows the One who came to make us free!

Because of the unlimited love of God through His Son, we begin anew and point our lives in the direction Jesus came to show – God's Kingdom – where we rejoice and give thanks for love and grace.

Happy New Year and blessings always,  
*Pastor Dave*



Contact Pastor Dave by cell phone at 219-707-9823 or by email at [pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com](mailto:pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com).

COLOSSIANS 3:15, NIV



## January Birthdays

January 1	Thomas Mewbourn MarySue Rivers
January 7	Raelynn Wessinger
January 14	Donna Hawkins
January 17	Lee Wessinger
January 18	Wayne Mitchell
January 21	Luke Black Beverly Hawkins Craig Metz
January 23	Robert Martin
January 26	Kay Chandler
January 29	Al Potter

## Anniversaries

January 14	Walt & Clyna Quattlebaum (59)
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## Baptism Anniversaries

January 1	Tommy Neel
January 2	Suzanne Medlock
January 5	Tim Harmon
January 8	Jonathan Shealy
January 13	Anna Kay Singley
January 15	Ronnie Cromer
January 28	Parker Metts
January 31	Mollie Waters

## Grace People in the News

Don't forget to share your "good news" about members of Grace with the church office by email, by phone, or with a note in the office box.



Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you for honoring me with the Christmas bonus. You are so thoughtful and I appreciate your gift and your friendship. I look forward to serving with you in this new year.

Valerie Reed



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will not meet in January but will start back in February.



Choir rehearsals start back on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in the choir room!

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

Deadline for the February newsletter is **Jan. 20th**.



# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

**Grace Family:** Cissie & Bob Dibble; Jeanna Hall; Evelyn Harmon; Heather & Bob Harris; Faye Hartman; Pastor Al Potter; Marysue Rivers.

**Residential Care:** Michael & Wendy Riley

**College Students:** Payton Metts (*Piedmont*); Camryn Shealy; Bailey Stewart; and Allie Waters (*Newberry College*)

**Extended Family:** Bishop Ginny Aebischer; Nancye Bailey (*the Dibble's daughter*); Kathy Buchanan (*Beverly Hawkins' cousin*); Jimmy Capo (*Sharon Neel's brother-in-law*); Bishop Yehiel Curry; Terry Dickert (*Sheila Martin's brother*); Don Denton & Jeff Gonzales (*Diane Gonzales' brother-in-laws*); Zac Triebold (*Diane & Pastor Dave's friend*).

**Community:** Sue Moore; Mike Epps; Steve Culbertson

**Military:** Everett Crafts, V (*Air Force -Glenda Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*USCG/Seattle, WA*).

**God's World:** Global Concerns: Individuals affected by conflict, such as those in Israel, throughout the Middle East, Ukraine, and various African nations; Military families both domestically and internationally; People impacted by natural disasters including hurricanes, tornadoes, wild-fires, floods, and earthquakes; Victims of gun violence; Those experiencing homelessness; Individuals who are unemployed or underemployed; Refugees worldwide; Those facing hardships due to unfavorable economic conditions; and our adversaries.

**To add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please contact the office at 803-364-3331 or [gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com) or leave a written note in the office box.**



Memorials  
& Gifts

## Memorials & Gifts For December 2025

### Gifts to the General Fund

- Ackerman's Used Parts  
in memory of Bernese Ackerman
- Beverly Hawkins in memory of Diane Adam's brother Thomas Mulhall
- Beverly Hawkins in memory of Diane Adam's sister, Patricia Livingston
- Kevin & Diane Wicker in honor of Emmett and Edwina Wicker for Christmas
- Lee & Anna Sease in honor of Emmett Wicker
- Mike Shealy in memory of Diane Adams' brother and sister
- Dale & Julie Shealy & Family in memory of Diane Adams' siblings Tommy Mulhall and Patricia Livingston
- Phil & Deborah Ruff in memory of Diane Adams' brother and sister
- Edna Riley in memory of Diane Adams' brother and sister
- Bob & Cissie Dibble for the Live Nativity Animals

### Gifts to the Community Service Fund

- The Women's Bible Study Class

### Gifts to the Preschool

- John & Becky Pugh to honor our Preschool

### A Note of Thanks:

Diane and I thank you for your amazing love and support as Diane's brother and sister both passed on to be with the Lord in December. Your calls, texts, and cards have helped us both at this trying time.

