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The Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LIFESPRING CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The End of Summer Bash

What a great way to wrap up summer at LifeSpring!

Our End of Summer Bash on August 16 was an afternoon filled with fun, laughter, food, games, inflatables, and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends and family. From kids enjoying the activities to adults catching up and building relationships, it was a wonderful afternoon for our LifeSpring family and our community.

A huge thank-you goes to everyone who came out and made the day so special—and to all of the volunteers who served behind the scenes to make the event possible. Your time, energy, and willingness to serve helped create an environment where people could relax, have fun, and experience the welcoming community of LifeSpring.

We're grateful for the opportunity to celebrate together and make some great memories as we wrapped up summer. Here's to a new school year and all that God has ahead!

Here are some highlights from the event:









Community, Fun & Service













The End of SUMMER Bash

A Word from Tim...

When Family Life Feels Out of Balance

Back-to-school season can make families feel like somebody hit the accelerator. School starts, practices begin, homework returns, and suddenly everybody needs to be somewhere. Dinner may happen around the table one night and through a drive-thru window the next.

That's when we start talking about needing more balance. But I've started wondering if balance is always the best picture for family life.

I once heard a preacher use a construction crane to explain this, and it stuck with me. In seasons when ministry, family, and responsibility left him feeling overextended, he realized he didn't simply need a better system. He needed to pray that *God would be the counterweight holding everything together.*



Think about a huge crane building a high-rise. The farther the crane reaches, the more important the counterweight becomes. Maybe family life works a little more like that. There will be seasons when sports, work, school, and other responsibilities stretch us. The better question may not be, "How do we balance everything?" but, "What keeps our family grounded while we carry this load?"

For families committed to living with Jesus at the center, that answer begins with God. But God isn't simply the counterweight we add so we can keep piling more onto an overloaded life. Sometimes trusting Him means asking Him to hold us steady. Other times it means listening when something needs to come off the schedule.

Not every good opportunity deserves a yes.

Our calendars teach our children what matters. They notice what gets protected and what gets sacrificed. If activities and work always get our first yes while worship, family, and time with God get whatever is left, they are learning something from that. This is a struggle even for Amy and me as we lead our family. But take heart—we can thrive in this season!

The goal isn't to fit Jesus into the life we've built. It's to build our life around Jesus.

At LifeSpring, we talk about ***Gather, Grow, Give, and Go*** as movements in the life of a disciple. These rhythms can help keep our families grounded.

We ***gather*** by protecting time with each other and gathering with God's people. Grace matters when we miss a meal or Sunday, but grace shouldn't become an excuse for dropping the things that form us spiritually.

We ***grow*** by keeping Jesus part of normal life at home. Read a few verses. Pray before school. Talk about what God is teaching you. Small rhythms repeated over time matter.

We ***give*** by teaching our kids that everything God has given us—including our time, talents, and treasure—can be used for His purposes. Let them see you serve and practice generosity.

And we ***go*** by remembering that school, work, practices, and activities are places where God has already put us around people He loves. Encourage your kids to notice who needs a friend, encouragement, or an opportunity to serve.

Parents, give yourself some GRACE too! Missed church last week? Come this week. Family devotions disappeared? Start again tonight. Dinner has been in the car all week and tonight everybody made it around the table—give thanks!

Don't miss the dinner you have because you're mourning the dinners you don't.

Your family probably won't achieve perfect balance this school year. Some weeks the load will feel heavier. Ask God to hold your family steady, show you what needs to stay and what may need to go, and help you keep **loving and leading one another one step closer to Jesus.**

Godspeed,

Pastor Tim

IMPACT UPDATE



Missions of Hope, Intl
Mathare Valley, Nairobi, Kenya, & Molo Milimani, Kenya

MOHI was founded in 2000 by Wallace & Mary Kamau to bring the hope of Christ to 3 million people living in extreme poverty. They use a holistic strategy to educate, empower, restore, and redeem. Their goal is to establish 100 schools, plant 100 churches and educate 100,000 students.

LifeSpring partners with two communities through MOHI: Kosovo in the Mathare Valley slum of Nairobi, Kenya and Molo Milimani which is a farming community in the Great Rift Valley region. LifeSpring families are currently sponsoring over 200 MOHI children at MOHI schools throughout Kenya.

MOHI Child Sponsorship Campaign Begins September 13! Look for the booth by the Global Impact Map near the auditorium.



When you sponsor a child for $40/month, or roughly $1.35 a day, you'll make a direct and profound difference in a child's life. You'll ensure that your sponsored child receives an excellent Christian education, nutritious food, medical care, and the opportunity to hear the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.
Your support plays a vital role in transforming lives and creating lasting impact, providing not just hope, but the resources and guidance for child and families to build self-sustaining communities and break the cycle of poverty

TO SPONSOR A STUDENT AT MOHI, SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO HTTPS://GIVE.MOHIAFRICA.ORG/SPONSOR

Kosovo School

Molo School

Want to know more info about our Global Partners?
Scan the Q.R. code or visit www.lifespringchristian.org

FAMILY NEWS

WELCOME TO THE STAFF



Marlena Duran began attending LifeSpring in 2020 and joined the staff in July 2026 as Ministry Administrator. She loves being actively involved in the LifeSpring community, having served on the Greeting Team and currently serving with the Worship Team and in Elementary Children's Ministry.

Marlena brings a wealth of administrative experience to the team, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and more than 30 years of experience supporting organizations across a variety of industries. She enjoys using her gifts to help ministries thrive and to serve both the church and its people with excellence.

Marlena and her husband, Johnny, were married in their home state of California in 2018 before relocating to the Greater Cincinnati area in 2019. Together, they are passionate about honoring God and serving His Kingdom side by side. They enjoy traveling, spending quiet days at home with their beloved fur babies, and gathering with family and friends—especially for a fun game night. In her free time, Marlena also enjoys crafting, baking, and making meaningful memories with the people she loves.

Upcoming Events:

September

9/3 - Weekly Prayer Gathering (Thursday Mornings)
9/10 - Women's Bible Study Begins (Thursday Mornings)
9/13 - MOHI Child Sponsorship Campaign (All Month)
9/18 - Game Night Begins (3rd Friday, Monthly) Adult Min.
9/19 - IFI Town Hall & Breakfast
9/27 - Baby Dedication Sunday

WAYS TO GIVE:

app
Church Center App

in-person
Drop in an offering box in the auditorium

mail
1373 W. Galbraith Rd.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

online
lifespringchristian.org

If you have any questions on giving or how to give, please reach out to the office at 513-522-7707 or office@lifespringchristian.org

Go to lifespringchristian.org for more information on upcoming events & more!