
THE LIVING GRACE NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

May 2024

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In the Light

Stories of faith from the people of Living Grace

Sought After by God:

Janelle McKelvey

I feel humbled and blessed to be able to share with you what God has done in my life. Revelation 12:11a says, "They conquered him (Satan) by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony..." Sometimes I feel

like my testimony is not very powerful. It is how God reached me, but I wonder if others could be moved by what He's done? The verse above reminds me that it isn't my place to say if it is useful, but to be obedient and share it. My story began with a loving family, my Mom, Dad, and three brothers. My parents made sure God was a part of our lives. I enjoyed listening to Christian radio programs with my mom, attending VBS, going to Sunday school and attending Jr. church here as I grew up. I was blessed with many wonderful teachers and I knew a lot about the stories of the Bible. All of that helped me to be a good girl, but being good, isn't enough. In 3rd grade, however, a friend invited me to a mid-week program at her church. At this church I heard for the first time the term, "being born again." I remember sitting there, not quite understanding what they were saying, but feeling like I should go forward to pray. Though I didn't fully understand what I was doing, I believe that God honored my simple act of worship that day and in the years to come. As I grew older God used youth group, church retreats, and our wonderful church family to help me grow in my faith. I was by no means perfect. I chose the wrong guys to date. I hung out with friends that did not point me to Jesus. I followed the crowds when I knew God desired better for me. After dating the wrong guy for way too long, God let me know that He had a plan and this person was not in it. Thankfully God spoke loud enough that I couldn't deny it. I feel blessed, that while I was taking steps in obedience to end the relationship, God was already working out His perfect plan for marriage for me. The plan involved Randy Janson, who is a great match maker (in case you didn't know) and a guy named Mike. He started attending Living Grace (Fohl) in hopes of growing closer to God and to meet a girl Randy had mentioned a time or two.

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The Bulletin Board

Fairless Food Cupboard

The Fairless Food Cupboard is always taking donations of any nonperishable items, but for the month of May we are focusing on dry beans and paper towels, as well as any nonperishable food items.

Operation Christmas Child

We are collecting items each month for Operation Christmas Child. For the month of May, we are asking for hygiene items such as washcloths and bars of soap. We are also asking for 10" stuffed toys as the "WOW" gift. Toothbrushes and washcloths are needed every month as well. Thank you!!

An Hour of Prayer

The prayer group meets on Thursday at 10:00am. Together, we share scriptures, devotions, joys, concerns, and experiences. We laugh, cry and sometimes even sing together! More important, as we pray, we are growing in a closer relationship with God and as a family in the body of Christ. Please join us, and experience God's grace together. We hope you are able to join us!!!!

Communion Schedule

Below is the Communion Steward Schedule for 2024.

5/26=Mark & Toni Derus

6/30=TaJuana West

7/28=Ashley Lynch

8/25=Russ & Arbie Mathias

9/29=Mark & Toni Derus

10/27=TaJuana West

11/24=Ashley Lynch

12/24=Mark & Toni Derus

12/29=Russ & Arbie Mathias

(Please contact Toni Derus if you need to reschedule)

The Widow's Ministry

The Widow's Ministry is in the start up phase of serving so if you or anyone you know is in need of any kind of help please contact Tim Mihal or the church office. This could be anything as simple as grocery pick up, raking leaves, seasonal decorating to the big things like housework, laundry, home projects or repairs. Please let us know if we can be of service to anyone.

The 30/40 small group

We're a group looking to pursue God and do life together with other couples in their 30/40s in similar life stages (with or without children). If interested, please text/call Gabe Kukuk @ 330-936-2787 We will be meeting on Sunday May 5th at 5pm and again on Sunday May 19th at 5pm. If you missed our first gathering, please come to the next. We would love to have you!

Upcoming Church Events

May church event:

* Saturday May 4th starting at 5pm we are going to have a gathering at the church where we will be eating haystacks and playing team/trivia type games.

* May 16, 17, 18th will be the Navarre Garage sale that the church will be participating in.

September church event:

* Church picnic September 8th with worship service and baptism at the Denney's home. Covered dish. Worship starting at 10am.

