

September 4, 2021

Dear Chapel Family,

I write today with a heart of gratitude and a spirit of affirmation. These last 15 weeks have been challenging and sobering in many ways, and yet, the Lord has not left us without His presence. I continue to be reminded of His goodness and His faithfulness to The Chapel each time we see His hand at work. This summer, the Lord has seen fit to bless our church with:

- a joyous one-year anniversary celebration of launching our campus in Nordonia
- a fully paid-off mortgage for our Wadsworth Campus church building
- an effective new outreach strategy of offering weekly outdoor worship services in Kenmore
- significant growth at our newest planted campus in Medina
- nearly 150 people attending a baptism service in Cuyahoga Falls, where 5 people were baptized
- over 150 adults signing up to study God's Word together in Green this fall
- a community outreach celebration that drew 120 unchurched friends and neighbors in Akron
- over 200 professions of faith from children at Camp Carl

These aren't just numbers. These are real people, deeply loved by their Creator, who He has placed among us, that we might love and serve them well. I praise and thank God for this, and I affirm you as a church for remaining about our Father's work. May these fruits encourage you and spur you on.

This week, our campus pastors, central administration team, and staff teams from the Akron and Green campuses had the opportunity to visit in person with Billy Dunn, a representative from The Center Consulting Group. Billy has walked closely alongside our Constitution Committee and Board of Trustees throughout our present leadership situation and was available this week to share insights, answer questions, and offer clarity for Chapel staff members where needed.

The staff learned that Pastor Mike Castelli, along with his wife Terri, will spend time next week on-site at The Center taking the next steps in this season of healing and coaching. Please join me in praying for all who make up The Chapel with these words from Philippians 1:9-11:

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

We also look forward to sharing with you, in the very near future, the specific details of our Summary of Findings presentations. We remain on track to host these in-person gatherings in early October as previously communicated.

Our hope remains anchored in our Lord Jesus Christ alone.

Christ is King,
Pastor Zac Derr
Interim Senior Pastor & Lead Pastor, Wadsworth Campus