



MAIN INFO

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STAFF

Senior Pastor - Josh Kesler
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Communications and Worship Pastor -
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Children's Coordinator - Tyanne Bailey
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Youth Coordinator - Abby Branscomb
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Community Care Pastor -
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WHERE WE MEET

1883 Old US 24
Huntington, IN 46750

Worship Services

9 and 11 AM

Sunday Mornings

Thoughts from our Senior Pastor: **Transformation**

When it comes to our spiritual lives, no matter where we are, there is always somewhere we can go to deepen our dependence on God. There is more we can learn from God's word. There is someone we can serve. There are prayers to be offered. But even though we know these things, we still find it very hard to grow spiritually.

In a time of personal confession that we participated in as a church in the fall, about 40% of the responses indicated that their biggest frustration or the sin that was holding them back was lack of spiritual direction or spiritual apathy.

I believe that we all struggle with this to varying degrees from time to time. Sometimes it seems like maintaining an active relationship with God comes very naturally to us and other times it seems to be much more awkward and forced. At other times it may seem non-existent. I am certain that most of our frustrations with our relationship with God are directly related to our personal commitment to engagement in the process. God cannot change. But our circumstances, emotions, and life requirements often keep us running circles to the point that we inadvertently (or intentionally, for that matter) place God at the bottom of our list of priorities.

As a pastor, there are just a few simple things that I would like to encourage everyone to be doing in the weeks and months to come. They are simple things that, when done as a community, will truly transform our church into a place



where we are known for our love for one another and receptiveness to expand the Grace of Jesus Christ to more people through our actions.

1. Pray daily. Set an alarm on your watch (or phone) to remind you to do this. Keep it simple. Don't be concerned with heaving up your to do list for God, just simply take the moment, center yourself on God and his presence in your life. Ask yourself questions about Jesus. Who is he to you? What does it mean to truly follow him? What does his death on a cross mean to you? How can you live a life more like his?

2. Study God's word Daily. Even if it is just a simple verse or even a paragraph. Don't make the mistake of thinking more is more. Less can truly be more. If you don't know where to start, learn about Jesus in one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John). I would suggest John. John starts out this with these words.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

There is a lot there to think about. If you were to read just one to three verses per day and mentally and spiritually dive into what they mean, by the time you finished with the book of John, your relationship with Jesus would be very different than it is today.

Continued on next page...

Transformation (continued)

I doubt that you would still list a lack of spiritual direction as a frustration.

3. Step out in Faith. If you are praying every day and reading God's word, then I can say with a fair amount of certainty that God is going to be speaking to you. Will it be audible like a voice out of the sky? Probably not. But through God's Holy Spirit He will be communicating to your spirit. What will that look like? I don't know. It is different for each of us. For some God will ask us to take a step of obedience and be baptized. For others God may be challenging us to begin the discipline of consistent and sacrificial giving. God may put someone on our hearts that we need to invite to church and that

seems really risky. Maybe you need to end an unhealthy dating relationship. Maybe you are asked to FORGIVE SOMEONE even if they don't ask for it or deserve it! There are many ways that God will challenge us so that we can deepen our dependence on Him. Most of the things that we rely on in life from relationships to finances end up being obstacles to dependence on God. We all need to be looking to how we can step out more faithfully in every area of life.

I know that if we, collectively as a church Body, are committed to trying these three tasks, God will bless our church and lives will be healed and eternities will be altered. The church is called to make

disciples, and the best way that we can make disciples is for each of us to be personally committed to being disciples ourselves.

Josh Kesler
Senior Pastor



Neighborhood Kids

Throughout the month of February, The Well's own Neighborhood Kids have been serving others in a different way! Brad Homme, son of Cindy Sappington, is serving our country in the Navy and is deploying soon! Kids have been working hard each Sunday in February to color and create some cheerful notes to send to him while he is gone. They are hoping that he will know that he is still thought about, prayed for, and loved from everyone at home!



Youth

We are currently in an exciting time for The Youth! Abby Mitchell has done a wonderful job with our youth and is now passing the torch to another Abby (Branscomb). We want to be sure to thank Abby Mitchell for all the work she has done and love she has shown to our youth. She is going to continue to serve in the worship ministry and blessing us with her talents musically.

