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May 10, 2023

Church Family,

WCN's annual Graduation Celebration was a beautiful recognition of God's grace at work in the lives of our young men and women. It had the feel of a missionary sending service. Pastor Mary pieced together a touching slideshow of the graduates' journeys. We heard about each graduate and their plans. We prayed over them. Katie Brown, (Trevecca Nazarene University, Masters of Theology and Biblical Studies) charged the graduates to embrace and work toward God's Shalom. Angela Norton provided a wonderful meal for graduates, families, and the church family. Here are the high school graduates who participated and where they are headed: Kalob Hedin (Maintenance Technician program at Nashville State), Caleb Brandon (U.S. Navy), Rylee Turner (Belmont University, Psychological Science), John Petersen (HVAC technician school), Easton Elliott (Maryville College, Football, undecided major), Knox Einerson (MTSU, Exercise Science), and Mateo Batchelder (Soccer, Health and Wellness & Radiology). The college graduates who participated are Makayla McGranahan and Madeline Einerson. Makayla is graduating from UT Knoxville with a degree in Engineering. She played for four years in the Pride of the Southland Band. She is moving to Maryville, TN to be a Quality Assurance Engineer at Denson. Madeline is graduating from UT Martin with a degree in Veterinary Science. Her plans are for further education to become a Veterinary Technician. Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families!

District Assembly was a great opportunity to gather with our district family, worship, and embrace God's vision for future ministry. The following people represented you well at District Assembly: Pastor Mary Forester, Pastor Janice Rudolph, Pastor Kelsey Elliott, Hunter Elliott, Terry Langston, Robin May, Sarah Shanks, Darrel Shanks, Jane Langston, Kathryn McGuire, Rhonda Moore, Terry Moore, Summer Beard, Jake Beard, Kathy Traylor, Grace Jones, Candy Lee, Bruce Davis, Jeni Lill, Rose Mitchell, and myself. Pastor Kelsey led the services for children during assembly. Hunter Elliott and J.T. Blue received district ministry licenses at the ordination service. Following District Assembly, our teens held their District NYI Convention. Those who represented WCN are Jane Langston, Pastor Mary Forester, Macy Brown, Dylan Gwin, Brianna Gwin, Zach Reynolds, Parker Brown, Ainsley Forester, and Alissa Waggoner.

This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers and school staff have continued to struggle since the flood. WES and WJHS employees still do not have a place to call theirs. As part of our partnership with WES, we fed them an appreciation meal on Tuesday. Our next opportunity to show appreciation will be May 23-24. We will move teachers' contents to their new building. We need people and trucks. Contact Pastor Mary if you can help.

Thanks to Katie Brown, WCN hosted a Narcan training for our community. A couple of dozen people received information about addiction/overdose. Each attendee received a sample of Narcan. From the event, more hostings are happening in town. One more way the church is a healing presence.

Sunday, May 21. 6pm. *LTR (Long-Term Recovery) Connect*. This is the fifth *LTR Connect* we have hosted since the flood. Join us as we gather with a missions team from Kansas. We will hear about their work, thank them, pray for them, and eat dessert with them. Bring desserts. Talk to Delilah King.

Joshua and Katherine Haun are missionaries in Bulgaria. The Haun family will join us on Wednesday, May 24th at 6:30pm. We will take a break from Immerse Groups. All ages will be welcomed into the sanctuary to hear from the Hauns. They are amazing people. Their story needs to be heard.

We will have 24 hours of prayer leading into Pentecost Sunday from 8:45am on Saturday, May 27 to 8:45am on Sunday, May 28th. Sign ups for prayer slots will be in the lobby this Sunday. Each prayer slot is 15 minutes. You do not have to come to the church campus to pray. Pray wherever you happen to be at your time. We are praying for the church, the building, and for God's mission in this world. That same Sunday we will hold our next building update meeting at 10am in lieu of Engage Groups.

Family Camp begins Sunday, May 28th. The schedule is in the enclosure. Dr. Carla Sunberg is a great leader and preacher. Dr. H. Ray Dunning is a brilliant thinker and teacher. There will be services and activities for all ages. Make Family Camp a priority. You will be glad you did.

Here are some things you should know: Cade Turner played the title role in *Peter Pan* for McEwen High School. Francie Hagedorn is the Activities Director at AHC (Waverly Healthcare) and will officiate a funeral this Saturday. She is a minister cloaked as an Activities Director. Julie Coleman does lawn care. She is a magnet for teenagers who need a mentor. She puts them to work, invests in them, and brings them to church. Greg and Jill Field are going through the process to foster and adopt a teenager. Ministry on a major level.

In the Church of the Nazarene, the relationship between the pastor and church is reviewed after two years, then every four years thereafter (Manual paragraph 123). This spring marks 22 years for me at WCN, which means it is time for the next review. On Tuesday, June 6, District Superintendent, Dr. Dwight Gunter, will meet with the WCN Board to conduct the review. You may reach out to board members before the review if you wish to share input.

April was a great month financially for WCN. Thanks to God's provision, your giving, and the staff's careful spending, we narrowed the gap. At the beginning of April, the gap between what we have and what we need was \$219,000. At the end of April, the gap is \$195,000. Thanks be to God! Let's keep giving toward and watching the gap close. As we move into summer months with fluctuating attendance, it is critical for giving to remain as constant as possible. Thank you for your attention and investment.

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- May 21: LTR Connect with mission team from KS, 6pm
- May 24: Missionary service with the Hauns from Bulgaria, 6:30
- May 27-28: 24 Hours of Praying Toward Pentecost
- May 28: Pentecost Sunday/Building Update Meeting, 10am
- May 28-Jun 2: Family Camp w/Dr. Carla Sunberg
- Jun 19-22: Sr. High Camp
- Jun 23-26: Middle School Camp
- Jul 3-10: NYC

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

Worship:

8:45 & 11am

Engage Groups:

10am

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