

Welcome

to



**GraceUnion**  
CHURCH

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

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# WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

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Thank you for joining us today! If it's 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 News & Events

### STL SHARP SHOOTER - TODAY

All guys are invited to STL Sharp Shooter right after church TODAY. The cost is **\$45** and includes BBQ lunch on site and all equipment (firearm, ear protection, targets, etc.). *Ammunition purchased separately.* We'll meet you in the lobby.

### WOMEN'S POTLUCK - Friday, 2/1

All ladies are invited to warm up from the cold over a potluck dinner, and enjoy getting to know each other. Bring soup or chili to share. You can sign up in the lobby, or note on a Connection Card and place in the offering. Contact Ashley Daniels at [ashleydaniels1137@gmail.com](mailto:ashleydaniels1137@gmail.com) or 314.403.3821 with any questions.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT EXPERIENCE

The Wednesday Night Experience kicks off THIS WEEK at 6:30 p.m.! There are programs for all ages: Nursery-PreK; Awana for Elementary; GUStudents service for grades 6-12; and adult service will be in the Auditorium with a great time of worship, testimonies, and prayer.



If you are new to GU and would like to know more about us and some of our leaders, we invite you to lunch after service Sunday, February 17th. Please fill out a Connection Card noting Who We Are Lunch, and place it in the offering.



Start collecting items now for our Operation Christmas Child packing party in the fall. February's item is Accessories! Contact Chris Pahner at [craftycrispy@yahoo.com](mailto:craftycrispy@yahoo.com) with any questions about OCC.

# REGIONAL PARTIES



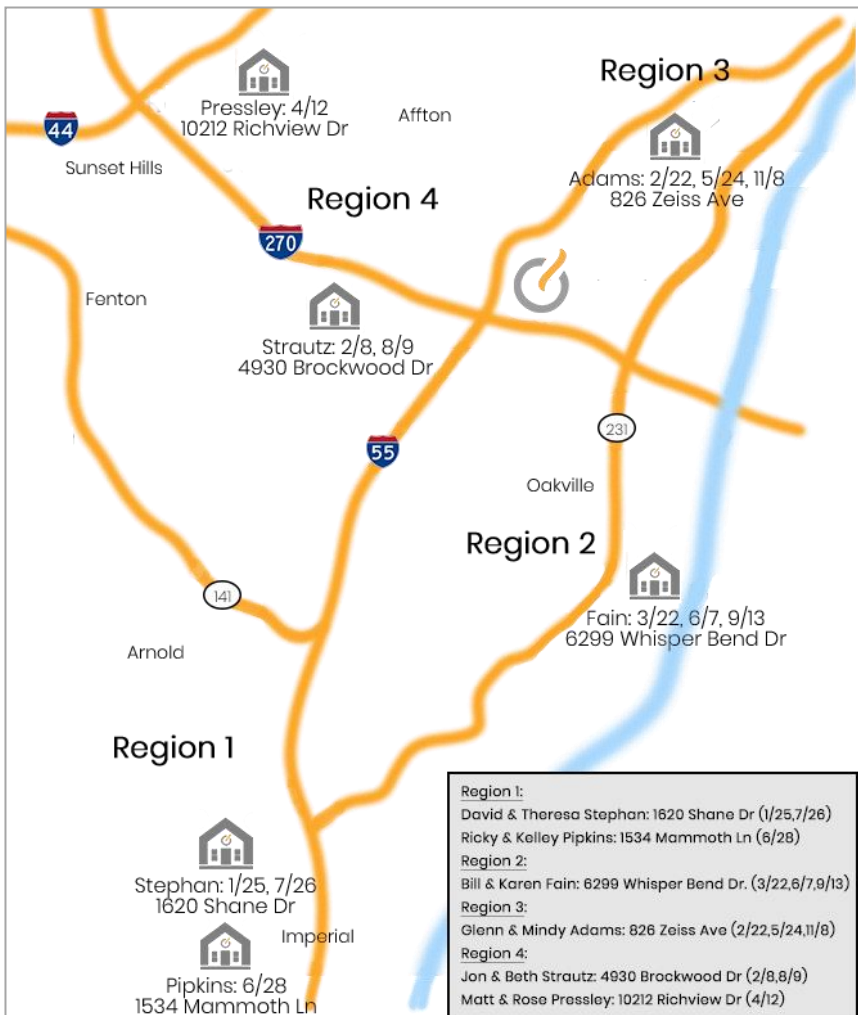
Get to know your GU neighbors with our Regional House Parties! See the map and schedule below to find your Region, host addresses and 2019 dates. Parties begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share if able. If not, that's ok. Don't let that stop you from coming!

