



# The Happy Church April 2021 Newsletter

## February and March Highlights

### *The 50-Year Flood*

We woke up on the morning of March 2<sup>nd</sup> with water rising much faster than was forecast the night before. From the forecast, we thought we had plenty of time to move and stack things higher the next morning and afternoon, if needed. By 6am the next morning, water was already coming into the basement of the white parsonage. There was a quick response to move all of the vehicles to higher ground. The box truck and one of the church vans would not start and became victims to the flood, but fortunately they were insured. The water kept rising all day and did not crest until about 8pm that night. John and Chris stayed in their trailer, and it became an island. When the river finally crested at 39.04', the water was about 1-2" from pouring into their front door. Mike and Connie lost everything in their basement, not to mention some irreplaceable photographs. Ed and Margaret, who now live in the white parsonage behind the church, lost everything in their basement, plus their heat pump and a new washer and dryer.



*The Gym*

The gym and the barn had 5 feet of water in them. Five feet of dry wall, wood, and insulation had to be removed, along with the contents of the buildings. The Abbey trailer and Ed's old trailer were a total loss. Because we live in a flood plain, the flood insurance is sky high. Therefore, only the church van and box truck were covered. We are SO

grateful that no water came into the churches in Jackson or Clayhole. God is good!!! For arial views of the flood at the Happy Church campus, click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aArIRywlR2Y>

### *Cleanup and Response*

Volunteer reponse to this disaster has been fantastic!!! Churches have come from all over to help and more are scheduling trips to assist with cleanup and repair of the damage that has occurred. People and churches we've never had any contact with have sent in donations to help cover the damage. For the families on campus, this turned out to be a spring cleaning on steroids. John's garage, aka the community hardware store and tool depository, was flooded to 5 feet. Lots of tools and hardware were damaged beyond repair, but thanks to much assistance from family and friends, we are seeing great progress in his garage.



*Gym Bathroom with Drywall Replaced*

### *Happy Soles Ministry*

Some members of our church were among the hundreds of victims significantly impacted by the flood. Through donations sent to us, we were able to help out with cleaning supplies, water, and food baskets for many people. Supplies were brought to us from as far away as Maryland. Donated clothing and furniture has been given away to the community, and we are expecting more donations in the future. Our clothing closet was destroyed in the flood, and we will not be



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trying to restock it until the walls and floor have been repaired at that location (the old thrift store).



## Barn Kitchen with Wood Ripped Out to Dry

Once the repairs have been done on the church campus, we are looking to host groups that will be ministering in the local area.

## Happy Acres

Jason has a couple big hurdles to get over in order to get his Breathitt County property ready to minister. The septic tank system and water lines need to be installed. Once the septic is installed, the power can then be turned on. There is also extensive work that needs to be done to finish the garage area. Jason is an excellent mechanic and hopes to use the garage to supplement his income while working with our ministry. Concrete floors need to be poured, which can be very expensive. Jason lacks the funds necessary to make all these things happen at this time. He has hired a new real estate agent in PA and is hoping to sell his property there soon.

## Covid-19 Ministry Updates

Live services started on Palm Sunday at the Jackson Campus and on Easter at the Clayhole Campus. At the Jackson and Clayhole Campuses, we have had quite a few people who did not return after the Covid shutdown. Please pray for us, as we feel like we are starting over. May God bring the increase in His timing.

## Teen Ministry

Teens continue to be active in the music ministry. We are hoping to get the youth ministry going

again by the end of April. Teens will continue to be part of these live services. Taylor, one of our teens, recently recorded a song she wrote and sang under the direction of Phil Tabor.

## Happy Kids' Ministry

Due to Covid, we have not been having our kids' ministry. We are going to start it up on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will allow our older volunteers to have been fully vaccinated and relatively safe from Covid. We are hoping that most of the Happy Kids will return.

## Clayhole Campus News

The parsonage at the Clayhole Campus is being turned into "The Happy Inn". It is a spacious, four-bedroom trailer and will be used by visiting groups and other campus visitors while our gym and barn are under construction.

## Prayer Requests, Praises, and Needs

- Pray for John as he recovers from total knee replacement surgery.
- Pray for Connie as she is working to complete her degree in addiction counselling.
- Pray for funds that are needed to complete Happy Acres Farm.
- Please pray for the smooth startup of the children's ministry this month.
- Continue to pray for the Ott family to sell their house in PA.
- Praise for our donors that help make the Happy Church Ministry possible.
- Praise for all groups and individuals that have donated funds and/or come down to help get the Happy Church back in shape after the flood.

## Donations

- Centerville Grace is now managing the books for the Happy Church. Anyone mailing in donations should send them to:

The Happy Church  
410 E. Social Row Rd.  
Centerville, OH 45458

Donate online at:

[www.TheHappyChurch.org/Donate](http://www.TheHappyChurch.org/Donate)