More events for later in the year will be coming soon but for now these are the events we hope you all will participate in. They are such fun events to come and eat, fellowship and laugh at. Hope to see you all there!

Christian Education Updates:

* Evelyn and the kids have been very busy in KIDZ Church working on Mother's Day Gifts! We want to thank the youth kids and all of the parent volunteers who have been helping us out. We are so excited to share with everyone what we have been working on, on Mother's Day Sunday!

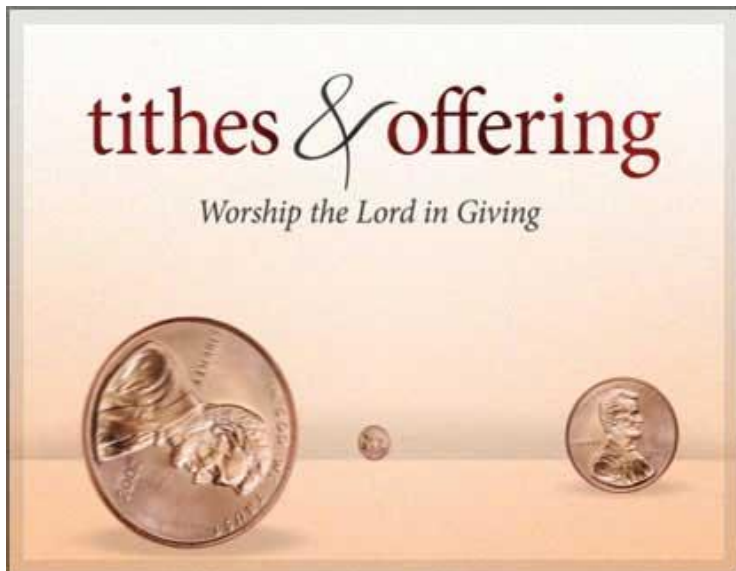
* Evelyn has decided to teach KIDZ Church all year long! So, there will be KIDZ church this summer, and from here on out. Evelyn will be getting some breaks this summer and there will be other adults teaching on those Sundays, but we are so blessed Evelyn has made the decision to keep it all year long. She has really stepped up for our kids and has taken such ownership of KIDZ Church. There is a new curriculum for Evelyn to follow that will start in May. The curriculum is called *ROOTS: Giving kids strong roots in Jesus*. We are so excited for this new curriculum. It has music, lessons, memory verses, games, bible skill drills and so much more. We are so happy that our children are going to grow strong ROOTS in Jesus.

* The last day for Sunday School before Summer Break is Sunday the 19th. I want to thank all of our Sunday School Teachers for all of their hard work in planning, preparing, and leading our church family further into their walk with Jesus. ***You are appreciated more than you know! 😊***

* Be on the lookout for a new Christian Ed. Bulletin Board that will show all things Christian Education! This will include announcements, pictures, a prayers and praise section, Take What You Need, Sign-ups and just information in general we want you all to know about.

* Thank you for taking the time to read our update and helping our children grow in faith!

-Mariah Ricker
Christian Ed. Director



Stewardship Report...

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Date | 3/31/24 | Date | 4/7/24 |
| Attendance | P- 149 OL- 36 | Attendance | P- 98 OL - 46 |
| Offering | \$4,556.93 | Offering | \$6,020.66 |

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Date | 4/14/24 | Date | 4/21/24 |
| Attendance | P- 108 OL- 32 | Attendance | P - 81 OL- 49 |
| Offering | \$4,844.94 | Offering | \$2,884.66 |

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Date | 4/28/24 |
| Attendance | P – 77 OL - 20 |
| Offering | \$3,669.64 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Total Operating Expenses: | \$ 209,560.00 |
| Finances Needed Per Week: | \$ 4,352.45 |

Special thanks to Cadyn & Jenna McKelvey who do our church sign out front. Jen Troyer & Nicole Denney who do all the bulletin boards in the church. You all do a **WONDERFUL JOB!!!**

Weekly Sermons can be accessed on our Facebook page as well as the church YouTube channel.

