

FOCUS

We exist to grow in passion for God and compassion for people.

**James Llewellyn
Senior Pastor**

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Youth Ministries**

**Joanne Kreinbrook
Operations**

**Jennifer Dail
Worship Ministries**

**Julie Stahl
Children's Discipleship**

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Children's Outreach**

From the Pastor's Desk

Every month, as I prepare my article for the newsletter, I take time to look through all of the holidays, causes, and other items attached to the month. In the month of May there are over forty causes, events, charities, and other odd things that claim this to be 'their month'. Often when we think of May, Mother's Day is the first event that springs to mind, or at least it should be. However, May is also "Date Your Mate" month. What a fantastic reminder for all of us!

With spring in the air, the season of weddings has begun. Looking ahead for the year, I already have four weddings scheduled in this year alone, with at least one on the horizon for next year. Marriage was created by God to be a sacred, life-long bond, and even appears within the first few pages of Scripture. God also provides ample instruction for the love and maintenance of this bond. Unfortunately, many couples often view marriage as the finish line, rather than the starting line. We put so much effort into the dating aspect, but does that effort still remain as the years continue to pass? Marriage takes work, but it is so worth it. So this month, I would like to challenge all of you to take your spouse on a date. And I mean a REAL date; that means no drive-thru, no ordering off of a board or screen, and it definitely should not come in a bag. As difficult as it is in this busy world, make the effort, and set aside time to show your spouse how much you care, and devote an evening to demonstrate it.

It is even more important for us to demonstrate a Godly relationship given our current culture. With the number of failed marriages increasing, and infidelity becoming a common attribute in our media, future generations are having a difficult time finding healthy role models for what those relationships should be. Imagine the difference we could make if we modeled the sacrificial, selfless love commanded of us in Scripture! If we sought forgiveness and restoration, rather than digging in our heels over trivial situations; and if we valued a deepening relationship with both God and our spouse, rather than remaining stagnant at a point that was "good enough", we could truly make a difference and demonstrate a vibrant, God-honoring marriage. Marriage can be a wonderful example of God's love for the church, making it a prime target for Satan to attack. Each day let us resolve to strengthen our bond in Christ both individually, and with our partners, so that we may be a light to the world and show the love of God.

I begin pre-marital counseling by asking the two people to imagine themselves sitting across the breakfast table from their fiancée sixty years from now. I then tell the couple that if they cannot do that or if that does not excite them, then perhaps marriage is not a good idea. After this I lay out three pens, one representing divorce, one representing a marriage that remained together but is miserable, and the final pen representing a marriage that remains and is continuously strengthened. I would ask each of you now the same question I would ask them. If you are willing to throw out the divorce pen, then you are only left with two choices. And of those two choices, which are you going to pursue? It is my prayer that each of us chases a lifelong, healthy marriage worthy of representing the love of Christ for our world.



**Rev. James Llewellyn
Senior Pastor**

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-Pastor Lu

Upcoming Changes to the Youth Ministry at GAC

Beginning this September, (the 2019-2020 school year) we will be shifting the parameters of youth group participation (age/grade of eligibility) as well as the time of the year in which students move up into youth ministry. On Sunday, September 8 students who have both turned 11 and have begun 6th grade by September 1, will be moved into youth ministry at GAC. Going forward, the first Sunday after Labor Day weekend in September will be the new move up time for all students, and the new grade/age requirements for participating in youth ministry will be as noted above (both in 6th grade and age 11 by September 1). If your rising 7th grade student was already scheduled to move up in May, they will still do so as planned.

To make this a smooth transition, on September 8 we will have a special class of Sunday school to meet the students who have just moved up. We will be taking time to walk our new students through what this exciting new chapter of their lives will look like. Then the following Thursday, September 12, 6:30-8:30pm, they will begin coming to youth group at our normal time.

Though there are a number of factors that influenced this shift, there are three primary reasons:

1. This shift coincides with the majority of our area schools. This means that our ministry will be more in step with rhythm of the lives of the families in our surrounding community.
2. This shift coincides with the divisions of our Sunday morning curriculum as well as the move up time in our Children's Ministry. This will tighten up the connection between the two ministries.
3. This shift will keep the youth of GAC engaged during that "tween" age in which (from our experience) they often begin to feel as if they are "growing out" of Children's Ministry.

