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September 28, 2022

Church Family,

For the first time in years, all of our pastors were able to attend the annual district leadership retreat in Pigeon Forge. We worshipped and ate and hiked, then ate some more. It was good for Pastor Kelsey, Pastor Janice, Pastor Mary, and myself to get away. Katie joined us. We missed having Nick. You made it through a Sunday without us because we have great people in place. Thanks to Samuel Dellinger for leading well and thanks to Dr. Mike Jackson for being an exceptional go-to preacher. Thanks to everyone who helped us get away for this much needed retreat.

Sandy Perkins went to be with the LORD on September 17th after years of fighting Hutchinson's Disease. Hutchinson's is hereditary and fatal. It already took the lives of her father and sister. Sandy suffered for years. Fred has been a consummate caregiver. He rose to the occasion. Visitation was in Waverly. A service was held in Caldwell, Ohio, where the Perkins' are from. Please pray for Fred and the family. We rejoice that Sandy is with Jesus and is well. May she rest in peace and rise with Christ.

Congratulations to Brandy Burns and Brad Sanders who were married on September 22nd at Camp Greenville in the beautiful mountains of Cleveland, South Carolina. We celebrate with the special couple!

A wonderful team of Nazarene folks from Kansas joined us last week for work and witness. They built a ramp onto Lindy Dellinger's home for Marie Stewart. They cleaned up debris in the community. They addressed plumbing issues on a home. And they helped build a tiny home near Enoch's Mill. On Wednesday night, WCN hosted them for a LTR-Connect gathering. We saw a slideshow of their work. We prayed over them and connected with them. We showed appreciation and spent time with them over dessert. Thanks to Pastor Mary and Delilah King for organizing.

One of the most important things to know about the Church of the Nazarene is that we are a thoroughly global church and that we take world missions very seriously. The Church of the Nazarene is currently ministering in 164 world areas. October 9th is Faith Promise Sunday. The focus is world missions. Come ready to hear about, pray for, and give to world missions.

WCN teens are hosting a Fish Fry on Friday, October 14th. \$15/plate. You may preorder at [wcntn.com](http://wcntn.com). We will deliver larger orders to schools and some plants. Enjoy some fish and help our teens get to Tampa next summer!

WCN's annual Week of Renewal is set for October 16-19. Our guest preacher will be Dr. Steve Estep (Marion, OH). Our music leader will be Joe Voight (Clarksville Grace). And our kids' services leader is Jenny Little (Gray's Chapel). The kids' services are not childcare. They will be experiencing spiritual renewal services as well. Make a priority to have them here. Sunday services will be at usual times. Weeknight services will be at 6:30. An NYC fundraiser cookout will be held Monday, October 17th prior to the evening service. Let's anticipate good things from our good God.

Are you new to WCN or would you like to learn more? You are invited to *Come to the Waters*. We will talk about our story, our beliefs, and our vision. *Come to the Waters* is November 6th from 4pm to 7pm. We will feed you. RSVP with Julie in the church office.

Because of the increase in utility bills, more people are approaching *Helping Hands* for assistance more often. *Helping Hands* needs our help to serve our community. They are low on the following items: saltine crackers, Hamburger Helper, tomato soup, cream of mushroom soup, peanut butter, jelly, spam, canned potatoes, canned yams, canned northern beans, ramen noodles, deodorant, razors, shampoo, toothbrushes, toilet paper, bars of soap, and borax. Bins are located on both levels of WCN's building. Thank you.

Since the last newsletter, we held a building update meeting and a prayer walk on our future property. If you missed the building update meeting, you can watch it on YouTube. Dirt work has been done. Steel is on site. As soon as the fire marshal gives the go-ahead, we can start putting something in the ground. Keep praying and giving.

These are strange days. We eased out of the pandemic, although covid is still a reality. Our community is rebounding from the flood, although we have a long way to go. Inflation is hitting households. Politics and world events are depressing. We have experienced several heavy losses of life in our church and in our community. The stress is real. The struggle is real. We would not have chosen these strange days for ourselves. Nevertheless, whether we like it or not, these are *our* days. God has raised up for such a time as this. I am convinced that the church is needed now as much as ever. I am convinced that, as the church, we need one another now as much as ever. And I am convinced that we must be God's church for this community and this world now as much as ever. With every sermon I preach and every lesson I bring, these convictions are at the top of my mind. I know the same is true for the rest of our pastors. We are called by God to pastor you through these strange days. And we are called to equip you to be God's church in these strange days. Simply put, the church is needed. You need the church. And you need to be part of the life of the church. In strange days such as these, the most important thing you can do is lean in to the life of the church. You do not need an invitation. But here it is. You are invited to fully participate. You are wanted. You are needed. You are invited. Lean in when it comes to Sunday worship. Engage in Engage Groups. Join us on Wednesday nights. Save dates of upcoming church events. Let the life of the church have some priority on your calendar. I honestly believe that you will be better for it. And so will the church. I look forward to leaning into the life of the church with you.

-Pastor Daron

## Upcoming...

- Oct 5: No Immerse Groups (fall break)
- Oct 6: Ultimate Frisbee, city park, 4pm
- Oct 8: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 9am
- Oct 9: Faith Promise Sunday
- Oct 14: NYC Fish Fry Fundraiser @ WCN
- Oct 16-19: Week of Renewal w/Dr. Steve Estep
- Oct 21-23: District Women's Retreat
- Oct 29: Family Fall Day at Keller's Farm, 10am
- Nov 5: Portal Teens Bonfire @ Woodsides

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

Worship:  
8:45 & 11am  
Engage Groups:  
10am

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