

Pastor's Note



I'm glad you are here today. I wish we didn't have to cancel last week! Just one week away from my church family leaves a huge void. Carey Nieuwhof recently addressed the decline of the church in the West. He wrote, "Most of the New Testament is not about the teachings of Jesus. It's about the work of the church that Jesus initiated and

ordained . . . you'd have to get rid of the majority of the New Testament to argue that the church was a parenthetical, made-up organization . . . if you want to get rid of the church, you also need to get rid of Jesus." The church is central in our walk with Jesus. To quote Nieuwhof again, "community is messy. People sin. Leaders are sinful. Most of the New Testament is not a story of an idealized church where everything worked perfectly all the time (just read 1 Corinthians any time you're frustrated with your church). Most of the New Testament is a story of Jesus using his followers to spread his love in spite of themselves and as they overcome obstacle after obstacle. The fact that Christ uses flawed people to accomplish his work on earth is actually a sign of his grace, not a sign of his absence." What great truths! What great grace God shows!

Would you pray for Ryon and I in these days? We are trying to refine "Be The Church" in a way that will encourage and exhort you. Pray for me that I would be clear in explaining the gospel in the coming days. And pray Jesus would draw many unto Himself in this town, region, and nation.

You'll notice elsewhere in the bulletin that we have a survey linked to the church website. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete it. There are 17 questions. The purpose is so Ryon and I can improve everything we do in our Sunday morning worship service. The questions are specifically worded to avoid a non-consumeristic response yet in a way to give us healthy feedback. Thanks for taking the time to complete it! We want to do all that we do with excellence to the glory of the Lord!

Bro. Mike



Good morning West Haven family! I ask that when you read this you would take a moment to lift up Pastor Mike in prayer. I've had a deeper burden for prayer the last few months so it seemed fitting that the message this morning focuses on our prayer life. Some people might find it a little twisted that I

enjoy the challenge of working in moments of chaos. My mind thrives when I have just a few moments to troubleshoot an issue, make a last minute change, or punt all of my plans and make new ones on the fly (like filling the pulpit). The only danger is going it alone. When things go awry my first thought should be to pray. I don't ever want prayer to be my last ditch effort. It is our first and only hope. **When my mind and heart are stirred my soul should pray.** This morning let's grow a deeper prayer life together!

Ryon Swain

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Church Business Meeting Today

Please join us **today after Worship** for a brief Church Business Meeting in the Train Station. Thank you.

Brazil Talk

Please join us **this evening from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** in the Train Station as Marcus Titterington visits with us about his mission trip to Brazil.

Church Survey

Ryon and I want to continually improve all that we do. Excellence brings honor to our Lord (1 Cor 13:31). Therefore, we have created a survey. We simply request that you be over 18 and either be a member of West Haven or seriously considering membership. There are 17 questions. They were developed mostly by my son David and a capable friend. I amended some wording and Ryon added a couple of questions.

The questions are our attempt to obtain healthy feedback yet from a non-consumeristic framework.

To take the survey:

1. Go to westhavenbaptist.org>Resources. You'll notice an icon in the middle of the page that says "Church Survey." Click on it. The survey will open in a separate window.
2. Please only complete one per person.
3. Please complete it from a biblical standpoint (as opposed to a consumeristic standpoint.)
4. Seek to give constructive feedback (i.e. "I don't like the preaching" vs. "more application would help me understand how to apply the text to my life.")

The survey will be available for the next 4-6 weeks. The responses are anonymous. Thank you for your time! – Pastor Mike

Creative Arts Team Forming

A Creative Arts Team is forming under the leadership of Nathan LaFave. If you have technological skills, we could use your help! There are a number of things we can do to enhance worship and ministry of West Haven. For example, we would like to see if it's worth developing "YouVersion Events." We could use help with graphic design, website updating, computer troubleshooting and more. If you would like to help and have any of these skills, please contact Nathan at nathan@westhavenbaptist.org or Pastor Mike at mike@westhavenbaptist.org. Thanks!

Connect

Giving Statements

Please pick up your paper copy of your 2016 giving statements at the Welcome Center. If you selected to have yours emailed to you it was sent last week. If you have questions, please contact Jamie Bates by email: jamie@batestaxservice.com. Thank you.

A New Way To Give



We now offer giving by debit and credit cards at our welcome center. Our Square register is easy to use and someone will be available at the Welcome Center to help you get started with the process. We have worked through all the details to make sure your transaction is private and secure. We can accept all forms of debit and credit cards, so if you prefer giving by card stop by the Welcome Center today!

Senior Fellowship

On Monday, **February 13 at 11:30 a.m.** the Senior Citizens will be going to Gambino's for their Pizza Bar. Please let Rose Swain by [Feb. 5](mailto:Rose@westhavenbaptist.org) if you plan to attend. Don't forget to invite a friend.

Electronic Giving—Last Sunday

Square, Paypal and ACH giving: \$1,785.00

Budget Information

Weekly Budget Requirement: \$8,714.81

Month to Date Budget Requirement: \$26,144.43

General Fund Receipts: \$1,785.00

Month to Date Giving: \$21,716.25

This Week

Sunday, Jan. 22

Business Meeting after Worship
6:00-7:00 p.m. Brazil Talk-Marcus
Titterington

Thursday, Jan. 26

9:30 a.m. W.O.W. group meets

Tuesday, Jan. 24

6 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 25

6:15 p.m. AWANA
6:30 p.m. Student Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Get our most current
calendar at
www.westhavenbaptist.org.