Much of what has made this youth ministry a powerful influence in the lives our teens will continue on as before. Moving forward there will be various shifts along the way that will take place separately in an effort to better serve our wider age span. A perfect example of this is Sunday school, which most weeks will be divided by 6-8 and 9-12 grades. Another example is that at some of our Youth Group meetings there will be two versions of our Thursday night messages which will be geared to the different age groups. Additionally, from time to time there will also be some events that are only open to middle school or high school students. All this will be done in an effort to strike a balance between serving the needs of the diverse demographics of our students and placing a high priority on not burning out our leaders and families.

We realize that this change may generate some questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, I would be happy to answer any that you might have (gacyouth@gmail.com 724-575-2862).

Pastor Lu's Excellent Adventure

I want to challenge you to help our students attend LIFE Conference. Every three years the Christian and Missionary Alliance has a large youth event called LIFE. It is named LIFE because it is a life-changing event. I attended LIFE in 1992 and it really was a life-changing event for me. In the nineteen years I was a youth pastor, I would frequently tell parents, if you can only send your child to one event their entire time in youth ministry, make sure it is LIFE. Over the years I have seen a number of students receive their call into ministry at LIFE. I have seen major spiritual breakthroughs with students, as well as many coming to know Christ for the first time.

This year, LIFE Conference is in Orlando, Florida. With travel, meals, and lodging, it costs a significant amount of money for our students to attend. I never want money to be a reason a student cannot attend. I feel so strongly about this that I am doing a fundraiser that will last from January until June. It is 972 miles from the church parking lot to the parking lot of the conference. I will be walking, running, and biking the equivalent of the trip to Florida. This is where you come in. I am going to do the miles, but I am asking you to sponsor those miles. You can complete a form at the Welcome Center, or see me and I will give you one. I am looking for people to sponsor each mile, so if you sponsored 10 cents per mile you would pay \$97.20. You can stop by the Welcome Center to check on my progress, and there will also be a slide during the morning announcements. Sponsor forms are at the Welcome Center, you can pledge per mile or a flat amount.

The deadline for giving is Sunday, May 26. Will you join me on this journey as we get our students to the LIFE Conference?

-Pastor Lu

Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study Fellowship meets at 6:30am in Conference Room 550 with the study being completed at 7:30am. Weekly attendance is not a requirement, and all men and their sons are welcome to drop in as their schedule permits. Our purpose is to help equip one another to glorify God by growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We help our church accomplish its mission by working through careful study of God's Word, to learn the mind of God, and discern His will for men. Through this Bible Study men work to encourage, equip, and strengthen each other to live Godly and victoriously through the Spirit. Through prayer we lift each other, our families, and our work places to the Lord. The group is open to men of all ages and backgrounds: young or old; single or married; with kids or without kids; etc.

For more information contact the Church Office, 724-837-1122 or Alex Graziani, 724-787-6520, alexander.graziani@gmail.com. Resolve to get into the Word of God and let the Word of God get into you!

Moms 24/7

The month of May marks our final 'official' meetings for this session of Moms 24/7 group; however, be encouraged to keep friendships going by meeting another mom at the playground, meeting for coffee, or picking up the phone for a chat. As moms we need each other, so use the summer to deepen the relationships you have made throughout the year.

Our final two meetings for this year will be at 9:30 on May 14 and May 28. We will be enjoying our annual tea party for our final meeting on the 28.

Moms 24/7 is a ministry for moms of ALL ages with children of ALL ages. Whether you are a first time mom or you have grandchildren, Moms 24/7 is for you. Whatever your schedule or stage of life, we hope you make Moms 24/7 part of your life. It is not only an opportunity for you to get refreshed and encouraged, but also a chance for you to refresh and encourage other moms. For questions or more information please contact Joanne Kreinbrook at 724-850-7828 or email at kbroom93@msn.com.

Reaching Our World: The Cross that Remains

It's been just a few weeks since the devastating fire broke out beneath the roof of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris on April 15, and yet for most of us life has moved on. News outlets were all a buzz and many found themselves in disbelief and powerlessness as they witnessed the destruction.

