

THRIVE YOUTH

Laura Sanford

I was recently reflecting back on the years we have been youth leaders. About five years ago, we had 4 youth leaders on our team and we were lucky if we had 4-6 kids at our Sunday night meetings. We were meeting at the youth center before it was given a facelift. Eventually we moved to the church, meeting in the nursing moms room, and changed youth group to Wednesday nights. Most of the youth were very quiet and it was sometimes difficult to get them to engage. After starting

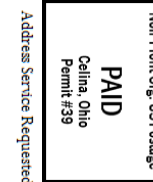
to meet at the worship center, we decided to come up with a youth group name and we decided on "Thrive!" To be quite honest, our youth group was anything but thriving at the time. We came up with the logo and made T-shirts. The church expansion took place around that time and we decided to move back to the youth center. We began having summer outings to the Michigan cabin in the summer of 2017 and have continued to do that each summer. In March of 2019, the ATM youth leaders planned and held our first youth

camp and we've held a total of 6 winter/summer camps! We started raising funds and our church family blessed us big time, and we were able to eventually complete the renovations at the youth center. In the midst of renovations, the pandemic hit. Church and youth were shut down for a little over a month. Our first meeting back, our group was then thriving like never before. We probably had about 15 youth on a regular basis and youth from other churches (who's

programs were still shut down) even joined in. Fast forward almost 2 years...we have about 24 youth attending regularly, many of which are also attending the Bible release classes through KHM 5 days a week. We have a youth worship team, 6 youth leaders, 2 servant leaders, and 7 student leaders. Believe me, there were times us leaders were discouraged and wanted to throw in the towel. But we remained faithful with God's Grace. He blessed those seeds and as a result, we now have a "thriving" youth group. God is good!



529 North Walnut Street
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The Connection

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WORSHIP CENTER

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Check out our Audio and Video Podcasts or Live Stream our services at:

nlcc-celina.org


March 24-26
Kerry Kirkwood


the power of
BLESSING


KerryKirkwood.brownpapertickets.com

 **Life Defenders**
March 12, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sign up now for this local pro-life apologetics workshop for 7th grade through adults! This workshop equips you to speak confidently and graciously to our most pressing moral issue of our time: abortion. You can register online at ichooselife.org/MercerCo or call Connie at 216-815-0430.

 **March 20, 10:00 am**
Becky Murray
Becky, from One By One Ministries, will be sharing at our regular Sunday service.

 **March 27, 10:00 am**
Kerry Kirkwood
At our regular Sunday service, Kerry will be sharing the Word from the Lord.

 **April 24, 10:00 am**
Chuck Porta
Chuck brings a prophetic message challenging God's people to a deeper life of intimacy with the Lord.



New Life Carry-In March 20

We would love to see everyone for this time of fellowship after our Sunday service. Sign up by the welcome desk in the foyer for what you plan to bring. Drinks and tableware will be provided by the church.



March 13
Remember to set your clocks forward so that you are not late for church!



March 18, 6:00 pm
Location: Youth Center

Plan to bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Drinks will be available for purchase.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Elizabeth Shefbuch

Let me introduce you to Nan Luedeke. Nan has lived in St. Marys, Ohio, all of her life. Her husband, Kevin, and she have three grown sons named Boston, Collin, and Eddie. Boston lives in Colorado, one of Nan's very favorite places! Eddie is getting married in October. Collin made them Grandparents to a little boy, Kashton, who Nan really loves and cherishes. Besides children and a Grandchild, she and her husband also have two furbabies named Merle and Stella! After losing her mother at a very young age, Nan, was raised by very loving and godly Grandparents. Her Grandmother, who Nan demonstrated compassion, empathy, kindness, giving, and most of all God's love. She was raised alongside some uncles and aunts who were just like siblings to her. Her aunts were mentally challenged, and Nan cared for them after her Grandparents' deaths. Nan has always felt led to NLCC, and she started attending about six months before Covid began. Having the King family as her relatives, getting to be around family at church, she says, is a plus! Ever since she was a little girl, Nan has always wanted to be either a nurse or a veterinarian. She has actually gotten to fulfill both of those dreams. One of her past jobs was working as an assistant to a veterinarian, and she has her RN/BSN from Rhoades College. She loves helping people, and her job now is managing two offices for JTDMMH. At the current time she manages 8 providers and 16 other employees. She said that she loves having the opportunity to be a cause of promoting growth within her staff. She truly wants to help people succeed! Some of Nan's hobbies include taking walks, hiking (especially in Colorado), and boating. She and her husband own a pontoon, which they really enjoy taking out on the water. Please join me in getting to know this very interesting, kind, and genuinely caring young lady!



DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Discipleship 1: Mar. 20, 5 - 7 pm
Discipleship 3: Mar. 13, 20, 8:00 - 9:15 am



KERRY KIRKWOOD

Pastor Justin

Hebrews 6:14, "Surely with blessing I will bless you, and with multiplying I will multiply you." Notice the heart of God towards us? He wants to bless us! Kerry Kirkwood will be spending three days with our congregation, teaching us about the why and the how of the blessing of God. Kerry will teach us how to release the blessing of God into our families, finances, workplace, and neighborhoods. I have read many of Kerry's books and am very excited to listen to him teach on this subject for three days. Why should you come? I can think of several reasons why I want to be there. First, the anointing a person carries is something that isn't taught; it's caught. What does that mean? You can receive only so much from listening to a video or reading a book. Being in the presence of the person, you get to partake of what they "carry." Remember the woman with an issue of blood? (Matthew 9:21) She had heard the stories, but once she got in His presence, she received something that went beyond just

hearing about Him. Or take the Apostles, they were walking in the streets of Jerusalem, and they were laying the sick in the streets for Peter's shadow to pass by them to be healed! (Acts 5:15) Presence matters!

There is a higher level of receiving for those who are present than those who watch

*Anointing's
are caught,
not taught.
Be present!*

replays after the fact. Second, I believe Kerry is one of the most anointed Bible teachers we have the opportunity to listen to in our circle of influence. I can't

think of any better use of my time. Lastly, the truth is, most of us have good intentions of going back to re-listen to a teaching, but honestly, how often do we do that? Weeks go by, and we realize we haven't listened to more than 1 or 2 videos out of 18. The time is now for us to engage in growing in the Lord. We need to set aside March 24-26 to be present at the conference to grow in the Lord. You can register by going to <https://kerrykirkwood.brownpapertickets.com>