

# LIFE GROUP

## Participant Guide



# A BOLD FUTURE

Igniting Faith | Embracing Tomorrow

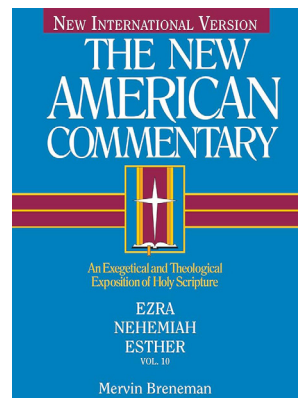


wentzville  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	HEARTS FOR A KINGDOM   OCT 13   WEEK 1
6	VISION FOR THE FUTURE   OCT 20   WEEK 2
8	TOGETHER FOR THE CHALLENGE   OCT 27   WEEK 3
10	GIVING FOR LIFE CHANGE   NOV 3   WEEK 4
12	SACRIFICE FOR TOMORROW   NOV 10   WEEK 5
14	GOD FOR THE WIN!   NOV 17   WEEK 6
16	PRAISE FOR GODS' GLORY   NOV 24   WEEK 7

## COMMENTARY FOR THIS NEHEMIAH STUDY



# LETTER FROM KEITH

Years ago, a worship song had the phrase, “Break my heart for what breaks Yours.” The idea is that we would view the world around us with eyes of compassion and a willingness to do something about it! Nehemiah is heartbroken over the state of God’s people and the city of Jerusalem, the central place for their worship of Him. If you look at the history of the nation of Israel, it was Moses who established the covenant and how God’s people were to worship (and how NOT to worship!). Because the Israelites stopped listening to God, stopped obeying His Word, and started to follow the false gods of the nations around them, God exiled them. God had foreign nations invade Israel and take the people away from their homes to discipline them so that they might turn from idols and worship Him, the One True God.

Nehemiah is a kind of Moses after the exile. Everything Moses did was to lead God’s people to worship Him. Everything Nehemiah does is to return them to that kind of worship! Nehemiah finds out that the walls of Jerusalem and the city gates remain in ruins. This breaks his heart and creates a strong, overwhelming zeal to fix the problem. God will bless Nehemiah and the nation of Israel so that they can return to Jerusalem and restore it as a place of worship for the Israelites to praise the One True God.

We’ve chosen this amazing book of the Bible to study for our Bold Future series and campaign because God has broken our hearts for this community. We aren’t doing this to build a building or simply to grow a bigger church...we must be the church! We must continue to accept the mission Jesus has given us: To ignite a passion for Jesus, the Bible, the Church, and Others [which comes from the Greatest Commandments & the Great Commission]. To be a place where people can know God and worship Him! God’s hand has been on WCC and He continues to bring people to our church and ministries. We want to be ready for His hand of blessing and whoever He sends our way!

A Bold Future  
Igniting Faith | Embracing Tomorrow

Blessings,  
Keith Comp  
Senior Minister

**1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being a thinker and 10 being a feeler, where would you score yourself?**

## Thinker

## Feeler

- c. Poverty: According to a 2021 study, 4,177 homes are living in poverty-like conditions within twenty minutes of our church. This is based on income in the past 12 months below the poverty level.
  - d. Busyness: This may seem strange, especially compared to the other three, but it's no less of a problem. Calendars that are booked with no blank space, youth sports teams dominating the weekends, parents who work long hours rarely seeing their children—busyness is a problem not just in our community but in many suburban communities across the country.
  - e. Diversity: As a church, we want to reflect the community in which God has placed us. According to a 2021 study, 36,000 people of a race other than white live within twenty minutes of our church. Like Revelation 7, we want to reach all tribes and tongues in our community for Christ.
5. **Read Nehemiah 1:4-10 and while you do, try to identify the four pieces of the prayer: praising God, confessing sin, remembering God's promises, and giving God your request.**
6. **Write a prayer on the topic you selected using the four pieces that Nehemiah used. After everyone is done, allow your group to share what they wrote.**
- a. Praise: What praise-worthy things about God would be good to highlight on your topic?
  - b. Confession: How have you fallen short with this topic? Is there good that you could have done that you haven't? Is there a negative attitude or prejudice in your heart?
  - c. Promises: What promises did God make that would be good to remind yourself of regarding this topic? What moments in the Bible did we see God move that could relate to this topic?
  - d. Requests: Write a request to God asking Him to move mightily within the topic you selected.
7. **With our capital campaign coming up, how would a new building, additional classrooms, and potentially more staff someday, help with the topic you selected today?**

