

# Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 1

Saturday, April 17



**Wildcat Hollow**

**Photo Credit: Steve Bettencourt**

As we struggle with the understanding of God's grace in our lives we must let go of our strict definitions of fairness and understand the idea of "gift". God has a habit (pattern) of gifting us with things we don't deserve. Walking through a monotonous time, filled with drudgery, we turn a corner and suddenly find a field full of beautiful wildflowers! They could be actual wildflowers or just something surprisingly beautiful, nevertheless, it was undeserved. Was it fair to the rest of humanity that we encountered this beauty? Possibly not, but what if we shared it with others through storytelling and gifting them with something beautiful?

God's abundant grace is not just for us individually, but for us collectively. And in receiving God's grace we are perfectly suited to pass it on. Not so that we can earn something from God, but so that we can demonstrate our gratitude to God by blessing God's other children.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10*