A Note from Abby Branscomb, the New Youth Coordinator:

I'm so excited and blessed for this opportunity to serve at The Well as the new youth director. I'm currently a sophomore History major at Huntington University. I've been a part of The Well since 2011, along with my family. I have a passion for serving with the youth, and I'm very excited for all the changes that will be made to youth group.

February Wrap Up and March Events

The month of February consisted of sledding, and more sledding. The students started an eight-week series on the book of Proverbs, which will continue into March. At the end of March we will start a new four-week series about Easter, and will end on Palm Sunday with a big Easter party.

We're excited to announce that 5th graders will be welcome starting the month of March!

Upcoming events for the youth group include:

March 2: Regular Youth group, 6:00–7:30. – Proverbs Series

March 9: Regular Youth group, 6:00–7:30. – Proverbs Series

March 16: (Spring Break for Huntington University) Regular Youth group, 6:00–7:30. – Proverbs Series

March 23: Regular Youth group, 6:00–7:30 – Easter Series.

The students are currently working towards a trip to Skyzone, in Fort Wayne, IN. To reduce the cost of their trip, students are given a couple of verses every week that pertain to the current lesson and are encouraged to memorize and recite for the following week. Future events that we're all very excited for include a giant Easter egg hunt, and yes there will be prizes!

For questions about Youth contact me at: abby@thewellathuntington.org



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www.facebook.com/thewellyouth

Follow us on Twitter: @the_wellyouth

Encouraging Others

We are the product of human nature and in some people, it is their human nature to be selfish and to want to put their needs and desires before others. The Bible gives clear direction on our need to give glory to God by helping others. God commands us to love and help others and by doing this we will be blessed. God calls on us to do his work. Is God calling you to help a co-worker, a family member, or maybe a friend? Do you find yourself wanting to change and to begin helping others? The past couple weeks Pastor Josh has been teaching about our God-given talents. Notice the word "talents" is plural. We have been given multiple talents, but unfortunately, we tend to focus on only those talents that we feel most comfortable doing. We should be willing to step out of our comfort zone and begin to put all of our talents to work for the glory of God. Here are a few Bible verses to help encourage you.

1 John 3:17 – Love of God

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?

Proverbs 22:9 – Being Generous

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Hebrews 6:10 - For God

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Galatians 6:2 - Help with Burdens of others

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

I came across a poem as I was researching what to write in this newsletter. I can't begin to put into words the feeling one gets when you see the look of hopelessness and sadness on someone's face prior to having a conversation and prayer, and then see their expression change to one of hope and a smile. I will be praying that if you're not currently an

encourager that God will lead you to become one.

Our Gifts Are For Encouraging

Help us, Lord, to see ourselves
Through your loving eyes,
To see what you see in us
And to come to realize

That everything that we possess
Comes directly from you,
The gifts, the talents you've placed within
Are there for us to use

To reach with hope to those that hurt,
To those who've lost their way
It's your gifts, Lord, they're not our own,
So take them, Lord, we pray

And use them for your glory,
So others may be blessed
And have their spirits lifted
And their souls also refreshed

So they can then be challenged
To seek more after you,
To be much more empowered
For whatever they may do

For each of us have talents
That God has placed within
so we can encourage others
to have a closer walk with Him

And as we encourage another,
We can be encouraged ourselves,
For there needs to be a continual flow
And a continual pouring out

And as we do this, we will find
Insecurities will disappear
And we'll be strengthened in His love
To overcome our fears

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**God Bless,
Pastor Jim Hippensteel**





Todd Fetters, Director of National Ministries at the United Brethren headquarters, shared information via the United Brethren online newsletter, on how to pray for our pastors.

This daily prayer guide is a great resource for us to purposely and specifically pray for our pastors. I plan to use this throughout the year to intentionally pray daily for our pastoral staff at The Well. Will you join me?

I am excited to see how the prayers of His people will impact the lives of our pastors, their families, our church and the neighborhood we serve in the year to come.

