

THE LIVING GRACE NEWSLETTER

Issue 18

April 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 OCC Snapshot!!!!
- 2 Bulletin Board
- 3 Those Serving, Stewardship Report
- 4 Mission Committee News
- 5 Youth News
- 6 April Calendar
- 7 "In the Light" Kenzie Lanier
- 8 Camp Choff Info
- 9 Christian Education News
- 10 Church Info



OCC Matters

AKRON AREA OCC PROJECT LEADER NEWSLETTER



Courtesy of Samaritan's Purse.

We just wanted to say

*Thank
You*

for being
part of this
ministry

Because of you
LIVES WILL BE CHANGED

- **38,819** shoeboxes were sent to children around the world from the Akron area, the highest amount ever.
- **11,927,439** shoeboxes were collected worldwide, also the highest amount ever.
- Countless families heard the Good News of Jesus Christ in countries all over the world.
- More than 3 million commitments were made to Christ in 2024

And that's because when God asked you to serve, you said **yes**.

2025 is now here, and we're excited to keep changing lives. Are you ready?

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK
NOVEMBER 17-24, 2025

ASK ME ANYTHING. I'M HERE TO HELP!



Vickie Sampsel
Church Relations
Team Member
vlsampsel@gmail.com

Do you love OCC? Learn more about our team and how I can help by contacting me! I'm excited to connect with you and answer any questions you may have.

"EVERY BOX IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH A CHILD WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST."



The Bulletin Board

Fairless Food Cupboard

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

Operation Christmas Child

We are collecting items each month for Operation Christmas Child. For the month of April, we are asking for . It is unbelievable how many boxes we were able to do last year and it is all thanks you all! We hope to do even more in 2025! 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 2025.

4/27 – Russ & Arbie Mathias

5/25 – TaJuana West

6/29 – Ashley Lynch

7/27 – Russ & Arbie Mathias

8/31 – TaJuana West

9/28 – Ashley Lynch

10/26 – Russ & Arbie Mathias

11/30 – TaJuana West

12/24 – Ashley Lynch

12/28 – Russ & Arbie Mathias

(Please contact Ashley Lynch if you need to reschedule)

The Widow's Ministry

The Widow's Ministry is in the startup 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 Events

- May 10th = packing of rice packets for missions
10am-2pm

Garage Sale

Our church will be participating in the Navarre Garage Sale again this year. It is time to declutter, spring clean and find a home for your "stuff". Navarre Garage Sale days are May 15th, 16th and 17th. More details to come but please start collecting your items to be brought into the church! Thanks everyone!!!

Women's Study

Please make sure to join us every other Tuesday for our women's bible study! 18 and over please. Come join us any time, you don't have to have been with us from the start to join!

Carl's Vacation

Pastor Carl will be out of town from April 26th through May 9th. If you need anything during this time please reach out to Ashley or Dave Denney.

Wednesday Nights

Our last night for the bible study on The Things we Wish Jesus Never Said will be on Wednesday April 23rd. Our last night watching The Chosen is Wednesday April 30th. Starting May 7th we will do a quick 4-6 week bible study for adults on Wednesday nights at 6pm. This will take us to June when we will be taking a break for June and July. Even though Pastor Carl will be out of town for the final Chosen and the first bible study in May we will have someone covering so they will still be going on.

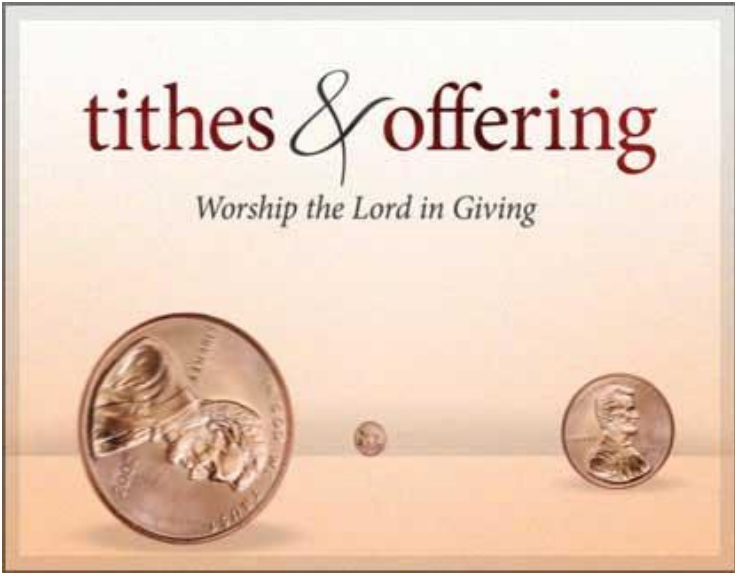
Our final Meal for Wednesday nights will be on April 9th.

