

The Tale of a Broken Pipe:

The majority of our church was flooded from a small pipe located in the attic of room 14 that burst sometime in the afternoon or evening of Tuesday, January 16. The damage was discovered the following morning at 7:15am. Based on our water meter, an estimated 90k gallons of water poured out from room 14. The only rooms not affected were the finance office, the spare office, the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

Fortunately, we were able to immediately secure the services of Servpro, a commercial restoration service. Coordinating with our insurance, Servpro began removing the excess water, followed by assessing the damage to the floors and walls. The sanctuary alone had close to 2 inches of standing water. During the drying process, nearly 200 fans were spread throughout the halls and rooms of the church.

This is difficult to fathom and raises questions over the preparations made before the freezing temperatures. Please understand that our normal preparations were done before for the cold weather. It's possible to second guess everything, and perhaps the water should have been shut off to the church, but our plumbing has endured cold snaps before with our preparations.

The burst pipe was located in the attic of room 14 along the north wall. It provided water to the small sinks in the room. When it burst, the water blew out the ceiling tile. The next day, standing under that destruction, one could feel the exceedingly cold temperatures in the attic. There wasn't much insulation along the north wall to help protect this pipe. In addition, stress fractures can be seen on the broken pieces of the pipe. It's possible this pipe suffered stress in the past and finally broke with the latest freezing temperatures.

Professionals continue to assess the damage and changes are likely to the list of needed repairs. As of now, all the tile carpet will need replacing. This includes the hall ways, class rooms, conference room, library and office. Work continues on assessing the damage to the walls, but it is clear the lower parts will need replacing as well as any insulation. We're not yet sure if the sanctuary carpet can be saved, but it is possible. And further evaluation is needed of the tile floor in the narthex.

It's not yet possible to determine the time required to make these repairs. Once Servpro finishes their work, we will need to hire contractors to make the repairs. This obviously disrupts the ministries of the church. Please refer to the [church's calendar](#) on its website, along with our [weekly news & announcements](#) for the latest news. We will be posting news articles on our website to document the recovery process.

We are blessed with insurance, but it is unlikely our policy will fully pay for the replacement over everything. The church may ask for special donations to cover the expenses of these repairs. Please, continue to pray for our recovery.