

# THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

## events

**Aloha!** Thanks for worshipping with us either online or in person. Please wear your mask before and after the service.

**Visitors,** we have a gift for you at the Welcome Table.

Please sign in your children for **Nursery and Kid's Church.**

**Middle School Youth Group**  
Wednesdays 4:30-6 pm

**Operation Christmas Child**  
boxes are due today.

**Food Drive** is today.

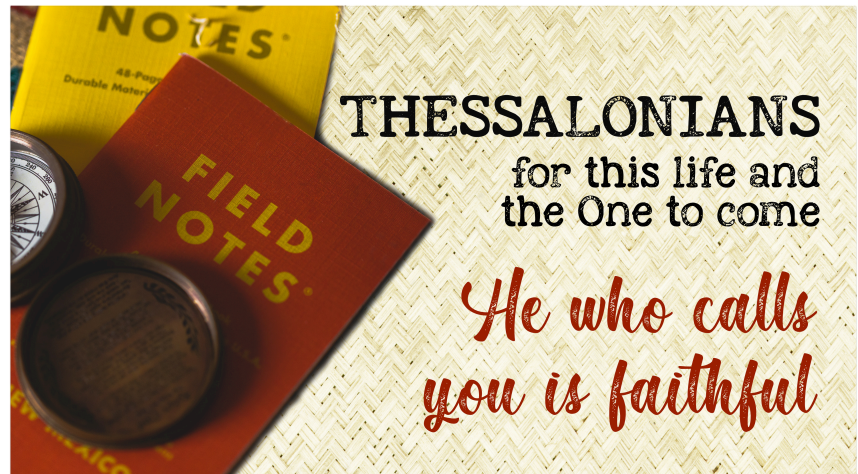
Please welcome Louanne Copeland as our new **Children's Ministry Director.**

### Ways to Give:

- Online on our website or app
- Giving box on Sundays
- Mail a check to the church

### Giving January thru October

- Budgeted - \$279,167
- Actual - \$292,558



**Andrew Severinsen**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

**Big Idea:** the closing of Paul's first letter and the opening to his second.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 — Living in light of Jesus' 2nd Coming
- 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 — Encouragement to persevere under persecution

## GRACE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### A Parting Plea (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)

- It is possible that the commands in 1 Thess 5:14 correspond to previous discussion in the letter: “admonish the idle” to 4:11-12; “encourage the fainthearted” to 4:13-18; and “help the weak” to 4:1-8. What can we learn about the breadth of ministry, and the wisdom it requires, from these commands?
- Of all the commands in this section, which challenges you most? Why? How might you more deliberately cultivate a heart posture of obedience in this area?
- Twice now Paul had directly answered the popular question, “What is God’s will for my life?” What was his first response (see 4:3)? What is his second (5:18)? Thinking of your own circumstances, what might it look like for you to carry out God’s will based on these two verses?
- In Paul’s benediction (1 Thess 5:23-24), he prays for the church’s sanctification as if it were a gift. Back in 4:1-7, however, he discussed sanctification as if it were a calling. Which is it? Is our increasing conformity to Christ *our* responsibility (4:1-7) or *God’s* (5:23-24)?

### The Afflictors and the Afflicted (2 Thessalonians 1:1-12)

- How do the virtues and characteristics Paul identifies in verses 3-4 correspond to the ones he highlighted in 1 Thess 1:3 and 5:8?
- How does Paul’s statement in verse 3 correspond to his prayer for the church in 1 Thess 3:12?
- In the middle of verse 7, Paul turns on a dime from speaking of “God” (verses 5-7a) to speaking of “the Lord Jesus” (verses 7b-10). Compare the identity of the one “repaying with affliction” (verse 6) to the identity of the one “inflicting vengeance” (verse 8). What does a careful look at this passage indicate about the nature of the relationship between God and Jesus?
- Reread Paul’s description of Christ’s return in 1 Thess 4:13-18. How does that passage compare to 2 Thess 1:5-12? Is Paul referring to the same event or different ones?
- What do we learn about the nature of hell from verse 9?
- According to verse 10, for whom is Jesus returning, and by what criteria are they identified? Given this description, is He coming back for *you*?
- What happens to our every “resolve for good” and “work of faith” (verse 11) if we remove God from the equation? How should the language of Paul’s prayerful challenge in verses 11-12 shape our perspective on the relationship between God’s work and ours? What effect should this have on our hearts?
- How do verses 2 and 12 frame 2 Thessalonians chapter 1? Why is this significant?