June 21, 2020

Romans15:1-4...*"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."*

Rome was the epicenter of the world. It was the most powerful nation. It had culture and money and influence equal to none. In the heart of it's empire there was a church. This church had two very distinct ethnic and cultural groups. The Jews, although occupied by Roman rule, still felt special. They were the chosen ones, the right pedigree, color and bloodline. To them, the Romans were inferior, and propped up by a false since of pride and power, military might and cultural hedonism. The Romans, knowing they ruled the known world, felt superior over those they occupied. They maneuvered and used the marginalized Jews for their own political and financial gain. If a Jew wanted to "get ahead" in this world, they would have to go through a Roman.

It was in that climate that Paul, being both a Jew and a citizen of Rome, wrote his letter to the church in Rome. The great Apostle was constantly trying to push both sides to the middle in his letter to them. If someone likes meat, that should be okay with someone who abstains from eating meat, if someone eats only vegetables, then that should be just fine with someone who really likes meat to eat. All throughout his letter he is trying to encourage the church, to be different than the culture and society in which it comes from. " Come and live a different way", was Paul's beckoning call.

We, like the Christians in Rome, are called to be good citizens in and to a society that has very different morals and beliefs than we do. We are called to honor all. At the same time, we are challenged to live different than the rest of our culture lives. We are not to live to please ourselves. We are not to live to judge and look down upon our neighbors. We are called to train our brains, our minds and our hearts to act, think and believe in a different standard and in different ways than how the society around us operates. We are called to be holy people, to be full of truth and grace.

Think for aa moment, how right a Roman must have felt about their legal rights and their ways. Or consider how easily it would have been for a Jew to be smug in the midst of the unjust and ungodly rule of people who didn't believe in God. We can all come from a superior place of believing or even knowing we are right, correct, etc. But, the Scriptures are constantly urging us to care more about others than we are about our need to be right. What if the other is wrong? Their belief is messed up? Their politics are jaded, their theology a little messed up, or their take on things skewed? If so, then "they" are the weak ones and "we" have then assumed the posture of the strong ones. If so, than read Romans 15:1-4 one more time. And, my challenge is to then live it in the real time climate of today.

Praying we are a strong and merciful church.

Pastor Wes Davis

High School July 5th -10th
(completed 9th-12th grades)
$100 Due by June 22

Middle School July 26th - 31st
(completed 6th-8th grades)
$100 Due by June 22

Elementary July 16th -18th
(completed 2nd-5th grade)
$50 Due by June 22

Elementary Day Camp July 11th
(this is a new camp for K-1st grades)
$35

HOW TO REGISTER

It seems nothing is ever as easy as we want it to be. So, we have a few special instructions for registering this year:

1. No PAPER forms. Due to COVID concerns all registrations are digital this year.
As normal there are two registrations for camp; one for the camp and another for Grace.

- Register with Grace on the Church Center app (download instructions are below) In the events tab, choose the camp for your student. Tap "register" at the bottom and follow the prompts.
- To register with the Camp click the link below to be redirected to the registration page.

http://maranathabiblecamp.org/summer-camp/summer-registration

2. NOTICE!!!!! HERE IS THE MESSY PART!!
Parents of new freshman or incoming 5th/6th graders! MBC asks what grade your student is entering. Please answer according to the camp they are attending, not their actual grade. For example: Incoming freshmen will register as "incoming 8th graders" on the MBC site If you select "9th grade" only the HS option will be available.
(thanks to the Feldkamps, for pointing this out!)
3. AT THE END OF REGISTERING (with MBC), THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT. CHOOSE "pay by check" AND PAY THE CHURCH (WE WILL MAKE ONE PAYMENT TO THE CAMP.)

HOW TO PAY

To pay the church for camp, you can either pay digitally via the church app, or by check. If paying by check please put it in an envelope clearly marked for CAMP REGISTRATION and mark "CAMP FEES". or "CAMP" on the memo.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER WITHOUT THE APP

(This is our first time doing registration digitally. Please bear through the growing pains with us as we are all learning something new.)

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/430120
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/430076
2nd -5th GRADE CAMP https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/429646
BEGINNER DAY CAMP https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/429630

GRACEKIDS

VBS
The theme is VBS & Beyond— a play off of the movie franchise Toy Story. The kids will walk into the sanctuary and feel toy sized next to the massive iconic pieces in Andy's room!

Buzz, Woody and the rest of the gang will be helping us (the new toys in Andy's room) learn that every toy (kid) has a place, every toy is loved and every toy has a purpose (to spread the name of Jesus beyond VBS).

To make this event possible, we need volunteers!

- I'm looking for a group of men to help set up and tear down large scale, oversized items.
- I'm also looking to fill in teams to help register kids, lead groups, decorate classrooms, lead crafts, lead games and give snacks. This year we are only doing a 3-Day event and are going to have a closing ceremony for family and friends to attend Friday night.

You can sign up to help here 👇🏻

https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/443200

If you can't serve, please join us by praying in the preparation and duration of the event. ❤️

More details to come!

Mark your calendars: July 28th-31st

GRACEYOUTH

KATALAMBANO

After the worship set, 6th-8th grade students are invited to head upstairs to the GraceYOUTH worship room for Bible study. (Currently going through the book of John) It can get a little crazy and weird but we always have a great time learning about Jesus at “ketchup on mango”

SUMMER EVENTS

The details for our Summer Schedule are all on the Church Center App
Check “Groups” tab at the bottom > “Seasonal Classes” > then pick HS or MS Group.

At the bottom is the date, location, and details for all our scheduled outings. (If you join the group, it will be available at the top of your “groups” page from then on.)

