



# Grace Presbyterian Church

"To see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ."

## Update from Pastor Mark Middlekauff

How do we know if a church is "successful" or not? It can be hard to quantify. A church is not like a baseball team in which you can keep track of the wins and losses. Nor is a church like a publicly traded company. There are a number of metrics one can use to quantify if a company is successful. For some, return on investment is a helpful measurement tool. For others it may be a high dividend yield. But what about a church? How can we know if a church is "successful"? Is it the size of the weekly congregation? Size of the budget? We all know that bigger isn't always better. So then, what are the metrics for gauging if a church is doing well? After a few decades of ministry, I've come to see that there is one singular metric by which our Lord evaluates the "success" or faithfulness of all churches – Discipleship.

There are two important reasons why discipleship is the singular metric by which churches are to be assessed. The first reason is that discipleship was the number one priority of Jesus. Jesus disciplined his disciples. Walked with them. Taught them. Challenged them. Encouraged them. Jesus also told them on the night before his death that "as the father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21) And before ascending into heaven, Jesus's last words to his disciples was the command to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) Disciple making is the call upon every church and every Christian. Disciple making is more than evangelism. It is reaching the lost, baptizing them into the church, and then engaging them in purposeful, intimate, life-on-life mentoring.

The second reason why Discipleship is the singular metric of "success" is that it bears fruit in every way. Now some might wish to suggest other metrics for assessing a church. Do its member love others well? Do they serve their community? Are they faithful to attend worship services? Do they give sacrificially with great joy? Do they have a robust theology? Do they have strong leadership? Do they produce the fruit of the Spirit? All of these are good qualities to be found in "successful" churches. But if you ask the question, How do we instill all these qualities in the members of the body, the answer is what? Discipleship! Discipleship is the answer to every area of need in the body of Christ. Where properly pursued, discipleship addresses all the areas of growth that our Lord is looking for in his people. And this is why Jesus said, "Go and make disciples."

I am amazed at how long it took me, a pastor, to realize the priority of discipleship. I lament the years we've lost, but I am thankful the Lord now has us pursuing His great priority. Our GraceGroup discipleship program at Grace Church is such a joy to witness. God is growing us. We are maturing more and more as disciples. And it brings great joy to know that we are pursuing our Lord's number one priority. Discipleship is hard, and we have a long way to go, but thankfully we have our Lord's promise: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Grace & Peace,  
Rev. Mark Middlekauff



Hiking the Seal Trail in Montauk



Guys Night: Bowling



Easter at Grace Church



Christmas Caroling



NOW YOU CAN TAKE  
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WITH YOU.

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## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

May 15, 22nd, June 5th, 12th, and 26th  
to register: email [register@gracehamptons.org](mailto:register@gracehamptons.org)

Leanna Pascual

### Meet Leanna

The Lord guided me, by His grace, through a friend, to start visiting Grace Church around 2015. Then after living for a few months in California, I returned and became a regular attendee and member of Grace Church shortly thereafter. The Lord had really changed my heart to live for him in 2014, so I was newly committed to a life dedicated to the Lord when I first came to Grace Church.

Growing up out here I have had exposure to different churches and different styles of worship. After being guided to a biblically sound church, filled with people who love the Lord and show their love for one another through their actions, I was convinced I could call Grace Church my church home. I have made many true and deep friendships that I treasure here at Grace Church. I have been able to both serve and be ministered to. My life has been overflowing with blessings because of the work that the Lord is doing through my connection to the community at Grace Church. The preaching has greatly edified me and helped me to grow as a young believer. All of the bible studies, discipleship group study, and fellowship have also been ways that the Lord guides me and nourishes me spiritually as He continues to show Himself as the anchor of my life.

I am so thankful to be a part of the music team and youth group. It is a great joy to worship the Lord through music together as a congregation. I am excited to see how the Lord will work in each of the hearts of the younger people as well. It was in the youth group that the seeds of faith were watered in my heart and I know it is such a crucial time. I long to see our seats filled with even more people with worshipful hearts and I am eager to keep seeing the fruit of us as a Church body becoming further transformed into the likeness of Christ each day. Praise God for His wondrous work here at Grace Church!



Adriana Pariz

### Ministry Teams at Grace Church

## GRACE TEAMS



A mission statement defines how we get to where we are going: what we do, for whom we do it, and how we do it. The mission of Grace Presbyterian Church is: "To REACH the lost, BUILD community, GROW disciples, SERVE our neighbors, and in all things WORSHIP God."

These five objectives are of utmost importance to our church and therefore our ministry teams have come from our mission. The REACH team, led by Nate Burns and myself leads our church in efforts to share the gospel boldly and winsomely with those in our community who do not yet know Christ. The BUILD team, led by Ann Bennett and Trish Woicik, leads our church in helping to facilitate deep relationships with others in our church family. The GROW team, led by myself, oversees discipleship (GraceGroups) and spiritual growth at Grace Church. The SERVE team, led by Sharon Kerr and Sally Spanburgh, equips us to bring the compassion and care of Christ to our community. And our WORSHIP team, led by Hannah Faye Huizing, Lisa Haley and Ben Jones, serves our congregation on Sundays by accomplishing every behind-the-scenes and up-front task with joy and excellence.

In addition to these five teams, we also have our Children's Ministry team, led by Debbie Cuthel and Cathy Distefano, and our Youth Ministry, led by Lesley Middlekauff. These teams are the vehicles for effectively accomplishing our vision "to see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ" and it takes the work of the whole church to accomplish such a feat. If you have not yet joined one of our ministry teams, we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so today.

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