The conversation quickly turned to a photograph that circulated the internet. The photo was of the inside of the cathedral following the devastating fire that ravaged the 850-year old Paris landmark for 12 hours. The picture of the interior showed the cross and altar still intact despite the debris that still smoldered around it. Though much of the church was reduced to rubble and ashes, the giant white cross behind the altar appeared to be relatively unscathed. Of the photograph Sheila Walsh, renowned speaker and Bible teacher, said, "In the middle of the ashes, the cross remains. A powerful reminder...No matter the devastation we face, no matter what is burned up, the cross is victorious..." One of our partners in France, Tony Roos, noted of the picture, "This image being passed around the inter webs has touched my heart. The cross shines brightly in the dark. The ancient symbol of death and punishment, redeemed by Christ to offer hope to all, shines bright in the surrounding chaos left after the fire, and stands as a witness that no matter what, now matter how, there is still a hope. Hope that stands and lasts for eternity."

The remarkable thing about this photo and the above comments is that as believers we understand and interpret this photograph very differently than most of the French. We view it through the eyes of a believer who understands life with all of its joys and sorrows through the lens of a loving and sovereign God. We know that all that we experience on earth is temporary and our hope is in our future with our Savior. We celebrated that hope on Easter Sunday. We know that though devastating circumstances touch our lives, they cannot shake the Solid Rock on Whom we build our foundation. It is sad to know that most of the French have no such hope or knowledge. This fall we intend to do something about that. Will you join us? There is still room on the team and time to sign up. If you would like to demonstrate the truth of what the photograph depicts, if you would like to encourage the team there who often struggle through difficult circumstances in a country far from home without the support of a church family that we enjoy, then this opportunity is for you!

Contact Joanne Kreinbrook, jkreinbrook.gac@gmail.com, or at the church office so you can shine the true light of the cross in the city of Paris.

Men's Sunday Prayer Ministry

The Men's Prayer Ministry meets every Sunday morning prior to the worship services to pray for the services and our congregation. All men are welcome to join us in the Prayer Room located near the Sanctuary.

Young At Heart

If you are 55 years or older please join us for our next meeting on May 2, in the Fellowship Hall, at 11:30am (bring a friend). Bring a sandwich to eat and as usual coffee and deserts will be provided by the committee for the month, so far only Pat Fellers is our committee of one. Our speaker will be a representative from Senior Life explaining their program. Hope to see you then.

GAC Worship

Our team is composed of volunteers from all walks of life who desire to use their gifts to worship God. We currently have openings for volunteers in production, creative design, Adult Worship, and Orange Worship. If you would like to be a part of GAC Worship, please contact Jennifer Dail, Director of Worship Ministries, at dail.jennifer@gmail.com.

The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan

May

New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ MARK	▶ 2 COR.	▶ PSALMS	▶ 1 SAMUEL
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:33-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 95	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 96	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:17-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 97	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-8
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:35-52	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 98	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-10
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 99	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-13
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:12-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 100	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:27-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 101	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 102	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-18
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:13-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 103	<input type="checkbox"/> 19-20
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:28-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 104	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-23
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 105	<input type="checkbox"/> 24-25
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 106:1-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-28
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:14-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:16-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 106:24-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-31
			▶ 2 SAMUEL
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:32-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 107	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:11-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 108	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:12-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 109	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-7
	▶ GALATIANS		
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:32-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 110	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-10
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:43-52	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 111	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-12
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:53-65	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 112	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:66-72	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 113	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-15
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 114	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-17
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:16-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:21-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 115	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-19
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:33-41	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 116	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-21
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:42-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:13-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 117	<input type="checkbox"/> 22
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 118	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-24

