

# August *news*



## 3 Grains of Rice

Emily's two boys, a 7-year-old and a 5 year-old, were spending Saturday morning watching cartoons and jumping on the furniture in the living room. By lunchtime, so much energy had been spent it was hard to imagine there was any left, and it was just in time to refuel. Emily made some chicken, rice and cut some strawberries for them. With lots of jokes and body sounds, the food was gobbled up in no time.

A couple of hours later, Emily had done the dishes and the apartment was silent again. As she pushed the chair under the table, she saw three grains of rice dried on the grey linoleum. She looked across the living room and saw the rumpled couch cushions. It was the best.

Two years before, Emily was a stickler for tidiness and order. But now she lives in an apartment by herself in a residential treatment center while she works on her recovery from substance use. After many months without them, she gets visits from her sons twice a week now, and the rest of the time they live with their dad.

Seeing those squished cushions and the stray, crusty rice on the floor made things feel normal. They made her grateful for the life she is working hard to have.

Her perspective changed.

Hearing her tell me that story was a beautiful reminder of how, as followers of Jesus, our perspectives change too.

***"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD." Isaiah 55:8***

If I lose my job, and have to start somewhere else, it might seem like a terrible situation. But if I look at it through God's perspective, I can see new opportunities for new relationships and new people to point to Jesus.

When cancer showed up in my life, I was able to see time in the infusion center as a blessing – hearing other people's stories, forming relationships with the nurses, spending time in prayer.

And when finances take a hit, it's an opportunity to watch God provide.

Some things aren't so easy to decipher. These things can still hurt and it's healthy to grieve them. But we also need to trust that God is in control and working things out for our good and His glory, even if it's not easy to understand.

What we can trust is that He is good. He is our good, good Father.

If there is something heavy in your life right now, pray for God to give you a glimpse of his perspective and thank Him in advance for what He can do with it.

- Jennifer Chapman

# THE FAMILY GATHERING

CONVENTIONS AND DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

**August 1-4, 2025**  
**@Teays Valley Nazarene**

Sunday School Offering  
**AUGUST MISSION FOCUS**  
*Women's Prison Ministry*

Pastor Jessica Linhart is helping unlock a brighter future for those impacted by incarceration at Lakin Correctional Facility by sharing the transformative love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ

**AUGUST 8-10, 2025**

## CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE WEST VIRGINIA *Lay Retreat*

*with special guests*



OLYVIA FREDERICKS



JAY HUMPREYS TRIO

WEST VIRGINIA NAZARENE CAMPGROUND  
SUMMERSVILLE, WV

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Giveaway



August 9, 2025 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Crisis Care Kits



**SHAMPOO**  
**12-18 oz**  
COLLECTION ITEM

LET'S CREATE A COOKBOOK!



## FAMILY FAVORITE RECIPES

Please submit top 3 family secret recipes by August 31.

This fall, we will be offering these secrets for sale as a fundraiser for NYC 26.

FMI: See Pastor Trevor



AUGUST 10

## Praise & Testimony

## Nazarene Youth International Open House

8/16 @ 6



## Widow's Luncheon

AUGUST  
— 16 —

## August Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Linda Daniels
- 3 Sharlee Henry
- 6 David Sheets
- 7 Shawn Chapman
- 8 Cheryl Barr
- 8 Boyd Rorabaugh
- 9 Dianne Burcham
- 15 Ron Davidson
- 18 Mona Epperly
- 22 Cynthia Saxton
- 25 Annie Pannell
- Robert Simpkins
- 31 Richard Lewis

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Shawn & Jennifer Chapman
- 19 Jim & Sherry Hamilton
- 22 Kevin & Melissa Hamilton



# August 2025

All Church, HF Kids, HF Youth, HF Women's Min, Thrive

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM		1	2 THRIVE-Moms of Littles Ones
					District Conventions & Assembly	
3 THRIVE-Rorabaugh	4	5 Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adult	6 Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM	7	8	9 ANNUAL Give-Away 2nd Saturday Prayer
District Conventions & Assembly						
10 Praise & Testimony	11	12 THRIVE-Young Adult	13 Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM	14 THRIVE-Married Group	15	16 WIDOWS' LUNCHEON NYI OPEN HOUSE
17 NDI Mtg	18	19 Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adult	20 Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM	21	22	23
24 Leadership Team Mtg	25	26 THRIVE-Young Adult	27	28 THRIVE-Married Group Win-A-Couple Class Meeting	29	30
31						

# 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:

We have several ongoing projects that will help us in our efforts to connect. We have estimates for improving ministry spaces for discipleship and gathering for fellowship.

