

# April news



## Resource Partitioning

In my office, I have several plants that I have been able to keep alive. One of those started out as a tiny cutting I took home from Nathan and Hannah's wedding, and it has grown so beautifully - new leaf after new leaf.

This past week I saw two new leaves forming and I was excited to see them unfurl. I water them twice a week and have an artificial light to provide them with the energy needed for photosynthesis.

There's something that gets me every time though. Coming out of the tip of those two new leaves was a single drop of water hanging on each of them.

Those two times a week when I fill up the watering pitcher and pour a little in each pot of soil in my office starts the process. Somehow, through the miracle of our Creator, water poured into this dirt travels to the roots and the stems and all the leaves, making its way to the very end. The two newest leaves both had those beautiful drops of water that traveled the whole journey.

I was going on about it, as I do, and a coworker who is a student at Marshall University's College of Science matter-of-factly said, "Yeah, resource partitioning." Now I have no idea if she is correct on this, but she explained it by saying the other leaves use less water because they are just maintaining, and more water is shared with the newest leaves because they are actively growing. More resources are shared with those that need it most.

Immediately, my mind went to two thoughts.

Number one, How amazing is our Creator?

And Number two, it reminded me of the Scripture describing the early church. In the book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 42 through 47, Luke gives us a beautiful description of it...

***"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47***

While I'm not suggesting we all sell our houses and share a bank account, it is such an unselfish picture painted in the New Testament. Everyone shared their resources with those who had need. In Scripture we are reminded throughout that our possessions aren't really ours. In Psalm 24:1, David tells us that the earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord, with Romans 14:8 echoing that. In 1 Timothy 6:7, Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into this world, and when we leave, we will take nothing with us.

It's important for us not to get wrapped up in holding on to our stuff too tightly. Be ready to give, and with a cheerful heart, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Take a few minutes and ask God if there are areas of your finances or possessions that he would like you to hold onto more loosely. I'll join you.

-Jennifer Chapman

**GOOD FRIDAY  
TENEBRAE SERVICE  
APRIL 3RD • 6:00 PM**

**Second  
Saturday  
Prayer**

April 11th at 9:00 AM



**Widow's Luncheon**  
Saturday, April 11 at Noon

**Praise & Testimony**  
April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM

**Encounter**

*If we will...  
Humble ourselves and pray...  
He will...*

**United Prayer Gathering 6 PM**

April 12- @ First Church

321 30<sup>th</sup> St., Huntington WV

**April  
Celebrations**

**Birthdays**

- 1 Ethan Hammons
- 5 Jian Arora
- 6 Madalynn Bellomy
- Debbie Forth
- Pete Thomas
- Rylee Rakocinski
- 7 Jaxx Carroll
- 8 Wilma Moore
- James Thomas
- 9 Angie Hendrick
- 14 Karmen Wilds
- 16 King Jackson
- 17 Sawyer White
- 18 Jayden Castillo
- 19 Nikki Loudon
- 21 Jordyn Gibson
- Ryan Henry
- 22 Kevin Hamilton
- 23 Feliz Finch
- 24 Christopher Strow
- 27 Jennifer Chapman
- Alan Pannell
- 29 Donna Pinkerman
- Jonathan Miller
- Luke Cummings

**Anniversaries**

- 5 Blair & Cindy Rorabaugh
- Rick & Shelia Lanz
- 12 Baker & Hannah Knapp



**LADIES**

**GET AWAY** Pigeon Forge, TN

November 1-4

\$150.00 (per person)

Balance due by Mid September

FMI- see Mona Epperly or Davida Brooks

**SECURE YOUR SPOT!  
SIGN-UP & \$50 DEPOSIT  
DUE BY APRIL 26**



**HF Homebound  
Church Family**

- Donna Connelly
- Marian Crowe
- Carolyn Fudge
- Deborah Gibson
- Clara Knight
- Marie Scheff
- Melba Sprouse
- Tammy Stulz
- Eleanor Dean
- Ron Davidson (Katie)
- Nancy Hampton (temporarily)
- Ron Dallis (Judi)

Let's remember to pray for each one, consider sending a card or even visiting them.

If we have missed anyone, or if you need the addresses, please see Joey Saxton, Mona Epperly or contact the church office.



**CRISIS CARE KITS  
Collection Item**

**Bars of Soap**  
(Bath Size or Larger)

**APRIL MISSIONS OFFERING:  
DISASTER RELIEF**

...in preparation for the flooding we have in and around the region every year in May.



# Save the Dates

**April 18- April 22**

The Nazarene Churches of Huntington are inviting you to join us in one prayer and one pursuit: an Encounter with God.

Together we are honored to host a regional gathering of renewal with special guest speaker, Kerry Willis. ([Romanstentfifteen.blogspot.com](http://Romanstentfifteen.blogspot.com))

*"if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

This is more than a series of services. It is a call to humility. A call to prayer. A call to repentance. A call to encounter...