In His Service,

Deb Swihart

How to Pray for Your Pastor

UBcentral.org By News on Feb 11, 2014 10:39 am

As a pastor, I regularly informed my congregations of my prayer concerns by using a variety of lists. Eventually, I found a resource by Jim Nicodem, in his book, "Prayer Coach," that became my favorite. His list accurately reflected the true desire of my heart as a spiritual leader.

These seven petitions work nicely as a weekly prayer guide. I encourage you to use it as you pray for your pastor.

Day 1: That our pastors would be honored, affirmed, encouraged, and respected.

Discouragement is a reality for many pastors and their spouses. The reasons are as varied as the normal stuff of everyday life. Fatigue. Lack of success.

Unrealistic expectations. Sin. Unrealized vision. Loss. Financial pressures. Spiritual doubt. Loneliness. Clearly, pastors and their spouses do a good work, but there is always the danger of them growing weary in doing good.

Day 2: That our pastors would be protected from focused attacks of Satan, stay far from sin, and walk in obedience to God's Word.

Satan is a real threat. Pastors are well aware of their brokenness and how vulnerable they are to satanic temptation. The good ones battle hard to resist temptation, because they know the consequences can extend beyond themselves to those they lead.

Day 3: That God would give our pastors wisdom, patience, perseverance, and grace in facing people-problems, and that those they lead would be loyal, understanding, and supportive.

Relationship is everything. We want our congregations and pastors to truly care for one another, speak well of one another, and have mutual affection one for the other.

Day 4: That our pastors' marriages and parenting would be God-pleasing and wise.

Congregations struggle when a pastor's marriage suffers. Divorce can deflate and divide a congregation. Rebellious children can cause frustration and doubt in a pastor's leadership. We want our clergy couples to love and enjoy each other. We want our pastors' families to be havens of honor and hope.

Day 5: That our pastors, in preparation for teaching God's Word, would listen to God's voice, have their time for study protected, be kept from

theological error, personally apply the truth, and be filled with God's Spirit.

Modeling the Way is as important as preaching the Word. Good pastors regularly connect with God through the Word they study, preach, and apply to themselves. In the process, they desperately pray for the Holy Spirit's presence and power.

Day 6: That our pastors would consistently practice important disciplines.

Spiritual disciplines are critical for maintaining a connection with the Holy Spirit. Pastors make time to physically, emotionally, and mentally engage the Holy Spirit through prayer, worship, study, confession, solitude, fasting, etc.

Day 7: That our pastors would be zealous for the church and compelling in promoting its mission.

The Kingdom is the pastor's God-given big picture. They have an inner drive to see the agenda, priorities, and values of God's Kingdom realized in their own lives, their churches, their communities, and throughout the world. For them, it's not just about growing a big church. It's about participating with God as He grows His Kingdom.

These seven prayer requests compose a holistic picture of your pastor's heart. It reveals the heart attitude through which God seems to work. So, now that you've gained a glimpse inside the mind of the pastor, offer to God an informed prayer on your pastor's behalf, right now. Then, start watching for God to effectively grow His Kingdom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Neighborhood Block Party

As we teach about the church, we are currently working on ways to come together as a community. Our first Neighborhood event will be a series of block parties. Each focused on growing relationships and focusing on family. We will have times of worship, communion, baptism, etc. and enjoying meals together.

Our first event:

Sunday, March 9th, 9:45AM. A time for family to enjoy a full service breakfast, connecting with your neighbors of The Well.

We plan to have these events quarterly.

There will be **no 9 AM service** on these Sundays and only nursery (0-2yrs) will be provided during the 11 AM service. Return an RSVP card on Sunday morning in the offering plate, or fill out the RSVP form on our [webpage](#). If you have any questions about our Neighborhood Block Parties, contact [Molly Edgel](#), event coordinator.

Be Informed

Be sure to like our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/thewellathuntington

Check out our website:
www.thewellhuntington.org

Follow us on Twitter:
@the_wellchurch

We Want You to Have a Bible

If you are in need of a Bible, The Well has one for you. See Pastor Josh on 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.

The Well Moms Group

Any mom is invited to join other Well Moms on Mondays, 10:30 - 12:30.

Children are welcome.

We will meet in the children's area. Questions? Contact Amber Degitz at amberdegitz@gmail.com.