Phase One of our Gathering Room renovations are almost complete. Our goal is to have it completed by October. This will be a wonderful place for ministry and class parties, Thrive Group get-togethers, Bible studies, and a location for further prayer on Sunday morning.

There will also be days when it will be open to the community in our efforts to connect our church body with our neighbors. Incorporating Stillwater's Coffee Co. as part of that connection is our hope, but it is pending city approval for rezoning. Rezoning is something our church needs to do as we are already zoned incorrectly, and this will open us up for any opportunities in the future to connect and share Christ with others.

In addition, there are much needed improvements to the parsonage, which is often used for discipleship and fellowship purposes. From premarital counseling to Christmas parties, to wedding and baby showers and Thrive Group meetings, the parsonage is a great place for connecting.

The front, back and side porches need repair/replacing as well as the awnings. There's also a plan to expand a patio area off the back porch to be used for outside gatherings for all of our ministries as well.

## THRIVING:

There is an additional project that is planned for our Children's Department. We are planning to consolidate and improve a storage room by moving it to the end of the hallway. This will allow that room, which is perfectly located at the entry of the children's wing upstairs to be utilized better.

That room will become a place to prepare and serve food for our children. It will also have a serving window.

\*The upstairs water fountain has been replaced with the capability of filling water bottles, and it has been lowered to children's level.

In September, our children's ministry will relaunch a preschool program and will be in need of several volunteers for that. In addition, our Nursery is in need of volunteers for serving on a rotational schedule.

In addition to that, we are presently searching for qualified teachers/Bible Study facilitators.

We have a need for a college-aged Thrive Group facilitator as well as a home or location to host it.

We also have a need for a leader or two with a heart for ministering to widows. We have an incredible group of ladies and it's a wonderful ministry and we would love to see it continue to flourish.

On August 9th at 9 am we will begin a new chapter in our Prayer Ministry as we will be bringing back our Saturday morning prayer meetings.

It will be called "Second Saturday Prayer" and it will meet monthly for one hour as we bring the needs of our church and praises for God working among us.

## SERVING:

We certainly have plenty of opportunities to serve that are available in every ministry of our church.

We would welcome someone with a passion for gardening to oversee our Community Garden year-round.

The youth have a tremendous need for riders and drivers with options for Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings so that our students can continue to be disciplined.

Our Trustees Team has a great need for several volunteers to paint the walls inside the FLC as well as painting the outside of the Gathering Room and the back of the church.

Finally, our Stewardship Team is in the process of updating our "1st Impressions Team" which will help us to better connect with our guests, in efforts to invite them into our faith community.

We've also had some nagging roof leaks on our flat roofs, and those are being addressed as well. A couple of volunteers for that would save the church quite a bit of money and wouldn't be a huge job.

In addition to that, all the gutters on the church, FLC and parsonage need cleaned annually. We had a quote for it but believe a \$1500 one time a year is too steep when we have able-bodied people that could accomplish it in an afternoon.

We plan to have further discussion with the Leadership Team on possibly purchasing gutter guards to alleviate the problem altogether.

## HOUSEKEEPING:

We've had ongoing issues with our Wi-Fi, so we are addressing that, as well as making sure we are cyber secure. There will be some changes in our IT that will help everything to run more efficiently.

You've no doubt noticed the restrooms closest to the sanctuary have not worked well for several months. We had a major leak under the foundation, and it was finally decided that going over the top with the plumbing would be better than tearing-up the foyer. So, you've probably also noticed the copper piping in the restrooms. That was done simply because it was our best solution available. That is complete and everything should be good to go.

Finally, we will likely be replacing another one of our old air conditioning units. We replaced one last year on the church building and now the one that services the Youth room, kitchen and restrooms is out.

I hope this helps. Keep you better connected as we move forward in ministry here at Huntington 1st. I'm always available if you need to chat. Until we see each other again, let's go and be light in a dark world!

In Jesus,  
Pastor Marc