



**New Creation  
Community Church**  
3005 Emig Mill Road  
Dover, PA 17315  
717-764-0252

[newcreation25@comcast.net](mailto:newcreation25@comcast.net)  
[www.newcreationforyou.com](http://www.newcreationforyou.com)

**Kurt Herzberg, Pastor**  
**Worship Hours:**

**-Traditional Sunday, 8am**  
**-Contemporary 10:30am**

**Church Office Hours: by  
Appointment**

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**Mission:** Making disciples  
of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the  
world.

**Vision:** To be a memorial  
to the community that God  
is mighty.

**Strategy:** Promoting  
"Community Groups" that  
are "Connecting Church to  
Home."

"God did not send His  
heavenly angelic hordes to  
accomplish His majestic  
purpose, but He sent a tiny,  
tender, helpless babe in the  
person of His son."

Billy Graham

# December

2023

## **TIME TO REFLECT**

Pastor Kurt Herzberg

It's the end of the year, and time to think about next year.

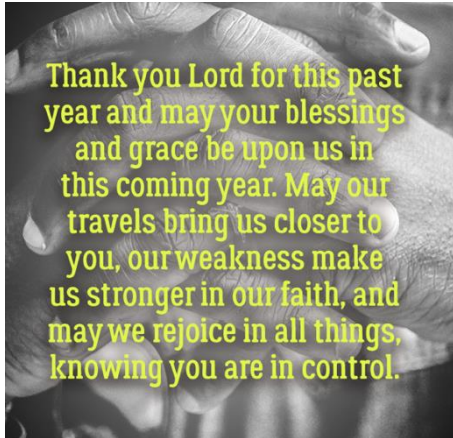
How was 2023 spiritually? It's important to know where you've been, and where you are, so you can get to where you need to be. I say this in context of our personal relationship with God and our role in His church, more specifically through your church, New Creation Community. What did you do for the glory of God this past year? How did you grow in discipleship? How did you serve the church? And how did you serve the community through the church? I hope you have a testimony about how you allowed God to use you this year! Take out a piece of paper and write down what you have done (I mean, really! Do it!)

What do you think as you look at your paper? I can't imagine there is any person who comes to New Creation Community Church and hasn't glorified the Lord somehow. Are you satisfied? Does it look like you thought it would? Is it surprisingly good?

No matter what it looks like for you alone, perhaps great or lacking, I can tell you that together as the body of Christ, we have done much! I have the joy in my position to see much of what happens in the church, and yet I am far from knowing it all. But from my view, I see so much good work! I was recently comparing financial ministry challenges with a pastor colleague. I mentioned the cost to clean the church every day. He asked, "Do you do that much that you have to clean every day? And I proudly said, "Yes!" I thank you all because there is activity within our walls every day. While we have our struggles, we are absolutely a vibrant church because of each of you! We serve and minister to one another in brotherhood and sisterhood. We serve the community. Again, you may not see it all, but it's a lot, praise be to God! Not one of us sees all the good work. But the One who ordained and managed and put us in motion knows and is well pleased! He is our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, who has commanded us to be His hands and feet, and will judge our work one day. Again, look at our paper. Will we be proud or ashamed on that day? I hope the former. Please give yourself a hand for what you have done this

( Time to Reflect,, cont. from page 1)

year! Celebrate the good you have seen in our church this year! But also lit it direct you as you consider 2024.



On that same piece of paper, write down your spiritual goals for 2024. Your spiritual life deserves your consideration and planning. I'm sure you have either written or unwritten goals for the coming year...vacation plans, side work for more money, saving for a big purchase, employment or relationship goals you will pursue. We all prepare so we can reach a goal. Your faith is no different. Think about it, write down your spiritual goals, and pray over them. Consider how the church can help you or how you will help the church/others reach their goals. It all works together for the good of those called to God's purposes. It's part of preparing for life next year and for eternity. Don't forget God! Most of us think we can do it alone, and you may. But with God, you will do abundantly more! ...more joy, more satisfaction, more goals met. God will take you from a valley to a mountain top. And if you're on the mountain top, he'll take you to the stars! He has no limits, and He wants to share that with you!

