

# FOCUS



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

**James Llewellyn**  
Senior Pastor

**Rigel Holmes**  
Youth Ministries

**Mark DiAndreth**  
Administration and  
Discipleship

**Hannah Ford**  
Worship Ministries

**Cindy Llewellyn**  
Children's Ministries



Rev. James Llewellyn  
Senior Pastor

## Inside the Issue:

|                                             |   |
|---------------------------------------------|---|
| Message                                     | 1 |
| GAC Ministries                              | 2 |
| GAC Ministries Cont'd                       | 3 |
| Alliance Youth Ministries                   | 4 |
| Children's Ministries                       | 5 |
| August Calendar                             | 6 |
| September Calendar                          | 7 |
| Anniversaries/Birthdays/<br>Upcoming Events | 8 |

This month carries a unique energy in our community. Children are treasuring their last weeks of summer freedom, parents are preparing for the familiar rhythm of school schedules, and teachers are setting up classrooms with hope-filled hearts. Yet in the midst of all this activity, we have the privilege of witnessing God's hand in the details of our daily lives.

For our students – whether heading to kindergarten for the first time, navigating the complex halls of middle school, or preparing for that final year of high school – this August marks more than just another academic year. It's an opportunity to grow in wisdom, to build meaningful friendships, and to discover new ways God has gifted them to serve His kingdom. We encourage our young people to remember that they carry the light of Christ into every classroom, every hallway conversation, and every extracurricular activity.

Our parents face their own season of preparation and trust. As you shop for school supplies and adjust family schedules, remember that God sees the love poured into every lunch packed, every permission slip signed, and every prayer whispered over your children as they head out the door. Your faithfulness in the small moments creates a foundation of security that allows your children to flourish.

To our educators within the congregation, thank you for your calling to shape young minds and hearts. Whether you teach in public schools, private institutions, or homeschool your own children, you are partnering with God in one of His most important works – nurturing the next generation. We pray that this school year brings you renewed passion, creative inspiration, and the deep satisfaction of knowing you're making an eternal difference.

As summer's lazy afternoons give way to structured schedules, let's not lose sight of the lessons this season has taught us. The rest we've found in summer's pace, the connections deepened through family vacations and community gatherings, and the wonder discovered in creation's abundance – these are gifts to carry forward into busier days ahead.

This August, we invite you to approach the new school year with intentionality. Perhaps it's committing to pray for our local schools and teachers. Maybe it's volunteering in ways that support education in our community. Or it could be as simple as choosing to see each morning as a fresh opportunity to trust God with the day ahead.

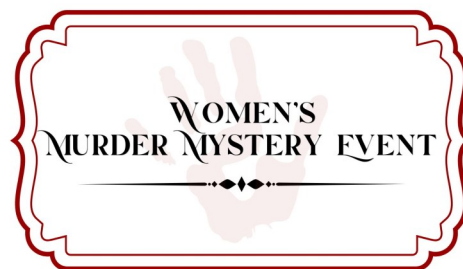
Remember that whether you're facing the excitement of new possibilities or the anxiety of unknown challenges, you don't walk alone. Our church family stands ready to support, encourage, and celebrate with you. God's mercies are new every morning, and His faithfulness extends through every classroom, every practice field, and every moment of growth that lies ahead.

**Men's 9 Hole Golf Evenings**

All men (age 18 and older) are invited to our final 9-Hole Golf evening this summer on Tuesday, August 12th. This will be held at a Totteridge Golf Course and tee times will begin at 5:30pm. A cost of \$29 will cover the green fee and a cart. Text Ryan Hauser (724-757-1049) to reserve a spot or with any questions.

**Women's Event: Murder Mystery Event**

Ladies 18 years of age and older are invited to step into a night of suspense at our Murder Mystery Event! On August 16th & 17th at 2:00pm and 5:00pm, we will be meeting at 12th Octave Studios, located at 217 S Pennsylvania Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601, to practice our sleuthing skills and uncover the true events of the crime! Are you clever enough to solve the mystery before time runs out? You'll have two and a half hours, so use your time wisely! The cost is \$25 per person (non-refundable), and while your experience will be the same for whichever time slot you choose, space is limited! Sign up in the church lobby or call the church office by August 10th to join us in gathering clues and sorting through suspects!

**Serve with Others**

Be a part of making a difference in our church, community, and world! Fill out a Connect Card on Sunday or via our church App, asking for more information regarding areas you can serve at GAC. No matter what gifts you have or what area of ministry you are passionate about, there is a place for you to serve. Our goal is to help you use those gifts and passions for the glory of God and building up of your church family.

