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Letters to My Church



Jakob Topper
Senior Pastor

Patience in the unknown has to be one of the most challenging spiritual practices. Patience when the timeline is clear is trying enough, but practicing contentment when the future is unknown and the journey unclear is something else entirely.

An old mentor used to warn me about praying for too much. She'd say, "don't ask God for qualities unless you're sure about them, because God might just give you the opportunity to learn them."

NHC is sitting in a challenging spot, unsure of what the future holds, but we can wait contentedly knowing who holds our future. We are getting the opportunity to learn long-suffering, trust, and patience. They aren't the qualities I wish we were learning. If I were God, I'd choose rest, reflection, and restoration. But alas, I am not God, and the times are what they are.

Richard Rohr says that after about 6th grade human beings learn very little of significance from success and ease. Virtually all of our spiritual and moral lessons after 6th grade come in the form of failures, discomfort, and pain.

It's an interesting observation, and whether it's universally



NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.

true or not isn't nearly as important as knowing that there are spiritual lessons to learn in this time. Let's not waste the discomfort of our situation by failing to grow from it.

I pray that our church grows into a patient, trusting congregation that walks, not runs, with each other and leans on each other. There's always the temptation to scapegoat and play the blame game, because it immediately releases some of the psychic pressure and eases our discomfort. I pray we can resist that temptation and instead turn to God in prayer asking what lessons the hardships have for us?

To go through the last few years without growing into more merciful, kind, and loving persons would be a tragic waste of a good crisis.

That said, things with the building sale are moving along at a very normal pace. Far too slow for my liking, but at a speed we were told to expect. Our original closing date at the end of May was pushed back to June 14th. Appraisers are extraordinarily backed up right now, and the bank's appraiser is delayed in getting to us. Nothing to celebrate, but nothing to be alarmed about either.

We haven't quite finalized negotiations for the content of the building, but we're down to only small electronics like microphones. Everything else was negotiated without any hangups whatsoever.

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The survey and the inspection have been completed. What building repairs our buyer expects us to do based on the inspection is still to be determined, but is unlikely to be a surprise to anyone. We're aware of what's broken and prepared to fix it.

The Building Purge Team is working hard to clean out nearly two decades of accumulated stuff from all the nooks and crannies of the church. The Location Search Team is working hard to find us a place to go next. So far we have some good leads, but nothing solid to count on. What is available changes each month and we still have plenty of time to find the right place to land. Our contract allows us to stay here in this building until December 31st.

As artfully as God has guided us this far, sending a church to us out of the blue interested in buying our building, I have to believe our next location will be provided to us as well. If we haven't found it yet, then maybe it just isn't available yet. In God's time, it will be. I believe that, and that we need only to have faith, practice patience, and keep our eyes open.



Preaching Schedule

Ten Commandments

- 6/12/22: Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2
- 6/19/22: Exodus 20:3-11
- 6/26/22: Exodus 20:12-16
- 7/3/22: Exodus 20:17

1 Peter

- 7/10/22: 1 Peter 1:3-23
- 7/17/22: 1 Peter 2:1-9, 19-25
- 7/24/22: 1 Peter 3:13-22
- 7/31/22: 1 Peter 4:1-19
- 8/7/22: 1 Peter 5:1-14

Ruth

- 8/14/22: Ruth 1:1-22
- 8/21/22: Ruth 2:1-23
- 8/28/22: Ruth 3:1-18
- 9/3/22: Ruth 4:1-22

- June 1: Debbie Skeel
- June 2: Don Krause
- June 2: Jill Tran
- June 5: Keith Abbott
- June 11: Greer Schooler
- June 15: Jillian Mitchell
- June 15: Hadley Topper
- June 16: Rachel Youngquist

- June 18: Justin Youngquist
- June 19: Norma Brown
- June 19: Brooks Topper
- June 20: Ryan Bowles
- June 22: Rachael Lester
- June 25: Brandi Moore
- June 25: Sheri Ridenour
- June 29: Helen McGrath



June 4th

NorthHaven Goes To The Farm

Build community with your family in a Kaitlyn and Pamela style VBS for every age. ReNew is an environmentally focused day that will inspire kids and adults to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world as they practice stewardship of creation. 11:30-4:30 June 4th at Pamela's parent's farm. Sign up in the atrium or email.

June 22nd

YOUTH DAY:

The youth (and any brave enough adults) will join together for a trip to the zoo and ending in with a bit of needed pool time at Pamela's house! Email Pamela if interested in attending and for ridesharing ideas! Estimated timeframe is from 10AM - 4PM



June 25th



Chickasaw National Recreation Trip

Join us for a full day of fellowship and adventure as we enjoy the beauty that God has created near Sulfur, OK at the Chickasaw National Recreation Park. We will leave from NorthHaven at 8:00am and will return by 5:00pm. Please bring water, sack lunches, snacks, hiking shoes and clothes you won't mind getting wet. There is something for EVERYONE, so come and let's be a family together!