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# THE LIVING GRACE NEWSLETTER

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Issue 10

June 2024

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### Christian Education Updates:

Thank you all for your kind words about our Mother's Day Presentation. The kids loved making cards for the women of the church and loved creating flower art for their own mothers. Always, a big thank you to Evelyn, who is putting so much time into our KIDZ Church kids. We are already focusing on Father's Day, June 16th. I am very excited to say that our kids will be putting on a "Father's Day GIVEAWAY" for the men and fathers of our church. So please, make sure you join us that Sunday.

I'd like to highlight the mailboxes that are to the left of the Mother's Room, before entering our Christian Education Wing. If you haven't looked already, you will find newsletters, church calendars, mission updates, names of children in our church to pray for, and other fun things in these mailboxes. Please take advantage of what they have to offer. To the right of the mailboxes, there is also a \*KINDNESS CHALLENGE\* that I would love for the members of Living Grace to participate in this summer. Grab a challenge and spread your kindness with others! If anyone takes any pictures of themselves/their family taking part in the kindness challenge, please send the picture to myself or Ashley! I'd love to get a bulletin board of pictures of our families participating in the challenge. I think that it'll be a fun way to spread kindness and another way to give back to our community. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Please be on the lookout for \*VISION SUNDAY\* on June 9th, brought to you by the Christian Education Committee. I am really wanting to focus our committee's time and energy into Sunday School. I'd love to have more Sunday school teachers, more options for Sunday school classes, and other ideas for more involvement. I will explain more on Sunday, June 9th, so be there if you can and be on the lookout for all the new fun and exciting things that are coming to Living Grace!

-Mariah Ricker  
Christian Ed. Director

# The Bulletin Board

## Fairless Food Cupboard

The Fairless Food Cupboard is always taking donations of any nonperishable items, but for the month of June we are focusing on rice and canned fruits as well as any nonperishable food items.

## Operation Christmas Child

We are collecting items each month for Operation Christmas Child. For the month of June, we are asking for toys and small baby dolls. 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.

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.

## Upcoming Church Event

### 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!



**2024**  
**Vacation Bible School**

Come join us **JUNE 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM**

At: Living Grace Christian Church  
 121 Basin St Navarre, Oh 44662

Ages: K-8<sup>th</sup> grade are Welcome!

Children **MUST** be pre-registered at:

**<https://livinggraceecc.org/>**  
 (scroll down until you see VBS)

## July B-Days

First Name	Last Name	BirthMo	BirthDay
Rachel	Wuske	July	01
Quentin	Luckring	July	02
Bena	Craver	July	06
Bob	Smith	July	07
Andrew	McKelvey	July	09
Ella	Pumneo	July	09
Linda	Wuske	July	15
Chuck	Petscher	July	17
Savannah	Sprankle	July	18
Donna	Wendell	July	25
David	Denney	July	25
Moses	Troyer	July	26
Cory	Janson	July	26
Hannah	Stacy	July	4
Jon	George	July	6

# tithes & offering

Worship the Lord in Giving



## Stewardship Report...

Date	5/5/24	Date	5/12/24
Attendance	P- 109 OL- 31	Attendance	P- 111 OL - 45
Offering	\$5,173.66	Offering	\$3,621.49

Date	5/19/24	Date	5/26/24
Attendance	P- 94 OL- 44	Attendance	P - 83 OL- 31
Offering	\$4,234.50	Offering	\$4,032.14

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.....

### June Media Technicians

6/2 David Denney	6/9 Jason Everhart
6/16 Tyler L.	6/23 Alex Denney
6/30 David Deney	

### June Door Watch

6/2 TaJuana West	6/9 Persephone Luckring
6/16 Judy Werstler	6/23 Matt Miller
6/30 Paul Werstler	

### VBS Door Watch

6/24 Tyler L.	6/25 Ray George
6/26 Morris Chaney	6/27 Russ Mathias
6/28 Justin Bender	

### June Scripture Reader

6/2 Cadyn McKelvey	6/9 Hannah Stacy
6/16 Phil Glasgow	2/23 Russ Mathias
6/30 Gabe Kukuk	