- Those Serving our church in March.....**
- May Media Technicians**
 5/5 David Denney 5/12 Jason Everhart
 5/19 Alex Denney 5/26 Tyler Lautzenheiser
- May Door Watch**
 5/5 Morris Chaney 5/12 Russ Mathias
 5/19 Justin Bender 5/26 Paul Werstler
- May Scripture Reader**
 5/5 Phil Glasgow 5/12 Dave Denney
 5/19 Russ Mathias 5/26 Gabe Kukuk
- May Kidz Church Helpers**
 5/5 Jada & Hunter Miller 5/12 Family Worship
 5/19 Mariah Ricker
- May K-3 S.S. Teacher –** Linda Bender & Naomi Petroff
- May Greeter –** Hope Hayden
- May Ushers –** Dave Denney, Rosi Jones, Russ Mathias (alt. Persephone Luckring)
- May Card Ministry –** Jane Miller
- May Communion Stewards –** Mark & Toni Derus

missions

our backyard and beyond



*May Mission offering
A call to give generously
Miracle Offering - Annual Conference 2024

Dear Friends, Greetings in the name of Jesus!

As I announced last year at the close of our convening conference, we are once again asking our churches, clergy, and lay members to participate in a Miracle Offering during annual conference this May.

The Transitional Leadership Council has asked, and our Conference Council has agreed, to enter a mission partnership with the approximately 100 congregations and pastors in the Kenya-Ethiopia Conference. They are doing the same thing we've done in the last year—starting a conference for a new denomination—but they are doing it in a world where the average wage is \$1 a day. They need our help.

Our conference budget includes \$100,000, which will provide the support needed to pay for the salary of the President Pro Tempore, the Conference office in Nairobi, and the costs for their annual conference gathering.

Our Miracle Offering for 2024 will go toward meeting some immediate needs related to our Annual Conference Mission Partnership with the Kenya-Ethiopia Conference. Rev. Wilton Odongo, the President Pro-Tempore, and his leadership have a pressing need for the following:

- 6 motorcycles—these will be used by the Presiding Elders to itinerate in their circuits. The cost of each motorcycle is \$1,500 for a total of \$9,000
- 1 used SUV vehicle to be used by the President Pro Tempore to give him dependable transportation as he itinerates across the country. Persons familiar with Kenya testify this is an absolute necessity. The cost for a used SUV is estimated to be \$35,000.
- Provide the mandatory classes in Global Methodist History, Polity, and Doctrine that 50 pastors in Kenya need to take before they can be ordained next year. The total estimated cost of providing the class for 50 clergy (which includes transportation, tuition, books, lodging, food, and registering the school with the country of Kenya) is \$50,000.

Our Kenya-Ethiopia Mission Partnership Team would also like to develop an escrow of at least \$50,000 to help bridge the gap of needs until we can build the partnership between the circuits in Allegheny West and Kenya-Ethiopia.

So—our Miracle Offering Goal is \$150,000. I believe this is attainable. I've already been informed by three small churches that they've raised enough to pay for a motorcycle each. Another church I know designated 100% of their Easter offering for the Miracle Offering. Another church is collecting coins during lent to help pay for a motorcycle. I know of a small group that's decided to provide at least \$300 to help pay for a pastor's education.

I encourage you to give your congregation the opportunity to give above and beyond your normal giving toward this offering.

God bless you in advance for your generosity!

GROUP 412

KNOW | LIVE | LOVE

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12*

LIVING GRACE YOUTH MINISTRY

livinggracecc.org/youth | youth@livinggracecc.org

As a reminder, We are planning a Youth Room workday on Saturday May 11th from 4-8pm. The goal is to clean, organize and paint. We will have dinner

We are starting a new teaching series called Everything Everywhere, which is a series about what to do when the stresses of life just feel like a lot. Throughout the series, students will be reminded that God cares for them, God uses other people to help them, and that joy is always a choice.

