



## New Ministry at a New Time

It turns out that there are many reasons that we should go to two services. The first reason is that our sanctuary is smaller than we think it is. There is a rule in church growth that explains that when we are at 80% capacity, we are full. So even if we have enough chairs for 275 people, we are full at 220. Most church growth experts say that this number over recent years has dropped closer to 60%. So in reality, our Sanctuary doesn't have 275 seats, it has between 180 and 220. (Which is right about how many people we have averaged in the sanctuary for the past several months.)

On special occasions we might be able to pack people in and get beyond 80% capacity but we will never be able to do this on a regular basis. After we reach 80% the quality of our guests and visitor's experience goes

down dramatically. Beyond 80% our guests and visitors will have a hard time sitting together as a family (they aren't looking for one empty seat, they are looking for a block of four). Beyond 80% our guests and visitors will not have any room for their stuff. Beyond 80% our guests and visitors will be uncomfortably rubbing thighs with strangers (or friends for that matter). Beyond 80% our guests and visitors do not have any real choice of where they want to sit. Beyond 80% our guests and visitors will not come back.

Since we hit our maximum capacity at well over 80% a few months back, we have been in a steady decline from that point forward. So even though it will be a disruption of our comfort, if we are about loving others, and ensuring that The Well continues to be a place where guests and visitors can come and find Jesus Christ, a few adjustments are needed.

God has gifted our church with some wonderful personalities who are bold and fearless when

it comes to meeting new people. As we continue to grow through multiple services, as God blesses us through our obedience, the sanctuary will continue to fill. Many of us need to take on the "Unofficial Usher" mindset. If you see a new family who is looking for a group of seats and you know where blocks of seats is, there might not be a more friendly thing you can do for them than to help them out. Your warm welcome and direction will bring them back (unless you put them in the front row).

As we go to two services, it is not about us. It is about those who are not yet "us." I know that in the coming months there will be some inconveniences to this new reality. But because of our perseverance I have faith that God will show himself as he has countless times in the past.

Going to two services is not about giving us more room to be more comfortable, it's about expanding God's kingdom.

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CONTACT OUR STAFF



Now meeting at:  
1883 Old US 24  
Huntington, IN 46750  
11 AM Worship Service

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Love Thy Neighborhood...Get ready for some exciting NEW additions to the children's area at The Well on December 1<sup>st</sup>!

When you enter "The Neighborhood" you will find 3 classrooms and a TON of excitement! Welcome to **Tiny Town Crossing** where 0-2 year olds are loved and cared for by many wonderful volunteers. **Adventure Avenue** is where 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners learn that a relationship with Jesus is a wonderful daily adventure. **Discovery Drive** is where 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders dig deeper and discover more amazing things about His love for them!

Come and check out all of the excitement in "The Neighborhood" at The Well!

## **New Ministry at a New Time (Continued)**

Opening up a new service is very much like planting a new church. As you consider which service you desire to attend, whether the 9 or 11, make the determination that you want to see your church service grow with new people and new faces. As you look around and see that the 11 is once again at capacity, God may ask you to become a part of the 9 o'clock service so your space will be available to a new person who is searching for God. The reality is that if they cannot find a seat, they will not find God. We have to remember that this is a good problem to have. Knowing what to do with all of the people is a problem that only about 15% of churches in America are dealing with. We have to solve the problem.

Sanctuaries have a natural growth "sweet spot" when it is between 50% and 80% full. When our attendance is in this range new people will see that God is really at work here, and also that there is room to be a part of it. Once our attendance exceeds 80% of seating capacity, growth will stop because although God is moving here there's no room to be a part of it.

If you have not considered worshipping at the 9am service, I want to challenge you to pray about the possibility. I believe that the 11 am service will always naturally attract more people because well... it's at 11am. On top of that, most of our church friends already go to that service. I would like you to talk to several of your friends and consider this new ministry at a new time. Then together commit to not just attending church at a different time, but become a part of the reason that it grows. Look at it as a whole new church where there's room for your friends and family who do not know Christ to come and find him. Then, take them to brunch.