I thank you for your service to the Lord this year. I look forward to hearing what your spiritual goals you have for next year; The church is part of God's grace in your life. And you are a part of someone else's grace. Thank you again for a good 2023 as the church body. Now, let's pray together to do great things next year, even embracing the potentially hard things that take courage and hope! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### Craft Show a Big Success!

Submitted by Deb Copp Burger

Once again, what a blessing it has been to be able to participate in helping to make the craft/vendor show such a success. And what a success it was!

We are truly blessed with such an amazing church, family, everyone getting together and volunteering in one way or another, whether it be with physical work or prayers, donations, purchases, and spreading the word. We had approximately 23 volunteers showing up in person, with over 240 volunteer hours, put in setting up tables, prepping food, cooking food taking tables down, putting rooms together and the teardown was simply amazing. Everyone jumped in to help,

We had a total of 74 spots paid for, and over 50 different crafters/vendors. As in previous events, we sold out of soup that was donated and made by a couple of our favorite cooks. I thank each and every one again for showing the community exactly what it means to work together to share God's love through our church ministries and missions.

We now have about \$2500 to aid in the missions and ministries we host or support throughout the year. Our spring craft show will be held April 27, 2024, which will be an inside and outside event and we already have 14 spaces reserved and paid for this far in advance.

Note from Margie: Crafters connect with and support each other. As repeat vendors return, the church has the opportunity to start conversations and get to know their stories and share Jesus' love.



## PERSPECTIVE OF THE YOUTH by Mariah Linn

So Thanksgiving was on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and while yes, I also celebrated it on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, I also celebrated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with my family, my neighbor Gail, and Miss Manley. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, my mom (Katie Miller), my stepdad (Bill Miller), and I went to our neighbor Diane's for Thanksgiving. As much as Thanksgiving and other holidays can be a time to create memories with family, a lot of people don't have that option. Some people are cut off from their families, estranged from their children, or are completely alone, not having anyone to spend time with. The holiday season can be a challenging time for mental health. According to a survey conducted by the American Psychological Association, 38% of people surveyed said their stress level goes up during the holiday season. People can feel pressure to have plans for the holidays or attend a long list of events. In addition, Thanksgiving and the holidays overall can be a time of joy, but it can also be difficult for your mental health. The National Alliance on Mental Illness found that people living with mental health disorders felt that their symptoms and conditions worsened around the holidays.

Here are some tips to help manage stress during the holiday season:

- Identify your holiday triggers. Triggers are people, places, and things that remind us of a past trauma or upsetting event. Knowing our own unique holiday triggers helps to curb emotional reactivity and for putting plans in place to reduce holiday-related stress. (Can also help during everyday things! Not just holidays!)
- Give yourself permission to feel your emotions. In a gentle and loving inner voice, tell yourself it's really OK if you're not feeling particularly "merry or joyous" this holiday season. Giving yourself permission to feel your emotions—including envy, resentment, or loss—can go a long way in helping to reduce holiday-related stress and depression.
- Limit or take a break from social media. Social media can be a major contributor to holiday-related stress. For those already feeling more isolated, lonely, or sad during the holidays, social media interactions may intensify these negative feelings.
- Practice self-compassion this holiday season. For many, the holidays can bring about feelings of depression, anxiety, envy, and even dread and despair, rather than joy and merriment. Practicing self-compassion can help reduce holiday-related stress and depression.

Anyway that's all for now! Bye!

Living Your Faith

submitted by Ralph Brandt

In the 1970's I was unsuccessful in the Amway business. Jim Kinzer kept telling me, "If the business isn't going well, show the plan." He meant exposing the Amway plan to more people. I kept hearing this little voice ever since then, "If the church is not going well, show the plan." What plan? The one that was completed on a hill near Jerusalem in 33 AD when a man on a cross said, "It is finished." God's plan for a lost world was finished. Hebrews said there is now no longer a need for a yearly sacrifice; it was done there, once and for all. That plan is the hope for mankind. Sharing it is also our mandate from Christ and in effect, although this is not the reason to do it, it is the way to solving church financial issues.

