



Bringing the Future into Focus

through a season of renewal & discernment

The Leadership Team would like to announce that Pastor Ethan will be taking a 7-week sabbatical this summer, spending intentional time renewing his spirit and discerning God's long-range plan for our church.

WHAT'S A SABBATICAL?

Sabbaticals are defined periods of time away for renewal and discernment. At MCC, it is a part of our covenantal agreement with our pastors and aligns with the biblical mandate of rest.

WHEN IS HIS SABBATICAL & WHY THEN?

Pastor Ethan's sabbatical is scheduled for May 20th through July 7th because it is the least disruptive to the rhythm of our church. MCC is healthy and active, a perfect scenario to provide our pastor a break from his day-to-day and week-to-week responsibilities to focus on the bigger picture.

IS PASTOR ETHAN GOING TO COME BACK?

Yes!!! He has no intention of leaving. This sabbatical is an investment by our church, a way to ensure our pastor is in the healthiest place possible to lead us well into the future. Pastor Ethan hasn't taken an extended time away since 2017.

HOW WILL THINGS BE COVERED WHILE HE'S AWAY?

The first half of the summer tends to be a little slower for our church; our incredible staff, Leadership Team, and volunteers will cover the administration and ministries of MCC. Should emergencies arise, Mary Ann Crisman will serve as point person.

WHAT WILL WORSHIP LOOK LIKE?

To simplify a few things and encourage connection within our congregation (even though Pastor Ethan's sabbatical is only 7 weeks), the Leadership Team has decided to have one worship service at 10:00am this summer; we'll gather at Philly in June and at Mt. Comfort in July. Our worship team will stay in regular rotation, and we will have a combination of guest speakers and familiar faces sharing Sunday messages.

WHAT WILL THIS SABBATICAL ENTAIL FOR PASTOR ETHAN?

By design, this time will be filled with flexibility. Pastor Ethan is looking forward to worshipping with his family at local churches, taking a trip or two, finding some quiet time away, and the space to begin processing what the future of our church may look like. By and large, he'll be around the area, but won't be engaged in the worship and activities of MCC.

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT MCC AND OUR PASTOR?

Gather... Grow... Give... Go... The best way to support our church and pastor is to continue doing the things you've always been doing. This is not an opportunity to take a break; this is an opportunity to show Pastor Ethan that we appreciate his leadership, and we aren't going to drop the ball on our collective mission just because he's taking some time to be better for us. Pray for him and our church, that this may be a season of renewal and vision for us all.

