Spring Newsletter 2026

Happy Spring friends and family!

Thank you for keeping up with and praying for and over what the LORD is doing here in Kensington. Prayer is such an awesome gift that we as believers get to share in. Through aligning our hearts with the heart of God and his will and exercising the faith that the LORD has given us, we get to ask boldly as children of the giver of all good things. Participating in partitioning our LORD to bring about incredible God sized change in this dark and broken world.

Kensington Update: Over the past two years Mayor Cherelle Parker has been working incredibly hard to clean up Kensington and the drug market that ravages the neighborhood. Through this we have seen a significant increase in police presence, a new courthouse opened, specifically designed to handle homeless drug addicts and to give them an opportunity to get the help that they need to recover and be rehabilitated. We have also seen a significant decrease in the trash that plagues the neighborhood thanks to consistent street cleaning and trash pickups. Through the Mayor's efforts to combat the drug trade we have seen two joint operations between the Philadelphia Police Department, FBI, and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) successfully take down two of the biggest gangs here in Kensington.

Looking Back: Oh how busy our “slow” season has been. The winter is our time with significantly fewer groups so we get a chance to work on the overall function of the ministry, improve our facilities, and continue digging deep with our ministry partners and in the community.

Break down of specific ministries and what has happened with each-

Cornerstone Community Church: Over the Christmas season, we got to bless the community through hosting Christmas parties and providing gifts for the kids, teens and adults, through which the gospel was shared.

Prep for insurance inspection- There was a lot of work to be done at church in preparation for the big inspection. The gym floor had to be sanded and

re-finished, a lot of drywall and plaster had to be redone, and many other projects. The LORD had his hand on the inspection and gave us favor in the inspector's sight and everything went incredibly smoothly.

Kids/Teen club- Kids and Teen clubs have continued faithfully sharing the gospel and creating a safe fun environment for kids and teens to be away from the challenges and dangerous things that happen within the school and on the streets.
We also had the opportunity to take our teenagers to an apologetics conference by Stand to Reason where they spoke on the topic of worldview and how that informs the way we view every significant issue and problem with the world. This was great for our teens and us as leaders to hear about.

Food distribution- We have seen a large increase of people who come to food distribution starting to attend Sunday services which has been so cool to see. This is through the commitment of Pastor Manny, the newest addition to the cornerstone pastoral team. He has been faithfully building relationships with those who come to food distribution.

The Rock:
Community Chaplaincy- with the Rock, Paige has consistently served as a community chaplain sharing the gospel and offering an opportunity for the homeless and drug addicted to get help and off the streets. However, she will be stepping back from this for health reasons as we anticipate the birth of our child.

Willard Elementary:

Library- Paige has continued serving and building relationships with the teachers and students at Willard through working in the library, which is such a cool opportunity to be involved in and be so deeply connected with a public school.

Recess- We also get the opportunity with groups to do recess and play with the kids at school. Sometimes we just play games like basketball and soccer and whatever the kids want to do, while other times we bring home made carnival games with candy prizes which the kids love to play.

Groups:
We had a group from Calvary Bible Church in MT. Joy, PA serve with us for a day in February. One of their highlights was getting to serve at Cast your Cares ministry where they got to hear people's stories and serve them a warm meal.

13 students from The Well ,a campus ministry from East Tennessee State University, chose to spend their spring break serving with us here in Kensington. It was really encouraging to have a group of college students that were all in during their time here serving with us. They jumped in with open hearts to what the Lord was going to do and flourished in that!

We also had Pleasant View, the Lancaster site from ONELIFE Gap Year, spend three days with us as part of their experiential learning. They are always a great group to have especially because they are part of the program that Paige and I attended. An impactful part of their trip was getting to serve at the Rock ministries, serving coffee to the homeless. Many of them were prompted to think deeply about the things that they saw and experienced while there. They even got the joy of walking someone to the chaplain station, who was ready to go to rehab! Praise the Lord!

Looking Forward:

Events- Our summer is kicking off with one of our 2 biggest outreaches of the year, Family Fun Day, in which we partner with Cornerstone community church to minister to families. During Family Fun Day, we invite families from all over the community to join us for carnival games, inflatable challenge games, and many many more activities. During this event about 1,000 people are exposed to the gospel and invited to join us for church on Sunday. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping to serve at this event it is a great way to get involved with the ministry and what is happening in Kensington. The event takes place on Sunday, June 7th from 3pm-6pm. If you are interested in coming please feel free to reach out to either Paige or I at isaac@productivelives.org or paige@productivelives.org and we'd be happy to answer any questions you have or provide more information.