I hear Christians say, "Nobody wants to listen to the Word." If I dump a can of cold tuna on a plate and put it in front of someone, I doubt if anyone but someone starving would start eating it. But if I dress it up with some spices, some garnish, warm it, the tuna becomes a dish that most will eat. I see people who have been successful in bringing people to Christ. I have done it a few times. It is allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you, to put off your ideas and allow him to bring the word of life to that person through you. It is not being afraid to show the plan.

Sometimes it just happens. I spent an afternoon on a roof for a church rec hall, putting on plywood with a good carpenter. I was hitting my fingers a lot as usual in that process. He was the husband of a member and

volunteered to help because she asked him. I noticed a couple weeks later he was in church every Sunday and his norm was usually Christmas and Easter. After a few weeks I mentioned it to the pastor. He responded, "I forgot to tell you. Bob came to my house the week after the roofing project. He told me, 'I have never seen anyone hit his fingers with a hammer more than him (me). And I have never seen anyone not get upset. He kept working. I know there is something to this religion stuff. He gave his heart to Christ.'"

I am also humbled. What if I had... You can fill in things I could have done wrong. Sometimes our lives are more important than what we say but do not use that as a license to be silent.

## **CARING FOR OUR CHURCH**

The church is the people, but we meet in a building that is a symbol of God's presence in the community. We are blessed to have such a nice facility, but with it comes regular maintenance and care. The church is blessed to have a team of servants who act as Trustees. They are charged with the responsibility, oversight, and care of all church property, buildings, and equipment in order to accomplish the mission of the church.

We try do what we can physically in service to the congregation and are always looking for volunteers to help with maintenance. Apart from that, we trust and pay professionals to do work for us. Planning and budgeting for today, and for 3,5, and 10 years out is also an important part of being a trustee. Please pray for God's provision in all things... planning, personnel, and finances.

Following are some specific things we are working on:

- Most urgently is the need to replace all our smoke detectors as well as upgrading accompanying equipment to function with automatic door openers to be ADA/NFPA compliant. (Estimated cost \$13-\$20K)
- Parsonage roof replacement (\$10-\$15K)
- Church kitchen upgrades – flooring, countertops, cabinets, lighting.
- We are always doing maintenance on our extensive HVAC systems. We anticipate inevitable major upgrades for new equipment in coming years.
- Through daycare, we have pursued grants for ADA improvements which includes automatic door openers as well as possible upgrades that enhance security for our church members and daycare personnel and daycare students.
- We have recently contracted with a new church cleaning company to save money and increase the quality of cleaning.
- In addition, we are researching the feasibility of an emergency generator.

Please continue to pray for these items that are contained in near and long-term planning for our church and parsonage. Pray that God would provide through our tithes and special offerings as they occur, as well as external opportunities to finance our ongoing facility needs. In addition, know that together we, by God's grace, will continue to provide a safe and attractive church in the Dover community for God's glory! If you feel gifted and called to help in any ways with the care of our buildings and projects, see the trustees to discuss. Thank you again!

Submitted by John Ramstadt and Pastor Kurt

Early in December 1864, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned these words:

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day...  
And in despair I bowed my head, there is no peace on earth I said,  
For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth good will to men..."

These words were a reflection of his times. Were we with him a hundred and fifty-nine years ago what would we have said? The Battle of Gettysburg was a vivid memory. Men were dying daily on battlefields on our own soil. The war was now more than three years old, and no end was in sight. Men and women were still chained in slavery. Hatred between brothers had reached a zenith.

These were probably the darkest days of the War of Southern Rebellion.

We see that war so vividly in the unknown fourth verse I have never heard sung, in which he records,

"From each black accursed mouth,  
the cannon thundered in the South.  
And with the sound the carols drowned,  
of peace on earth good will to men."