And I thank everyone at Grace for your generous Christmas gift and the individual gifts I've received. It is a blessing to be walking with you and worshipping God at our church.

Pastor Dave



### **Update your contact information!**

The 2026 People of Grace will be coming out soon after the first of the year and we need to have your up-to-date contact information. Call the church office or leave a note for Valerie in the office box for any changes or updates.

**Serving in January****Assisting Ministers**

4 Candace Frick  
11 Judy Bedenbaugh  
18 Andy Hawkins  
25 Teresa Cooper

**Altar Flowers**

4 Epiphany Trees  
11 Epiphany Trees  
18 Epiphany Trees  
25 Epiphany Trees

**Live Stream Operators**

4 Jessica Shealy  
11 Johnny Merck  
18 George Dawkins, Jr.  
25 David Luther

**Communion Assistant**

Sally Dominick

**Communion Preparation**

Deborah Ruff

**Communion Clean Up**

Wayne & Sue Mitchell

**Acolyte** Thomas Mewbourn

**Crucifer 1/11** Helena Mewbourn

**Torchbearers 1/11** Helena Mewbourn  
Jaxon Wessinger

**Ushers** Nathan Shealy, Deborah & Phil Ruff, Camryn & Jonathan Shealy

**Greeters** Lisa Farr, Edna Riley

**Offering Tabulators** Nathan Shealy,  
Deborah Ruff, Camryn Shealy

**Front Sign** Deborah Ruff

**Altar Guild** Judy Bedenbaugh,  
Nancy Derrick

**Pew Rack Helper** Wayne & Sue Mitchell

**SANCTUARY  
LAMP  
SPONSORS**



During the month of January the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in memory of John Bedenbaugh and Alice Shaver in remembrance of their January birthdays by Judy Bedenbaugh.

*For honorary or memorial information to be included in the newsletter and bulletin, information and a \$30 donation should be received in the office by the last Sunday of the month prior to the month you sponsor.*

# WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
11/30	67	18	85
12/07 Youth	85	16	101
12/14	52	24	76
12/21 Cantata	136	20	156
12/24 4pm 10:30 pm	43 45	20 19	63 64
12/28	57	28	82

\* Total Online viewers = Facebook and YouTube

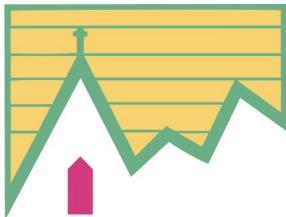
✓ Sunday School  
ATTENDANCE

11/30	38
12/07	42
12/14	26
12/21	27
12/28	27

## Ministry Assignments for 2026

Ministry assignments for the new year will soon be posted on the bulletin board in front of the church office. Please check the lists to see where and when you are scheduled to serve. Thank you!





# Church FINANCES

## Our Offerings for December

**Through December 28**  
(Does Not Include Dec. EFTs)



## MINISTRY BUDGET

Needed Thru Dec. 28: \$ 188,588.00

Given Thru Dec. 28: \$ 188,561.08

Amount Behind Goal: \$ 26.92

### MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Need: \$ 15,549.00

Given during December.....	\$ 36,053.51
Given year-to-date.....	\$186,561.08
Goal through Dec. 28.....	\$186,588.00

### MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during December.....	\$24,464.89
Given year-to-date.....	\$35,743.77

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during December .....	\$ 117.00
Given year-to-date .....	\$1,563.91

### SCHOLARSHIP

Given during December .....	\$ 0.00
Given year-to-date .....	\$ 668.65

### CAMPERSHIP

Given during December .....	\$ 0.00
Given year-to-date .....	\$ 160.20

### COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Manna House .....	\$ 0.00
<b>Given year-to-date .....</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
Community Assistance.....	\$ 120.00
<b>Given year-to-date.....</b>	<b>\$ 420.00</b>
Bookbag Food Ministry.....	\$ 200.00
<b>Given year-to-date .....</b>	<b>\$1,800.79</b>
Thanksgiving Meal .....	\$ 0.00
<b>Given year-to-date .....</b>	<b>\$ 915.69</b>
<b>Total year-to-date .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,336.48</b>