Please complete the medical & permission form. This form is necessary to participate in various youth activities (including Alive Festival). To access the form, please click the following link: [Medical & Permission Form](#)

News & Announcements

- On Sunday May 19th, the Youth will have a potato bar fundraiser (monetary donation) for Alive Festival. We're asking the Youth to provide cheddar cheese, sour cream, butter, sloppy joes, bacon, green onions, salsa, jalapenos, broccoli.
- If any Youth wants sponsorship for the Mission Trip, please talk to Gabe.
- Group412 is going to Alive Music Festival from Thursday July 18th through Sunday (morning) July 21st. If you are interested in attending, please let Gabe know as soon as possible.
- There is an updated meal signup sheet for 2024 if you are interested in supporting us by providing food for our activities. The signup sheet can be accessed by clicking the following link: [Meal Signup](#) (or you can talk to Gabe)

[SERIES OVERVIEW]

TITLE: Everything Everywhere

SERIES BOTTOM LINE: What to do when life just feels like a lot.

WEEK 1: When you're carrying a lot, remember that God cares a lot.

WEEK 2: God uses other people to help us when we're stressed.

WEEK 3: When everything is everywhere, joy is always a choice.

CONTACT INFO

Gabe Kukuk 330-936-2787 (call or text)

livinggracecc.org/youth

youth@livinggracecc.org

*To join Youth Communications (email or GroupMe App) send an email to the above

We are planning a Youth Room workday on Saturday May 11th from 4-8pm. The goal is to clean, organize and paint. Dinner will be provided.

On Sunday May 19th, the Youth will have a potato bar fundraiser (monetary donation) for Alive Festival. We're asking the Youth to provide cheddar cheese, sour cream, butter, sloppy joes, bacon, green onions, salsa, jalapenos, broccoli.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

livinggracecc.org/youth | youth@livinggracecc.org

GROUP412 SNAPSHOT

MAY

- Sun. (5/5), 6-7pm: Bible Study
- Sat. (5/11), 4-8pm: Youth Room Work Day
- Sun. (5/19), 6-7pm: Bible Study
- Sun. (5/19), 10:30am: Potato Bar Fundraiser
- Sat. (5/25), 5:30-8:30pm: Youth Night
- Fri. (5/31), 6-8pm: End of School Party

JUNE

- Sun. (6/2), 6-7pm: Bible Study
- Sun. (6/9), 6-7pm: Bible Study
- Sun. (6/16) – Sat. (6/22), Mission Trip
- Sat. (6/29), 5:30-8:30pm: Youth Night



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm *Worship Service | 2 Prayer Group 10am | 3 B – Jeremy Lynch | 4 Haystack Dinner with Trivia 5pm |
| 5 Worship 9:30 Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 30/40 Group 5pm B – Lily Denney | 6 | 7 | 8 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm B – Jaxon Bender | 9 Prayer Group 10am | 10 B – Jada Miller | 11 |
| 12 Worship 9:30 Sunday School (all ages) 10:45  | 13 B – Dolores Gerycz | 14 Trustee Meeting 6pm B – Jayla Bender | 15 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm *Worship Service B – Blake Hess | 16 Prayer Group 10am Garage Sale | 17 Garage Sale | 18 Garage Sale |
| 19 Worship 9:30 Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 30/40 Group 5pm B – Rayanne Huntsman | 20 | 21 Christian Education Meeting 6pm B – Jenna Pumneo, Clay Janson | 22 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm | 23 Prayer Group 10am B – Dave Denney, Abbey Kling | 24 | 25 B – Jason West |
| 26 Worship 9:30 Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 | 27 | 28 Administrative Board Meeting 6pm | 29 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm *Worship Service B – Phil Glasgow | 30 Prayer Group 10am B- Ben Everhart, Deana Sherwood | 31 B – Kaylee Pavlik, Jeannie Janson | |

