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August 18, 2021

Dear WCN Family,

WCN's Back to School Prayer Service was moving. The sanctuary was filled with people. Children lined the altar with their backpacks for Pastor Kelsey's "backpack blessing." One of the teachers brought her lesson plan forward to be blessed during the "backpack blessing." Then we split off into groups. Kids met for prayer. Teens met for prayer. Parents met for prayer. College students met for prayer. Educators met for prayer. And a group of church folks who don't necessarily fit the other categories met for prayer. Then we ate ice cream and played games outside. Everything about the evening was just right.

Eugene Woodside and Karl Dellinger provided fish for the Men's Fish Fry/Prayer Meeting. No one in our community does fish better than Eugene and Karl. A huge thanks to these guys. Thirty-three men came. There was plenty of fish, but the guys did not leave any leftovers. Mac Anderson led the men in a devotion and prayer. Good things happen when men come together for prayer. The ladies' turn is a week from Saturday. August 28 at 9am.

Faith Promise Sunday was a beautiful celebration of God's mission. We heard stories about God's activity around the world, and we were invited, once again, to participate. If you have not yet returned your faith promise card, you may contact the church office or find a digital version at [wcntn.com](http://wcntn.com).

Engage-Groups launched this past Sunday. I popped my head in every room. Every class of every age was filled with people, but every class had room for more. All of our Engage-Group leaders are doing an amazing job of relaying the vision. Each group is figuring out what it means for them to engage in prayer, mission, tables, and teaching. There is room for you in an Engage-Group. Talk to one of our staff if you want help locating a group. This Sunday. 10am.

Many thanks to Hunter Elliott for serving as our summer youth intern. This internship was for course credit toward his degree in ministry. He gave much to our teens. And he learned much along the way. Hunter's responsibilities have been completed. He returns to Trevecca this week as both student and Student Government Association President. Be proud of Hunter. Pray for Hunter.

Our annual Week of Renewal is September 12-15. Sunday morning, then Sunday night through Wednesday night. Dr. Scott Rainey will be our guest preacher. Scott is the Global Director for Sunday School/Discipleship Ministries International for the Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Joe Voight will lead music. Joe is the Worship Arts Pastor at Clarksville Grace Church of the Nazarene. Joe led our music in 2018. There will be children's services and nursery care for each service. Sunday services will be as usual (8:45, 11am, 6pm). Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday services begin at 6:30pm. We will have a meal before the weeknight services at 5pm. Each meal is a fundraiser. Monday and Tuesday meals will assist a church plant on our district. The Wednesday meal will help our teens attend the Nazarene Youth Conference in Tampa in 2023. Plan to attend as much of the Week of Renewal as possible. You will be better for it.

WCN has reached our 75th year! To mark the anniversary, we will have a big Homecoming Celebration on October 23-24. On Saturday afternoon, we will have a Cornhole Tournament, Chili Challenge, and Chili Dinner (fundraisers for FUEL). Saturday evening is WCN Stories, which will be a time of sharing many of the great stories from WCN's past. On Sunday, we will have Homecoming Worship. Dr. Larry Leonard will preach. Then a Homecoming meal. Plan for the weekend.

Immerse Groups begin this Wednesday! Signs will be posted and staff will be present to direct you to your group!

Pastor Kelsey's backpack blessing prayer was especially moving. I asked her to share it. Here it is:

*God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. Some of us are super excited for this school year, and we're going into it knowing that it's going to be a great year!...While some of us are extremely nervous and scared. No matter how we're going into it though, we're all going to have some really good days and some really, really bad ones. And with us on each and every day moving forward, no matter if it's good or bad or somewhere in between or just plain boring, our backpacks will be with us, just as you are always with us. I pray that with each step we take, each thump, thump, thump of the backpack hitting our backs as we walk through our schools, that we are reminded that you, God, are with us. Be with us when we make an A on that test. Be with us when we eat our favorite school food for lunch. Be with us when we're playing with our very best friends on the playground. Be with us when we win that math race on the board. Be with us when they are NOT serving chicken strips like it said on the menu but instead we have great big heaping of... something. Be with us when we fail that homework page that we really, really tried on. Be with us when we don't make the best decisions and we're having to sit on the wall... watching our friends hang out without us. Be with us when we are hurt by what those people said about us... especially when we thought those people were our friends. Be with us when our teacher starts yelling at the whole class for what seems like no reason. Be with us when we have to stand up in front of everyone and speak, and it feels like we can't breathe and we just want to crawl in a hole and never come out again. Be with us as we're getting ready in the morning. Be with us as we get on the bus, hop in the car, start out on our walk to school. Be with us as we enter into the building. Be with us as we go into our classrooms. Be with us as we leave from there, going to our homes or friends' houses or practices or whatever. Be with us God, as we step into this new school year. We lift these kids and their backpacks up to you God. Lead us this school year with your light, showing us how our boring old regular routine becomes the framework for worship and blessing. May we always remember that we are known and loved by You and our church family. It's in Your Holy Name that we pray. Amen.*

-Pastor Daron

## UPCOMING...

- Aug 18: Wednesday night Immerse Groups begin, 11am & 6:30pm
- Aug 28: Women's Prayer Breakfast, 9am
- Sep 1: NYC meeting/ dinner for teens and parents, 5:30pm
- Sep 3: Family Movie Night on the church lawn, 7:30pm
- Sep 12-15: Week of Renewal w/Dr. Scott Rainey & Pastor Joe Voight
- Oct 16: Church Workday, 8am
- Oct 23-24: 75th Homecoming with Dr. Larry Leonard
- Nov 21: Hanging of the Greens service

*If you have a prayer need please email [prayer@wcntn.com](mailto:prayer@wcntn.com)*

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