Groups- Our summer season is the time for groups. At this time from June-August we have 6 groups coming for 3 or more days along with others that are coming for day trips and other service opportunities. These groups consist of churches, youth groups, and a group that comes once a week from Fuge camps to serve with us. If you are interested in bringing a group or coming by yourself or with your family we would absolutely love to have you join us. For more info on that visit our website https://www.productivelives.org/ or email Paige at paige@productivelives.org

Navajo missions trip- July 1st-12th we will be taking a team from Kensington, Virginia, Maryland, and Tennessee to Arizona to serve the Navajo people through hosting VBS and doing maintenance projects like repairing a crushed sewer line and other things at Hidden Springs Bible Church. This is a great opportunity for people in our community to get out of the context they know and serve alongside believers in a new place with different challenges and needs. The trip will be hosted by Productive Lives and led by Pastor Bill Manning from Cornerstone Community Church, who previously served as a pastor on the Navajo Reservation.

Converge Gap Year Program: We are excited to announce the launch of the Productive Lives residency gap year program Converge. Paige and I will be taking the lead on discipling college age students in what it means to live as a servant leader. We are so excited to do this because a gap year program was so impactful to us and so has living in Kensington so why not combine the two? We want to share the experiences that God used to shape and grow us with other young believers who are willing to step out of their comfort zone and live a radically different life and make an eternal difference wherever God calls them. We are looking for 6 college age students who are looking to grow in their faith, learn and experience what it means to be a servant leader by studying the perfect example of true servant leadership, Jesus Christ. For more information visit https://www.productivelives.org/converge or email me at isaac@productivelives.org

Productive Lives Summer Internship: This summer we are offering a summer internship for high school graduates - college age students. During the summer,

interns will help lead groups and serve with our weekly ministry partners. Interns will be poured into by our staff and ministry partners, encouraged to grow in their faith and equipped to live a life of servant leadership in any situation or context that God calls them too, whether it is in Kensington, the workplace, or ministering to unreached peoples the principles learned will help them thrive in any situation turning them into powerful opportunities to share Christ's love. If you or anyone you know might be interested you can find more information here https://www.productivelives.org/opportunities/summerintern or email me at isaac@productivelives.org

Family Update:
Paige and I are anxiously awaiting the birth of our daughter Sheridan Elizabeth Watson; her due date is June 9th! Paige and I will be heavily stepping back from our roles for the month of June to focus on our family and get used to life with our daughter. We will not totally stop our work in this ministry, but reduce the responsibilities that we have for a time.

How to Pray:
Please pray for our summer groups as they come that the LORD would move and help the teams and us grow closer to Him and understand Him in new amazing ways.

For our staff as we lead groups, while it is very fun and encouraging to lead groups it is also exhausting, and this year will come with the added challenge of adding a newborn into the mix. Please pray for endurance, to give each group the energy and care that we give the first one. Also pray that anything the devil may use to thwart the work that God is doing would not only be overcome, but turned into a powerful testimony for the glory of the LORD and used to bring about the salvation of many.

Pray for the community. This community is so broken, 26% (and quite possibly higher) of families are single mothers, drug abuse and homelessness rule the streets, and gangs have made their way into the schools leading to unsafe and very unproductive school settings. Please pray that these conditions would drive families and individuals to Christ and the Church who hold the hope and answers

that that we all so desperately need. Pray that the LORD would work in the hearts of these people and convict them through his Holy Spirit of the hopeless situation that we would all be in were it not for the work of Jesus Christ on the cross paying the debt that we never could. Jesus reconciled us to the Father so that we can be called children of God and heirs with Christ.

Pray for workers to be sent not just here to Kensington, but all over the world to share the gospel and carry out the ministry of reconciliation that God has given us. But I do ask that you specifically pray for more workers here in Kensington. And if God is calling you to be a worker here or anywhere else that you would answer His call and boldly step out in faith and allow him to show you how awesomely powerful He is, and the blessings that he showers on those who live wholly dedicated to Him.

Please pray for our family. Please pray that Paige's labor would go smoothly and that there would be no complications. Please pray for Sheridan that her body would work the way that God designs it to. And pray for Paige and I as we parent her, pray that God gives us wisdom in all situations, especially as she will be exposed to many dark and evil things at a very young age. Also pray for me as I lead our family that I would seek God with my whole heart and faithfully lead Paige and Sheridan to seek and trust Him.

Other Resources:

Serving changes everything lead the way: This book was written by our president Dr. Cam Garven on servant leadership and practical applications of it. All proceeds go directly back into the Productive Lives ministry.
https://www.amazon.com/Serving-Changes-Everything-Lead-Way/dp/1964046858/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0

Productive Lives Podcast: Hear encouraging stories of people who are living productive Christ centered lives.
https://www.productivelives.org/podcast

But you must remember beloved, the prediction of the apostles of our LORD Jesus Christ. They said to you, "in the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude verses 17-25

For God's Glory
Isaac, Paige, and soon to be Sheridan Watson.