In the Light

Stories of faith from the people of Living Grace

It's a great story, my favorite love story for sure, but I can share the details of that another time. Mike and I had a short courtship and a short engagement and will be blessed with 23 years of marriage this coming October. After being married 9 years and having three children, Cadyn, Jenna, and Andrew, an opportunity presented itself for Mike to go further in his career. This change in job status would also involve us moving to the city of St. Clairsville OH, just across the river from Wheeling WV and 1 and half hours from Navarre. I knew this was a beneficial move for Mike's career, but I really struggled with it. I had always lived in Navarre or within 10 minutes of it. My life was here. My family was here. All I was comfortable with was here. I didn't want to go, but once again God had better plans for me. In St. Clairsville Mike got settled into his new role and we found a new home and church to attend. It took me a long time to adjust to the changes and new things. God used that time that I was away from all I knew and was comfortable with, to grow my faith. First, I realized, that He was the one I should turn to in times of trouble, loneliness and heartache. He showed me that He really is there at all times. At our new church there was a ladies Bible study taught by a very wise and Bible-believing woman. Through her teachings, God showed me that I needed a stronger prayer life. I learned that I could take life's little and big things to Him. I realized that I needed to bring my husband and children to Jesus' feet daily. He opened my eyes to a deeper understanding of His word and what obedience to it should be. These lessons would prove to be a time of preparation for things to come.

Shortly after our move to St. C, I found out I was pregnant with baby number four. We were very excited and began to prepare for the arrival. After an uneventful pregnancy, Anya arrived in June of 2012, a beautiful and healthy baby girl. Unfortunately, due to the fact that I chose to deliver VBAC with an induction, I began to hemorrhage after her birth. The events that followed are vague in my mind today. I remember the doctor and nurses staying in my room for quite a while working on getting the bleeding to stop. I remember being very cold and wanting to close my eyes to sleep. I remember Mike being by my side and trying to comfort me, while being scared himself. I remember wondering if it was the end, yet feeling a peace that only God could give. It was the kind of peace that allowed me to release myself, Mike, and our children into God's all-knowing hands. Eventually the doctor was able to stop the bleeding and over the next few days I received lifesaving blood and began to recover.

After my experience with Anya's delivery, I felt like I physically experienced rebirth. That night I felt my life was slipping away and I truly was ready to go. Clearly God had other plans for me and brought healing instead. My perspective changed drastically and I felt like each day was a gift, knowing tomorrow may not come. I appreciated the little things and treasured the blessings I was given. In the days and years that followed Mike and I have said yes, to things we would have selfishly said no to in the past. Homeschooling was one of those yeses. I never planned to be a homeschool mom. At the first mention of it, my answer was, "No!" Thankfully God, in his infinite wisdom, slowly guided us to that decision. He put people who homeschooled into our lives to answer questions. He showed us through scripture and little hints here and there until it was undeniably clear that this was His plan. It has been a blessing in so many ways. I have gotten to spend time with my kids, watching them learn and grow in ways I wouldn't have if we hadn't been obedient to that call. I love that I can share Jesus with them every day and make a schedule that works for our family's needs.

Another way God has guided us is into foster care. God gave us a desire for more children, but it was clear my body was done having babies. The journey to adopt Kiara and foster 4 other children has been filled with many ups and downs. God cleared the path to have a very smooth adoption for Kiara. Some of our placements have been short and sweet. Others have been long and heartbreaking. Through it all God has taught me to hold all of our children, whether biological, adopted, or foster, loosely. Just as in my life, God has a plan for each one of them. I feel blessed get to be a part of their life for a short time and love them each day. Though we are not promised tomorrow, I thank God for the life He has given me, the wonderful husband, children and family I get to journey with today. Many of us know Jeremiah 29:11 where God tells us, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." That is God's promise to us. I believe we are called to action 2 verses later in Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." I pray this will be my goal each day for the rest of my life.

Mission Statement

“Make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.”

To Witness

*Pointing to Jesus in all we do

To Disciple

*Teaching how to apply Christ in everyday life

To Worship

*To glorify the Lord in all we do

To Serve

* To be a servant of the Lord and those He loves

Pastor - Rev. Carl Kandel
Secretary - Ashley Lynch
Youth Director – Gabe Kukuk
Pianist & Choir Director - Cory Janson
Christian Education Director – Mariah Ricker
Custodian – Seth Lackey

You can find us on Facebook and YouTube!
Church Website: www.livinggracecc.org
Church Email address: livinggracecc@yahoo.com
Church Phone: (330) 879-2340
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9 – 2 p.m.

Living Grace Christian Church
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