### June Kidz Church Helpers

6/2 Trudy Kukuk	6/9 Erin Hostetler
6/16 Cadyn McKelvey	2/23 Jada Miller
6/30 Jenna McKelvey	

### June Greeter –

**June Ushers –** Mike M. Andrew M. Phil G (alt. Hunter M.)

### June Card Ministry – Deidra Tschantz

**June Communion Stewards –** TaJuana West



# missions

## our backyard and beyond



The 2024 Mission trip to Oak Hill, WVA will be from Sunday June 16 to Saturday June 22. Those going are Pastor Carl, Ken Jones, Persephone Luckring, Evelyn Luckring, Quentin Luckring, Mike McKelvey, Jenna McKelvey, Andrew McKelvey, Brantley Stangelo, and Tim Mihal. We will be sharing this Mission trip with 6 or so other Global Methodist Churches from Northeast Ohio. The trip fees are \$220 per volunteer but were paid for by the Mission Committee. The June Mission offering will go to the Mission trip for other costs that may arise. Please pray for the volunteers going on this Mission trip and their families at home. Please pray for those who we will be serving. We don't know who they are but God does.

For June the suggested donations for the Fairless Food Cupboard are rice and canned fruit. For July, 16 oz. noodles and canned tuna are suggested. There are still magnets left with the suggested donation list on them.

They are on the table outside the worship entrance. Any nonperishable food items, personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies are gratefully accepted.

For Operation Christmas Child in June we are suggesting donations of toys such as soccer balls, dolls, jump ropes, Slinkys, kaleidoscopes, etc.

For July clothing and undergarments such as children's socks, shirts, shoes/ flip flops, and hats.

Don't forget to donate your empty pill bottles. They should be washed, rinsed and dried with all Labels removed.

Caps need to be placed back on the bottle. There is a collection box by the office entrance

The St Pauly used clothing shed helps keep clothing out of the landfills and gives them a second life, provides used clothing worldwide and is tax deductible.

We accept donations of used clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed toys.

Sorry, NO pillows!

Please tell your friends and neighbors about our St Pauly used clothing shed.

Thank you and God Bless!

# 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](http://livinggracecc.org/youth) | [youth@livinggracecc.org](mailto:youth@livinggracecc.org)

Important! 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](#)

We started 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.

We are not following our standard cadence for activities in the month of June and July due to Father's Day, Mission Trip & Alive festival. Please be sure to confirm latest schedules online or in the GroupMe app.

### News & Announcements

- 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.
- Keep an eye out for Alive informational meetings.
- 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](http://livinggracecc.org/youth)

[youth@livinggracecc.org](mailto:youth@livinggracecc.org)

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

Group412 is going to Alive Music Festival  
Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday  
morning July 21<sup>st</sup>. Please talk to Gabe if  
interested in attending and look for  
upcoming informational meetings

We will not have a Youth Night in  
July due to Alive Music Festival

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[livinggracecc.org/youth](http://livinggracecc.org/youth) | [youth@livinggracecc.org](mailto:youth@livinggracecc.org)

### GROUP412 SNAPSHOT

#### 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

#### JULY

- Sun. (7/2), 6-7pm: Bible Study
- Sun. (7/9), 6-7pm: Bible Study
- Thur. (7/18) – Sat. (7/21), Alive Music Festival



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Nydegger Rented - McKelvey
2 Worship 9:30 30/40 group 5-6pm Youth Bible Study 6-7pm  Nydegger Rented - Luckring	3  B – Jackie Feters, Bonnie Winkhart, Andrea Janson	4 Administrative Board Meeting 6pm	5 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm	6 Prayer Group 10am	7	8 Father/Child breakfast 8:30am  Trustee work day 10am
9 Worship 9:30 Youth Bible Study 6-7pm	10	11	12 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm	13  B – Denese Majors	14  B – Alice Rial, Mike McKelvey	15  B – Judy Werstler
16 Worship 9:30  Mission Trip	17 B – Karen Kirby, Jennifer Ricksecker  Mission Trip	18 B – Brody Pumneo, Tim Dorkoff  Mission Trip	19 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm Mission Trip	20 B – Don Finnicum  Mission Trip	21  Mission Trip	22  Mission Trip
23 Worship 9:30 30/40 Group 5-6pm	24  VBS 6-8pm	25  VBS 6-8pm	26 *Self Defense Class 5pm *Bell Practice 6:45pm VBS 6-8pm B – Richard Hayden	27  VBS 6-8pm	28  VBS 6-8pm B – Anya McKelvey	29 Youth Night 5:30-8:30
30 Worship 9:30						

