



PROJECTS FINANCED BY GRACE FINANCIAL

Grace Church of Orange Unveils Long-Awaited Fieldhouse

Grace Church of Orange in Orange, California, has been faithfully serving its community for over 50 years with the mission of being “a Christ-Centered Community, intent on proclaiming the gospel, making disciples, and sacrificially serving Jesus.” Today, that mission is reaching even further thanks to the recent opening of a long-envisioned ministry space—The Fieldhouse.

The story of The Fieldhouse is one of patient vision and God’s provision. When the City of Orange first approved the church campus in November 1967, the plans included a sanctuary capable of holding 650 people. Those original documents remained tucked away at the church until they were rediscovered, just as the Fieldhouse project was nearly complete. The plans for The Fieldhouse began to take shape in recent years through the leadership of Pastor Mike Sciarra and the Grace Church family.

“This space is helping us live out our calling in ways we couldn’t before.”

Originally conceived as an outdoor basketball, volleyball, and tennis court, the project developed into a 7,500-square-foot multi-purpose indoor facility. “We had a variety of visions for the space but didn’t know exactly how God would use it,” shares Keith Bereskin, the church’s Director of Operations. “Now we can see the blessing it’s becoming across almost every ministry of the church.”

A Space for Ministry and Community

Since opening in April 2025, The Fieldhouse has seen consistent use throughout the week—including the church’s ongoing ministries and as well as community groups. Youth and young adult groups regularly meet in The Fieldhouse, while community sports programs use it for practices and competitions. Open Gym has been a consistent event each Monday night, drawing dozens of guests each week throughout the summer. Each Open Gym night for basketball includes a devotional, making it especially meaningful to Pastor Sciarra, who has led the church for 19 years, as God used an open gym event to reach him with the gospel when he was a college student.

In May, Grace Church hosted its first public event in The Fieldhouse—a missions conference with over 200 attendees. In June, Vacation Bible School was in the Fieldhouse, drawing over 250 kids. The gospel was preached, some came to faith, and others asked leaders deeper questions about salvation.

Besides these event-based ministries, long-standing ministry programs are also benefiting. Adventure Club, a weekly children’s discipleship program ministering to over 125 kids, now has indoor space for all the students to utilize, rather than spreading across classrooms and outdoor areas. Prime Timers (age 55+) and the church’s large Spanish-speaking ministry also can utilize the space.

Looking Ahead

In the coming months, The Fieldhouse will host Operation Christmas Child packing events, where 75–100 people can now work together in a single space—something not possible in past years. The church is now considering shifting its Sunday worship services into the Fieldhouse, plus hosting its annual Thanksgiving Praise Gathering and Christmas Eve Services in the new facility.

Grace Church of Orange is a multi-generational family of over 500 adult attendees. Its stability and deep roots in the community have made it a place where people—from newborns to those in their 90’s find belonging, discipleship, and opportunities to serve.

Keith reflects, “The Fieldhouse has already become a tool for the gospel. Whether it’s kids learning about Jesus at VBS, teens inviting friends to Open Gym, or adults serving side-by-side in community projects, this space is helping us live out our calling in ways we couldn’t before.”



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Grace Fellowship's 3rd Space



GraceFTC Opens Its Doors to the Community

When Grace Fellowship Church in Pickerington launched the Lithopolis Campus in August 2023, it did so with a vision to reach the community in new and creative ways. That vision had been growing for years, and on March 1, 2025, it further became a reality with the opening of GraceFTC, short for Grace For The Community, a fully functional seven-day-a-week “third space” where ministry, recreation, and relationship-building happen under one roof.

Housed at the Pickerington Campus, GraceFTC features a rock climbing wall, an indoor playland, a gymnasium, a café, and flexible areas for community events. What began as a church with scheduled weekday activities has grown into a vibrant hub for the community, welcoming thousands of guests each month.

A Space for Everyone

In the first four months, GraceFTC welcomed nearly 5,000 guests. Many of these visitors are not engaged in a church, yet they have found a warm and inviting place to enjoy recreation,

share a meal or coffee, and connect with others. The church is already seeing families engage on Sunday mornings who first encountered the church through GraceFTC.

The space is in regular use by local sports groups, school activities, and families celebrating milestones. Birthday parties have become a natural way for church members to invite friends and neighbors, creating opportunities to build relationships that extend beyond a single event. Local schools have scheduled programs and events with more planned for the coming year.

Ministry in the Everyday

Beyond sports and recreation, GraceFTC has become a place where generosity and ministry flourish in everyday moments. Recently, a “Christmas in July” generosity campaign collected back-to-school supplies with contributions from both church families and guests who learned about the effort while visiting the space.

The café has emerged as a meaningful touchpoint for conversation and hospitality. Guests who have been away from church for years have shared that the environment

feels approachable and welcoming. One visitor remarked, “We cannot believe a church would do something like this for the community.” For many, a first visit to the playland or café has led to new steps of connection.

Looking Ahead

Grace Fellowship is eager to see how GraceFTC will continue to serve as a bridge between the church and the community. The purpose remains clear: to help the church grow, to bless the community, and to provide a place where ministry can flourish in an environment that feels like home.

From a parent watching their child climb the rock wall to students shooting hoops in the gym to neighbors sharing coffee in the café, GraceFTC is living up to its name – serving “for the community” and for the Kingdom.



Welcome Andy Phipps

Andy Phipps joined Grace Financial in March 2025 as Controller, and he brings more than four years of experience from Zimmer Biomet, where he served as a Pricing Analyst focused on strategy development, data modeling, and process improvement. A graduate of Grace College, Andy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, Finance, and Marketing.

In his role, Andy manages Grace Financial's day-to-day financial operations, including accounting, budgeting, reporting, and inter-

nal controls. He also serves on the executive loan committee and provides strategic insight to ensure the ministry's resources are stewarded well.

Andy has a heart for ministry, having served in youth ministry during his time at Winona Lake Grace Church. His time mentoring students has taught him the value of listening with care, particularly during difficult times.

Reflecting on his first months at Grace Financial, Andy says, “God uses so many

different types of people and methods to grow His Church. Life can be stressful, but when you have a good team around you, it makes it a lot more enjoyable.” One of his favorite experiences so far has been visiting churches we serve, including visits to Main Street Church in Chelsea, MI, and Three Creeks Church in Gahanna, OH.

Andy and his wife, Mary, enjoy hands-on projects, spending time outdoors, and especially playing disc golf together.



To learn more about GraceFTC and how you can be part of its impact, scan the QR code or find them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/YourGraceChurch](https://www.facebook.com/YourGraceChurch).



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