



Church Plant Prospectus

Grace Community Church

Gurley, Alabama

● Launching 2023 ●



Meet the Team

Josh Evans

Lead Pastor

Josh is an Alabama native and grew up in the Birmingham area. He and his family moved to Huntsville in 2021. Josh has been in ministry for nearly 20 years serving the local church. Josh received his Master of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In his spare time Josh enjoys music, sports, and the outdoors.

Josh has been married to his wife Amelia for 15 years and together they have 3 children: Reid, Haddon, and Molly Ruth. Josh is excited to serve the community of Gurley and looks forward to what God is going to do in this city.

Nick Damron

Associate Pastor

Nick grew up in Ohio. He and his wife Meaghan moved to Huntsville in 2013. They began serving with Graces of Gurley in 2014. Feeling the need to plug in deeper to the community, they moved to Gurley in 2020. Nick and Meaghan have four children: Gabriel, Bentley, Imogen, and Oliver. They live with Meg's mother, Marsha, on a small homestead.

Eli Walton

Worship Pastor

Eli grew up in the Shoals and moved to Huntsville in 2017. He began leading worship in High School at Excel Baptist Church. After moving to Huntsville, he led worship at Rivertree Church for 4 years. While living in Auburn for college, he led worship for First Baptist Opelika college ministry and FUGE camps.

Mission

We exist to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, form gospel community, and display gospel courage with the world.

Values

We are for Gurley.

We will seek the good of our community because we understand through circumstance and calling, God has placed Gurley before us. We want to engage Gurley with the Gospel to see life changes within the residents, and begin to build life-giving communities, businesses, and civic institutions that testify to God's Glory and Salvation

We are passionate about community change.

We know that Gurley is a struggling and dying community, but we know that the gospel redeems fully. We we not only will see the salvation of individuals, but of the community. The Gospel and Churches produce better citizens that lead to better communities. We pray and believe that as the church engages the community, the need for social ministries will dwindle and ultimately the church will, as God designed, fill the gap.

We are one family of believers.

We know that currently, we do not represent the demographic that is downtown, Gurley. As scripture informs us, under Christ we are one people, and we desire to be a church that represents the community around us. We pray that our Sunday gathering will represent the community over time and that we will unify as one church despite our differences. We will be a people covenanted together for the good of one another, Gurley, and the world.

Why Gurley?

Growth:

Gurley is a suburb of Huntsville, Alabama, located just 20 minutes from the city center. Madison County growth is now limited by neighboring city, county and state borders to the north, west, and south, leaving the next area of major growth to be east of the city of Huntsville. With its location, Gurley is poised to see incredible growth over the next 5 to 10 years, with new factories and job opportunities within Gurley itself, and within neighboring Huntsville. It is difficult to accurately predict growth in Gurley, but if the growth of Huntsville and Madison County is an indicator, one should also expect Gurley to continue to grow. This will bring many people of different faith backgrounds and worldviews to the area. This makes new church growth essential to meet the rising population and spirituality of the growing community.

Lostness:

Some data shows that 49% of Gurley residents do not claim any religion as their own, as compared to the state average of 12% not claiming any religious affiliation. These statistics coupled with a lack of Gospel-Centered Churches in Gurley makes planting Grace Community Church essential to the city and its people. Our challenge will be honoring the existing churches, so as not to create a sense of competition, while preaching the Gospel to a lost community.

Families:

Gurley is a blue-collar community that sits below the poverty line. According to one study, the average median income in Gurley is around \$26,875 per household. The citizens of Gurley have embraced their identity as a small town with a rich history and love showing southern hospitality. This can present a challenge to Gospel ministry, as many believe in a cultural Christianity that is based on good morals and hard work.

Timeline

Gather:

November 2022 - March 2023

- Establish Core Team and partner with Graces of Gurley events to begin making connections within the community of Gurley.
- Founding Elders will complete training.

Easter Sunday, 2023

- First Preview Service held at the Gurley Recreation Center

Grow:

April 2023 - July 2023

- Continue to partner with Graces of Gurley events to establish a presence within the community.
- Bi-weekly, Sunday evening gatherings for the Core Plant Team members to unify them in the vision of Grace Community Church.
- Bi-weekly, Sunday evening fellowships to be held at the Gurley Recreation Center that are open to the community.
- Appoint and train an additional 3-5 elders.

Launch:

August 6, 2023

- Covenant Service with Core Plant Team

August 13, 2023

- First community worship service as Grace Community Church

Budget Overview

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Team Expenses	\$73,000	\$88,000	\$100,000
Facility Expenses	\$9,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Ministry/ Operational Expenses	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$48,000
Outreach/ Missions	\$33,000	\$35,000	\$50,000
Start Up Costs	\$15,000	-----	-----
Savings	\$18,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
Total Budget	\$180,000	\$195,000	\$243,000

Expense Breakdown

Team Expenses: Staff salaries & benefits, staff enrichment

Faculty Expenses: Worship, meeting, & office space rent/utilities, storage

Ministry/Operations Expenses: Ministry resorces and programming, insurance, office supplies, printing, marketing, etc

Outreach/Missions: Community service, outreach events, benevolence, church planting & missionary support

Start Up Costs: sound equipment, covered trailer, signage, website development, children's ministry equipment, etc.

Savings: To be used in years 4 and 5 to lessen the impact of the loss of external support

Next Steps

God has already provided several key partners on this journey.
Our prayer is that you would consider helping.



- Pray God softens the heart of the people of Gurley.
- God provides strength, energy, and wisdom for the plant team.
- God's people are raised up to serve along side the church.



- Commit to pray for us regularly.
- Become a monthly financial supporter.
- Extend a one-time financial gift to Grace Community Church.



- Become a covenant member of Grace Community Church.
- Become a financial supporter.
- Volunteer at one of our community events.

We are so thankful for the Kingdom minded partners that God has already provided and we invite you to join us on this journey.

- Rivertree Church
- The Pillar Network
- International Mission Board
- Madison Baptist Association
- Willowbrook Church
- The Brook, Madison
- Hopewell Baptist Church
- Enon Baptist Church
- The Mill Church
-
-
-