*If we will... He will...*

Join us for revival services, leadership training & pastor's breakfast.

Come hungry.

Come united.

Come expecting.



*Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)*

# Encounter

*If we will... He will*

Sunday, April 19-22

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Worship 7 PM

Kids Encounter 7:00 PM

321 30<sup>th</sup> St., Huntington

## Open Door Leadership Training

Saturday, April 18 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

340 Norway Ave., Huntington

## Soul Care Pastor's Breakfast

Tuesday, April 21, 9:00 AM

1102 Adams Ave., Huntington



### Encounter Speaker: Pastor Kerry Willis (PK)

PK is a servant of the Lord. He has served 22 years as a Senior Pastor, 7 years as a District Superintendent, he has authored several books, lead 17 discipleship journeys to the Holy Land, countless revivals, men's retreats, and prayer gatherings. PK is currently serving as Pastor of Prayer at Harrisonburg First Church of the Nazarene and loves Jesus passionately.



# APRIL 2026

ALL CHURCH, **HF KIDS**, **HF YOUTH**, **HF WOMEN'S MIN**, **THRIVE**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	2	3 Tenebrae Service 	4 THRIVE-Mom's of Little Ones
5 THRIVE-Rorabaugh 	6	7 THRIVE-Men's, Women's & Young Adults Groups	8 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	9 THRIVE-Married Group	10	11 2nd Saturday Prayer Widow's Luncheon
12 Praise & Testimony <b>Prayer Gathering</b>	13	14 THRIVE-Rick's Group Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	15 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	16	17	18 <b>Leadership Training at Walnut Hills</b>
19 NDI Meeting	20	21 <b>Pastors Breakfast at Central</b>	22	23 THRIVE-Married Group	24	25
<b>Revival Dinner and Services</b> "Encounter- If we will... He will."						
26 Leadership Team Mtg	27	28 THRIVE-Rick's Group Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	29 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	30		

# Connect. Thrive. Serve.

*"Our vision at HF is to be a church that is CONNECTING with Christ and people, THRIVING in Christ and God's Word and SERVING Christ and others."*

## **CONNECTING:**

**Ministry Center:** (Gathering Room) The Leadership Team has discussed the final draft of the agreement between HF and Still Waters Coffee Co and that has been finalized and signed by both parties. The Health Department and the Fire department still need to take care of their obligations but we're getting closer to finalizing the finishing details and we have a plan to open June.

**Local Ministries:** You might have noticed the different groups that have been on our campus in the last several months. In an effort to both, be good stewards of what we've been blessed with, as well as connecting with organizations and individuals, we have allowed our facilities to be utilized. From homeschooled groups using the gym for practice and games to organizations like Faith Health Appalachia, Marshall Health, ALS, Missions groups and others, having meetings, trainings, a place to sleep, or special dinners, we are so blessed to have these opportunities to connect our church with so many. It provides wonderful opportunities to play our part of being the hands and the feet of the Gospel.

## **THRIVING:**

**Young Adult SS/Discipleship Class "Bridges":** What an exciting time in the life of our church! This class will be in its third week by the time this newsletter is released, and the first two weeks have been nothing short of amazing! The first week 11 people attended and the following week although not everyone else was there from the week prior, 6 new people attended. That class will be meeting from now on in the Ministry Center. God is on the move!

**Youth Pastor:** After a few months of interviews, I'm so happy to announce that I have officially extended the invitation to Sawyer White to come and be our full-time Youth Pastor and he has accepted! A special thank you goes to our Leadership Team and their input as we interviewed Sawyer and his wife Livvi and their work on a financial package. I believe this is absolutely what the Lord has guided us to in the life of our church.

It is very clear that the Lord has led them here to HF and I'm so excited to see what He has in store for our youth and their families through their ministry here. They are set to arrive in May, after Sawyer graduates on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued prayers.

## **SERVING:**

**\*NEED - Van Coordinator:** Every week we pick up children, teenagers and adults that would not otherwise be able to be here. We have a new opening and need for a van driver so, please prayerfully consider serving in that need. We're still in need of someone with a heart for this ministry that would be willing to schedule riders and drivers, as well as recruit new ones. Please contact Pastor Marc or Nathan Miller if you can serve here.

\*Also, there are rotation options now for Sun. AM and Wed. PM (1 time per month or floater)

**\*NEED - HF Youth:** With our new Youth Pastor coming in May, the opportunities to serve in Youth Ministry are tremendous! Now would be a great time to volunteer and start forming those relationships that our students long for.

**Pastor's Note:** It has always been my prayer, desire and goal to keep our church body connected and informed. I realize, week to week and month to month, sometimes things get lost in translation, so this is a great place to stay up to date on the exciting things happening here at Huntington First. If you ever need me for anything, please don't hesitate to reach out. Until we see each other again, let's all go and be light in a dark world!

In Jesus,  
Pastor Marc