

# Gracegrams

Monthly Newsletter of Grace in the Desert

September 2019



## September – New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:19 – *“Behold, I am doing 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 (ESV)”*

Grace in the Desert is entering a new season as we begin the month of September. Just as baseball is winding down and football is starting, summer break is over and school is beginning, so Grace in the Desert is ending its time at Cher’s house and heading to a new location. We are in the process of finding a location where we can worship and have fellowship/Bible Study and will keep you posted as things move toward resolution.

As I have said before, I know some of you may be worried about the number of moves we are moving. But we are very good at letting people know where we are and as long as they know where to find us, we will be okay. We are encouraged by the fact that Saddleback Church (the church where Rick Warren is pastor) had 79 different locations in the first 15 years of its existence before finally settling on the property where they now worship and serve.

With our move, we will also be going back to a Sunday morning worship time. We will have fellowship/Bible Study time from 9:00 to 9:45. Worship will begin at 10:00, with fellowship after service, as well.

### Mark Your Calendar

**09/07**

Worship

Message:” How to Gain and Keep Self Control”

**09/14**

Bible Study and Message

“Jesus, Reset My Heart”

**09/21**

Bible Study and Message

“Jesus, Reset My Mind”

**09/28**

Bible Study and Message

“Jesus, Reset My Voice”

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## September – New Beginnings Continued

As we move deeper into the Purpose Driven Church process, there may be other new things that we will incorporate – or that will change – based on what we find from our exploration into and determination about the community where we will grow and serve. More about the Purpose Driven Church process in another article ....

As we move into a season of change and new beginnings, it is important to remember that our message will always be the same – Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. We will always stand on the three Solas – Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, and Grace Alone. Our mission and vision will always be to make disciples and be the hands and feet and face of Jesus in our community. We will always rest on Scripture as our final authority and on the leading of God's Holy Spirit for direction – that is what we are called to do....

However, how we deliver that message and live out that vision may change. Just as Luther changed the way the message was delivered during the Reformation so that more people could be brought to Christ, so we must also be willing to change the vehicle and way that we deliver the message so that more and more people may be brought in to the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ. It is our job to sow the seed – it is God's job through the Holy Spirit to bring those seeds to the full bloom of faith.

Let's start September with a new commitment to doing all that God has called us to do wherever He leads us.



## Pastor Ceri's Corner

### SABBATH REST .... LABOR DAY

Genesis 2:1-3: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (ESV)

Are you as convicted as I am when I read this verse from Genesis? God wants us to rest from our labors .... Just as He rested from His work of creation. But how many of us actually take the time to do just that? Every year, as we celebrate Labor Day, I promise myself that I will do better with making time to rest and rejuvenate. But, that promise doesn't ever seem to last very long. There always seems to be something to do – especially right now when we are in the midst of going through the Purpose Driven Church process ... or finding a different place to worship that will fit our needs and our pocketbook ... or looking ahead to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas .... There's always something to do.

But if God took time from His labor, then shouldn't we do the same? God gave us the example of how we should care for ourselves – and, like many things, we don't follow the plan.

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## Pastor Ceri's Corner Continued ...

Sometimes, the only days we take off during the year and when we are on vacation – and then some of us may still find something to work on. We are a Type A Society when that isn't always what God wants from us.

He wants us to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, just as He did on that first Sabbath day those many thousands of years ago. Now, He didn't rest because He had to – He is almighty and all powerful and a lot of other "all's" and He doesn't need to rest. But we are not God ... in case you haven't noticed. 😊

But we are to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. We need to honor the Sabbath. We need to take a rest from our labor, just as God did. He saw His creation and found it very good. We need to look at the fruit of our labor, as well, from a place of relaxation and comfort – of Sabbath rest – so that we, too may see all of God's creation and find it very good. We must take the time to smell the roses, pay honor to our God and all that He has given us. For some of us that is taking a weekly Sabbath rest.... For others of us it means trying to take at least part of a day on the first Monday of September when we have a rest from our work.

In His Abundant Grace and Love,  
😊 Pastor Ceri



## Purpose Driven Church Launch Team Update

The Purpose Driven Church (PDC) Launch Team had another meeting on August 27. We reviewed the PDC Conference that Cher and Pastor Ceri attended. We formulated some slogans (thanks, Peg, for your input), and we determined what some of our next steps are. The demographics gathered and organized by Pastor Ceri were reviewed. While they provided much information, the Team determined that we also need to know about other churches and their denominations in each area of interest. Pastor Ceri will work on that and have it ready for the next meeting. She will also, with input from the team, determine what needs to be completed before we have our first service. We are hoping to have that first service in February, but much will depend on what needs to be done and how quickly it can be accomplished. It may take some time, but we need to do this right – it will be worth the extra time, if needed. The Team will be meeting again on September 23 and October 7.

**Stay Tuned as we  
get closer to our  
Renewal/Relaunch**





## Hungry Kids Update

Pastor Ceri's contact at the elementary school has indicated that there are already two programs providing the type of service that we were hoping to provide for kiddos. In light of that, she will be meeting with her contact to see what else we may be able to do to assist kiddos in the Wittmann area. She will update you all either via email or through the October newsletter to let you know what transpires at that meeting.

In keeping with our mission/vision, it is important that we perform some community service.



## Bible Study and Worship

On September 7, we will complete our sermon series journey through the Fruit of the Spirit by exploring Self Control.

On September 14, we will begin a simultaneous sermon series/Bible study entitled "Reset." To "reset" simply means to set something back to its original purpose and design. Just like you sometimes have to reset your phone or computer when it's not working properly or it gets stuck, you can reset your life to get it running the way God intends—a life full of significance that makes a difference in our world. We can be fulfilled. We can be reset. We can be changed, because Jesus changes everything. Come and see how that can be accomplished ...

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| September 7  | "How to Gain and Keep Self Control"                       |
| September 14 | "Jesus, Reset My Heart"<br><i>It All Starts Here</i>      |
| September 21 | "Jesus, Reset My Mind"<br><i>I Am What I Think About</i>  |
| September 28 | "Jesus, Reset My Voice"<br><i>Good News for Bad Times</i> |

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30