### SPECIAL 2025 OFFERINGS YTD

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering.....	300.00
Youth Ministry .....	295.00
Lenten Offering.....	875.00
Easter Lilies .....	268.86
Mid-Carolina Football Meal.....	830.00
VBS Love Offering .....	250.06
Disaster Response .....	495.00
Bereavement Meal Fund.....	260.15
Poinsettias .....	366.50
Live Nativity .....	750.00
Christmas/Advent Offering .....	385.00

## Alternative Designation Forms

These forms are available in the narthex for those who would prefer a portion of their offering not be forwarded to the ELCA. **A new form must be completed every year and turned in with your first gift of 2026.**

## Electronic Giving

Electronic Giving is an option at Grace through Vanco. Scan the QR Code at the right or go to our online giving page via [graceluth.org](http://graceluth.org) to get started.



## Manna House

In January we are collecting 4 lb. bags of sugar. Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. We are deeply grateful for your generosity—whether it be through food donations or gift cards to Food Lion or Walmart.

## Backpack Ministry

We are feeding needy children at Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School. There are lists of needed items on the narthex bulletin board for your convenience. Please leave your food donations in the red wagon. Thank you!

## 2026 Budget Adopted

At the annual congregation meeting on Dec. 14, 2025 the congregation adopted a 2026 ministry budget of \$189,412.



**Thank you for giving!**

# YOUTH

ministry



Grace Youth presented their Christmas program, *5G Christmas*, during the worship service on Dec. 7. They shared a meaningful message about the 5Gs of Christmas: gratitude, grace, glory, giving, and getting, interwoven with the story of Jesus' birth. Thank you to our Youth and volunteers for their hard work and for using their gifts to share this special Christmas message!



Grace Youth Ministry sponsored a float for the *2025 Prosperity Christmas Parade* on Sunday Dec. 7. We are proud to say that our *“Fully Rely On God this Christmas”* themed float won the first place prize for Best Themed Decorated Float! Thanks to everyone who contributed to our float's success—those who came up with our F.R.O.G. theme, costumes, and decorations; the youth and Grace youth supporters who met to do the float prep and decorating on Saturday; and all who rode the float on that Sunday!

## Upcoming Events

### Next GYM Time

Sunday, January 25  
Noon-1:30 p.m.

### *Faith, Fellowship, Fun, and Food!*

We will need volunteers to help provide food for our January meal. We'll have a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board.

### *Thanks for Supporting our Youth!*

Sunday, February 8  
*Souper Bowl Sunday*

Sunday, February 22  
*Monthly GYM Time*  
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 22  
*Easter Egg Hunt*

Sunday, April 26  
*Monthly GYM Time*  
Noon - 1:30 p.m.



Grace Youth Ministry had a fun night of Christmas caroling on Friday, Dec. 19, spreading holiday cheer to several members of our Grace family. We thank Abby Dominick for driving the church bus for us! It was a joy-filled evening that concluded at the church for finger foods and fellowship!



**Happy  
New  
Year!!**

## Council Meeting Minutes— December 9, 2025

Mike Whitlock called the meeting to order with a reading of the Mission Statement. Deborah Ruff shared devotions based on Isaiah, Chapter 9. The birth of Jesus gives us hope with victory over sin and death.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Dave reported the need for two new Christmas trees due to the deteriorated condition of the existing trees. The church's phone system was unable to handle all of the voice mail messages during the Thanksgiving meal bag drive. Both phone and internet service are provided by Carolina Connect. We will look into upgrading the voice mail service with Carolina Connect. Pastor Dave wished to recognize everyone who participated in the Prosperity Christmas Parade where Grace's float won first place.

**Adoption of Reports:** Chad Frick made a motion to adopt the reports as presented, seconded by Len Fulmer, and passed.

**Discussion:** New Council Officers elected for 2026: Len Fulmer, Chair; Chop Cooper, Co-chair; and David Luther, Secretary. Deborah made a motion to approve, seconded by Sally Dominick. The Council Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 10 at 10:00 am.

Grace will have a yard sale on May 2 to benefit the American Cancer Society in conjunction with 'Prosperity's Hoppin'. We hope to distribute information about the church's ministries at this event.

Quotes to upgrade the church signage with double sided full color LED signage were received from two sign companies. Signs Unlimited quoted a turn-key price of \$34,260 and Stewart Signs quoted \$31,742 plus installation and sales taxes. Council decided to table this for now and present proposals to the congregation after the first of the year.