June

New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ LUKE	▶ EPHESIANS	▶ PSALMS	▶ 1 KINGS
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:26-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:15-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:9-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-3
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:39-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:17-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:57-66	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:11-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:25-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:67-80	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:33-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:41-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-10
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:21-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:49-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:41-52	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:17-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:57-64	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:25-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:65-72	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:21-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:73-80	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:22-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:81-88	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-18
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:13-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:89-96	<input type="checkbox"/> 19-20
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:31-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:10-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:97-104	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-22
	▶ PHILIPPIANS		▶ 2 KINGS
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:38-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:105-112	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:113-120	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:21-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:121-128	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:17-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:129-136	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:27-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:12-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:137-144	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-11
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:33-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:19-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:145-152	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-13
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:153-160	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-15
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:17-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:161-168	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-17
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:27-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:15-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 119:169-176	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-19
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:37-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-21
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:43-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:8-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 121	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-23
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:14-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 122	<input type="checkbox"/> 24-25

Sunday Morning Adult Growth Classes

“A Place for Growing... A Place for YOU!”

Adult Growth Classes are offered at 9:15am and 10:45am. The new semester of classes will continue through May 12. Pick up a brochure at the rack in the Lobby for details on upcoming classes.

9:15 AM

A Biblical Look at Angels

Teacher: Ed Kerr | Room 240

What is the origin of angels? Where do they come from? What is the role of angels in the believer's life? When it comes to the topic and subject of angels, there seem to be two extremes. On one hand, many of us are ignorant about angels. On the other hand, some people are obsessed with them or have adopted views that are in stark contrast to what the Bible teaches.

As with a lot of spiritual issues, the truth remains between these extremes. The apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:12, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Paul is saying that the evil that we see, is at times the work of dark, demonic forces. Over the next six weeks, we are going to look at what the Bible has to say about this subject – are angels real and if so, why do they exist? What role do they play in our everyday lives?

10:45 AM

Guardrails: Avoiding Regret in Your Life

Teacher: George Cross | 230

Guardrails. They are everywhere, whether we end up ever needing them or not, they provide guidance and safety. If we misjudge a turn or fall asleep at the wheel we will be grateful that someone thought ahead to put them in place. The thing about guardrails is that we do not need them until we do. And when we need one, it can be the difference between life and death.

In this DVD study from Andy Stanley we will be challenged to stop flirting with disaster and establish personal guardrails in our friendships, marriages, and finances. This study will help us dig deeper into ways that will challenge us to stop flirting with disaster and establish personal guardrails. These guardrails will keep us healthy and on the road of life when we inevitably make mistakes.

Anchor College Ministry

The Great Commission is foundational to who the Alliance is; evangelism, discipleship, and sending people out. As our world becomes more digitally connected, it has also become relationally distant. This makes the value of physical interaction and relationship building even more important. Through group discussions and discipleship programs, we encourage students to engage themselves in the local community, and provide ways to do so, rather than just observing from behind a screen. By fostering a love for people and a willingness to reach them, we are preparing our students to make an impact in the world, wherever they may go, and whatever they may do.

We meet every other Sunday, at 12:15pm in Room 260, so check the bulletin for meeting dates. If you have questions, or are interested in more information, contact Josh Nosbisch at 412-378-5791, or jnosbisch.gac@gmail.com.



GAC Youth News & Events

Pastor Rigel's Contact Information
gacyouth@gmail.com - 724-575-2862

Creation Music Festival - June 26-30

Mark your calendars - Creation sign-ups are open. Creation Northeast is the largest Christian music festival in the country. For the past 31 summers our church has been taking a group to Creation to spend the week camping, worshipping, and hearing encouraging messages. The cost of the trip is \$150 per student which includes transportation, a festival ticket, and meals throughout the trip. A non-refundable deposit of \$35 is due at sign up. Many of our students consider our annual trip to Creation the highlight of their summer. A detailed packet for this year's trip is available at Youth Group and for download on the church website.

GAC.5k - Saturday, May 18 9:00

On Saturday May 18 our church will be hosting a community .5k to raise money for our up-coming trip to the LIFE Conference. While the registration for the event itself will be raising the bulk of the money for our trip there will be a lemonade stand manned by our teens (roughly 9am-12:30). Any teens that are interested in helping can sign up in the youth Sunday School room. Even if you are not planning on going to the LIFE Conference consider participating in the event itself to support your fellow teens. See our website www.greensburgalliance.com for more details on event registration.