Josh Kesler, Senior Pastor

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will offer a Christmas Eve service at The Well on December 24th at 7 PM.

This will be a simplistic and intimate time of worship focused on our Savior. We will read from scripture, have a time of prayer, and sing some of our favorite Christmas songs.

This will be a time for the entire family to worship together. We will not have any children's ministries during the service.

Coffee and light beverages will be provided. We also encourage you to bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with others!

## The Well Youth: December Jam-Packed

This winter is going to be busy for The Well Youth! We have a lot of opportunities- including ways to serve our church and community as well as fun fellowship times- so mark your calendars! **All events for December are for any student grades 6-12.**

**Sunday December 1- There will be NO youth meeting**

**Friday December 6-** We will be going to see Lily Kesler star in Narnia the Musical at the Pulse Opera House in Warren. Any student wanting to go should meet in the west parking lot at The Well at 7pm. Tickets are \$5. Transportation to and from the church will be provided. Let Abby know if you're going so you can reserve your spot!

**Sunday December 8-** The Well Youth and Children's Ministries are participating in a Toy Drive for Love INC to donate toys to Love's Christmas Gift Shop. If you would like to donate to this cause, please send your desired cash donation with your child to Youth Group this night. The youth group will take a trip to Walmart during our regular youth meeting to pick out and purchase toys to donate. **6-730 pm for grades 6-12.**

**Sunday Dec. 15- There will be no youth meeting.**

**Friday Dec. 20- Winter Break Kick off!** All youth are invited to meet at the church at 4pm for cookie baking/decorating, pizza, and games. Details of this event are still being worked out so be on the look out for more information. **Grades 6-12.**

**Sunday Dec. 22- Christmas Party! Food, games, gift exchange!**

We will be taking cookies from our event on Friday Dec. 20 and handing them out in the neighborhoods near The Well. Also, we will have a gift exchange, so have your student bring a \$5-10 gift that night. It is not mandatory to bring a gift; they will be able to participate in the gift exchange no matter what!

**Sunday Dec. 29- There will be NO youth meeting.**

**Friday Jan. 3 -overnight- Mark your calendars for Festivus! This is the annual overnight lock-out with several local youth groups (grades 6-12). Bowling, SkyZone, Laser Tag and many more activities! Cost is \$35 but any member of The Well Youth Group can go for a discounted price if they register early.**

**We are excited about all of these opportunities to serve our community and get to know our students better! It should be a great holiday season!**

**Any questions? Contact [abby@thewellathuntington.org](mailto:abby@thewellathuntington.org)**

## FOUR IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF WORSHIP: PART 2

Over the next few newsletters I am going to reintroduce the message on worship that I shared during the summer. There are four important aspects of our worship as it is related to discipleship. This month, I am sharing part 2:

Worship is conducted In Spirit and in TRUTH.

The most profound passage on the subject of worship is found in John chapter four:

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24 (NIV)

Before you can worship in spirit and in truth you must have the Holy Spirit within you. This happens when you come to Christ in repentance and in faith. Without Him, true worship will not happen. To worship God in spirit is to worship from the inside out. That means that there must be an attitude of sincere worship for there to be true worship. No matter how spiritual the song you are singing, no matter how profound the prayer you are praying, if it is not sincere, it is not worship, it's hypocrisy.

When the scripture talks about worshipping in truth it is talking about the truth as revealed through the Bible. There are many attributes of God revealed in the scripture. We may like the fact that the scripture talks about a God who is loving and kind, but the scripture also talks about a God who will come again to judge the living and dead, "and that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." God is a jealous God and He does not allow worship to be given to any other god that comes along. (Exodus 20:5) Just because we may not like that fact gives us no right to ignore it. He must be worshiped in spirit and in truth for it to be true worship.

The Bible reveals God to us so we can have a clear understanding of who He is and how we should respond to Him. We should never stop worshipping Him just because we do not fully understand His ways. One of our acts of worship is to a God whom we comprehend, but never fully.

To be continued next month...