As if the over 50,000 casualties in Gettysburg the preceding July were not enough, November brought over 12,000 more deaths near Chattanooga, Tennessee at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Could we fault Longfellow for being discouraged as he wrote that verse and another that is even darker?

Had he stopped writing at the end of that verse, could we have criticized him?

What if we were in Bethlehem 2000 years ago? What would we have seen?

Jesus came into a world that was full of hate and strife. Roman legions occupied Jerusalem and ruled it with an iron fist. Religious sects argued continually the insignificant points of the law. Dishonest tax collectors extracted excessive tribute from the poor. Thieves and robbers waylaid people on the roads. Executions for minor crimes were common. Many who were in Israel in 33AD were distracted and did not see the birth of the king.

It would be easy to look at the world around us today and be discouraged as well. With the corruption in our government, the decline of morals, fallen church leaders, hatred, malice, strife in our land, terrorism, war, economic instability, it is easy to see nothing but darkness. Churches are attacked or burned because people of different background or color worship there. Men and women are killed for a pittance or because of hate. A man's word and a handshake are no longer a bond. Contracts are written to be broken. Killing can be done in the name of God. And we too could easily say today...

"For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth good will to men..." I must admit I too have fallen into that at times.

But this babe who was born in a stall grew to manhood. He taught a law of love, a law that many have followed down through the years. And from my vantage point, those who even attempt to follow it benefit their fellow man. I am encouraged that even in this time of trial for many, Longfellow could somehow look through the veil of smoke of the rifle and cannon, hear through the noise of the battle the more profound truth of God's word and pen it in the sixth verse.

"Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;  
God is not dead nor does he sleep,  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
Of peace on earth good will to men."

Longfellow saw the future, possibly through a glass darkly. (I Corinthians 13:12) But he did. He lived to see slavery legally repealed and the war end, and in 1864 with nothing but God's word on it, he penned that final verse of the song in faith, "The substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Two of my favorite passages are from Lincoln's Gettysburg address. "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us..." and from I John 4:7 "Let us love one another."

Only with His help can we take on that unfinished task. Only with His help can we truly love one another. And only if we do can Peace on Earth come to our hearts and to men of good will everywhere.

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## Hospitality Help Needed

"and show hospitality to strangers, for they may be angels from God showing up as your guests" Heb 13:2

Greeters: Greeting those we know and love and those we would love to know; that is what we do when we wait by the door at church each Sunday. We are the official "Greeters" but it is our hope that all those who regularly attend New Creation are inclined to do the same.



Many people attending New Creation comment on the warmth of the congregation. Thank you to everyone who comes to church with an open, welcoming, worshipful heart.

I don't want to miss anyone interested in serving on the Hospitality team-- anyone willing to serve as a greeter on Sundays and at special events at New Creation. I will put out a sign-up sheet for greeters on the counter outside the sanctuary. One person a week is good, but 2 people or a family unit greeting each week would be great.

If you have any ideas for improving or changing the way we welcome people, please contact Jan Hufnagle, in writing, at [jhufnagle5300@comcast.net](mailto:jhufnagle5300@comcast.net) or by jotting me a note (because I don't want to forget whatever you share with me).

Jan Hufnagle, Hospitality Team

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2 Nadean Merkert  
12/6 Jennifer Pyle  
12/4 Richard Warner  
12/9 Jean Mummert  
12/14 Tammy Schalk  
12/19 Ralph Brandt  
12/20 Rex Cable



12/31 Brody Oliver

12/20 Scott Snyder  
12/23 Melanie Green  
12/24 Ashley Wallace  
12/25 Shannon Oliver  
12/28 Autumn McGuigan  
12/30 Wendy Hawse  
12/31 Marty Green

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

12/30 Brady & Sherry Chubb

Secret Sister reveal will be Sunday, 12/17 after 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Also, we need a new coordinator in order to continue this fun way for New Creation sisters to connect with and encourage each other in 2024. If someone is willing to serve in this way, we will invite all women of the church to participate by filling out a personal interests form on. See Jan Hufnagle with questions or for details.