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

### MISSION OF THE WEEK: Pioneer Bible Translators - Nathan & Amy Tuley

Pioneer Bible Translators exist to disciple the Bibleless, mobilizing God's people to provide enduring access to God's Word. Their vision is to see transformed lives through God's Word in every language. Nathan and Amy work with all of PBT through the website, IT, and editing to share the gospel with the world.

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. Share about a time when you built something and were proud of it.
2. Before you build something, what are the steps you need to take before starting construction?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. The book of Nehemiah tells the story of Nehemiah leading the rebuild of Jerusalem's walls. Chapter two gives us a glimpse into the steps Nehemiah takes before he picks up a hammer. As we enter into A Bold Future campaign, it's important that we as a church learn and model these steps before we begin to build. Read Nehemiah 2:1-5 and verses 11-17. What do these two sets of verses have in common?
  - a. In these two sets of verses we see the first step Nehemiah takes before construction. **Number one, he seeks out a part to play.** In Nehemiah 2:5, Nehemiah says, "Let him send me." In verse eighteen, he says, "Let us rebuild the city." He's looking at the crumbling walls and saying, "I want to do something about that."
2. Pastor Rick Warren was quoted saying, "God wants to use you to make a difference in His world. He wants to work through you. What matters is not the duration of your life, but the donation of it. Not how long you lived, but how you lived." Just like with Nehemiah, God wants you to play a part in His work. What are some barriers that stop Christians from saying yes to participating in God's work?
3. The king gives Nehemiah the green light to go but Nehemiah isn't finished talking with the king. Read Nehemiah 2:4-9. What do these verses tell us about Nehemiah's character and leadership?

4. Here we see the second step Nehemiah takes before construction. Number two, he formulates a plan. Why is planning an important step to accomplishing the work God wants us to do? What would you say to the person who wants to reject planning and solely rely on faith?

- a. This week we've got two identical events that we'd love for you to be a part of. On Wednesday, October 23rd and on Sunday, October 27th, our church will be hosting vision nights for **A Bold Future** campaign. This is an opportunity to hear about our plan and how you can play a part in our church's future. We would love for you to attend one of these events!

5. Read Nehemiah 2:18 & 20. What do these verses teach us about God?

- a. Here we find the third and final step Nehemiah takes before construction. **Number three, he reminds himself of God's presence.** When the Lord lays a plan before us that seems impossible, it's the presence of God that can move us forward!

6. Share a time when the God of Heaven gave you success in something that felt impossible.

- a. Nehemiah 2:18 is our theme verse for **A Bold Future** campaign. Because we want to bathe this bold future in prayer, we'd encourage you to set an alarm on your phone for 2:18 PM. Whenever it goes off, pray for our church's bold future and our campaign to get us there.

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

### MISSION OF THE WEEK: High Hill Christian Camp & Retreat Center

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center's goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God's wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus.