# In the Light

*Stories of faith from the people of Living Grace*

Praise him in the waiting: Dave & Nicole Denney

In 2019 after much discussion and prayer we felt God was still calling us to adopt. There was a lot to consider, would it be too much for us to handle? We have such a large family. Are we too old, mainly was I too old being 8 years older than Nicole. You start asking questions like, have we not done enough, when can we start to take it easy and enjoy ourselves. We are stretched too thin as it is. With running a business and raising six kids, coaching sports, and running many different directions every day. I admit the call to adopt was much stronger in Nicole than it was me at the time. Then God starts to remind me of all the scriptures that address all of the above worldly doubts and selfish thoughts I was having. Luke 12:1-19 Then he told them this story: The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He said to himself: What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest; then he said, here is what I will do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I will say to myself, self, you have done well! You have got it made and can now retire, take it easy and have the time of your life! There are many scriptures I could quote here but I think you get God's point here. So, at this point we are both all in and begin the process of another adoption, then COVID hits. We had managed to get the home study and the dossier into China and received our log in date before COVID shut down the world. Here is where the waiting and the faith journey really begins. This begins many years of nothing happening and I mean absolutely nothing. There were no lines of communication with the Chinese government or the adoption program over there.

At this point documents were going to be expiring and needed updated, and so we went through the motions and did the updates with little hope it would matter based on what we were hearing in the adoption world, which wasn't much. This is where doubt really starts to creep in and we wonder, is this Gods way of saying you are done adopting. In December of 2023 we had to make the decision if we were going to update our documents with our government's immigration department or just let them expire and be done. If we did this we would have to start all over again if we decided to adopt later. It was a lot to think and pray about because after 4 long years of waiting and not getting any encouraging news this was looking like the end. But God pricked our hearts to go ahead and do the updates and we just made the deadline by a couple of days, now what God? So, in February of 2024 our adoption agency arranged a conference call with all of the families that were adopting with the US State Department and the consulate in China. The news they gave us was not good, they were very honest and blunt, China was not communicating with them anymore and that it's pretty much over. So now what God? You had us keep moving forward for what? Nicole and I were wondering where do we go from here, what does God want us to do? We were reminded of many examples in the bible of long waiting periods which came great things at the end. Now I do not want to make this sound like it was that easy, we are having many doubts and down days at this point. We are just as vulnerable as anyone who is a human being.

So, we decided to leave the China program and start looking into other options. We decided to leave our dossier in China and not completely shut the book on that and leave some options open for God. In April of this year Nicole was scrolling different websites and programs for waiting children and came across a little girl on rainbow kids from Kyrgyzstan. She was 2 and about to turn 3 in a month, we didn't want to get our hopes up because we had inquired about waiting children before and it never worked out or they were already in process with another couple already. Well Nicole reached out to them about her and no one had spoken for her. Now this is where things start to line up and really fall in place within hours. From the very beginning we saw God orchestrating the entire process because she was the one he had known about this entire time we were waiting. There are so many pieces that have to fall into place for this to go smoothly and quickly. There are many documents that have to be curtailed to each country and they are all different. How long will it take to get them, and can we use any of the ones we already have? The answer is we can use all of them, we already have almost everything they want which is just unheard of. At the time of writing this we are only waiting of a couple of things, and we can send our dossier to Kyrgyzstan and get the ball rolling. It is not easy to praise God in the waiting, but when we remain obedient just watch what God will do.

In Christ,  
Dave & Nicole Denney

### **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

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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](http://www.livinggracecc.org)  
Church Email address: [livinggracecc@yahoo.com](mailto:livinggracecc@yahoo.com)  
Church Phone: (330) 879-2340  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9 – 2 p.m.

Living Grace Christian Church  
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