# PREPARE THYSELVES FOR MERRIMENT

## Church Christmas Party

Who doesn't love a party with friends? PREPARE FOR MERRIMENT! Join us for a church Christmas party on December 17, 4:30 pm.

The church is providing meatballs and turkey balls and guests are requested to bring sides, desserts, and drinks. We need some help getting the tables set-up at about 4-4:30pm. The daycare is having their Christmas program at 3pm, and attendees have been invited to stay for the party!

We'll eat, sing some Christmas songs, play a gift game (bring a wrapped gender-neutral gift under \$10 gag or proper. Participation is dependent on bringing a gift! Others will enjoy watching.), Christmas trivia, and Santa is expected to be there!! The church will provide a small gift and parents are requested to bring a marked small gift for Santa to give to their child also. Please sign up in the lobby as a guest for the party, and please sign up your child to visit with Santa. You may also contact Pastor Kurt or Snooks with questions.

Hope to see you there!!

### Meanwhile...



Have each of us wondered what it would be like to be at the stable in Bethlehem on that special night? (Or is that just me...?) Obviously, we don't have a time machine, but thanks to the Live Nativity at Bible Baptist church on the Susquehanna Trail on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm, we can come close to the experience!

This is a repeat of last year's event for our TnT youth group, because we loved it so much last year. 😊

We'll be attending on Friday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, meeting at our church at 6 pm, and riding together. If you go, dress warm, and wear comfortable walking shoes!

Side note? The picture above is the view from my bedroom window recently, on an especially dark night. When I looked out, I was shocked by how much it looked like the scene we celebrate—especially the full moon, and the single lit window (maybe the innkeeper looking out at the guests in the stable?). Fortunately, it was so dark that the SUV and the pickup truck at the curb stayed concealed! LOL

Margie Manley

## New Griefshare Season

Griefshare, a Christian Grief Support Program, will begin a new 13 week session on 1/11/24 at New Creation. This 13-week program is open to anyone in the surrounding communities who is suffering from the loss of loved ones and who wants some help on their Grief Journey. We will meet at New Creation Community Church, 3005 Emig Mill Road, Dover PA 17315, from 1/11/24-4/11/24 from 4 pm-5:30 pm. Those interested are encouraged to join us at any time during the 13 weeks, no need to pre-register, just come. We ask that you come to every session you can, to get the most out of it.

Please check out [Griefshare.org](http://Griefshare.org) for more information about the content of this program. Griefshare is offered by many churches in the community and also online for those who cannot meet with us on Thursdays at 4 pm. Please check the website to register for our site or to seek out another location.

If any of your acquaintances or loved ones might benefit from some help through their Grief Journey, please consider suggesting [Griefshare.org](http://Griefshare.org) as a resource to help them with their loss.

Our prayers and thoughts and love go out to all those who continue in the painful journey through grief. Jan Hufnagle, Griefshare Facilitator at [jhufnagle5300@comcast.net](mailto:jhufnagle5300@comcast.net)

## Women In Community (WIC)

submitted by Jan Hufnagle

WIC will reconvene on 1/9/24 to begin a new study; possibly on Spiritual Gifts. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 6:30-8 pm at each others' homes. We will meet from 1/9/24 through 5/15/24 and then take a summer break.

We are one of many groups who meet in the community and the church with the purpose of sharing Christian love and Christian growth in a setting where each one of us can participate in the discussions.

Please contact Pastor Kurt or Jan Hufnagle at [jhufnagle5300@comcast.net](mailto:jhufnagle5300@comcast.net) if you are seeking a Bible Study group or a new group of people with whom to share your Christian Journey. We are here to encourage you if you are interested in starting a new group or joining an existing group.