Youth Group will still continue every Wednesday at 6pm.

Kids Jam will continue on Wednesdays.

HOLY WEEK

Check the calendar in the Newsletter for info and times for our Holy Week services. Please attend, these services are so powerful!



Those Serving our church in April.....

April Media Technicians

4/6 David Denney 4/13 Jason Everhart
 4/20 Tyler Lautzenheiser 4/27 Hunter Miller

April Door Watch

4/6 Matt Miller 4/13 Ray George
 4/20 Persephone L. 4/27 Justin Bender

April Scripture Reader

4/6 Ruth Hayden 4/13 Russ Mathias
 4/20 Josh Stacy 4/27 Lucas Kukuk

April Kidz Church Helpers

4/6 Kammer Family 4/13 Jenna McKelvey
 4/20 Family Service 4/27 Erin Hostetler

April Sunday School Teachers

K – 2: 3 – 4:
 5 – 8: Tim Mihal High School: Sherri Kandel
 Adult class: Pastor Carl Nursery: N/A

April Greeter – Judy Michener

April Ushers – Matt Miller, Owen Miller,
 Richard Hayden (alt. Tim M.)

April Card Ministry – Lisa Glasgow

April Communion Stewards – Russ &
 Arbie Mathias

Stewardship Report...

Date	3/2/25	Date	3/9/25
Attendance	P- 113 OL- 71	Attendance	P- 112 OL - 65
Offering	\$5,761.50	Offering	\$2,885.67
Date	3/16/24	Date	3/23/24
Attendance	P- 78 OL- 65	Attendance	P - 103 OL- 59
Offering	\$6,117.26	Offering	\$4,070.05
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.

missions

our backyard and beyond



In 2024 the Allegheny West Annual Conference received \$252,000 toward the needs of our Missional Partnership with Kenya and \$633,000 for disaster relief in North Carolina and Indian Lake Ohio.

The focus of our 2025 Allegheny West Annual Conference Miracle Offering is to fund scholarships for people pursuing ordained ministry in the Allegheny West Conference. Our goal is \$200,000.

Every person being ordained an elder in the Global Methodist Church is asked Wesley's 19 historic questions—one of those questions is: "Are you in debt so as to embarrass yourself in your work?" A bishop once said that some of us don't embarrass very easily! When we both worked at seminaries that supply our pastors, we heard alarming reports of persons graduating from seminary with extraordinary debt—many owed over \$60,000!

While some students could have managed their life choices better, the sad fact is that the churches in which their faith was born and call affirmed had largely failed to help them financially answer that call. This year's Miracle Offering will begin to remedy that problem.

We presently have 87 Transitional Local Pastors and 88 new ministerial candidates who are answering God's call to ministry in our Conference. As Conference Superintendent and Board of Ministry chair, we write to share that we would love to be able to provide up to 50% scholarships for each class needed to be ordained. We are also encouraging the local church from which the person was called and perhaps the churches they are serving to find ways to partner with them so they won't need to borrow money to complete their studies.

Those who are engaged in a non-degree program must take 10 classes to be ordained as a deacon and a total of 20 classes to be ordained an elder. These classes cost \$500 per class—or \$5,000 to be ordained a deacon and a total of \$10,000 to be ordained an elder. A gift of \$250 would provide a 50% scholarship for a non-degree class. Candidates that are fulfilling their requirements through a seminary master's degree will pay approximately \$3,000 per class for a total of \$30,000 for a deacon and \$60,000 for an elder. A gift of \$1500 would provide a 50% scholarship for a seminary class.

Friends, in the next ten years, our Conference is going to experience an incredible turnover on pastoral leadership. We not only need to do a better job cultivating a culture of call—inviting people to respond to the call to pastoral ministry—we also need to do a better job providing the support they need fulfill the educational requirements to be ordained. Offering partial scholarships is one way to help them along the way.

