



THE 6TH ANNUAL

Winter Retreat

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1, 2026

PROGRAM

The Christian Life in a
HOSTILE CULTURE



Lake Swan Camp
647 FL-26, Melrose FL, 32666

gracegainesville.org/winterretreat2026

Welcome Letter

Dear Grace Bible Church Family,

It is my great joy to welcome you to the 2026 Grace Bible Church Winter Retreat. We are thankful that the Lord has provided this opportunity for us to step away from the normal rhythms of life and gather at Lake Swan Camp for a weekend of spiritual encouragement, fellowship, and refreshment.

This year's theme, "The Christian Life in a Hostile Culture," is both timely and necessary. We live in a world that increasingly opposes the truth of God's Word and the lordship of Jesus Christ. Yet Scripture reminds us that God has called us to live faithfully, courageously, and distinctly in the midst of such opposition. Over the course of our five sessions together, we will open God's Word and consider how we are to think, live, and stand firm as followers of Christ. It is my prayer that each session will strengthen your faith, deepen your convictions, and encourage your heart.

In addition to our teaching times, this retreat is designed to cultivate meaningful fellowship within the body of Christ. You will have opportunities to enjoy time with your family, engage in outdoor activities, and experience the peaceful setting the Lord has provided at Lake Swan. In the evenings, we

will gather around the campfire for conversation, laughter, worship, and mutual encouragement. These informal moments often become some of the most memorable and spiritually meaningful aspects of our time together.

Please also note that our Sunday morning worship service will be held at Lake Swan Camp. This will allow us to conclude our retreat by worshiping the Lord together as one unified body. Even those who are not attending the full retreat have been invited to join us for our Sunday morning service and lunch. Our prayer is that this weekend will not only provide rest and refreshment, but also equip you to live faithfully for Christ in the places He has called you. May the Lord use this retreat to strengthen our church, deepen our love for one another, and conform us more fully to the image of Christ. Keith and I are praying for each of you and are grateful for the privilege of serving you. We look forward to the rich fellowship and spiritual growth the Lord has in store for us.

In Christ,
Pastor Brandon
Grace Bible Church

Winter Retreat Schedule

Friday, February 27

- 04:00 PM Check-In at the Old Chapel
- 06:00 PM Dinner at the Graham Chapel Dining Room
- 07:00 PM Break
- 07:30 PM First Session at the Old Chapel | Pastor Brandon Phillips
"The Christian Life in a Corrupted Culture"
- 08:30 PM Fellowship and Board Games in the Game Room

Saturday, February 28

- 07:30 AM Breakfast at the Graham Chapel Dining Room
- 08:30 AM Second Session at the Old Chapel | Pastor Keith Kemp
"The Christian Life in a Hyper-Political Culture"
- 09:30 AM Break
- 09:45 AM Breakout Sessions at the Old Chapel
Men of Courage | "Becoming a Man Who Doesn't Shrink Back"
Women of Wisdom | "Flourishing in a World That Rejects Biblical Womanhood"
- 11:00 AM Lake Swan Game Room
- 11:45 AM Lunch at the Graham Chapel Dining Room
- 01:00 PM Tubing and Canoes
- 02:00 PM Archery
- 03:00 PM Free Time until Dinner | Volleyball, Basketball, and Miniature Golf
- 05:45 PM Dinner at the Graham Chapel Dining Room
- 07:00 PM Fourth Session at the Old Chapel | Discussion Q&A
- 08:30 PM Campfire Hymn Sing with Emily Lòpez

Winter Retreat Schedule

Sunday, March 1

- 07:30 AM Breakfast at the Graham Chapel Dining Room
- 09:30 AM Check-out and Turn in Keys at the Old Chapel
- 10:30 AM Coffee and Fellowship at the Old Chapel
- 11:00 AM Fifth Session at the Old Chapel | Pastor Brandon Phillips
"Persevering in Hope When the Culture Turns Against You"
- 12:15 PM Group Photo at the Old Chapel Front Steps
- 12:30 PM Lunch at the Graham Chapel Dining Room
- 01:30 PM Departure

**“But he must ask in faith, doubting nothing,
for the one who doubts is like the
SURF OF THE SEA
driven and tossed by the wind.”
James 1:6**

Worship Schedule

We will use the Grace Bible Church Hymnal for the entirety of the retreat with the exception of the two songs provided below.

