

Welcome  
to



**GraceUnion**  
CHURCH

Encountering Grace through Jesus, right where we are.  
Being moved by Grace toward all God has for us.

3900 Union Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125 | [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)  
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# WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

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Thank you for joining us today! If this is your first time with us, please stop by the Connect Center in the lobby for a free gift. We'd love to meet you.

## ***GU SPOTLIGHT***

*Find out more about these events at [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org).*

# **SAFETY TRAINING**

January 13th @ 9am  
GU Elementary Room

If you volunteer in any of the GU Kids areas, we are having a Safety Training day on Saturday, January 13th. All volunteers are urged to attend. Breakfast snacks will be provided. Contact Crystal with any questions at [crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com](mailto:crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com).



Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 24th! We are so excited to start a brand new *Wednesday Night Experience* in the new year! GU Students and Awana Kids will continue their services at 6:30 p.m. More information to come!

# WAYS TO CONNECT



**SUNDAYS @ 10AM**  
Nursery—Elementary



**PRAYER NEEDS**  
Email: [gucprayer@gmail.com](mailto:gucprayer@gmail.com)



**SUNDAYS (Middle School) @ 10:15**  
**WEDNESDAYS (Gr 6-12) @ 6:30PM**



**SUNDAYS @ 9AM**  
Women's Group (Conf. Room B)  
Men's Group (Conf. Room A)

## **CONNECTION CARD**

If you're new to GU, want prayer, or need to update your info, fill out a Connection Card, and put it in the Offering or the Giving Box in the lobby.

## **STAY CONNECTED**



@graceunionstl | #graceunionstl

## **LISTEN ONLINE**



**ONLINE AUDIO**  
[graceunionstl.org/multimedia](http://graceunionstl.org/multimedia)

## **WAYS TO GIVE**



**ENVELOPE**  
Offering/Giving Box




**TEXT TO GIVE**  
314.888.5188



**ONLINE**  
[graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)

# SAVE THE DATES

A calendar page with a pen and a logo. The calendar page is on the left, showing dates from 1/8 to 3/10. A silver pen is lying vertically on the calendar. In the bottom left corner of the calendar page is a logo consisting of a stylized orange and grey swirl.

1/8 Food Addicts Anonymous  
1/13 Ministry Workers Safety Training  
1/18 Keenagers Group (50+)  
1/20 Men's Breakfast  
1/24 Wednesday Night Experience (NEW)  
1/24 Awana Wednesdays (PreK-Elementary)  
1/26 Ladies Night  
2/25 Annual Church Business Meeting  
3/10 Youth Fine Arts Festival

## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

- **Rev. Bob Poley, Lead Pastor**  
*bobpoley78@gmail.com*
- **Rev. Jason Myers, Associate Pastor**  
*jscott5157@gmail.com*
- **Patrick Daniels, Student Ministry Pastor**  
*patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com*
- **Carrie Indelicato, Worship Leader**  
*cindelicato@live.com*
- **Crystal Myers, Early Childhood Director**  
*crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com*
- **Carrie Clifton, Publications & Media**  
*lcclifton@aol.com*

# REDEEM THE TIME: *The Days are Evil*

There are so many things in our lives that we know to be askew.

**Problem: Many times we wait for some Magic Moment in the Future when we think it will be easier to address our issues.**

*Ephesians 5:15-17*

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,  
16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.  
17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

**I. When areas of life are in disarray, Procrastination only further cements them that way.**

- A. God's plan is not for us to be ruled by circumstances, like a boat drifting on a current.
- B. God gives us the Oars and Rudders of wisdom, care, and opportunity so that we can shape and direct our circumstances as we pass through them.
- C. Young's Literal Translation says it like this:

*Ephesians 5:15-16*

15 See, then, how exactly ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise  
16 **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil

- *Redeem*: By payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom.

- D. If we do our part, then God has made a way for the passage of time to improve our circumstances rather than deteriorate them.

**II. Time left to its own will Scatter Opportunity, but God calls us to gather.**

- A. There are 3 key thoughts in this scripture that explain what it looks like to Live in a way that Redeems Time:

- Careful      - Wise      - Understanding the Lord's Will

1) *Be Careful*: In this context "Be careful" means be thoughtful and deliberate in what you are doing and how you are living.

- Don't live a Reactionary life. Be Proactive.

2) Not as Unwise, but as Wise

- There are so many things that you are technically allowed to do, but they are Folly.
- **What we should be asking is, "Based on current circumstances, what is the Wise thing to do?"**
- Wisdom does not ask what it can do or what it is allowed to do.
- **Wisdom asks what would be best to do.**

3) Understand what the Lord's Will Is

- This is living with the understanding that God has a Plan for your life.
  - Sometimes there are many options that could all be good and could all be wise.
  - So from there, there is another step of learning to DISCERN God's direction for specific action in your life.

### **III. God has entrusted so much to our stewardship; it is vital that we make the most of our opportunities.**

- A. That verse tells us to make the most of every opportunity. But what does an opportunity look like?
- B. The key to Redeeming the Time; The Key to your life BEING BLESSED and BEING THE BLESSING God Intends:
- Make the most of the days you are given.