## UPCOMING PARTIES:

**Feb 8:** Region 4 - Jon & Beth Strautz

**Feb 22:** Region 3 - Glenn & Mindy Adams

**Mar 22:** Region 2 - Bill & Karen Fain



# Beginner's Guide to Predicting Your Future:

## Part 4 - The Pull

### Review:

- Reality: "Direction Determines Destination"
- Most personal problems cannot be fixed, but they can be avoided.
- Direction, **not Intention**, determines destination
- You don't have to like or totally agree with where Jesus leads, you just have to be willing to trust him enough to follow.

### Problem: We have Desires that generate Strong Emotional Pull.

- We rarely, if ever, Reason our way into regrets.
- Choices that lead to regret tend to be driven by desires with strong emotional pull.

### Story of Peter

- There is a sin called "Selfish Ambition" that was so strong in Peter that when it started pulling on him, he went where it pulled.
- He needed to be seen and heard. He needed to be Somebody. He needed for things to be About Him.

### *Galatians 5:13-24 (Common English Bible)*

- 13 You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love.
- 14 All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.
- 15 But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!
- 16 I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires.
- 17 A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do.
- 18 But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law.
- 19 The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good,
- 20 idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry,
- 21 jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's kingdom.
- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.
- 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires.

## **I. Our Sinful Selfish Desires Possess a Unique Emotional Pull.**

- A. Have you ever wondered why we progress toward things that are not right so quickly and effortlessly; but progress toward good things can feel like rowing a boat upstream?
  - It is because Sinful Selfish Desires are able to use our Emotions like a Motor on a Boat.
- B. The strong emotional pull of the thing keeps us from paying attention to WHERE that is thing is actually taking us.

## **II. The More We Respond to “The Pull” the Stronger its Gravity becomes.**

- A. We become Prisoners to things we once thought Pleasures.

## **III. But we have been Invited into a Life of Freedom.**

- A. In addition to Jesus verbalizing and teaching us the way to go, the Holy Spirit of God is constantly directing us in the way of Jesus.
- B. But because Jesus does not Coerce or Pull the way our Flesh does, it is always our Free Choice whether to walk in the direction of Jesus.
- C. Actively Following the Spirit will keep you out of situations where your flesh is pulling on you.
- D. Following Jesus under the direction of the Holy Spirit looks like:
  - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control
- E. We will never need to artificially limits these things, the way we do our Flesh.

**The Invitation to Follow Jesus under the Prompting of the Holy Spirit is ultimately an Invitation to Freedom and a Future.**

# 2019 PRAY PURSUE PARTY

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Ladies Potluck
- 3 Healthcare Team Meeting
- 8 Regional House Party (Strautz)
- 17 Who We Are Lunch
- 22 Regional House Party (Adams)
- 23 Men's Breakfast
- 24 Water Baptisms/  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
- 4,11,18,25 Food Addicts Anonyms

## MARCH

- 1 TRIVIA NIGHT
- 3 Child Dedication
- 8,9 Fine Arts Festival
- 16 Marriage Event
- 20 GUS students Event
- 22 Regional House Party (Fain)
- 28 Men's Dinner
- 31 21 DAYS OF PRAYER BEGINS
- 4,11,18,25 Food Addicts Anonymous

\* See [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org) or [Facebook.com/graceunionstl](https://www.facebook.com/graceunionstl) for details about these and other GU Events! \*

## WAYS TO CONNECT



**SUNDAYS @ 10AM**  
Nursery-Elementary



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



**SUNDAYS**  
Adults Group @ 9am



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



**6:30pm**  
Nursery Care | PreK/K Awana | Elementary Awana  
Adult Service (Main Auditorium)

## WAYS TO GIVE



**ENVELOPE**  
*Offering/Giving Box*



**TEXT TO GIVE**  
*314.888.5188*



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

## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

- **Rev. Bob Poley, Lead Pastor**  
*[bobpoley78@gmail.com](mailto:bobpoley78@gmail.com)*
- **Rev. Jason Myers, Associate Pastor**  
*[jscott5157@gmail.com](mailto:jscott5157@gmail.com)*
- **Patrick Daniels, Student Ministry Pastor**  
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*[cindelicato@live.com](mailto:cindelicato@live.com)*
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