We're asking each congregation in the Allegheny West Conference to consider taking a special offering to help with providing scholarships for the pastors who will serve our churches in the future. We believe this is a timely and worthy need. **Our April Mission Sunday offering will go to this Miracle Offering.**

GROUP 412

BE AN EXAMPLE

*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

We are in the middle of our Bible study called 'Unashamed' by Lecrae, a study regarding Living Out Loud for Christ. Our next teaching series will start soon and is about the power of forgiveness (details below).

News & Important Reminders:

- There is a game night on Friday April 4th from 5 – 8pm. We will be providing dinner.
- No Youth Group on April 16, please consider attending Holy Week evening services on 4/17 & 4/18, both at 7pm.
- We are having an Alive Music Festival info meeting on April 23 after youth group in the youth room. 7pm
- The 2024/2025 Health & Permission form is now available. To access, select the following link: [Health & Permission](#)

Teaching Series Overview:

TITLE: Give & Take

SERIES BOTTOM LINE: This series emphasizes the power of forgiveness to build authentic faith, make wise choices, and have healthy relationships.

SESSION 1: You can forgive.

SESSION 2: Forgive like you've been forgiven.

SESSION 3: Forgiveness takes time.

Be sure to stay updated with all our resources (website, GroupMe, Bulletin Board, Youth white board). To join the GroupMe communication app, click the link: [Join GroupMe](#)

Friday, April 4th GAME NIGHT 5-8pm

At the church & dinner provided

No Youth Group on 4/16

Please consider attending:

4/17 Maundy Thursday Service- 7pm

4/18 Good Friday Service- 7pm

Interested in Alive?

Info meeting: April 23, 7 -7:30p

(after youth group in youth room)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GROUP412 SNAPSHOT

APRIL

- Wed. (4/2), 6 -7pm: Youth Group (WNR dinner @ 5:30)
- Fri. (4/4), 5:00-8pm: GAME NIGHT
- Wed. (4/9), 6 -7pm: Youth Group (WNR dinner @ 5:30)
- Wed. (4/16), **NO Youth Group**
- Wed. (4/23), 6 -7pm: Youth Group **+Alive info**
- Wed. (4/30), 6 -7pm: Youth Group

MAY

- Wed. (5/7), 6 -7pm: Youth Group
- Wed. (5/14), 6 -7pm: Youth Group
- Wed. (5/21), 6 -7pm: Youth Group
- Wed. (5/28), 6 -7pm: Youth Group



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6 – 7 Kids Jam 6 – 7 Worship – Bible Study 6-7 Youth Group B – Kent Kerby	3 Prayer Group 10am	4 B – Burkley Lautzenheiser	5 Men’s Breakfast 8am
6 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 B – Kirk Askren	7 Mission Meeting 5pm B – Joseph Ricker, Allyson Simmons	8 B – Scott Kirby	9 6 – 7 Kids Jam 6 – 7 Worship – The Chosen 6-7 Youth Group B – Julie Kerby	10 Prayer Group 10am	11	12 Landscape work day!
13 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00  B – Toni Derus	14	15 B – Jason Pumneo, Bill LaFollette	16 B – Meriah Winkhart(Miller)	17 Prayer Group 10am Maundy Thursday Service 7pm B – Don Lint	18 Good Friday Service 7pm B – Deidra Tschantz	19 B – Jen Troyer
20 Sunrise Service 7:30am Worship 9:30  B – Helen Petscher	21	22	23 6 – 7 Kids Jam 6 – 7 Worship – Bible Study 6-7 Youth Group	24 Prayer Group 10am	25 B – Bob Wuske	26
27 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00	28	29 B – Emily Dorkoff	30 6 – 7 Kids Jam 6 – 7 Worship – The Chosen 6-7 Youth Group			

In the Light

Stories of faith from the people of Living Grace

Kenzie Lanier

Hi! My name is Kenzie Lanier, and I have attended Living Grace just about as long as I can remember! As I sit here writing this, I come to you with full transparency. My testimony is something that I am so passionate about. Looking back, I had someone ask me about my Salvation story a few years back. I stumbled as this was the first time I was asked that, and I was not sure that I had a “story.” Personally, I have never had that one defining moment where I can look back and give you the exact date and time that I accepted Jesus as my Savior.