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. What are some things that often distract you from getting your work done? (At work, at home, etc.)
2. Using those examples, how can distractions be dangerous if they get out of hand?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Today we are going to look at a group of regional Persian governors who were attempting to distract Nehemiah and the Jewish people from accomplishing their goal. It goes beyond just distraction though. These people - Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem - positioned themselves as enemies of God's people and enemies of the Lord Himself. Before we get into the text, let's talk about this Sunday's sermon. Nehemiah 3 covered the cooperation of God's people as they worked on the wall. Why is unity important when facing obstacles and opponents? Give some real world examples.
2. Divide into two smaller groups. Listed below are the four strategies that Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem used to distract God's people. Divide these four strategies out to your two smaller groups. Read the text, highlight how you see the strategy being used, and then summarize what your smaller group found to your entire life group.
  - a. Discouragement (Nehemiah 4:1-3)
  - b. Fear (Nehemiah 4:7-8, 10-12)
  - c. Trickery (Nehemiah 6:1-2)
  - d. Intimidation (Nehemiah 6:10)
3. For our A Bold Future campaign, we could face attacks in the form of spiritual warfare and a hostile secular culture like Nehemiah faced. Looking at these four strategies, how could the enemy could use similar tactics? What would it look like?

4. The real test of a leader is how he or she faces crises and reacts to opposition. Gather back into your smaller group. The four texts below are Nehemiah's response to the enemy's strategy. As a smaller group, read your assigned texts, highlight Nehemiah's words and actions, and then summarize what your smaller group found to your entire life group.
- a. Nehemiah's Response to Discouragement (Nehemiah 4:4-6)
  - b. Fear (Nehemiah 4:9, 13-18)
  - c. Trickery (Nehemiah 6:3-9)
  - d. Intimidation (Nehemiah 6:11-15)
5. What were some commonalities in the four responses Nehemiah gave to the opposition?
- a. Prayer is a theme throughout Nehemiah's responses to these Persian governors. Our response when facing attack whether it be from spiritual warfare or from a secular world should be prayer. **To that end, from Friday November 8th thru Saturday, November 9th, we will be launching a 24 hour prayer event for A Bold Future campaign.** We would love for you, your family, or your life group to sign up for a 30-minute time slot and pray for our church as we launch into the campaign. This is an opportunity to pray against an enemy attack!
6. Read Nehemiah 6:16 and Matthew 16:18. What does this teach us about our God and our enemies? How can we find comfort in these verses?

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

### MISSION OF THE WEEK: Team Expansion - Tim & Amy Maxson

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers. The Maxson family has five children. Visit [teamexpansion.org](http://teamexpansion.org) to learn more.

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. If you could move anywhere, and your friends and family would move with you, where would you want to live?
2. For those of you that have moved, what are some of the difficulties involved in that transition?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. As we've journeyed through Nehemiah, we have watched the walls of Jerusalem being rebuilt. In chapter seven, the walls are finally complete. There's still a problem facing Nehemiah though. Read Nehemiah 7:4. What is the obstacle?
  - a. **READ:** Context is important for understanding what is happening here. Why aren't the Jewish people living in Jerusalem? The text says that the houses had not yet been rebuilt. Verses like Nehemiah 3:20 and 3:29 reveal that there were some houses within the walls but not enough. Most commentators believe that the Jewish people preferred to live in the surrounding villages and not in Jerusalem. This is a problem because the city could easily be overtaken and the walls could be destroyed if the city was underpopulated. Nehemiah's next task: asking the Jewish people to move into the city.
2. Read Nehemiah 7:5. Nehemiah wanted the sacrifice of living in Jerusalem to be distributed justly among the families. He created a list to choose those who would live in Jerusalem which is the rest of chapter seven. Imagine you are a family that has been chosen to move. What would make you excited about moving into Jerusalem? What would some of your struggles be about moving into the city?
3. Nehemiah 7 reveals a truth about our God. There are moments when the Lord calls us to give sacrificially in a big and bold way. Have you ever had a season where God placed this call upon your life? What was He asking you to do, how did you respond, and what was the result?