Humbly yours,

Pastor Marvin McNew

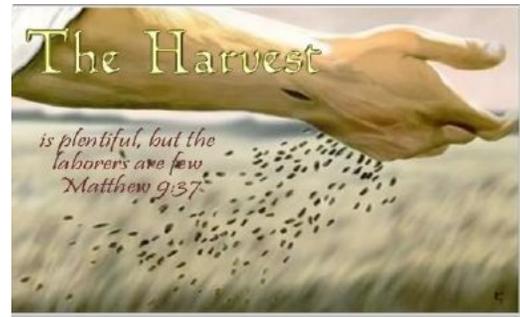
If you would like to hear the message in it's entirety, including songs and prayer, go to: <http://goo.gl/f0617q>



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John 4:23-24 (NIV)

# What Kind of Seed are You?



Mark 4:3-8

<sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

This is a very important question we need to be asking ourselves, every day, several times a day. Fulfilling God’s will for us is not a part-time commitment. Even though God gives us the option of choosing what we will do to help fulfill His will for us, He wants our commitment to be full-time. Trust in his guidance. God goes on to tell us in verse 13 thru 20:

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? <sup>14</sup> The farmer sows the word. <sup>15</sup> Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. <sup>16</sup> Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>18</sup> Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup> but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.” The farmer can be God, can a Pastor, or can be a disciple (you and I).

What kind of seed are you? Are you the seed that falls along the path? You’re curious about God, but you’re not sure if you want to make the effort to follow God. When you hear God’s words, you become fearful and unsure what to do with the words. You allow Satan to control your thoughts and actions.

Are you the seed that lands on the rocky path? You attend church, hear God’s word, and you accept them. For the remainder of the Sabbath day you hold true to the words and keep them close to your heart. But when Monday rolls around, you return to your weekly routine, you want to continue to fit in with your friends and co-workers, so you let go of the words, falling away from God.

Are you the seed that falls among the thorns and weeds? You hear God’s Word, and believe, yet you allow the worries of life, the quest for riches, and the desires of what other people possess to choke out the words, making them fruitless.

Are you the seed that falls onto fertile ground? You hear God’s words, you accept them for their true meaning, and you go out into the community to produce a crop that will glorify God. Such a person whether a man or woman is in a good position to become a disciple for Jesus Christ. God doesn’t expect us to know everything about him in order to disciple people, He wants us talking to others about him, sharing about the grace and blessings that he has placed in our own lives. God wants us to step out of our comfort zone and follow his lead. I have heard a lot of people say that Christians are hypocrites. The sad thing is, they are right. We tend to choose which situation we will discuss God and proclaim our faith in God. We tend to only find ourselves conversing with other believers, not reaching out beyond to a broken world of unbelievers.

Jim Hippensteel

Pastor of Congregational Care

# Announcements

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## **We Want You to Have a Bible**

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

## **Parking and Seating on Sunday Mornings**

If you are able, please park in the lower, south lot to allow closer parking for those who need it.

Also, please take advantage of the open seating in the front of the sanctuary so others can easily find seating as they arrive.

## **Men's Prayer Group**

Meets on Mondays at the church, 7 PM.

## **Serving Opportunities**

Some of you may be wondering how you can serve at The Well. We currently have opportunities in our Children's Ministry, Worship Ministry, First Impressions Team, with more opportunities coming!

If you want to get plugged into The Well, contact any of the pastors and they will help you get connected.

## **Getting the Newsletter?**

If you know someone who isn't getting the newsletter, for whatever reason, let us know. Send us an email at [office@thewellathuntington.org](mailto:office@thewellathuntington.org).

## **Baptism Celebration**

We will have a baptism service on December 15th, if you would like to participate see Pastor Josh.

There will be a baptism informational meeting on Wednesday, 12/11, at 6 PM for all those interested.

## **Well Moms Group**

Any mom is invited to join other Well Moms on Mondays, 10:30 – 12:30. Come for a time of fellowship beginning on December 2nd.

Children are welcome. We will meet in the children's area. Questions? Contact Amber Degitz at [amberdegitz@gmail.com](mailto:amberdegitz@gmail.com).

## **Women's Grow Group**

If you are interested in joining a women's grow group contact Kris Chafin at [kchafin@huntington.edu](mailto:kchafin@huntington.edu).

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