For me, Jesus was always there. As far back as my memory goes, I was sitting in Sunday School every Sunday learning about the Bible. Growing up with my grandpa as our pastor, I was so blessed to have such faithful people surrounding me. I never felt the need to question faith or why things happened the way they did, and I was satisfied with that. However, my world flipped very quickly when I lost two father figures in my life, and I found myself in a dark place that I had never been before. From this moment on, I learned the world intentionally, and how it would forever impact my story.

For two years, I continued accepting my reality by going through the motions. While I knew Jesus was there for me, I quit showing up for him. I was no longer going to church because the thought of returning and not seeing my papa preaching was painful. As I felt my mental health continue to take a hit and my guilt continued to grow, I decided to try going back to church. I remember walking in and feeling the sun on the stained-glass windows, and it just felt like home.

That day I decided I would be intentional with my relationship with Jesus. I knew I had accepted Him into my heart, but it was time to start building that personal relationship. Walking into the building on Sunday’s and leaving was no longer enough. That I would devote myself into finding my purpose, and living my life how God would want me to.

With me finally being on the other side, I know that God never quit working on my heart. I welcomed my first baby in December, and this has been the most purposeful journey for me thus far. God entrusted me with little hands to help raise up a child to know Him and grow up in the church just as I did, and I do not take that for granted. God was so intentional with my plan. When I felt at my lowest, He was always working. As I navigate motherhood, He is right here working. I feel peace knowing that whatever unknown the future holds, if it is His will then it will be His way. I cannot thank my church family enough for continuing to be a part of my story. While I may not have that defining story of salvation dated and timed, I feel blessed to know that thanks to my family and church family, I welcomed God into my heart at such an early age and will continue to be intentional about my relationship with Him.



OVERNIGHT CAMP

- JUNE 15-20**
JUNIOR WEEK 1 | AGES 8-11
- JUNE 22-27**
MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEK 1 | AGES 11-14
- JUNE 29-JULY 1**
JUNIOR RETREAT* | AGES 7-11
- JULY 6-11**
TEEN WEEK | AGES 13-18
- JULY 13-18**
JUNIOR WEEK 2 | AGES 8-11
- JULY 20-25**
MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEK 2 | AGES 11-14

Our overnight campers have the opportunity to connect with God and others in a safe place away from life's daily distractions. Campers participate in a variety of exciting activities including swimming, go-karts, zip-lining, giant swing, crafts, and much more! Most importantly, campers are challenged by God's Word every day through trained counseling staff and a special guest speaker. Camp CHOF is dedicated to giving each individual camper a memorable week that is sure to deepen their personal relationship with God!

OUR HISTORY

Believing that an effective and meaningful way of presenting the gospel to young people was in the outdoors, surrounded by God's handiwork, Canton Baptist Temple purchased the 40 acres that would become Camp CHOF on October 4, 1969. Originally named the Christian Hall of Fame Youth Camp and Conference Center, the name was shortened to Camp CHOF (Christian Hall of Fame).

For many years, Camp CHOF has presented the gospel to young people in an environment free from distractions of the world. Not only does Camp CHOF provide an exciting summer camping program, but the campgrounds are also available to rent throughout the year.



CAMP DIRECTOR
TRENT DIBELL
Trent served as a camp counselor in 2005 and has been the full-time director for the past 11 years. Trent and his wife Tristyn have two kids.



CAMP CARETAKER
ANDY MORGAN
Andy has served as the full-time caretaker of the camp grounds for the past 14 years. Andy and his wife Linda have 4 kids and 11 grandchildren.



CAMP SECRETARY
BRI KLINK
Bri has served in various camp positions for 5 summers and has been the full-time secretary for the past 2 years.

DAY CAMP

AGES 5-8
(must be 5 by June 1)

MONDAY-FRIDAY | 8:30AM-4:30PM

- WEEK 1 _____ JUNE 9-13
- WEEK 2 _____ JUNE 16-20
- WEEK 3 _____ JUNE 23-27
- WEEK 4* _____ JUNE 30-JULY 1
- WEEK 5 _____ JULY 7-11
- WEEK 6 _____ JULY 14-18
- WEEK 7 _____ JULY 21-25



With our trained and loving staff, we are ready to serve your day camper! Our day camp program provides a fun, safe, and Christ-centered environment for kids ages 5-8. Between our jump pad, our Olympic-size pool, pedal carts, and much more, your camper will have a great week!

