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April 7, 2021

Dear WCN Family,

There are many words to describe the whirlwind that is Holy Week. Beautiful. Sacred. Exhausting. Emotional. Formative. Exhilarating. Meaningful. Hopeful. These words scratch the surface. There is not room in this letter to thank every person who set up, cleaned, moved chairs, adjusted lights, changed banners, replaced projectors, fixed backdrops, posted signs, greeted, ushered, and worked the egg hunt. A special thanks to the praise team and booth technicians who put in triple duty Sunday morning. Thanks to Pastor Mary Forester and Betsy Haley for a beautiful sunrise service. Thanks to some of you who showed up before 5am and did not leave until after noon. Thanks to Kelsey Elliott for preaching resurrection in our kids' services. Thanks to Rachel Reynen for leading the Littles. Thanks to Tracy Cavness for organizing the egg hunt. Thanks to Mateo Batchelder for bringing the Easter bunny to life. Thanks to Doni Casula for the balloon animal creations. Thanks to nursery workers whose hands were full all morning. Thanks to everyone who served. All of your contributions added up.

On Friday, we felt the weight of the crucifixion. We left with heavy hearts. On Sunday, as the sun rose, 41 shivering people shouted *He is Risen Indeed!* Some of those 41 people were not comfortable gathering indoors. Because we had the sunrise service, they were able to attend Easter worship in person. During the remaining three services, we heard Trent Riley's powerful Resurrection Story. We sang and celebrated and confessed the reality of resurrection. In all, 406 people were on our campus Sunday morning. Many more (numbers are still being counted) joined us online. Most importantly, hearts turned to Jesus. That is what it's all about.

Easter is not just a day. It is a 7-week season. As we continue the Easter season, we will keep proclaiming *He is Risen Indeed* and we will show 6 more Resurrection Stories over the next 6 weeks. In addition, I will begin a sermon series from Luke 15. The story of the Prodigal Son. It is a story about what it means to be home, what it means to lose our way, and how we come to be found. This is a story in which we see ourselves on many levels. Let's make the rest of the Easter season as full and vibrant as Easter Sunday was.

The women's prayer breakfast is this Saturday at 9am. The men have not met since our last one was cancelled due to weather. I want to get this word out to all of our guys. I am not dropping the ball. I coach soccer on Saturday mornings. And the vast majority of you have told me that Saturday mornings work best. Selfishly, I don't want you doing this without me. I'll work something out. Stay tuned. I have not forgotten about us.

Speaking of our soccer league, I cannot say enough good about Humphreys County Soccer. WCN is an official sponsor of Humphreys County Soccer. WCN folks make up the vast majority of league organizers, coaches, and referees. I am grateful to people like the Batchelders, Branches, and Hedins for giving so much time and effort. I am not against a church having a Christian soccer league. That would be a fine thing for a church to do. But I LOVE the idea of a county soccer league in which church people invest as a way to serve and share the love of Jesus. That is what I call *missional living*.

Immerse Groups get going this Wednesday! WooHoo! All ages. Nursery is open. Kids will be with Kelsey Elliott in the D-Zone (*Jesus is Alive!*). Teens will join Pastor Mary outside (*Messy Lives: How Jesus Shows up in the Mess*). Teens gather early (5:30pm) for a meal & games. And I will be with the adults in the sanctuary (*This Way: A Study of the Gospel of John*). Groups begin at 6:30. Come early and share life.

This Sunday night is our next *Creative Conversation. The Mission of God and the Faithfulness of the Church*. We will talk about our faithful God. And what it means for us to be faithful in response to him with all we have and all we are. This session will be in-person and online.

Financial Peace University begins April 20th. We have scholarships available. Each registration is for a whole household, not just one person. That means, because young people are paid for, so are their families! Sign up at wcntn.com. Contact the church office for details.

Normal for WCN is rolling up our sleeves and serving others. We have some *normal* coming on Saturday, April 24th. We will meet at Camp Garner Creek to cut trees, clear debris, paint, and do other various jobs. The staff will feed us lunch. We need a headcount. Register at wcntn.com or on the bulletin board downstairs by April 21st. Make the most of this opportunity to get back to *normal!*

Vision Sunday is April 25th. We will report for the year that ran from March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021. This will be the most unusual year for reporting purposes in our history. There will be much to say. We will present the *2021 John W. Adams Distinguished Service Award*. We will look back and look ahead. We will celebrate the God who uses the church for his purposes.

One wide-eyed third grader exclaimed, "This is the best Easter ever!" I know of a few families who were not planning to attend. Then they got an Easter invite card in the mail from someone who loves them. It tipped the scale and they came. Newly vaccinated people returned for the first time in over a year. Adriana Batchelder pulled a hat trick. She heard Pastor Mary preach, then Kelsey, then me. Beccie Cochran's Community Service Learning Class at WCHS stuffs thousands of our eggs every year. This year, someone from WCN heard of their efforts and bought pizzas for the class. One of my favorite things about big days like Easter is seeing all of our college students back with us. Once we got past the sunrise service, weather was perfect. Jesus lives and reigns. So much is so right. We have many reasons to look up.

-Pastor Daron

UPCOMING...

- Apr 7: Immerse Groups begin, all ages!
- Apr 10: Women's Prayer Breakfast, 9am
- Apr 11: *Creative Conversation: The Mission of God and the Faithfulness of the Church*, 6pm
- Apr 20: FPU begins, 6:30pm
- Apr 24: Camp Garner Creek Workday, 8am
- April 25: Vision Sunday
- May 2: *Creative Conversations: The Mission of God and the Faith-Formation of the Church*, 6pm
- May 16: Graduation Celebration, 5pm

If you have a prayer need please email prayer@wcntn.com

Worship:
8:45 & 11am
619 E. Main St.
(931) 296-4184

wcntn.com



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