Chop received a \$2,400 quote to install three security cameras with facial recognition in the narthex, new parking lot, and office. Linda Cromer moved to approve the purchase, seconded by George Dawkins, and passed. Signs indicating the church grounds are under surveillance will be installed.

The church bus tires are in very bad condition. Kunkle Tire quoted \$2,583 to replace all six tires. Chop moved to approve this quote, seconded by Linda, and passed.

Emmett Wicker requested use of the Ministry Center on Friday, December 26, 2025 for a family gathering. Deborah moved to approve the request, seconded by Linda, and passed.

**Ministry Team updates:** Chad reported that the Fellowship Team plans a Collectible/Hobby Fair on Sunday, February 1, 2026. A new scheduler/instructor is needed for the Acolyte/Torch Bearer/ Crucifer Team. Also, the need for a Current Fund Treasurer will be published in the church newsletter.

**Shepherding Concerns:** Please remember Diane Adams in your prayers as her brother Tommy passed away on December 9 and her sister Patty is in the last stages of life with Frontotemporal Progressive Aphasia.

The next meeting will be the Council Retreat on Saturday, January 10 at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully submitted,



### 2026 Council & Congregation Officers

Len Fulmer- *Council Chair*; Chop Cooper- *Vice Chair*; David Luther- *Secretary*  
Linda Cromer, Ronnie Cromer, Chad Frick, Kelly Fulmer, Robert Martin,  
Johnny Merck, Andy Metz, Craig Metz, Edwina Wicker and Lillie Waters- *Youth Representative*

Pastor Dave Adams- *Congregation President*

Len Fulmer- *Congregation Vice President*, Julie Shealy- *Congregation Secretary*

## Shealy's BBQ Dinner - January 17

Let's get together and head over to Shealy's for dinner on January 17. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. We'll plan to leave the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. Contact Johny Merck for information.

## Blood Drive at Grace - January 18

We have an opportunity to make a real difference right here at Grace.

*The Blood Connection* will be hosting a blood drive on Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 2PM, and we'd love for you to take part.

Every donation can save up to three local lives. As a thank-you for giving, you'll receive \$70 in *TBC* Rewards after your donation. In addition, when Grace Lutheran collects 30 or more blood donations, *TBC* will award a \$500 grant to support the ministry or outreach efforts of that organization.

It's quick, easy, and a simple way to give back to the community. **Please take a moment to schedule your appointment and help us reach our goal:**



[https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/299199](https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/299199)

Thank you for supporting this lifesaving effort. Let's show what Grace Lutheran can do when we come together to help others.



## HEARTLAND LAY SCHOOL OF RELIGION- Registration Coming Soon

Registration for the Heartland Lay School of Religion will open soon and we are excited to share a few updates for this year's program.

We'll be using a slightly different format. Each evening will begin at **6:00 p.m.** with a light supper (sandwiches), followed by class from **6:30–7:45 p.m.** We will conclude with worship and announcements from **7:45–8:00 p.m.**

This year we are also starting a few weeks later and offering a **three-week session only**. Classes will meet on **January 20, January 27, and February 3**.

We will offer **two tracks** this year. Full course descriptions will be available soon, but the general focus of each track is as follows:

### Track A

*Pastor Bobby Morris and Ard Hallman*  
**How Lutherans Read the Bible**

### Track B

*Dr. Chris Sheppard, Professor of Music at*  
*Newberry College*  
**The Lutheran Liturgy and Hymnody**

More details and registration information will be shared soon. We hope you'll plan to join us for this time of learning, worship, and fellowship.

**Attention Ministry Team Chairs and Group Leaders:**

Please remember to send in your Annual Reports by January 15, 2026. It is important that you meet this deadline so that the 2026 Yearbook can be produced in a timely manner. Thank you!

**A New Grace Tradition: Our Advent Family Tree**

This year, Grace added a beautiful Advent Family tree to our Ministry Center for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The gift of a 9 ft. tree and lights by Pastor Dave and Diane Adams stirred the beginnings of this new Grace tradition that became a church family project.

As a special contribution to the tree, GYM youth decorated a Moravian star tree topper and created colorful felt crosses for a tree skirt, with assistance in planning, design, and assembly from Julie and Dale Shealy.