- 4. The Lord blessed Nehemiah's work to restore the crumbling city of Jerusalem. During the time of Jesus, the population of Jerusalem was around 25,000 people! Read the verses below. What do these verses teach us about sacrificial giving?**
- a. Luke 6:38
  - b. 2 Corinthians 9:6
  - c. Proverbs 11:25
  - d. Acts 20:35
  - e. Proverbs 3:9
- 5. Just as God called the Jewish people to sacrifice in a big and bold way, He is placing that same call on WCC through our A Bold Future campaign. Based on what you've heard about the campaign, what makes you excited about our church's future?**
- 6. This upcoming Sunday is Commitment Sunday. Over the last few months, we've asked you to pray about a financial commitment to the campaign (above and beyond your regular giving). This upcoming Sunday is when we will lay our commitments before the Lord. As we close today, pray with a specific emphasis on listening. As your leader prays, listen for a voice, listen for a thought or number to be placed in your mind, listen to an emotion that God might be trying to bring up.**
- a. God, we know you want us to give courageously. If You are leading us to give a one-time financial gift to launch this campaign, we pray You set that amount in our minds now.
  - b. Lord, we know that You want us to sacrificially give on a consistent basis. We pray that if You are leading us to give on a consistent weekly or monthly basis, that You would set that dollar amount in our minds now.
  - c. Father, we also know that there are creative ways we can give back to You. If there is a non-cash gift that we can lay at your feet, an item that can be sold to fund our campaign or an experience that we can sacrifice and share that money, we pray that You would bring that item or experience to our minds now.
  - d. God, we know that You are good and that You bless the sacrifice of your people. As we lay down our commitments on Sunday, we pray that You would do a mighty work like you did with Nehemiah and the Jewish people. Amen.

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

### MISSION OF THE WEEK: Central Christian College of the Bible

The goal of Central Christian College of the Bible is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordable as possible. This week, our students are competing at Bible Bowl, which CCCB is hosting. Please be praying for them!

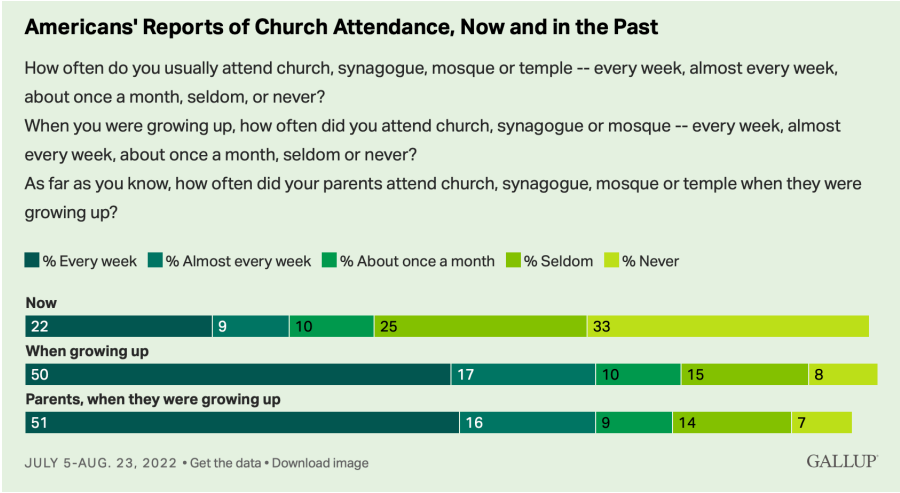
## CONNECT QUESTION

1. If you could describe Wentzville Christian Church in a few words, what words would you use?
2. What would you love to see from our church over the next 10 years?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. The walls are rebuilt and the people have moved in. What is the first thing we see the Jewish people doing after the completion of this building project? Read Nehemiah 8:1-2 for an answer.
2. Nehemiah 8 does a great job of capturing who we want to be as a church going forward. Many of the practices in this chapter we are already modeling on a Sunday morning. Now that we've had Commitment Sunday, we want to remind you of these practices so that you know who WCC will be as we move into the future. Read Nehemiah 8:3-5. What sticks out to you from these three verses?
  - a. The text seems to be implying that the crowd stood for the entire reading. Most commentators believe that this reading took about six hours. The people were so hungry for God's Word that they were willing to endure the stiff knees and sore legs!
3. Who will Wentzville Christian Church be as we move into the future? 1.) We will be a church that values the reading of Scripture! Why is it important for a church to regularly open and read the Bible? What do you lose when this practice isn't happening within a congregation?
4. Who will Wentzville Christian Church be as we move into the future? 2.) We will be a church that worships! Read Nehemiah 8:5-6 and Romans 12:1-2. What do these verses teach us about the nature of worship?