**Men's Connection**

All men, 18 and older, mark your calendars for our monthly Men's Connection. Join us on the 4th Saturday of every month in the Nook at the church from 8:00-9:00am for coffee and donuts, along with a short devotional and discussion. Meetings will be led by Boice Bailey and Bob Statler. Each month will be a different study, so feel free to attend whenever you can. Hope to see you there as we grow in Christ together! This month's meeting is on Saturday August 23, 2025.

**Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

We invite you to join our Men's Bible Study each Tuesday morning via Zoom. We meet from 6:30am to 7:30am every Tuesday. If you would like to participate, send an email to [alexander.graziani@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.graziani@gmail.com) to get a link to the Zoom meeting. Resolve to get into the Word of God and let the Word of God get into you!

**Tuesday Night Prayer Meeting**

We invite you to join us for an evening of prayer via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity for us to be united in prayer. A link will be emailed on the first Monday of each month and you can sign up for "Prayer Meeting" notifications on our GAC app. If you have not received our Tuesday Night Prayer Meeting links in the past, please contact the Church Office, [churchoffice.gac@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice.gac@gmail.com) or 724-837-1122 to be added.

**Adult Sunday Growth Class: Room 230 @ 9:30am**

How do we handle conflict as Christians? This question has plagued the church for centuries and continues to trip us up even today. In this three-part series Eric Simpson will walk us through the short but important New Testament book of Philemon. In it we will see the Apostle Paul's framework for reconciliation. Wrestling with reconciliation is even more important when we are called to deal with situations where the path forward involves the tension between accountability and grace. Join us as we learn what it takes to live in unity with other believers.



GAC Youth News &amp; Events

August 2025

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.

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.

Additionally, check out our Youth Group seasonal schedule (Fall/Winter available Aug 22) on the church website, app, and in the Youth Room.

### **Mini Golf & Go-Karts- August 21 (6:30-8:30pm)**

On Thursday, August 21<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm, we will be meeting at Statler's Fun Center (386 Frye Farm Road, Greensburg, PA) for Go Karts and Mini Golf. This outing will cost \$18 (paid in cash on the day of the trip) which will include a round of Mini Golf, 2 rides on the Go-Karts, and a scoop of Hershey's ice cream. Students who are over 16 and have their driver's license with them will be able to use the Pro Go-carts (which are faster). There will be a prize awarded for the student with the best mini-golf score. Please note that you will need to be dropped off and picked up at Statler's. Because this event is outdoors, if there is substantial rain we will meet for a normal youth group at the church. Please sign-up in the Youth Sunday School Room or by messaging Pastor Rigel directly (724) 575-2862.

### **Church Baptism Service & Picnic- August 24**

On Sunday, August 24, we will be having our annual Outdoor Baptism service (10am) and Church Picnic (11:30am) on the church property. It will be a great time of fellowship, food (food trucks) & games. If you're interested in being baptized, please let Pastor Rigel know or indicate on your bulletin information card on Sunday morning. All students being baptized will meet with Pastor Rigel to talk through the meaning of baptism and its importance in the life of a believer.

### **Youth Group Move-Up Day- September 7**

Beginning on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, new 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be eligible to move up into the GAC Youth Ministry. To be eligible to move-up, a student will have to be both in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and at least 11 years of age by September 7.

This year on Sunday, September 7, will have a special breakfast at 9:30am in the youth room. At this breakfast, you will have a chance to meet our leaders and other students and hear about what to expect in the youth ministry. After this date, all students who fit the criteria stated above should consider themselves moved-up and can begin participating in our Thursday night youth meetings. If you are unable to attend this move up day on Sunday morning, we will still be doing a special orientation on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at our youth group meeting with tons of pizza!!!

### **Operation Christmas Child Donations**

Each year we collect various items from the beginning of the school year through November to pack shoeboxes to be sent to needy children throughout the world for our Operation Christmas Child Outreach. Last year we set and exceeded an ambitious goal of 200 shoeboxes on our packing night and packed over 250! It was an ambitious undertaking. This year we will be looking to do the same. This year to ensure that we collect adequate supplies, we will be putting up voluntary donation tags in the youth room to cover specific quantities of items (Ex. 25 notebooks, 20 bars of soap, 20 toothbrushes). As always, we will continue to collect a wide variety of supplies but with these donation tags we will ensure that we are able to send a large number of well-rounded boxes. Please see the bulletin board in the youth room for more details. Any donations can be returned to Rigel directly or placed in the OCC bin in the Youth Room.