At our Advent Fellowship Night, members and friends of Grace crafted a variety of ornaments — angels, bells, candy canes, and Nativity scenes — to decorate the tree.

Judy Bedenbaugh donated beaded poinsettia ornaments handmade by her late sister-in-law, Pete Bedenbaugh, who was a member of Grace.

And the Advent Family Tree wouldn't be a family tree without the blue Christmas ball ornaments placed on the tree with the names of Grace family members, representing more than 50 Grace households. Some of these ornaments were made this year; others were created as far back as 2007 for trees set up in previous years. Several ornaments in memory of Grace members who are no longer living were also hung.

Be sure to check out the Advent Family tree in the Ministry Center before the Christmas season ends... and look for the tree to make its return for the 2026 Advent season!



Grace's new Communications Team already has six volunteers — and we would gladly welcome more enthusiastic and creative team members! We plan to have an organizational meeting in early January. Please contact Pastor Dave or Jessica Shealy if you are interested in being a part of this exciting team. The team will be charged with developing Grace's brand identity and improving how we communicate the ways God is working through Grace to better share the Good News with our community. This team will be exploring issues such as branding and messaging; new logo design; evaluation of our mission statement and crafting a mission slogan; social media content; and communications to the community about Grace and the ministries of Grace.

**Collector and Hobby Fair**

The 5th Grace Collector and Hobby Fair is planned for Sunday, Feb. 1 at 3 p.m. in the Ministry Center. The Care and Fellowship Team is sponsoring this fun event.

Members are invited to display items from their collection or showcase their hobby. (If you have more than three of an item, you have a collection to share!) There will be no sales at this event, just an opportunity to share your interests with your fellow church members. Please sign up on the narthex board if you would like to share. To be sure we have enough tables for everyone who wants to have a display, we need to limit each person signed up to one 6 ft. rectangular table (or round table). Contact Dale Shealy for more information.

If you are neither a collector or a hobbyist, you are encouraged to come and see what others bring to display and enjoy this time of fellowship and getting to know each other better.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Care and Fellowship Team. However, if baking or cooking is one of your hobbies, you are invited to bring something to share, and we will gladly add your contribution to our refreshments.

Our Preschool program on Dec.16 had 281 attendees and collected \$250 to give to Operation Santa Claus sponsored by the Newberry County Sheriff's department.

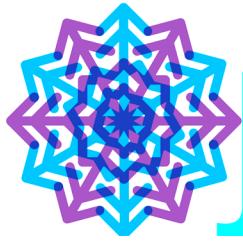


The Youth sponsored parade float won 1st prize this year at the Prosperity Christmas Parade.



Advent Family Tree & Advent Family Night Pics





# JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Manna House Item Needed:</b> <b>4lb. Bags of Sugar</b>				<b>1</b> office closed 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>5</b> Preschool starts back	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 6:00 p.m. * Confirmation Class * Joyful Noise	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10am Council Mtg. Retreat 
<b>11</b> Baptism of our Lord 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>12</b> Preschool Book Fair & Art Show	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> Deadline for Yearbook Reports 6:00 p.m. * Confirmation Class * Joyful Noise	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Shealy's BBQ
<b>18</b> 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>19</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	<b>20</b> February Newsletter DEADLINE Heartland School of Religion	<b>21</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. * Confirmation Class * Joyful Noise	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12-1:30 GYM Time	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team Heartland School of Religion	<b>28</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6:00 p.m. * Confirmation Class * Joyful Noise	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 



## Grace Lutheran Church

210 Grace St.  
P.O. Box 188 (Mailing Address)  
Prosperity, SC 29127

[www.graceluth.org](http://www.graceluth.org)

803-364-3331

[gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com)

Ministers: The People of Grace

Pastor: Rev. Dave Adams

[pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com](mailto:pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com)

### Online Giving

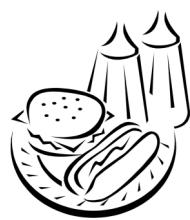
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online giving page.



NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Coming Up at Grace



January 17  
Shealy's BBQ Trip



January 18  
Blood Drive  
@ Grace  
9am-2pm



January 20, 27, & Feb. 3  
Heartland School of Religion  
6-8 p.m.



January 25 GYM Time  
Noon-1:30 p.m.



February 1  
Collector & Hobby Fair  
1-3:00 p.m.