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October 8, 2021

Dear WCN Family,

Six weeks after the flood, WCN's lower level was operational on Sunday. In a relatively short period of time, we reconfigured the space after losing the D-Zone to make downstairs functional. Our focus is minimal cost for essential use because the current situation is temporary. We have always done a lot with little space. Now, we are doing ministry with even less space. The lower level now includes nursery, Discovery Kids area, teen space, storage, and a staff workroom. Staff no longer have our own studies/office areas. Instead, we have one common space from which we work, in addition to working from home. The nursery and kids' spaces are furnished. They opened for ministry on Sunday. The teen space is unfinished. Teen leaders and teenagers are discussing decorating and owning their space. Thanks to many who have given time, labor, and resources to get us to this point!

Time to Talk happened on Sunday night. The time was right to get us talking about what happened and how we are dealing with it. Pastor Janice is our representative on the county's Long Term Recovery Task Force. She shared practical information about resources and meeting needs going forward. Lauren Blue addressed dealing with loss. She led us through the five stages of grief. Katie Brown spoke about the story of God being big enough to include trauma and crisis. Then we opened the floor. Flood survivors shared their stories, their hurts, and their needs. People gave testimony to God's faithfulness and thanked the church and community for coming alongside of them. We got to speak into the lives of flood survivors and tell them that they are not alone and we will not forget. What happened on Sunday night was many things. To sum it up best, *church* is what happened on Sunday night.

What next? is on tap for this Sunday night at 5pm. The focus will be the church's recovery. We will share where we are in the SBA/FEMA process. We will talk about re-engaging conversations with our contractor. We do not know everything, but we will tell you everything we know. And we will discuss a general timetable for moving forward to higher ground. Plan to join us Sunday night at 5pm.

On October 24th, we begin a new sermon series. The Lord's Prayer. Pastor Kelsey will lead kids through the parts of the prayer as I lead everyone else. Let's take the time to see what new things God wants to do in us as we sink deep into these familiar phrases.

Our groups (whether you know them as Sunday School or Engage-Groups) have always been the backbone of WCN. In these groups, connections are made, meals are shared, scriptures are learned, missional service is engaged, and people are bound together in prayer. It is not an overstatement to say that WCN group life has been tested the past two years with covid and now the flood. We no longer have on-campus rooms for groups on Sunday mornings. We no longer have the convenience of group time and worship back-to-back on the same campus. We no longer have multiple age groupings at the same time to make it convenient for families. I know it's harder. I know that we humans prefer easy over hard. I know the temptation to check out of groups. As your pastor, I am asking you to stay connected to your group. Make the effort to join your group on a weekly basis. You need it. Your group needs you. The JOY Group (Pastor Chuck and Helen Ellis) currently meets at the Nolan House at 9:45am on Sundays. The Rolling Stones and New Life Groups (Trent Riley, Pastor Janice Rudolph, Don McGuire, Sarah Shanks) meet on Monday nights at 6:00 in the sanctuary. Beginning October 19th, The Journey Group (Pastor Mary and Nick Forester) meets on Tuesday nights at 6:00 in the sanctuary. We call them Engage-Groups. I encourage you to engage.

Immerse Groups are what happen on Wednesday nights. They resume this coming Wednesday, October 13th at 6:30pm. By collapsing all of the adult groups into one group, we can fit all Immerse Groups under the same roof. Nursery will be available. Pastor Kelsey will lead kids in their area. I will teach the teenagers in their new space. And Pastor Mary will lead a Bible study on 1 and 2 Samuel in the sanctuary. Join us this coming Wednesday for Immerse Groups. It will be crowded and chaotic and fun.

So many have given so much to us and through us. Individuals. Businesses. Churches. Districts. Many are mailing checks or giving online. Some are sending supplies or giving labor. I cannot list every person or group who has given. But I want to share two brief stories with you...

Pastor Annetta Sykes leads our jail and recovery ministries. She does the challenging work of ministering to people who are bound by bars and/or addictions. People with uphill battles. Sometimes her work feels fruitless. Occasionally, she sees someone break through. After losing most of her home in the flood, Pastor Annetta got a check in the mail from the jail. \$160. It came from the account of an incarcerated lady whose life has been up and down. In and out of jail. In and out of recovery. This was her money for cigarettes or toiletries. She did not have much. But she emptied what she had. Maybe the Kingdom of God is something like this.

Noah Brazzle was raised by wonderful, godly parents. He was also raised by WCN. Noah lives in Clarksville with his beautiful family. Noah attends his church in Clarksville regularly. He lays flooring for a living. I called Noah to replace flooring in the lower level of the main building. He took 2 days off from work. He got materials at cost. He donated labor. After he finished, Noah told me that he grew up in this church watching men like Terry Langston and others give themselves in service to the church. He got a little emotional when he told me that he is glad that he can now do the same thing. There were a few kids running around while Noah was laying floors. Noah had to dodge the activity. The kids watched him. Maybe one day, one of those kids will say that they watched men like Noah Brazzle giving themselves in service to the church. And they will do the same. Lord, let it be so.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday.

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Sundays: 9:30 & 11:00 worship on WCN campus, including nursery and Discovery Kids services
- Engage-Groups meet on your own schedules
- Celebrate Recovery meets Thursday nights, 6:30, at *SoulShine* on 112 North Church Street, Waverly
- Oct 13: Immerse Groups re-start, 11:00am & 6:30pm
- Oct 23: Teens: Ultimate Frisbee, city park, 1pm
- Nov 6: Teen Bonfire at Woodsides, 2-9pm

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

Worship:

9:30 & 11am

Physical address:
619 E. Main St.
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