

CHURCH PLANTERS TO WELCH, WV

The **BLAKE** Family



hope4welch.com

Pastor Mike Blake | 304.617.7142 | pastormikeblake@gmail.com

October 7, 2025

Summer Update

Dear praying friends,

The past several months has been extremely busy here at Living Hope. Almost every week we have had a work group here helping us with the flood repairs. We are so thankful for the men from our home church, Teays Valley Baptist, who have sacrificed time from their families and even jobs to come and work here. We have attached an additional letter which will have detailed updates on all that has happened with the repairs.

We are so thankful for Pastor Jamie Mattox and Rich Creek Baptist Church. They sent a young preacher boy out of their church who was home for the summer from Bible College to come and intern here! Dan Dunn spent the summer with us working alongside us at the church. We were able to do several days of visitation and door knocking and he was a blessing to go with us. He also helped with the teaching and preaching along with other jobs around the church to help bear the load! We are so thankful for him being willing to come and help!

In August, we were able to do a 3 day Vacation Bible School. Pastor Mike Clark and Bible Baptist in Danville came to help us! After not having any youth groups since February due to the flood we weren't sure how well it would be attended. The Lord moved in a MIGHTY way! We had our best VBS to date here at Living Hope. We had over 30 kids attend and praise the Lord 1 trusted on Jesus as their Savior!

Right before VBS our home church gave us a church van to replace one of the ones that were ruined in the flood. At the end of September we were able to purchase another so we now have two vans to use to pick up folks for services! We praise the Lord for His Goodness!

This past Thursday we were able to finally start back our weekly youth group. We meet each Thursday and have a meal, Bible lesson and game time! Praise the Lord we had 20 kids in attendance for our first youth group including 6 new kids who had come to VBS! We are excited about what the Lord is doing! Please continue to pray that our youth group would grow and the Lord would send workers to help!

We want to thank you for praying for me as I had a health scare back in March. Praise the Lord everything checked out with my heart and I'm working on losing weight and getting healthier! We appreciate all the calls, texts and visits while I was in the hospital! Please continue to pray for ongoing health needs for our daughter that the Lord would continue to give direction and wisdom in her care!

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support! We could not continue to serve and work here without it! Would you pray specifically that the Lord would move and we would see growth in our church. We desperately need families and people to not only come but be willing to serve and help! We are praying through all of the trials with the flood the Lord would get the glory, the community would see our hearts and folks would begin to come!

Thank you again for your support and love for our family!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike Blake

Living Hope Baptist Church
1049 Riverside Drive
Welch, WV 24801
304-617-7142

Sending Church:
Teays Valley Baptist Church
Dr. John D. Smith, Senior Pastor
3926 Teays Valley Road | Hurricane, WV 25526
304.757.9306 | teaysvalleybaptist.com

Reproducing Church:
Rich Creek Baptist Church
Pastor James Mattox
7690 Beckley Road | Spanishburg, WV 25922
304.487.2167 | richcreekbaptistchurch.com

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Flood Repair Update

Dear praying friends,

We wanted to give you an update on how the flood repairs are going. Just about every week since February we have had a work group here staying at the church working on various projects. After several months of having services upstairs in a classroom we were finally able to be back in our sanctuary.

Currently 90% of the duct work has been run throughout the building for the HVAC. 3 of the units are wired up and working for Central Air. Lord willing in the next two weeks all of the gas lines will have been run and the entire building will have heat and air throughout which will be a tremendous blessing!

Our sanctuary is 95% complete. New carpet has been laid, the walls of been repaired and painted and our new chairs have arrived. In the past month we have also gotten our sound system repaired and up and running. There is still a few small finishing details to complete along with getting our live stream system back up working and the sanctuary will be finished!

Two weeks ago we were also able to finally get back in our offices! Up until now I have used a corner of a room upstairs to study and work. Everything has been in boxes stacked and out of the way. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to be back in our offices and have some sense of normalcy. We are working on getting things unpacked and all of our computers and things up and running!

Our foyer is almost complete as well. This week we are finishing up the painting and will be able to hang blinds and put furniture back in there! We are excited to be able to start checking off rooms and say they are completely finished!

There are still many things that need to be done! Many men have come faithfully from Teays Valley BC to help with all of these projects however we could use your help! We have lots of painting that needs to be done, HVAC ductwork that needs to be boxed in, closets framed and dry wall hung, as well as some masonry work to block up two doors outside. If you have any of these skills and can take some time to come help please reach out, we'd love to have you come! We will put you up and feed you!

Please pray the Lord continues to give grace as we work to get all of these repairs completed! The last 7 months have been extremely busy! We have worked almost nonstop alongside the work groups along with feeding them and our other day to day work for the ministry here! We are exhausted but thankful!

Thank you to all who have come, prayed, and given! The Lord has worked and moved in a mighty way and we stand in awe of all He has done! Please continue to pray and if you can come and take a day and help us get over the finish line!

In Christ,

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