If you don’t have the app already details to install it are to the right >>>>>

We are only 2 weeks away from High School Camp!

Click the link below for some great information on packing, COVID precautions, and the care the camp is taking to keep the kids safe and COVID free.

https://www.gracecommunitychurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Summer_2020_policies_5-27.pdf

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE DETAILS BELOW TOO.

When will we leave: Camp is 1hr 20 Mins away so we plan to leave the church at 2:00
When will we return: We are scheduled to leave Friday at noon

What to Pack:
Bible & Pen or Mechanical Pencil(s)
Sleeping bag or twin bedding, pillow, & blanket. (Dorms are air-conditioned)
Toiletries, towels & washcloths for shower.
Modest swimwear (girls no bare midriffs), cover-up, sunscreen, & towel for swimming.
Clothing that can get dirty.
Plastic bag for dirty laundry.
Shoes other than flip flops for recreation. Flip flops expose campers to avoidable injuries to feet and toes.
Flashlight
HAND SANITIZER (3oz is large enough. They can refill it at camp if needed)
Money for Missions, canteen & T-shirt (shirts are not included in the cost of camp).
Prescription medications in original container, with readable current doctor's instructions.
Bug spray and sun block.
Back pack to keep items in while moving around the camp. (a cheap sack-pack will suffice)

What not to Pack:

NO FOOD IN THE DORMS: This is a change from what our students are used to at Sky Ranch but please honor the Maranatha Camp Policy.

Distractions such as cell phones, other electronics, etc.
Tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal sub-stances.
Immodest clothing
Guns (including airsoft/paintball) knives or fireworks
Silly string or other items for pranks.

Please Check out the Maranatha Frequently Asked Questions page (link below) for answers about sending mail, special dietary needs etc…
http://maranathabiblecamp.org/summer-camp/faqs

W**e encourage parents to send mail to the students.** Especially if it has perfume or hearts written all over it. Boxes (care packages) are also allowed. We usually make them tell a joke or sing a song to get their mail. This will be anew fun experience fro them, just plan ahead and send it early so it gets there in time!!

Camper Name & Session
c/o Maranatha Bible Camp
18131 Highway WW
Everton, MO 65646

MARANATHA BIBLE CAMP
EST. 1969

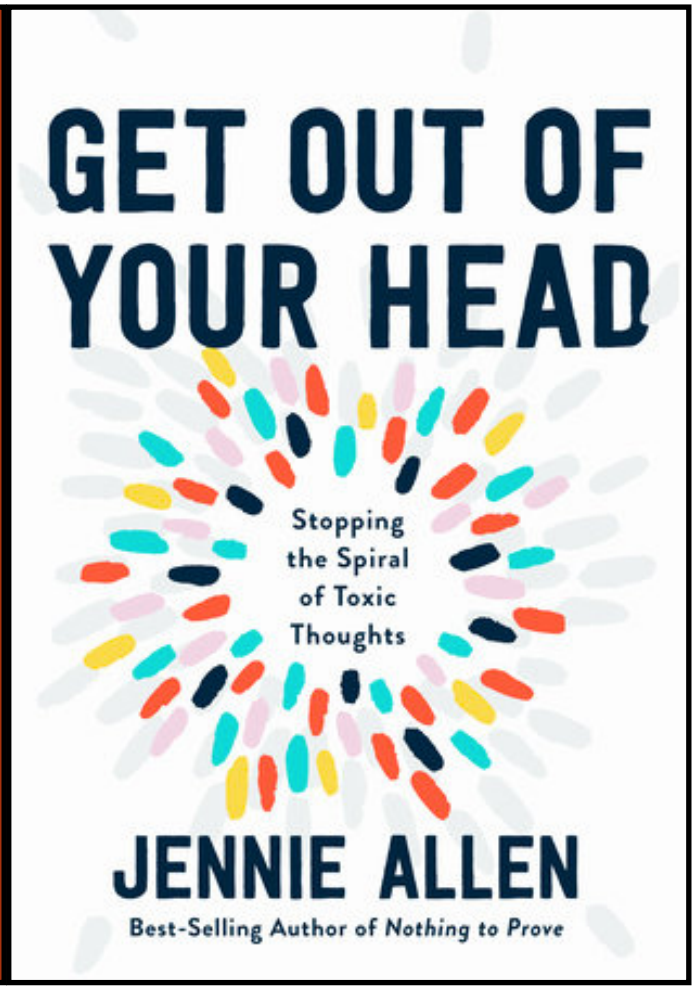
GRACEWOMEN

The women's group will be hosting a 6 week Bible study this summer on Wednesday nights.

Staring this Wednesday, June 24th at 6:30pm and at the church.

We will be reading the book "Get Out of Your Head" by Jennie Allen, a study of Philippians. We will watch 6 short videos and discuss questions through small groups.

A study guide and book will need to be purchased and the cost is $30 for both. Anyone concerned about the cost please speak with Holly Kufahl. There will be a sign-up sheet at the information booth after church and we can order these items for you.
Come enjoy fellowship and snacks with other women as we become more aware of our toxic thought patterns and ways to change them.



SUMMER WEDNESDAY VIDEO SERIES

Clark Hall will begin a new video series June 10th @ 7pm in the North KidMin classroom (room "D") All are welcome.

Pastor Wes Davis 620-674-2436 wes@gracecommunitychurch.net
Youth Pastor Aaron Zustiak 417-529-8702 aaron@gracecommunitychurch.net
Kidmin Director MJ Smith 765-617-5106. mj@gracecommunitychurch.net
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