Moving Up Night 2019

On Thursday, June 6, from 6:30-8:30pm, we will have our "Moving Up Night" at Youth Group. If you are a student who is going into 7th grade and will be 12 years old by September 1, we would love to see you at our Youth Group "Moving Up" Night. If you do not receive an invitation by May 16, please contact Pastor Rigel. If you are unable to attend and yet meet the requirements, consider yourself "Moved Up" after June 6. Any current students who are interested in sharing during our Moving Up Night should contact Rigel ASAP.

Sign-Up for Relay for Life Service Project - Saturday, June 8

This year we have another opportunity to serve our community by participating in Relay for Life-Greensburg, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, which honors cancer survivors. On Saturday, June 8, our Youth Group will be serving food and helping with clean up at the Relay for Life. We will meet at the Hempfield High School Cafeteria promptly at 4:15pm and head in to begin preparing the meal. Please sign up in the Youth Sunday School room if you are interested in serving, and make sure that you wear your Youth Group t-shirt on the day of the event. If you need a new shirt, one will be provided for free.

Bowling Fundraiser - Sunday, June 9 12:00-2:30pm (Pledges start mid-May)

Our Bowling Fundraiser is back!!! Students will have a chance to raise money for Creation and LIFE by receiving pledges per pins prior to the 29th. Students may pick up pledge sheets from Pastor Rigel mid-May. On Sunday afternoon, June 9th after the second service, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a quick bite and then head over to Hillview Lanes. Each student will bowl two games and will record the better of the two scores. Students need to bring \$7 cash and make plans to be picked up at Hillview Lanes (829 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA). If a student is not involved in the fundraiser they are still invited to go bowling with our group.

No YG Meeting May 23 & 30

We will be taking May 23 & 30 off from Youth Group to give both our leaders and our youth group families a chance to rest up before we launch into the busy (but awesome) Summer schedule ahead of us.

**Keep an eye out for the Alliance Youth summer schedule
 which will be released towards the end of May!**

Children's Ministries



Vacation Bible School: June 10-14, 2019

VBS is right around the corner and it is a great opportunity to start off a kid's summer. This year's theme is ROAR, which takes kids on an epic African adventure, that explores God's goodness. Be on the lookout for more details in the bulletin about registration, volunteer sign ups, and supply needs in the upcoming weeks. Please mark your calendars for June 10-14. We are excited and looking forward to seeing you.

Please consider giving a week (or even a few days) of your summer to volunteer with our children during VBS. If you are interested in helping or would like additional information, please check the box on the back of your Sunday bulletin information card; contact the church office, 724-837-1122; or contact Becky Buriok at 412-610-2411.

Vacation Bible School is on the Move!

This year our VBS will be moving back to mornings and will begin on Monday, June 10 and end on Friday, June 14 with a celebration picnic! Be thinking about family and friends you want to invite to our VBS, and what you can do to help this year! There are plenty of supplies we will need, a few of which will be listed, and we also have a sign up table available in the lobby, stop by and see how you can lend a hand this year!

VBS Supplies Needed:

In connection with this year's VBS, we need your help. We are in need of the following items and appreciate any donations you would be able to supply. They include: empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes, plain white paper plates, yellow, orange, and light brown paper, and glue sticks.

The Orange Large Group Room

After months of preparation, our Orange Large Group Room is now in operation and being used for our 252 Kids Sunday morning programs. There are so many to thank for helping make this room a reality. There have been countless volunteer hours that have gone into the renovations, turning multiple smaller rooms into one large room. Those that have painted, moved supplies, built the stage, cleaned, installed doors, cleaned carpet, made signs, and so much more; we cannot thank you enough! Thank you to all the Sunday morning Children's Ministry volunteers as well for your flexibility during the renovation period. And thank you to the parents for your patience. We are so excited to see the kids enjoying the space, and look forward to enjoying the space as our ministry grows!