5. Who will Wentzville Christian Church be as we move into the future? 3.) We will be a church that teaches God’s Word with clarity! Below is a 2022 Gallup poll below on American church attendance. How does Nehemiah 8:7-8 relate to this chart?



6. Who will Wentzville Christian Church be as we move into the future? 4.) We will be a church that allows God’s Word to penetrate our heart. Read Nehemiah 8:9. Why do you think the Jewish people were crying at this moment?

7. Who will Wentzville Christian Church be as we move into the future? 5.) We will be a church that parties because of what God has done. Read Nehemiah 8:10-12. What is it about God’s Work that should cause His people to celebrate?

8. Based on the five points listed above, what do you think Wentzville Christian Church does well? Are there opportunities in the future you would like WCC to pursue?

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Team Expansion - Allen & Cherry Messimer - Taiwan

The Messimers have served as missionaries in Taiwan since 2004. Their mission is to evangelize, disciple, and provide training so every believer can use his or her gifts in a simple church ministry. This also means every church can start new, indigenous churches. Over 90% of Taiwanese people still worship idols. [teamexpansion.org](https://teamexpansion.org)

## CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Confession time! What's the most embarrassing thing you're willing to admit about yourself? (Keep it PG please.)
2. 1-----10  
Reserved Open Book  
In terms of personality, where would you put yourself on this scale?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Throughout our study of Nehemiah, we have been discussing Wentzville Christian Church's future. We've taken bold steps of commitment to help our church walk into its future. Last week, we gave five practices that will define our congregation going forward. Recapping, what were those five practices from last week's study?
2. Today we are going to spend our study discussing a sixth and final practice. What were the Jewish people doing that we can model as we move forward into the future? Read Nehemiah 9:1-4. What do you see the Israelites doing in these verses?
3. Who will Wentzville Christian Church be as we move into the future? 6.) We want to be a church that confesses its sin. Discuss these three questions as a group:
  - a. What is confession in a church context?
  - b. Why can confession seem scary for a Christ follower?
  - c. Why is confession important for our church and its future?

*At this point we would like for your group to separate into men and women. Preferably, these two groups should meet in two separate rooms or areas. Talking about confession and practicing confession, we have found that it's easier when you are surrounded by your same gender. The rest of these questions are meant for your smaller, gender-specific group.*

4. **The rest of Nehemiah 9 is a prayer of confession the Israelites lift up to God. They trace their history highlighting moments of sin and failure that they need to confess. Read your assigned text below and discuss this question: How do we see God's people sinning, failing, and disobeying within these verses?**
  - a. Women: Nehemiah 9:5-21
  - b. Men: Nehemiah 9:22-37
5. **Look through your text again and answer the following question: How do we see God's goodness, love, forgiveness, grace, and mercy on display? What verses from your text could you use for someone who feels buried by shame?**
6. **Spend some time as a group confessing sin you are struggling with. Start with this question: what are some areas you are struggling in and what are some sins that you have been wrestling with? As the leader, look for moments to encourage, moments to relate, and moments to gently and lovingly instill accountability.**
7. **Conclude by reading 1 John 1:9. Discuss how this verse provides hope through what was shared. Conclude by praying for the people in your group and the sins that were mentioned.**

## **PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK**

### **MISSION OF THE WEEK: Strong Tower Ranch**

Strong Tower Ranch is a Christ-centered refuge offering hope and equipping the next generation. STR offers day camps, horsemanship camps, and retreats geared toward helping students grow in their faith journey!

