



Love God. Love People.

May
2026



May Events

Awana

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm **Ends 5-13**

Discipleship Pathway Classes

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm **Ends 5-13**

Grace Gals

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

Men's & Women's Bible Studies

Tuesdays @ 10:00am **Ends 5-12**

Mom-to-Mom

Saturday, 5-2 @ 9:00am **Check for Summer Meetings**

Monday Men's Basketball

Mondays @ 6:30pm

Primetimers

Wednesdays @ 10:00am

Saturday Men's Basketball

Saturdays @ 7:30am

TrailLife/AHG

Monday 5-4 @ 5:30pm **Check for Summer Activities**

Young Adults

Mondays @ 6:30pm

Youth

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm **Check for Summer Activities**

Royal Family Kids Camp

June 8-12

Dad Camp

June 19-20

VBS

June 22-26

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- Student Spotlight
- Pastor Jeremy
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from Kathy Flowers

serving in Zambia

Kathy Flowers, daughter of Jim and June Schlernitzauer, serves with Living Hope International in Zambia, whose vision is for orphaned children in impoverished nations to be transformed through Christ's love into leaders who guide their communities and countries out of poverty, corruption, and injustice.

Kathy recently spent two weeks in Zambia, grateful to trade the North American cold for warmth and sun—though rainy season brought plenty of mud across the Living Hope campus. Even so, it was a meaningful time with their Zambian family.

She shared how clearly she can see God at work. The outreach continues to grow as staff visit surrounding villages each week—building relationships with families, praying with them, and sharing Christ. These connections are opening doors in a powerful way.

The school is growing too. Living Hope Christian Academy now has 125 students after adding a Grade 4 class and welcoming new teachers. The children—especially the newest Reception class—are learning so much, from academics to everyday rhythms like hygiene, meals, and time in God's Word. They are currently studying the book of John, memorizing Scripture and carrying what they learn back into their homes and villages—where families and neighbors are hearing about Jesus.

One moment that stood out was meeting Moses, a 1st Grade student recovering from malaria. Kathy and the team were able to encourage his family, offer guidance, and pray together—meeting both physical and spiritual needs.

There is also exciting progress among older students. Five have completed Grade 12 and are stepping into programs like Civil Engineering, Pharmacy, Education, and IT. With over 20 students now in college or skills training, the local leadership team continues to faithfully walk alongside them into adulthood.



The impact is being felt across the community. Sports programs are creating space for connection, joy, and discipleship, with regular practices, games, devotions, and prayer.

As a church, let's be praying with Kathy for what's right in front of her:

- Unity and continued spiritual growth for the teachers and staff
- Protection from illness, especially malaria, during rainy season
- Provision as the ministry continues to grow
- Safe travel returning to Zambia May 5th and strength for her family while she is away

Looking ahead, Kathy will return to Zambia with a team, including an optometrist who will partner with a local doctor to provide eye exams for children and families—an opportunity to care for both physical and spiritual needs.

If you would like to receive Kathy's newsletters directly, please email info@livinghopeinternational.org.

Holy Week at Friends Church

Holy Week was amazing!

We had space to slow down and center our hearts on Jesus. From quiet, guided prayer nights to a Worship Night filled with praise, we gathered together in meaningful ways.

Our Maundy Thursday Seder & Potluck helped us remember that Jesus is our Passover Lamb—the long-awaited Messiah who came to save—while also creating space for connection and new friendships.

Good Friday brought us to the weight of the cross, reminding us that the Light of the World was rejected—and that darkness, though real, was only temporary.

And then came Easter.

From Sunrise Service to our Traditional and IFLC services, we celebrated the empty tomb and the power of the Good News—what we could never do for ourselves, Jesus has done - new life to all who receive Him.

This Easter, we celebrated baptisms - sisters surprising their parents, along with couples, young ones, and those new to Friends Church saying “yes” to life with Jesus. These stories are precious to us—and a beautiful picture of what God is doing here.

We are seeing growth in so many ways:

- People deepening in the Word and wanting more
- Families stepping in to disciple their kids
- People saying yes to serving
- Continued commitment to our Discipleship Pathway

We are grateful to witness God’s faithfulness through the long legacy of this church.



Christian FOMO

by: Kamryn Weaver
one of our Friends Youth Students



Kamryn Weaver
Senior | Homeschool

What is “FOMO?”

Generally, FOMO stands for “fear of missing out.” But what does it capture for a Christian? The fear of missing a church service or devotion? Probably not.

More likely, the Christian feels FOMO when he has to miss things because of his faith. FOMO is the desire to fit in, be accepted, and go with the crowd.

In other words, Christians feel FOMO in temptation. We watch others having fun and want to join them, even if we know it’s sinful. Our flesh cries that it would be easier to go along with everyone else instead of deviating for our faith. We’re all susceptible, and sadly, most don’t fight the FOMO, giving it up as a losing battle.

Jesus felt temptation too.