## MORNING GLORY

Morning Glory is the new name for the group of women who will meet together on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays to study scripture and discuss our own thoughts and concerns. Lamentations 3:22-23 comes to mind each morning when we meet... "God's mercy begins afresh each morning". We will reconvene 1/16/24 and continue our Max Lucado study "No Wonder They Call Him the Savior." We meet from 9-10:30 in our homes, currently at the Burris home. Are you looking for a smaller community of people to share life with, someplace to learn more about God's plan for you? Please contact Pastor Kurt or Jan Hufnagle at [jhufnagle5300@comcast.net](mailto:jhufnagle5300@comcast.net).

## First, We Rehearse!

For all children, we have practice for a Christmas story play for the 7pm Christmas Eve service. Practice is Saturdays (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23) at Noon. We hope parents will bring their kids to help with this most endearing part of the Christmas Eve.

**Men's Accountability Group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 at the church. All are welcome to check it out—informal conversations about life and faith.**





**Week of December 10-16**

**Pine Grove UMC**, Mifflintown  
**Spruce Creek UMC**, Spruce Creek  
**Pine Street UMC**, Williamsport  
**Galow UMC**, Masorie—Sierra Leone  
**Fairdale Community UMC**, Montrose  
**Bethany UMC**, Marysville  
**Charlestown UMC**, Mercersburg  
**Queen UMC**, Claysburg  
**Spring Valley UMC**, West Decatur  
**Ulster UMC**, Ulster  
**Grace UMC**, Mechanicsburg

**Week of December 17-23**

**Wellsboro UMC**, Wellsboro  
**Neidig Memorial UMC**, Oberlin  
**Brick UMC**, Duryea  
**Red Mount UMC**, East Berlin  
**Christ UMC**, Tyrone  
**Kulp UMC**, Catawissa  
**Maple Lake UMC**, Spring Book Twnshp  
**St. Matthews UMC**, Magburaka, Sierra Leone  
**Centenary UMC**, Steelton  
**Mill Creek UMC**, Mill Creek  
**Woolrich Community UMC**, Woolrich  
**Camp Penn Center**, Waynesboro

**Week of December 24-30**

**Roseglen UMC**, Duncannon  
**Clearville UMC**, Clearville  
**Forkston UMC**, Forkston Township  
**South Gibson UMC**, Uniondale  
**Mardorf UMC**, Altoona  
**Witmers UMC**, Port Trevorton  
**Old Wharf UMC**, Sierra Leone  
**Letort UMC**, Carlisle  
**Faith UMC**, Montoursville  
**Moshannon UMC**, Moshannon  
**Standing Stone UMC**, Wysox



**Celebrating Our Connection Through Prayer**

*"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12*

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Christmas Eve practice noon
3 New Member Day 10:30 Griefshare: Surviving the Holidays event 2 pm	4	5 Women's Bible study 9 a Men's Accountability group 6:30 Daycare Board 6 pm	6 Youth Group 6-7:30	7 GriefShare 4-5:30 Praise Team 6 pm	8	9 Christmas Eve practice noon Veterans' Dinner
10 Church Conference 6 pm	11	12 Men's Accountability group 6:30 SPRT. 7pm	13 Youth Group Leaders 6-7:30	14 GriefShare lunch at Lyndon Diner at noon. Praise Team 6 Choir Practice 7:15 Trustees 7 pm	15 Youth group to Live Nativity; meet at NCCC at 6 pm	16 Christmas Eve practice noon Cookie Baking noon
17 Daycare Christmas program 3 pm NCCC Christmas Party 4:30	18 Finance 7 pm	19 Women's Bible study 9 Men's Accountability Group 6:30	20 SEND EXTENDED 7 pm	21 Praise Team 6 pm Choir Practice 7:15	22	23 Christmas Eve practice noon
24 <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 9:30 am 7:30 pm (kids program included) 10 pm	25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b> Christmas Dinner for community	26	27 Youth Group 6-7:30	28	29	30 31



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Deadline for the January newsletter is Wednesday, Jan. 3rd. Please send your articles or information to Margie at [Quiltgrand133@gmail.com](mailto:Quiltgrand133@gmail.com). Thank you!