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. What have been some highlights from this life group for you over the past few months?
2. For those of you that attended on Sunday, what were some highlights from the service?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Today we are wrapping up our series through Nehemiah. The project is completed and people are starting to move in. Read Nehemiah 12:27-30. What sticks out to you from this verse?
  - a. Commentary from Commentaries: Nehemiah did not separate the secular (wall building) from the sacred (worship), which was all part of the community's dedication to God. It was natural and appropriate to call a special worship service at the completion of the wall-building project that God had guided and protected.
2. Today, our life group time will look a little different. On top of celebrating the conclusion of this semester as a life group, we want to wrap up our A Bold Future series in prayer. Listed below are six prayer prompts. Read the prompt out loud and then give the group time to offer up prayers that relate to the prompt. Feel free to take as much time as your group needs. We want to dedicate our future to God by going before Him in prayer!
  - a. Prayer of Thankfulness: Pray and thank God for how He has moved through A Bold Future campaign.
  - b. Prayer for Commitments: Pray for the people in our church who made bold commitments. Pray that God would provide and bless through the sacrificial step they are making.
  - c. Prayer for Construction: Pray for the safety of the construction crew, pray for the supplies, and pray against delays in build time.
  - d. Pray for the Lost: Pray for the lost people that will come to know Jesus in our church's future. Pray the next ten years will be filled with people placing faith in Christ.

- e. Pray for the Next Generation: Pray specifically for the preschool, elementary, youth, and college students that will be impacted by our future building. Pray we can continue pointing the next generation to Jesus!
- f. Prayer Against the Enemy: As we talked about in week three, we have an enemy that is not excited about the presence of Wentzville Christian Church in this community. Pray for protection and steadfastness against the spiritual forces of evil.

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

*Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.*

## MISSION OF THE WEEK: CMF International - Eric & Cait Pitts - Kenya

Eric & Cait serve with the Kenya Church Catalyst Team among the Turkana in northern Kenya. Eric's focus is on developing church leaders and pastors as well as working with a group of local disciple makers to begin a Disciple Making Movement that spreads throughout Kenya and beyond. Cait's focus is on community Health Evangelism, maining with girls and women throughout Turkana. You can find more information at [cmfi.org/ecpitts](http://cmfi.org/ecpitts).

# A BOLD FUTURE GOAL



**2M**

**VICTORY GOAL!**

**3M**

**CHALLENGE GOAL!**

**4M**

**DREAM GOAL!**

Build a new Worship Center while expanding our lobby, creating more space for our times of worship while allocating more space for our NextGen ministries (Kids & Students).

Complete an exterior renovation to update our WCC campus, creating a cohesive entry point for our congregation and our community.

Renovate and equip our existing space to continue to meet the ministry and programming needs of our NextGen.

Expand our office and classroom spaces to meet the needs of a growing staff and increase education space for both NextGen and Adults.

## TIMELINE

**VISION  
NIGHTS**

**OCT 23, 27**

**PRAYER  
MARATHON**

**NOV 8-9**

**COMMITMENT  
SUNDAY**

**NOV 10**

**CELEBRATION  
SUNDAY**

**NOV 24**

“AND I TOLD THEM OF THE HAND OF MY GOD THAT HAD  
BEEN UPON ME FOR GOOD, AND ALSO OF THE WORDS  
THAT THE KING HAD SPOKEN TO ME. AND THEY SAID,