WE ALSO INCLUDE THREE EXCITING ENRICHMENT WEEKS:

ANIMAL EDUCATION

— WEEKS 2 & 3 —

We will learn more about God's creation while getting to meet some cool animals thanks to Outback Ray and Realm of the Reptile!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

— WEEK 5 —

We will learn more about God's provision for our community by getting to hear from local first responders such as firefighters and highway patrol officers!

SAVE THE DATE

CAMP CHOF OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, JUNE 8 3:30PM-6:00PM

Come by, talk to our camp staff, ask any questions you might have, and tour the grounds!

DEDICATION SERVICE SUNDAY, JUNE 8 6:00PM

Join us as we kick off the 2025 camp season with an evening of worship and thank God for what He has done and will continue to do at Camp CHOF this summer!

CELEBRATION SUNDAY SUNDAY, JULY 27 6:00PM

We will wrap up the 2025 season with a very special service at Camp CHOF! More details to come.

IMPORTANT TIMES & PRICING

REGULAR WEEK

CHECK-IN BEGINS.....6PM SUNDAY
CHECK-OUT BEGINS.....7PM FRIDAY

SHORTENED WEEK

CHECK-IN BEGINS.....6PM SUNDAY
CHECK-OUT BEGINS.....7PM TUESDAY

OVERNIGHT CAMP: \$365/WEEK

*JUNIOR RETREAT: \$1.50

DAY CAMP: \$225/WEEK

*WEEK 4 (SHORT WEEK): \$99

CONTACT US

CAMP CHOF IS LOCATED AT
**1820 DEERFIELD AVE NW
DALTON, OH 44618**

CAMP CHOF IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY

**CANTON BAPTIST TEMPLE
515 WHIPPLE AVE NW
CANTON, OH 44708**



OFFICES@CAMPCHOF.ORG



(330) 477-6267 EXT. 126



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



CAMP CHOF
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

SUMMER 2025

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

April Christian Education Updates

Our April Sunday School teachers are Cadyn McKelvey (k-2nd) Linda Bender & Naomi Petroff (3rd-4th) Tim Mihal (5th-8th) and Sherri Kandel with our highschoolers. Pastor Carl will be in the Adult Study. Grab some coffee & a donut and join us for Sunday School. ***THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER SUNDAY***

The KIDZ Church Kidz are back in full swing of learning from their regular *ROOTS* Curriculum that focuses on the Fruits of the Spirit. So far the children have done a deep dive on Love, Joy and are now learning in depth about Peace. The kidz will be waving palm leaves on Palm Sunday and soon they will start working on all things **Mother's Day.**

Women of our church (18 and older) please join us for our new Women's Study! There will be light refreshments and wonderful fellowship. We will be reading, learning and discussing so much from *Every Woman a Theologian* by Phyllis Masonheimer as our study guide. The April dates are April 8th & April 22nd at 6pm in Nydegger Hall! We can't wait to see you there.

Wednesday Night Reset has been an absolute blessing! I can't believe all of the support we've had feeding 40-50 people every single Wednesday night since January! WNR has turned out exactly how we wanted it to be, a place for the **WHOLE FAMILY** to plug in, with a home cooked meal to start off the nights! I would like to thank every single person who has helped out with WNR in any way. **YOU ARE SO APPRECIATED** and the church is blessed to have you.

With all of that being said, WNR as a whole, is coming to a close! We will be able to provide meals on Wednesday, April 2nd and Wednesday, April 9th and then the meal portion & **JOY Club k-5** will come to an end.

Pastor Carl will continue with his Wednesday Night Studies through May, and then be done for the months of June and July.

The Youth Group will continue to meet on Wednesday Nights for the foreseeable future!

This summer I will be looking for a person/people to lead the kids next year on Wednesdays!

There will be more information about this soon, but if you feel led to be a part of our kids journeys at church, please reach out to me and we can talk about what that could look like for you!

-Mariah Ricker
Christian Ed. Director

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
Youth Assistant – Trudy Kukuk
Pianist & Choir Director - Cory Janson
Christian Education Director – Mariah Ricker
Custodian – Seth Lackey

You can find us on Facebook and YouTube and Instagram!

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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Navarre, OH 44662

