



It's All in the Name

As we prepare to move into our new church home sometime this month, I have been reflecting on how The Well came to be. As we put down roots in our own building, I want to make sure that we never stray from the core of who we are. The Well has never been about what we have, because up to this point, we have never had anything. We have always been about Jesus.

The week before we launched our first service at Flint Springs Elementary School, way back in 2009, we shared why we were calling ourselves The Well. I spoke about the woman at the well, and this is the challenge that I offered:

People who are thirsty and need water go to a well. Even Jesus went to the well for a drink. As we become known as The Well, we are making an incredible statement about who we are and what we do. We provide life, support, refreshment, and rest for thirsty souls. What's in a name? A lot. In our case, it communicates our values. We value caring for people. We want to provide for those who thirst. And people are thirsty. People want something more out of life. We know what that something is. It is new life in Jesus Christ. Everything else that people use to try to fill the dryness in their life leaves them

feeling more empty. But Jesus offers a solution. He said, "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." If we are willing to stand on the promises of Jesus himself, then we have no choice but to believe that the only way to come alive is in Jesus. He tells us that he is exclusive. The only way to eternal life is to drink the water that only he can give.

I know that we still believe that. I pray that our new facility offers each of us a place to drink from the Well of Jesus. Not only us, but our community, also.

Josh Kesler, Senior Pastor



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CONTACT OUR STAFF



Current Meeting Place:
Huntington YMCA
1160 W 500 N
Huntington, IN 46750
11 AM Worship Service

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We are excited to *welcome* in a group of *new students* this summer who have finished the 5th grade and are entering middle school! Any event is open to these new students as well as current middle schoolers and high schoolers.

It's not too late to sign up for **Operation Backyard**. June 5, 9am-7pm @ Hier's Park. Come help us serve our community!

Summer kick off pool and pizza party!
June 9, 6-8pm. Hoopingarner's house
501 Carlisle Drive

Youth Group will be branching out into **small groups** for the summer. Times are TBA. Groups will split into middle school girls, high school girls, and one for middle and high school boys combined. Because of this, we will not meet for our regular Sunday meeting time during the summer. But be sure to stay tuned for other combined events throughout the summer!

Questions? Contact Abby Mitchell
abby@thewellathuntington.org



Items Needed for Children's and Youth Ministries

Check out the wish lists for what is still needed for the ministries as we prepare to move into the new building. Go to the following:
www.amazon.com/wishlist and search for "The Well Youth Group" or "The Well Children's Ministry."

Children's Ministry Is Growing (and we need You)!

The children's ministry at The Well is growing! We are blessed to have so many children. Most Sundays we are between 30 and 40 children and are increasing every month with all of the new babies. We could really use additional volunteers. Come be

a part of this growing ministry, and share your love of Jesus with all of these precious gifts. Contact Kelli Moore at kelli@thewellathuntington.org to learn more about serving.

Psalm 119 - Light for the Journey

It's the long Psalm. The epic Psalm. With 176 verses, it's not usually one we read in a single sitting. But sometimes I think we skip over it too much because of its length, when really, it has some incredibly encouraging and insightful words!

When I read Psalm 119, two themes jump out at me—apart from the overt commentary on the nature of God's law and the psalmist's devotion to it. Specifically, I am gripped by the pleas for there to be a guiding light along the road (verses 119, 130, 133) and prayers for the bumps encountered along the way (verses 28, 71, 96, 116). Needing guidance for the journey, and grace for the mishaps along the way, is pretty much the story of humanity.

This Psalm was also written as an acrostic, with a stanza for each letter of the alphabet. It is thorough. It has all the bases covered, beginning to end, which is precisely the security that we would all like to find in our lives. We want to know that no day, no season, no era of life will go unattended by the wisdom and light that only God's direction can provide.