### **Youth Missions Trip to the Dominican Republic Save the Date (June 13-20, 2026)**

We are excited to announce the dates for a fantastic opportunity that we will be offering our teens in the summer of 2026. On Saturday June 13 we will be sending a group to the Dominican Republic for a week to minister in Santo Domingo at our Envision partnership site.

Last May, Brandon Nutter (the IW in charge of Alliance missions in the DR) came to share with our church on a Sunday morning the amazing things that the Lord has been doing in the DR. We will be putting a packet out in early October with the details for the trip including times, cost and eligibility. With this being a long-term partnership our goal is to offer this trip on a rotating basis.

**There will be no Youth Group meetings on August 28 & September 4  
due to our end of Summer break**



GAC Kids News &amp; Events

August 2025

Cindy Llewellyn

cindy.gackids@gmail.com

The month of August we will be finishing up the summer unit and focusing on the “Big picture” of the Bible. Our lessons will include:

- David defeating Goliath
- True wisdom comes from God’s Word
- Proverbs
- Proverbs in action



\*We also are challenged to memorize the books of the Bible. We want kids to be equipped to find verses in the Bible. Please take time to practice with them.

\*Please encourage your kids to bring their Bibles to church. This will help them learn to use their Bibles and be familiar with finding where things are in the Bible. We also will be challenging the kids to learn the books of the Bible in the Old Testament & New Testament. Tracker Tickets will be awarded to those who bring their Bibles, attendance, participation, and completing the Tracker sheets the following week. Tracker Tickets are accumulated over the unit, usually 3 months, and then able to be traded in for a prize at the end of the unit. Let’s encourage our kids to be wise by “digging” into God’s Word

\*Move up Sunday will be held on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**. This is when children move into their next classroom according to age & birthday. Please register your child for the new 2025-2026 year so we can plan accordingly for the move up.

**Parents:** Please take a minute to fill out a new children’s ministry registration for the **2025-2026 school year and Awana**. Registrations are located at the Children’s ministry desk or online at [greensburgalliancechurch.com](https://greensburgalliancechurch.com).

*\*Has God placed in your heart the desire to share HIM with others? Kids need to be seen, known, and loved. Being involved in Children’s ministry allows them to understand, connect and build a lifelong lasting relationship with Jesus and others. Will you step out and join the team? There will be an informational/training meeting on **Tuesday, August 12 from 2-4 and 6-8**. Please sign up & mark your calendars for one of these meetings and see where God can use YOU today! You do not want to miss out on this opportunity to serve!!*

\*We are looking for individuals (adults & teens) interested serving in Children’s Ministry. Areas you can serve include:

- nursery (0-2 years old)
- toddlers (2-3 years old)
- preschool (4-5 years old)
- elementary (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- gatekeeper/front desk
- prayer groups
- Awana
- follow-up

\*Awana evenings are a time of discipleship, games, Bible lessons where you can grow in your understanding of the Bible and His plan for your life. You can be part of this fun and exciting time to learn God’s Word. Please register your child online or by filling out a form at the children’s ministry desk. Ages 3 years old- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Classrooms are as follows:

- Cubbies:** 3 (by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>)-5 years
- Sparks:** K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- T&T:** 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> grade



\*We strive to equip children to become life-long learners of Jesus & His Word.

\*Awana will resume on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

\*We need YOU to serve in AWANA!! This program would not be possible without a team of volunteers who are willing to serve each night.

**AWANA Meeting–Wed. Aug 13, 2025.** This meeting will be for anyone interested in volunteering to serve in Awana, please see Cindy Llewellyn for more information. Sign up to serve in AWANA with the connect card or by contacting Cindy Llewellyn/office.

**Areas to serve:** Cubbies, Sparks, T&T, games, registration, Bible teaching, subs, special events.

# August 2025

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mon       | Tue                                                                                                             | Wed       | Thu                                                      | Fri       | Sat                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |                                                                                                                 |           |                                                          | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>                                                |
| <b>3</b><br>Communion<br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Adult Growth Class<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry                                                            | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg                             | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>6:30pm<br>AY - Thursday Night<br>at the Well | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>                                                |
| <b>10</b><br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Adult Growth Class &<br>Youth Sunday School<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry                                               | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>5:30pm<br>Men's Golfing<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>6:30pm<br>AY-Thursday Night<br>at the Well  | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b><br>2 & 5pm<br>Women's Murder<br>Mystery Event |
| <b>17</b><br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Adult Growth Class &<br>Youth Sunday School<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry<br>2 & 5pm<br>Women's Murder<br>Mystery Event | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg                            | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>6:30pm<br>AY-Thursday Night<br>at the Well  | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b><br>8:00am<br>Men's Connection                 |
| <b>24</b><br>10:00am<br>OUTDOOR SERVICE &<br>BAPTISM                                                                                                                                     | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg                            | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>6:30pm<br>AY-Thursday Night<br>at the Well  | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b>                                               |
| <b>31</b><br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Youth Sunday School<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry                                                                       |           |                                                                                                                 |           |                                                          |           |                                                         |



