WELCOME FROM PASTOR JON & DANIELLE

Dear Chicago West Family,

One of our seven values is **Authentic and Gracious Community.** We believe the church is not merely a service we attend, but a Spirit-formed family in which we learn to follow Jesus together. The New Testament repeatedly describes that shared life with two simple words: *one another*.

At Chicago West, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ as we love God and our neighbors for His glory. We believe a disciple is someone who **knows, follows, and reflects Christ**. We cannot separate our growth as disciples from the way we love, care for, and walk alongside one another.

Over the next eleven weeks, you will study commands that make Christ visible in ordinary relationships: love, devotion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, truth-telling, service, burden-bearing, submission, and encouragement. These practices are not optional extras for unusually relational Christians. They are part of what it means to belong to the body of Christ.

Our hope is not that you complete pages or produce impressive answers. We pray that you will become more honest before God, more secure in His grace, more willing to receive care, and more prepared to give yourself for the good of others.

As you walk through this study with your Community Group, remember that spiritual growth rarely happens through information alone. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's Word transforms us as we respond in faith and obedience, often through the relationships He has placed in our lives.

May Jesus deepen our unity, stretch our love, and continue forming us into a church family that reflects Him. Our prayer is that Authentic and Gracious Community would not simply be a value we profess, but a way of life we practice together.

With love and hope in Christ,
Pastor Jon & Danielle Kelly