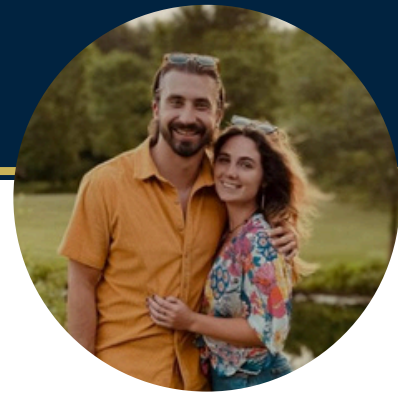
One could argue that He didn’t face the same temptations that we do every day. Technically, that’s correct. He didn’t live in a time with TikTok and Instagram, or dates and cliquish friend groups. But all temptation falls under three categories, listed in 1 John 2:16: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” continued

Want to read more?

Copy & paste the link or click to read

<https://spiritualreload.com/2026/04/16/christian-fomo/>

from Pastor Jeremy



It's been five years since I first got to call the Ohio Valley home. Five years since my church took a chance on a 22-year-old kid fresh out of college. Now, as I turn 27 in May, I look back with a thankful heart—grateful for the grace of God, the support of my church, and the incredible community I still get to call home today.

Let me take you back to those first three years. I'll be honest with you, ministry is not for the faint of heart. There were a lot of "I don't know what I'm doing" moments, and plenty of "I don't feel adequate for this" thoughts (if I'm being real... those don't fully go away). I failed. A lot. I failed people, and at times, people failed me. It was a hard road. There were even moments when I seriously considered walking away.

But God, in His grace, placed people in my life who wouldn't let me quit—my family, friends back home, and close friends I've made here in this church. I'm so thankful for their voices, because deep down, I knew God was calling me to stay, to persevere, and to keep going.

Then the next two years happened. I got to be part of a church that took a chance on a guy from California... and then another one (for those newer to our church, I'm talking about our Lead Pastor, Aaron, and Assistant Pastor, Rod). These men have been an incredible encouragement to me—both in ministry and in life. I've watched our church lean into a fresh (but timeless) vision: to love God and love people until the whole Valley knows.

I've seen our church rally together in unity, welcome new faces into the family, and follow God into a season of growth.

I truly could not be more thankful for where I am today.

So friends, let me encourage you—don't be discouraged by the ups and downs of life. Being part of a faith community doesn't mean we give up when things get hard. It means we come together, support one another, and grow closer through it all. I'm a testament to that.

And while enduring hardship doesn't always mean life suddenly gets easier, I do believe the Lord blesses those who remain faithful through it. I've experienced that firsthand. I've felt the love and support of this church family through an engagement, a marriage, and now, as we prepare to welcome a little one into this world very soon.

Words can't fully express the gratitude my wife, Maddie, and I have for this church.

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms five years ago. Thank you for loving me through my failures, shortcomings, and mistakes.

You have been a blessing to me and my family. We are beyond blessed to call Friends Church | East Richland home!

Pastor Jeremy

New Helpful Tools for Online Giving

We've added a few updates to our Church Center giving platform that make supporting the ministries you love simpler and more flexible.

Give to Multiple Funds at Once

Want to support Tithes & Offerings, Missions, the Building Fund, or a special campaign—all in one gift? Now you can! Just tap "Give to another fund" and enter your amounts for each.

Recurring Giving Options

Prefer to "set it and forget it"? You can schedule a recurring gift weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly—right from the Church Center app or website.

Stretch Your Gift Further with ACH

Processing fees are different depending on how you give:

- ACH Bank Transfer: flat \$0.30 per transaction
- Credit Card: 2.15% + \$0.30

There's also an optional "cover fees" box if you'd like to help with processing costs. Choosing ACH and/or to cover fees sends more of your gift directly to the ministry.

Why Online Giving? Why Not Just Checks?

It's a fair question—many have faithfully given by check for years, and checks cost nothing to process. You're welcome to keep giving that way!

Online giving exists simply because a lot of families (especially younger ones) don't carry checks anymore and appreciate the ability to give quickly from their phone or set up recurring gifts. For many people, the convenience actually helps them stay consistent in their giving week to week, even when they're traveling or can't be in the building.

We're committed to stewarding every dollar well, so for those who give online, we encourage using ACH (the lowest-fee option), or they can choose to cover the small fees associated with credit cards.

At the end of the day, every method of giving matters, and we're grateful for the generosity of our whole church family—whether it comes through a check, the Church Center app, or an envelope in the offering box.

Coming Up!

- Mother's Day, **May 10**
- Graduate Sunday, **May 17**
- ERCS Graduation, **May 23**
- Memorial Day, **May 25**
- Royal Family Kids Camp, **Jun 8-12**
- Red Cross Blood Drive, **Jun 16**
- Dad Camp, **Jun 19-20**
- VBS **Jun 22-26**
- Move-Up Sunday, **Jun 28**

All kids advance a grade level in Sunday classes.

- Friends Youth Summer Activities!
<https://ticsms.co/frndsyouth>