

November *news*



It Matters

I follow a stranger on Instagram named Brooke. I first saw her on a segment of the Today show a year after she had been diagnosed with ALS at age 33. ALS progressively messes with the motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord, causing weakness and eventually paralysis of portions of the body. There is no cure, and the lifespan after diagnosis averages between 3-5 years.

Brooke started making Instagram videos that were honest but charming and often funny. Sharing clips and creating overall snapshots of her life with the disease, she feels like a friend. Her videos started when she was using a walker sometime around 2023. Since then, she has become completely paralyzed except for a few fingers and her face.

I knew very little about ALS before Brooke, but she described it as hopeless and scary. A cure would be literally lifesaving for so many people. The ALS Foundation shared a goal of making it a **livable** disease by 2030.

But ALS has been around since at least the 1800s, with doctors and scientists researching and studying and trying things across several centuries. In 1849, a doctor tried using galvanic electric therapy. When Lou Gehrig was diagnosed in the mid-1900s, his treatment consisted of physical, occupational and speech therapy and nutritional support. In 1994, a couple teams of scientists discovered a gene that enabled a study on animals, which led to a company of pharmaceutical scientists developing the first pill for ALS, adding 2-3 months of life expectancy. In early 2015, a second pill came about that modestly slowed progression of the disease.

Three different centuries of scientists and physicians studying this disease and attempting treatments, and we aren't familiar with any of the names of the people putting this work into one day - hopefully - finding a cure.

The day-to-day work put in by each of them is incredibly valuable to reach the end result, whether we know their names or not.

The same is true in the Kingdom of God.

I can confess to you that there are speakers and preachers who hold conferences on college campuses and ministries in prison where dozens of people at a time are turning their lives over to Jesus, and I always feel grateful for them . . . with a dash of jealousy. I have not had those same experiences, and I imagine how amazing that would be - to see actual evidence that something I am doing is making an eternal difference. That is not how it goes for me though, and it might not be how it goes for you either.

I hope this can be an encouragement to you. If you are serving, your ministry is important. I mean this.

If you are driving a van to pick up people to get them to church, your ministry is vital. If you are cleaning the sanctuary to get it ready for a Sunday morning service, you are making a difference. If you are holding babies in the nursery while a mom has an hour to worship and remember her purpose, you are fulfilling yours. Teaching a Sunday School class of 6-year-olds isn't simply babysitting. You are showing them what the family of God is. You are telling them true stories that point to the faithfulness of God.

Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 12 verses 6-7, ***"Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful . . ."*** (The Message).

Every bit of it matters and contributes to the Kingdom of God, and our Father definitely knows our names. Thank you for what you are doing that will have eternal significance! We are in this together!

- Jennifer Chapman

Trauma Informed Care Training

Friends and family can play a vital role in recovery by offering patience, empathy, and encouragement without judgment.

Saturday, November 1
9:00 am- Noon
Cost is \$10/person
@ South Charleston 1st

Sign up



Paint & Cleanup
connect • thrive • serve

Join us
and be part of our HF clean-up days.

November 1st & 22nd



SECOND SATURDAY
PRAYER

PRAYER ROOM
AT 9:00 AM

11/8



Birthdays

3 Betty Carter	21 Stacy Atkins
Jaelyn Adkins	Maverick Thomas
5 Luke Hamilton	22 Judy Waugh
Susan Rorabaugh	23 Natalie Baker
Taylor Baker	24 Heidi Hammons
10 Lynda Turner	26 Tracy Hammons
12 Joe Chinn	27 Adalyn Lambert
13 Pam Simpkins	28 Debbie Chinn
15 Brenton Weaver	Avionna Day
18 Kamryn Clark	Mace Meehling
20 Craig Davis	Alex Pannell
	30 Katrina Zornes

Anniversaries

1 Wilma Moore (Dallas)
4 Tim & Tina Dean
Paul & Donna Montie
5 Zach & Janice Smith
20 Caleb & Allison Saxton
22 Shirley Staggs (Eben)
29 Oscar Staggs (Betty)

(We remember)



Praise & Testimony

November 9 at 5:00 PM



Widow's Luncheon

Saturday, November 15th

You're invited!

Thanksgiving Dinner

Let's celebrate on
November 16,
After Worship
In the Family Life Center




highlawn COMMUNITY Christmas market

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



Build a Shoebox!

GET STARTED

SCAN ME

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK
NOVEMBER 17-24



FUELING
FAITH,
FORMING
LEADERS,
& REACHING
NATIONS
BECAUSE OF
YOU.

November
Mission Focus

Thanksgiving Offering
World Evangelism Fund

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Small Business Saturday

November 29th
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Ball Family Life Center
2978 4th Ave, Huntington, WV




Crisis Care Kit
Collection Item

TOOTHBRUSHES

NOV





November 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Paint & Clean up Day Trauma Informed Care
2 THRIVE-Rorabaugh	3	4 THRIVE-Young Adult	5 Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM Women's Bible Study	6 Men's Fall Retreat	7	8 2nd Saturday Prayer
9 Praise & Testimony	10	11 THRIVE-Rick's Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adult	12 Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM Women's Bible Study	13 THRIVE-Married Group	14	15 WIDOW'S LUNCHEON Women's Conference
16 ALL Church Thanksgiving Dinner NDI Mtg	17	18 THRIVE-Young Adult	19 Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM Women's Bible Study	20	21	22 Paint & Clean up Day
23 Leadership Team Mtg	24	25 THRIVE-Rick's Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adult	26 Wed. Night Activities @ 6 PM Women's Bible Study	27	28	29 Small Business Market in FLC
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) Phase One renovations are almost complete. Everything has been painted, furniture is in & the finishing touches are being made for a soft opening during the Fall Festival. Some décor still needs to be added as well as a few cabinets and a few other things but that will come together soon. Great days in HF Ministries are ahead!

