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August 28, 2024

Church Family,

Mr. Russell Harries died peacefully in his sleep Sunday night. He lived 103 years and 6 weeks. Russell was a World War 2 veteran and a committed churchman. He outlived two wives and one child. Until a few months ago, Russell was mowing his own lawn, driving his truck across county lines, and walking up the steps at our old church building. Last November he added the title *music video star* to his resume when he was featured in John Rich's video for the song: *The Man*. Russell was a great man who lived long, beamed with joy, and loved the Lord. Services for Russell will be announced and held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to WCN's building fund in memory of Russell Harris. One of the last things I told him was that we will look after Marti when he is gone. Marti Harris is Russell's daughter. Marti now has no living parents, siblings, or children. We are her family. Let's be her family.

Last Wednesday marked three years since the major flood. On Saturday night, Waverly gathered on East Main Street for the unveiling of the memorial to the 20 who died. Leaders from the community and across the state were in attendance. Families of the 20 were recognized. There were prayers, hymns, speakers, a proclamation from the state of Tennessee, and a candlelight service. The ceremony was beautiful. The memorial is a fitting acknowledgement of our love, loss, and perseverance.

WCN has a healthy history of missional activity, both at home and abroad. Through mission trips, we have given and gained so much. We paused mission trips during the pandemic. Our mission trip mentality helped us navigate our post-flood reality. The better part of the last three years has felt like a mission trip deep into our community. Now that we are into our building, it is time to begin planning and preparing for WCN's next overseas mission trip. The church board appointed a steering team. That group prayed and discussed options. I am pleased to tell you that WCN's 2025 mission trip destination is Zaragoza, Spain. There is a small church in this small town in Western Spain that purchased a garage for a future worship site. That garage needs to be remodeled into a church facility. There will be construction work and relational work in the community. The first meeting for those who are interested is this Sunday, September 1st, at 5pm in the Center. The time to commit is not yet upon us. Come to the meeting if you are interested. Come if you aren't going, but want to stay in the loop for prayer, resourcing, and support. If you cannot attend the meeting and are interested, reach out to myself or Pastor Mary.

WCN is sponsoring a church plant in Jackson, TN. Our next meeting is Saturday, September 7th in Jackson. Reach out to me if you are interested in being part of our prayer and support team.

WCN's annual Week of Renewal is September 8-11. Pastors Daniel and Dani Hawks will preach. Emily Duncan will lead music. Zoe Weatherspoon will preach to our kids. We will give the praise team and Pastor Kelsey a break so they can experience renewal. The full schedule is enclosed. Make time for the week. Pray for God's renewal in your church and in yourself.

*Faith Promise Sunday* is September 15th. We will celebrate, pray for, and give toward world missions. That evening at 6pm, we will show *The Jesus Film*. This film about the life of Jesus has been translated into 2,000+ languages and shown around the world. 20 million people have accepted Christ as a result of *The Jesus Film* in 26 years. All ages are welcome to come and experience this powerful resource.

Someone recently shared with me that they made WCN the beneficiary in their will. I am overwhelmed and grateful. They join other families in our church who make WCN a beneficiary. Is that something you would consider? If so, you would continue to bring impact through the church when you are no longer with us. I am not rooting for those gifts to materialize any time soon. But I know that when they come, it will be just the right time for those funds to be needed.

WCN spent August talking about shaping coming generations into disciples of Jesus. We immersed ourselves in *the Shema*, which centers on the story of God's saving work. In order to shape future generations, we must **Remember the Story, Live the Story, Share the Story, and Impress the Story**. If you missed any of the series, visit our archived August sermons online. Some fruit from the series is beginning to show:

- Candy Lee is a new grandparent. When I shared that grandparents' have work beyond spoiling grandkids, it clicked with Candy. She says, "I have a job as a grandparent!" She knows that her work is to **Remember the Story** for her grandson. Candy sings *Jesus Loves Me* to newborn Charles every single day.
- When I preached about **Living the Story**, the altars were more full than they have been in many months. We know that our credibility is of the utmost importance when shaping our young people.
- On Sunday night, Pastor Mary led adults to engage with young people in an effort to **Share the Story**. Kids and teens offered complex questions. Adults took the questions seriously, and did not settle for easy answers.
- Pastor Kelsey led the kids in making beaded bracelets that bear the ICHTHUS or *The Jesus Fish*. This symbol (worn on clothes or bound to bodies) reminds us that we belong to the story of Jesus. It is one way to **Impress the Story** upon our lives. Sweet Felicity (FeFe) Poyner made a bracelet for me and gave it to me Sunday night. I have worn it since.
- As part of **Impressing the Story**, I preached about involving young people in ministry (WITH, not FOR). It was Logan Reynen's first Sunday as a front door greeter. His friend, Cameron Costello saw Logan and asked to join him. These sixth graders made outstanding WCN greeters.

Let's keep being the kind of church that is intentional about shaping coming generations with the story of Jesus.

-Pastor Daron

## Upcoming...

- Sep 1: Mission Trip meeting, 5pm
- Sep 7: Jackson plant support group meets in Jackson
- Sep 8-11: Week of Renewal w/Pastors Daniel & Dani Hawks
- Sep 15: *Faith Promise* (World Missions) & *Jesus Film*, 6pm
- Sep 27: SAGE (senior adults) Luncheon
- Oct 11: Parents' Night Out
- Oct 18-20: District Women's Retreat
- Oct 26: *FUELfest*: Chili Challenge, Cornhole Tournament, etc

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

Worship:  
8:30 & 11am  
Engage Groups:  
10am

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