



# VALUELINES

OCTOBER 2023



## A Time of Coming Together

Grace Fellowship Church is in Brunswick, Maryland, and is led by Lead Pastor Scott Avey. The church began as a home-based bible study in 2018 with support from Grace Community Church, a Charis Fellowship congregation nearby in Frederick, Maryland.

As the congregation grew, the need for an expanded space became apparent. Grace Fellowship began its next phase by meeting on Sunday mornings in a local elementary school. This space served the community well until COVID lockdowns made the school inaccessible for a period and left Grace Fellowship without a Sunday home.



By 2021, Grace Financial had the opportunity to come alongside the church in helping the leaders prepare for the next steps toward ownership. Their DNA was to be in the community for the community. They wanted to be able to see people in their church in the grocery store – so they were committed to a local parish ministry. They began a search and fundraising to find a property. God provided this in the spring of 2023; allowing them to purchase a 5,000-square-foot building that was originally constructed in 1894. We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to partner with the church through a loan to help them obtain this space.

Purchasing the building was only the beginning of the next chapter. Pastor Scott has described this process as a time of coming together, between the Grace Fellowship church family, the Brunswick community, and especially fellow ministries and churches within the Charis Fellowship.

As an example of this coming together, the church received a significant financial gift from a neighbor outside of the church. This neighbor lives in the community and is excited to see the impact Grace Fellowship will have. Pastor Scott shared, “This gift, among so many more, was truly a blessing in supporting the ongoing renovation activ-

ities that the church began after purchasing the building.”

Beyond financial gifts, the church has received incredible support through manual labor from the church body, friends and family of church attendees, a ministry team from York, Pennsylvania, and an Assist Adventure Team with volunteers from Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. These individuals have supported various projects including demolition, rotating the sanctuary for better function, hanging TVs, and replacing seating.

The leaders of Grace Fellowship Church see the building as a tool to disciple others. Within weeks, this was evident through local and remote volunteers. It is exciting to see the work that has already begun in Brunswick, Maryland.

Grace Fellowship has enjoyed serving the community through community service projects during the Labor Day weekend. With the new home, Grace Fellowship was able to host a neighborhood Block Party for the community as part of the ministry weekend!

*To learn more about the church and its ongoing ministry to Brunswick, Maryland, including the recent Block Party, check out its website at [gracefellowship.church](http://gracefellowship.church)*

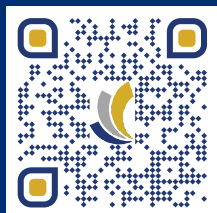


# Go Farther Together

Grace Financial has a long-standing tradition of giving back to the Charis Fellowship. We take great joy in being able to invest in the ministries of the Charis Fellowship through our annual contributions.

In order to amplify our impact, we recently launched a Church Planting and Leadership Development Fund. We are inviting you to join us in financial support as we believe we can do more together. We have secured commitments for matching gifts totaling \$25,000 if you give this year.

Additionally, beginning this year, membership in our organization will in part be determined based on individuals who have given at least \$25 to our Church Planting and Leadership Development Fund. Our board of directors is elected by the voting members of our corporation, so a gift through us means that you can have a voice in the future of Grace Financial.

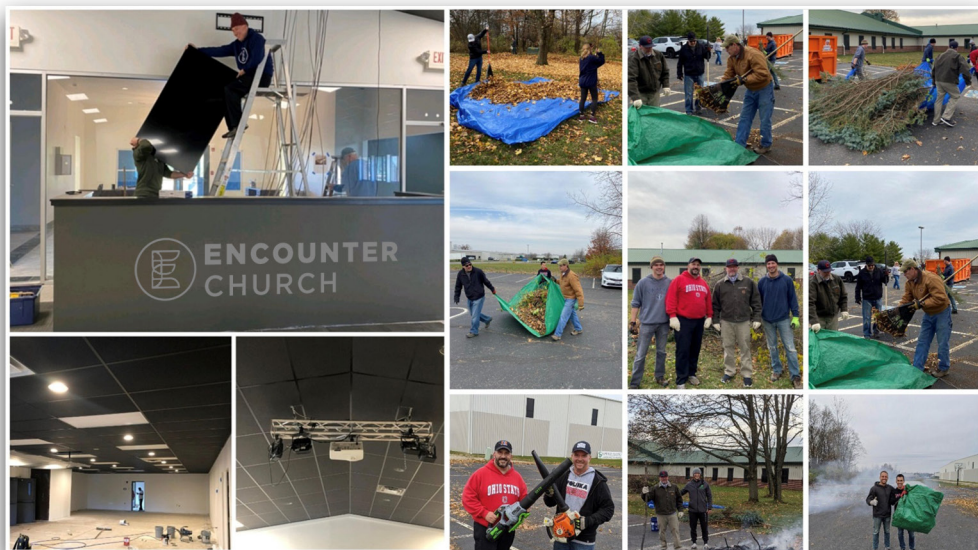


To learn more about the fund and the impact of your contribution, please visit our website at [gracefin.org/give](https://gracefin.org/give) or scan this QR code to go directly there.



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## A Place of Encounter

Encounter Church is in Plain City, Ohio, on the Northwest side of Columbus. The church began in 2008 and has been led by Teaching Pastor Bacho Bordjadze since 2018. In a familiar story in early 2020, Encounter Church was impacted by COVID restrictions which limited its ability to meet in person due to rules imposed by the school where it was renting.

The Encounter Church leadership team began pursuing a more permanent home which led them to a unique property. Prior to the arrival of Encounter Church in December 2020, this building was used as a Hindu Temple where festivals were regularly held in the space.

Upon signing a lease for the space, the church launched a campaign for renovations and began its ministry in the building with a redemptive time of prayer. During 2022, Encounter Church first reached out to Grace Financial to discuss opportunities to proceed with the purchase of the building. In June 2023, it was a pleasure to be able to partner with Encounter Church in the completion of the purchase of the building, establishing the space as its permanent church home.

God's hand on the timing of this purchase has been evident as the church has seen incredible growth over the last year which has resulted in an opportunity to consider further updates. Encounter Church has seen opportunities to further minister to the Plain City and Dublin communities, particularly through young family ministries. This year, the church hosted its first Vacation Bible School and regularly hosts small groups with childcare which has drawn new families to worship with Encounter Church. Pastor Bordjadze shared that, "having the ministry resources in place to reach the people where they are is of utmost importance to the church's ability to live out its ministry to the community."

Looking forward, the church is eager to see what God has in store for the growing ministry to the Plain City and Dublin neighborhoods!

To keep up with the latest news from Encounter Church, check out their website at [encountercolumbus.com](https://encountercolumbus.com)