Session One

Come Christians Join to Sing (1)
Show Us Christ (242)
It is Well (71)

Session Two

All Creatures of Our God and King (5)
Give Me Jesus (233)
Jesus, We Wait for You
(Special Music | Emily Lòpez)

Session Four

Come Thou Fount (16)
How Great Thou Art (34)
He Will Hold Me Fast (62)

Campfire Hymn Sing



Sunday Morning Worship Service

Order Of Worship

Call to Worship - Daniel 3

His Mercy is More (Lyrics Below)

Behold Our God (19)

Ancient of Days (Lyrics Below)

Session Five | "Persevering in Hope When the Culture Turns Against You"

Pastor Brandon Phillips

Mercies of Christ (Special Music)

Be Thou My Vision (208)

Benediction

“Know this, my beloved brothers. But everyone must be quick to hear, *SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO ANGER;* for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”

James 1:19-20

His Mercy is More

Chorus

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea, without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Chorus

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Chorus

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Chorus

Ancient of Days

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King reigning over all
So I will not fear, for this truth remains
That my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne, it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me, I am not alone
Oh, His love is sure, and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Saviour King
Then my joy complete, standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Chorus X2

Session One

"The Christian Life in a Corrupted Culture"

James 1:1-8

In this passage, we will find five timeless principles for Christian living. Being a Christian:

Does Not Deliver Us from Difficult Circumstances (1)

Means We Must Adopt God's Perspective on Our Trials (2-4)

Means We Find Wisdom for Living in God Through His Word (5)

Means We Must Live By Faith in God and His Word (6)

Means We Must Eradicate All Wordly Thinking (6-8)

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Session Two

""The Christian Life and Politics""

In this session, we will answer four crucial questions to determine how we should view politics and government as Christians in a hostile culture.

Who instituted Government?

Why was Government instituted?

What role did politics play in our Lord Jesus' life?

How should we view politics and government as we live out the Christian life in a hostile culture?

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Session Three | Breakout

Men of Courage

Becoming a Man Who Doesn't Shrink Back

Women of Wisdom

Flourishing in a World That Rejects Biblical
Womanhood

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Session Four

Discussion and Q&A

Pastors Brandon Phillips & Keith Kemp

Questions and Notes

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Session Five

"Persevering in Hope When the Culture Turns Against You"

James 1:19-27

Persevering in Hope When the Culture Turns
Against You Means:

Responding with Controlled Humility (19–20)

Receiving the Word with Submissive Meekness (21)

Obeying the Word with Active Faithfulness (22–25)

Demonstrating Faith Through Controlled Speech (26)

Living Out Counter-Cultural Righteousness (27)

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LAKE SWAN CAMP Campus Map



Lake Swan
Camp
Entrance

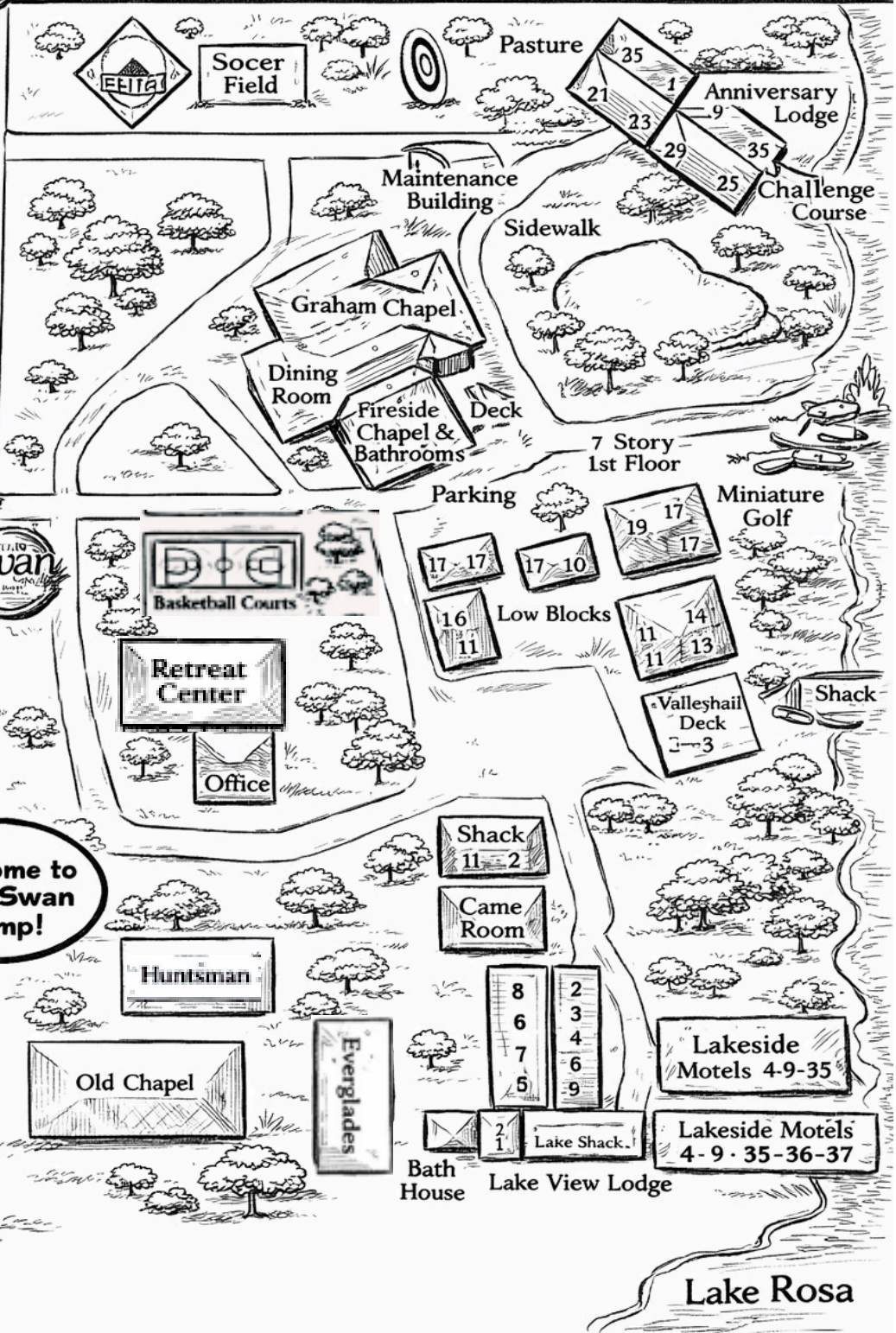
Camp Sites
RV Hookups



Bath House



Welcome to
Lake Swan
Camp!



Lake Rosa

LAKE SWAN CAMP

Rules & Biblical Guidelines

Grace Bible Church Gainesville has agreed to observe the following rules set forth by Lake Swan Camp (LSC).

1. Use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
2. Use of tobacco, in any form, is prohibited.
3. Weapons, including firearms and fireworks, are prohibited.
4. Open flames are prohibited outside of LSC's fire ring and fireplace.
5. All music must be family/child appropriate, i.e., no profanity or provocative lyrics. LSC reserves the right to approve/disapprove of any music played while on site.
6. Waterfront:
 - Modest bathing suits are required.
 - May only be used when a Certified Lifeguard is on duty.
 - Canoes may only be used under direct supervision of an adult.
 - Boaters and those using canoes must always wear a life jacket.
7. Quiet times are from 11:00pm to 7:00am.
8. Silly String is prohibited.
9. Buildings and grounds are to be kept litter free and clean of debris and personal items.
10. Co-ed rooms are not permitted, except for married couples.
11. Damages caused will be the responsibility of the group. Please inform GBC Leadership if something breaks.