Verse 105, perhaps the most famous of the chapter, says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Similarly, verse 130 states, "The unfolding of your word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." It is this truth that we cling to in our desire to avoid suddenly finding ourselves in places we don't belong. Let's face it: it can be easy to muddle along in life, going about one's daily routine, trudging one step in front of another without really paying attention. In some ways, it's like going nowhere

and everywhere at the same time. Days like those will bleed into weeks, which merge into years, and so it can happen that in one fell swoop, one can feel quite uncertain how they've gotten *here* at all. It's a shock we've probably all experienced at one time or another, and one we are likely not eager to repeat.

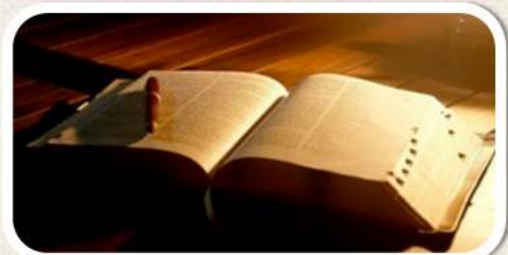
There will, however, be bumps along the way. "My soul is weary with sorrow" (verse 28), the psalmist declares. Or, as *The Message* phrases it, "My sad life's dilapidated, a falling-down barn..." I think we can all relate to these sentiments in some way. Life is rough. There are times where both body and soul are going to feel as weary or as useful as a falling down barn.

We all have our own personal struggles to contend with, but the glorious thing about life as believers is that we were put on earth for the *journey*, not for perfection. We are here to serve and honor our Lord. But we're fallible humans. So while there's absolutely going to be pain in the process, there can also be peace that transcends all else, fortifying each step along the road. Verse 165 says it perfectly: "Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble."

- Aimee McNew



If you are in need of a Bible, The Well has one to give to you. Just see Pastor Josh on a Sunday morning.



What Does the Bible Say About Compassion?

According to the Bible, compassion means “to have mercy, to feel sympathy and to have pity.” Psalm 86:15 says, “But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 says, “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Jesus, being the Son of God, exemplified his father’s compassion when he saw the people weeping at the grave of Lazarus. He wept alongside them (John 11:33-35). Jesus was moved by the suffering of others and healed many who came to him (Matthew 14:14, Mark 1:40-41).

But it isn’t just a God-thing, this compassion. 1 John 3:17 says, “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” We were created in God’s image, and thus, are to mirror his actions, as well.

So then, practically speaking, how can we exemplify Jesus’ compassion?

Do you like to pray? Start a prayer group that meets on a regular basis. I have been praying for the past 3 years with a group of men from church and it is amazing to look back and see what God has done and the prayers he has answered. Our new church building, which is about to be completed, was prayed for many times during these very meetings.

Have you ever considered making hospital visits? I have experienced both heartbreak and joy when I have visited with patients. People have asked me why I would want to expose myself to such sadness. My answer is this: I want to be an example of how God comforted the people during his time on earth, and share the comfort that he continues to give today.

These are just a couple of examples of ministries we look forward to expanding within The Well.

There are so many ways we can serve God and his people. He has given all of us a talent, so I pray that you don’t sit idly by while others are doing the work. One member called me up prior to one of the scheduled work days at the church and explained that she was not physically able to do the work, but that she wanted to help the volunteers. What did she do? She brought them doughnuts and drinks. She served in the way that she could, showing love and compassion for other who were also serving.

We all have limitations that can hinder our abilities. But God knows your abilities because he gave them to you, and if you ask God to give you opportunity to serve and are willing, you will never be at a loss for ways to give. I never pictured myself being a pastor, but here I am. I have discovered that with God, there are no comfort zones and when you’re feeling nervous, unsure, or scared, God is there for you to lean on. Embrace those feelings and instead, choose to view it as an adventure in service to our Lord.

God Bless,

Jim Hippensteel
Associate Pastor of Compassion and Care



THE BUILDING PROJECT (ALMOST THERE!).