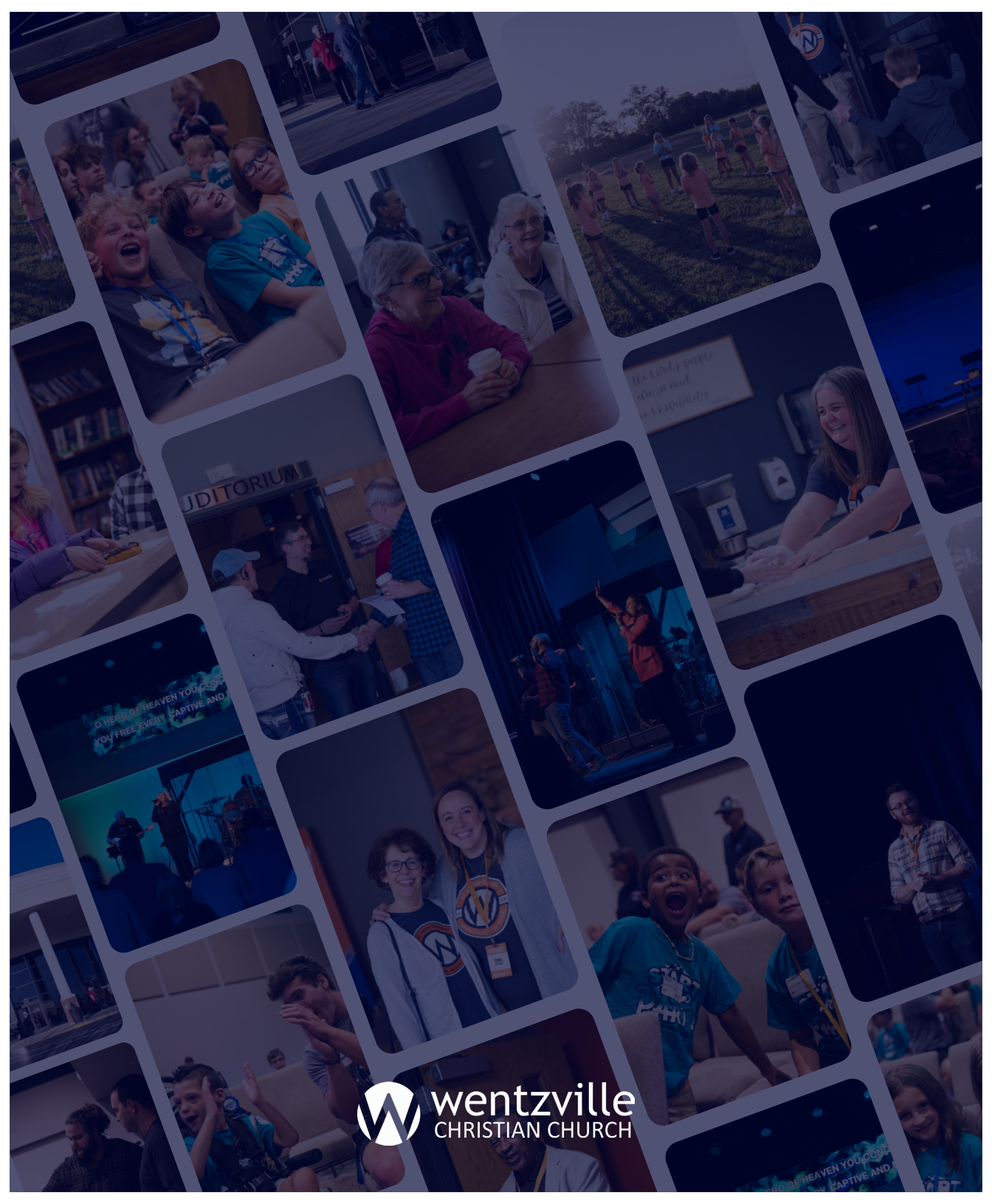
# LET US RISE UP AND BUILD

SO THEY STRENGTHENED THEIR HANDS  
FOR THE GOOD WORK”

**NEHEMIAH 2:18**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for those leading the campaign
- Pray for God’s direction in decision making
- Pray that every WCC family would boldly seek Jesus through this effort
- Pray for the people who will be reached in our new spaces
- Pray our church seeks God together
- Pray for our ministry partners as we work together to make a BOLD Kingdom impact



wentzville  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH