



GAC Youth News & Events

July 2026

Pastor Rigel's Contact Information

gacyouth@gmail.com – 724-575-2862

Thursday Night at the Well (6:30pm - 8:15pm) & Youth Sunday School (9:30am - 10:30am)

On Thursday nights, both Middle School and High School students are invited to join us from 6:30-8:15pm at the church. These meetings are the hub of our youth ministry and are designed to play an important part in the lives of our teens. Because of youth trips there will be no youth group on July 16th. On Sunday mornings, both Middle School and High School students meet each week in the Youth Room off of the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am for a fantastic lesson and a light breakfast. Because of youth trips there will be no youth Sunday school July 19th.

Wacky Water Night - July 9(6:30-8:15pm)

Join us on July 9 for our awesome Wacky Water Night. At this year's Wacky Water Night, we will have a 100ft slip 'n slide, a paint Color War, and a Dunk Tank. Please remember that you will need to bring a bathing suit and a towel. This is a great night to bring friends. There is no need to sign up for this event - just show up ready to have fun! Parents, if you show up at 8pm you can have a chance to dunk your kids!!!

Alive Music Festival Trip Final Reminders - July 15 (8:00am) - July 19 (2:30pm)

We are excited that our trip to Alive Music Festival is right around the corner. With a trip like this there are a lot of moving parts so we ask all participants to take some time to look over the details of the trip so that we can answer any questions in a timely manner. On June 11th we had our informational meeting and distributed our packing list. If you were unable to make it to this meeting hopefully by now you have connected with Pastor Rigel to go over the details. If you missed the meeting and haven't connected with Pastor Rigel, please let him know ASAP so that he can bring you up to speed.

Below are some important final reminders to think about as we prepare to head out to Alive

- A packing list and a detailed itinerary was distributed at the information meeting and is now available on the church website as well as the app (it contains tons of specific information to help you prepare).
- Alive Prep Day is Tuesday, July 14, 11am-2:00pm when we will pack the truck and prepare supplies. While attendance is not required, we'll need about 8-10 students to help us (its usually a fun afternoon).
- On Wednesday, July 15th, students should arrive at the church at 8:30am ready to depart for the festival.
- Each student needs to bring two frozen gallon jugs of drinking water on July 15. These jugs take at least a few days to freeze so please plan ahead.
- All meals are included in the cost of the trip aside from the cost of food as we travel to and from the festival. Students should also bring money for fair food or any souvenirs you may want to purchase (See Packing list details)

Mahaffey Camp Volunteers - July 20-24

If you are one of the students registered for the Mahaffey Camp volunteer trip, you should have received a packing list with final details by July 3. If you haven't gotten a copy of the Mahaffey packing list, it can be found on both the church website and app under the youth section. Each student going on the trip must turn in \$50 (or designate credit) to Pastor Rigel by the day of departure. Remember for the trip we will be meeting at the church on Monday, July 20 at 9am and will be returning on Friday, July 24 at 7pm.

Baptism Sign-Ups

We will be having a baptism service during our Church Picnic on Sunday, August 30. This will be great time of food, fellowship, encouragement, and churchwide celebration. If you are interested in being baptized, please let Rigel or the church office know ASAP so that we can put you on the list to prepare you for this important step of faith. There will be a baptism class on Sunday, July 26 that participants must attend.

Pastor Rigel's Sabbatical

One of the realities of serving at GAC that I have come to appreciate over the years is the way that the church and its leadership has prioritized the health and wellbeing of the staff. Having served this congregation for 18 years I have been blessed by the generosity and genuine concern that has been shown towards ensuring my spiritual health and my life/work balance. I have been encouraged to live a life that not only honors Jesus in my service to the church but also but also maintains my witness by prioritizing my own spiritual health and the health of my family.

Roughly 8 years ago the Elders at GAC instituted a policy that fulltime employees would be granted a monthlong Sabbatical during each 6th year of ministry in an effort to refresh them for ministry. In light of this I, (Pastor Rigel) will be taking a Sabbatical beginning July 31 that will run through September 8. During these weeks I will be taking time to rest, focus on his personal spiritual growth, work on the health of my marriage, and spend time listening to Jesus. If you have any issues or questions while I am out, please contact either Alex Graziani or Janice Calhoun. You can also call the church office to speak to another staff member,

There will be No Youth Group Meeting July 16 or Youth Sunday School July 19