# September 2025

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mon                                           | Tue                                                                                                             | Wed                          | Thu       | Fri       | Sat                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>1</b><br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED | <b>2</b>                                                                                                        | <b>3</b>                     | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                                |
| <b>7</b><br><b>MOVE UP SUNDAY</b><br><i>Communion</i><br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Adult Growth Class &<br>Youth Sunday School<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry | <b>8</b>                                      | <b>9</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg                             | <b>10</b><br>6:30pm<br>Awana | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b>                               |
| <b>14</b><br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Adult Growth Class &<br>Youth Sunday School<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry                                             | <b>15</b>                                     | <b>16</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>5:30pm<br>Men's Golfing<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg | <b>17</b><br>6:30pm<br>Awana | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b>                               |
| <b>21</b><br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Adult Growth Class<br>10:30am<br>Deacons Meeting<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry                                        | <b>22</b>                                     | <b>23</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg                            | <b>24</b><br>6:30pm<br>Awana | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>8:00am<br>Men's Connection |
| <b>28</b><br>9:30 & 11:00am<br>Worship Services<br>9:30am<br>Adult Growth Class &<br>Youth Sunday School<br>11:00am<br>Children's Ministry                                             | <b>29</b>                                     | <b>30</b><br>6:30am<br>Men's Bible Study<br>via Zoom<br>7:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Mtg                            |                              |           |           |                                         |

## August Anniversaries

|                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 7 - Pastor Lu & Cindy Llewellyn | 15- Jayme & Jimmi White      |
| 8 - Jacob & Ashley Kauffman     | 26- Andrew & Lindsey Stone   |
| 12- Bob & Jamie Callen          | 30- Jordan & Becky Timko     |
| 14- Norm & Swan Mueller         | 31- Blaine & Debbie Kauffman |

## August Birthdays

|                     |                    |                        |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Stacy Arquillo  | 10- Ayva Durik     | 20 - Abigail Valore    | 27 - Easton Marconi |
| 2 - Doris Peterson  | Luca DeCecco       | Arlow Sharpe           | 28 - Isaac Murgi    |
| Michael DiFranco    | Remington Huth     | Leah Huth              | 29 - Anita Wallace  |
| 3 - Ian Kelley      | 12- Chris Stelma   | Maya Magnuson          | 30 - Ed Calhoun III |
| 4 - Allen Gardner   | Glenna Weisel      | 21 - Aliannah Mull     | Maria Rohrbacher    |
| Brensen Torockio    | Jesse Diperna      | Bruce Kunkle           | 31 - Adeline Vivio  |
| Sandy Myers         | 13- Dimphina Ayers | 22 - Maximus Adams     | Aubrey Hennessey    |
| 5 - Addison Stein   | Javon Trout        | 23 - Marsha Cilli      |                     |
| 7 - Joanne Dixon    | 14- Emily Murgi    | Matt Buriok            |                     |
| Laney Mocaldo       | 15- Billy Hugland  | Becky Timko            |                     |
| 8 - Cindy Llewellyn | Pat Fellers        | Scott Rose             |                     |
| Ella Christman      | 16- Andrea Nye     | Willow Hayden          |                     |
| Lisa Kraynak        | Leah Wheelus       | 24 - Alex Firestone    |                     |
| 9 - Erica Momper    | 17- Alorah Durik   | Carol Barackman        |                     |
| Haley Cline         | Gracie Rock        | John Moore             |                     |
| Nolan Bartels       | 18- Emma Timko     | 26 - Charles Christman |                     |
|                     |                    | Michael Gilpin         |                     |

If you would like your anniversary and family birthdays listed in our monthly Focus newsletters, please indicate on your Sunday Connect Card located in the pews, through our Church app, or email the Church Office, [churchoffice.gac@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice.gac@gmail.com).

We appreciate you completing the Connect Card located in the pews or on the app and submitting it each week so that we can keep our records up to date. Thank you!

**Men's Golfing - August 12**

**Women's Murder Mystery Event - August 16 & 17**

**Outdoor Service & Baptism - August 24**

**Men's Connection - August 23**

Any prayer requests can be submitted by email to the Church Office, [churchoffice.gac@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice.gac@gmail.com), our Church App, or you may leave a voice message at the Church Office, 724-837-1122.