Bible Quizzing Update

Our last regular quiz meet and Awards Banquet was held at ACAC on Saturday, April 6. Senior quizzers competed on the whole book of John, while juniors quizzed on John chapters 1-4, 11-14, and 19-20. Paul Obringer did well, coming in 7th place for the day with 250 points. His team (Norwin 2) scored 38 points and placed 6th. Paul took 10th place overall for the year, with a cumulative score of 1140 points. He and nine others from the Pittsburgh area will be competing against others from the Erie and Altoona zones at the WPA District Finals on May 3-4 at Indiana Alliance Church. The top 8 senior quizzers at Finals will then represent Western Pennsylvania at the 2019 Bible Quizzing Internationals to be held in Orlando, Florida, on July 5-10.

Finish strong, Quizzers!



**Dan, Lisa,
Adley & Ellis**

Notre Dame: The Heart of France on Fire

As one who lives in Paris, I can't even begin to explain how heartbreaking the recent events are for this city.

As word of the fire quickly spread on Monday, people everywhere stopped. A collective lump formed in our throats as we looked on in disbelief. People gathered around screens in every café, paralyzed by astonishment. How could this be happening?

Immediately you knew that from now on you would be asked, "Where were you the day Notre Dame burned?" - and you would remember. As the heart of the city burned, the hearts of its people broke. This monument that we walk by several times a week is so much more than just stones-it is history, art, relics, culture, and identity.

That night the city was quiet, only sirens. As the sun went down the glow of the flames still rose. People gathered to mourn as close to the church as the police would allow. By the light of phones, people looked for the lyrics to songs they once knew to join a makeshift choir that had formed. Some people knelt in the streets to pray. The sound of crying was all around. However most people were silent, unsure of what they were feeling. It was as if someone had died.

As the ashes of the old church settled, so did the Parisians. As life continued, people walked around stunned. There was a subtle, silent recognition of what we were going through together. Underneath it all, people anxiously awaited news of the church's fate. A friend of ours went on to say something very revealing about the culture, "I'm not a believer, so this is not about religion to me at all, and for our country this is not about religion."

You see, France is filled with big old churches, but most of them are empty. The truth is, France is the fourth largest atheistic country in the world, less than one percent of the population claims to have a relationship with Jesus. Most people have been hurt by religion and want nothing to do with God. For most of the French people, their hope is not in God or even the church. They have hope that this building, this symbol, can be saved. Little do they realize that the work they hope to see done in this building, God wants to see done in them.

One of the greatest spiritual hurdles for the French is formal religion itself. They detest and struggle to separate Christ from it. As people stare at the church, they are forced to look at religion. And until this hurdle is overcome, they will never be able to enter into a relationship with the living Christ.

Pray with us that the French people will wrestle with this deep stirring and ask the hard questions so they will all see that God is more than buildings, services, rules, and rigidness. Our resurrected Lord is our greatest hope. Only Jesus can rescue and restore their hearts and bring new life. May this be the beginning of a great movement of the Holy Spirit here in France.

As the people stare with broken hearts at blackened walls questioning it all, may we the believers be there to comfort, listen, guide, and most importantly, love.

Your friends in France,
Dan, Lisa, Adley, and Ellis Lawrence

May Condolences

Condolences to Mindy Colligan and Donna Bickerstaff, Mindy's husband Dave passed away April 11.

Condolences to Doris Peterson and family, Doris' husband Wendell passed away April 25.

May Anniversaries

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Vernon & Lois Brewer
Glenn & Becky Davidson | 14 Alan & Wendy Knepp | 24 Chuck & Amanda Christman |
| 6 Kevin & Lisa Coughanour | 19 Bill & Vickie Mackison | 26 John & Lisa Kraynak |
| 8 Bill Jr & Ashley Hugland | 20 Frank & Diane Palmieri | 27 Clair & Martha Lear
Mark & Jayne Obringer
Jim & Sharon Williams |
| 12 Buddy & Elizabeth Pevarnik | 23 Jason & Michelle Adams
Kevin & Jennifer Dail
Mike & Karen Mckivens | 30 Kurt & Linda Schneider |

May Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Ed Cook
Bryar Hoffer
Audrey O'Nan | 15 Wendell Peterson | 25 Paige Kraynak |
| 2 Alaina Torockio | 17 Kenneth Nye | 26 Phyllis Burton
Grant Gardiner |
| 6 Kami Hauser
Mary Marquis | 18 Brock Ayers | 27 Bethany Dreskler |
| 8 Dennis Young | 19 Ian Slater | 28 Hannah Loy
Abram Stahl |
| 10 Simon Bartels
Philip Graziani | 20 Krystal Dail | 29 Alivia Fox
Hunters Griffiths
Martha Lear
Rusty Loy |
| 11 Ashlynn Ayers
Jean Smartnick | 21 Jack Cross
Mikayla McKivens
Stella O'Neal | 30 Eli Dail
Carter Hilty |
| 12 Thomas Keller
Alyssa Kelley | 22 Lois Brewer
Laura Siecinski
Brynn Zangaro | 31 Thomas Raffle
Patty Schomer |
| 13 Colette Momper | 23 Ethan Patrick
Matt Stone
Zackary Tanyer | |
| 14 Daniel Dreskler
Debbie Kauffman
Ronnie Young | 24 Billy Moore
Raina Slater | |

If you would like your anniversary and family birthdays listed in our monthly Focus newsletters, please indicate on the back of your Sunday bulletin information card or email the Church Office, churchoffice.gac@gmail.com.

We appreciate your completing the information cards in your bulletin each week so that we can keep our records up to date. Even if your contact information hasn't changed, just write your name and "same" across the front. Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 11:30am Young At Heart Meeting 6:30pm Thursday Night @ The Well- Alliance Youth (AY)	3 Bible Quiz District Finals	4
5 9:15 & 10:45am Worship, Communion & Sunday School 12:15pm Children's Sunday Morning Volunteer Mtg.	6 6:30pm Elders Meeting	7 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	8	9 6:30pm Thursday Night @ The Well- Alliance Youth (AY)	10	11
12 Happy Mother's Day! 9:15 & 10:45am Worship & Sunday School 12:30pm Anchor College Ministry	13	14 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Moms 24/7 7:00pm Bible Study	15	16 6:30pm Thursday Night @ The Well- Alliance Youth (AY)	17	18 10:00am .5k Race - Church Grounds
19 9:15 & 10:45am Worship & Sunday School 12:15pm Deacons Meeting	20 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting 7:30 pm Elders Meeting Newsletter Article Deadline	21 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	22	23 NO Alliance Youth Meeting	24	25
26 9:15 & 10:45am Worship & Sunday School 12:30pm Anchor College Ministry 12:15pm Children's Captain Mtg.	27 Memorial Day Holiday Church Office Closed	28 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Moms 24/7 7:00pm Bible Study	29	30 NO Alliance Youth Meeting 7pm Trustees Meeting	31	
Alliance General Council 5/28 - 6/2						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Alliance General Council 5/28 - 6/2						
2 9:15 & 10:45am Worship, Communion & Sunday School	3 6:30pm Elders Meeting	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	5	6 11:30am Young At Heart Meeting 6:30pm Thursday Night @ The Well- Alliance Youth (AY) Move Up Night	7	8
9 9:15 & 10:45am Worship & Sunday School 1:30pm Anchor College Ministry/Picnic @ Laurel Hill AY-Bowling -Hillview	10	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	12	13 6:30pm Thursday Night @ The Well- Alliance Youth (AY)	14	15
Vacation Bible School - June 10-14 - 9am-11:30am						
16 <i>Happy Father's Day!</i> 9:15 & 10:45am Worship & Sunday School 12:15pm Deacons Meeting	17 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting 7:30 pm Elders Meeting Newsletter Article Deadline	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	19	20 6:30pm Thursday Night @ The Well- Alliance Youth (AY)	21	22
Dad & Lad Camp - June 20-23 - Tel-Hai Camp						
23 9:15 & 10:45am Worship & Sunday School 12:15pm Anchor College Ministry 12:15pm Children's Captain Mtg.	24	25 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	26	27 <i>Alliance Youth (AY) will not meet due to Creation trip</i> 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	28	29
Alliance Youth - Creation Festival - June 26-30						
30 9:15 & 10:45am Worship & Sunday School Alliance Youth Returns from Creation Trip						



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Bible Quiz District Finals - May 3-4

.5k - May 18

VBS - June 10-14

Dad & Lad Camp - June 20-23

Alliance Youth Creation Festival - June 26-30

LIFE Conference - July 8-14