WE ARE IN THE FINISHING STAGES! MOST OF THE PAINTING IS FINISHED, THE NEW SIGN IS UP, AND LIGHTS ARE BEING HUNG IN THE NEW WORSHIP AREA. IT WON'T BE LONG NOW. KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEBSITE, FACEBOOK AND TWITTER FOR WHEN THE OFFICIAL MOVE-IN DATE WILL BE. EXCITING TIMES ARE AHEAD FOR THE WELL AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR US AND OUR NEW NEIGHBORHOOD!

Evangelism: It's More than Inviting Someone to Church

Imagine, for a minute that you had a family member, best friend, co-worker or even a neighbor who you knew was in the market for a new car. Now, you just bought a new car so you did some research. And then your family member, friend, neighbor tells you about the car they bought and you know that their vehicle is junk. The bumper is made of the cheapest plastic the manufacturer could find. It has no airbags. The engine overheats after running too long and the brakes quit working whenever they feel like. Do you say anything to that person, even though they seem happy with their purchase? Do you wake up every morning and drive to work in your safe vehicle knowing that that person is one crash away from hurting themselves or others? Most of us would definitely say something, right?

Then how is it that we wake up every morning and thank God for another awesome day, and all of his blessings and everything else, yet say nothing to our loved ones who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus? It doesn't make sense. Because, knowing that unless they do, the penalty is eternal separation from God?

Romans 10:11-15 states,

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

It's simple: People won't have the opportunity to be saved unless we share the Gospel with them. It's not an option. We cannot absolve ourselves from the God-mandated task because of our personal fears of public speaking, rejection, being ridiculed or because we are self-proclaimed introverts.

Evangelism is not inviting someone to church or simply praying for a loved one. It requires action, stepping out in faith and being vulnerable. It also requires prayer, where we ask God to open opportunities to share our faith and obedience to act on those opportunities when the Holy Spirit presents them to us. There is work to be done and we each play a role in advancing God's Kingdom.

- André Laird, Associate Pastor



MEN'S PRAYER

MEN, WE HAVE A WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING ON MONDAY NIGHTS AT 7PM, AT COLLEGE PARK CHURCH (UNTIL OUR BUILDING OPENS). WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE SOME NEW FACES JOIN US AS WE FELLOWSHIP, PRAY FOR EACH OTHER, OUR CHURCH, AND OUR COMMUNITY.



DISCOUNT TICKETS AVAILABLE!



The Fandana Festival is held August 2-4 at Huntington University.

The Well has a special promo code for discounted full event passes. \$20

Go to <http://fandanafestival.eventbrite.com/>
Enter Promo Code: THEWELL
Only good for the first 75 tickets!

This year's headliners are NEEDTOBREATHE and Matt Maher!

Find Your Niche

I am sincerely hoping that this is the final newsletter that is not written from our new offices at the church. By the time that July 1 rolls around, we should really be getting settled into our new home on Old US 24. I am excited about the changes that are in store for our church. I am, however, hoping that there are many things that will not change.

I am thrilled that we won't have to set up each week for church at the YMCA. When I say "we," I mean Marvin and the rest of the worship team members, including musicians, vocalists, sound and media volunteers. It also includes those who set up and make the coffee that we enjoy each week. Additionally and importantly, there are people who pull the trailer to and from the Y each week and helpers who load and unload items, as well as setting up and restacking the chairs. It's a lengthy, tedious operation!

I would love to name all of the people who have done this over the past 4 years, but I would inevitably forget someone and hurt their feelings. So, to all those who have served in the past and are serving now,

thank you. I have noticed. Your church family has noticed. And, most importantly, God has noticed.

Many of these setting up and tearing down tasks will be going away soon. But if you are serving now, or are not but have a desire to, I want to challenge you to look for a new place to offer your gift of service in our new church home. If you are interested in finding your niche, please contact me, Marvin, or another staff member to make your interest known.

-- Pastor Josh Kesler