Rezoning: Everything went perfectly at the zoning Commission, and it was approved to go into committee which then approved it and passed it along to the City Council. Thank you too all of the people that came out in support and for those that were able to speak on our behalf. There will be a City Council meeting on November 10th at 7:30 for what we pray will be final approval.

Parsonage improvements/repairs:

The parsonage is often used as a meeting space and has been in need of some updates and maintenance. We are securing a Contractor for the "*porches project*" and still awaiting a start date which we now understand will be just after the first of the year. Also, there has been a severe leak in the master bedroom from an air handler in the ceiling that will call for repair to the ceiling, which we will plan for the late winter or early spring.

First Impressions and Bridge Team: Our Stewards have been working hard on making sure we put our best foot forward with new visitors we are seeing weekly. It's been a wonderful ministry tool so far and we'll only prove to help us reach more people with the love of the Lord and get them connected in our local body. We are still in need of volunteers for this amazing ministry so please contact Joey Saxton if you're willing to serve.

THRIVING:

HF Kids Ministry: The storage room has been relocated, which will allow the previous storage room to become a place to prepare and serve food for our children. At our 2 planned Clean-up/ Paint Days (Nov. 1st and 22nd) that room will be completely cleared and prepped for remodeling.

Preschool: Everything has gone wonderful since the beginning of September when HF Kids relaunched the preschool program. We still need Nursery volunteers for serving on a rotational schedule. *Additionally, there is a need for someone to teach the pre-school age children during the monthly Missions Lessons in HF Kid's Church. Please contact Pastor Treavor to serve.

HF Tech Ministry: Our tech team has made us aware of some needs that will help us in our sanctuary services in person and online. These include upgrades to our Check-in station (new label printer, computer and tablets), an additional camera and a network upgrade for our services streamed online.

NDI (Nazarene Discipleship International): Our Win-A-Couple class on Sunday mornings has been blessed by several people who have stepped-up in rotation to teach. We still have a need for a college-aged SS Class teacher as well as a college-aged Thrive Group facilitator (*Also a home or location to host it.*) Please contact Jerry Bellomy to serve.

Widows Ministry: We still need a leader or two with a heart for ministering to widows. They meet monthly and stay connected regularly. Please contact Lynda Turner to serve.

Prayer Ministry: We've had some really great conversations and prayer time during our "*Second Saturday Prayer*" meetings and we would love to have you join every second Saturday of the month at 9 AM as we pray for the ministries of the church, our relationships, community, country and world. We meet again on November 8th.

SERVING:

There are plenty of opportunities available in each church ministry to serve. Here are a few:

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

Van Coordinator: One of the most rewarding and needed ministries in our church may not be the most visible, but it is tremendously important. We pick up children, teenagers and adults weekly that would not otherwise be able to be here. We need someone with a heart for reaching everybody we can with the Gospel that would be willing to schedule riders and drivers, as well as recruit new ones. Please contact Pastor Marc if you can serve here.

*Also, there are rotation options now for Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings if you are able to serve as a van rider or driver.

HF Youth: Our youth are our greatest resource for the future of ministry here at HFCN. Please consider investing in them by volunteering. You are needed and there are several opportunities available. Please contact Matt Thomas if you're able to serve.

Trustees Team: We have two upcoming "*All Hands-on Deck*" Fall cleaning and painting Days planned and we need your help. The first one will be on Saturday November 1st and the 2nd will be three weeks later on the 22nd. Both will begin at 8:00 AM and there is a sign-up sheet at the welcome desk for you to choose where you can serve.

ADDITIONAL:

Utilities: As Energy costs have gone up exponentially every year for the last 2-3 years, the Leadership Team has looked into solar options that will make us more efficient, while also saving us money. We have spent several months looking into whether or not this would help us to be better stewards of our finances. It was very obvious, very quickly that it would be. Right now we are in the first stages of adding solar to our flat roofs (*Solar Holler*) which will greatly lower our monthly energy costs.

Local License: Exciting news! After Nathan Miller responded to God's call on his life to ministry The Leadership Team reviewed his application for a Local Minister's license in the Church of the Nazarene. A motion and second was made to approve him receiving a Local Minister's license. He has already started the process in the COTN for ordination. God is good!

Logo Rebranding: A committee was put together to research, discuss and come-up with a refreshed version of our church logo. It is wise to do this every so often and it has been about 15 years. Hannah Miller has done a brilliant job of putting those together and we are excited to reveal those to the congregation when all of our signage and literature has been changed. Keep your eyes peeled... We think you're gonna love it!!

It is our hope, that as we continue to do ministry here at Huntington First as we move forward in reaching people for Jesus, that you stay well informed. We hope this helps. And as always, I'm always available if you need to chat. Until we see each other again, let's all go and be light in a dark world!

In Jesus,

Pastor Marc