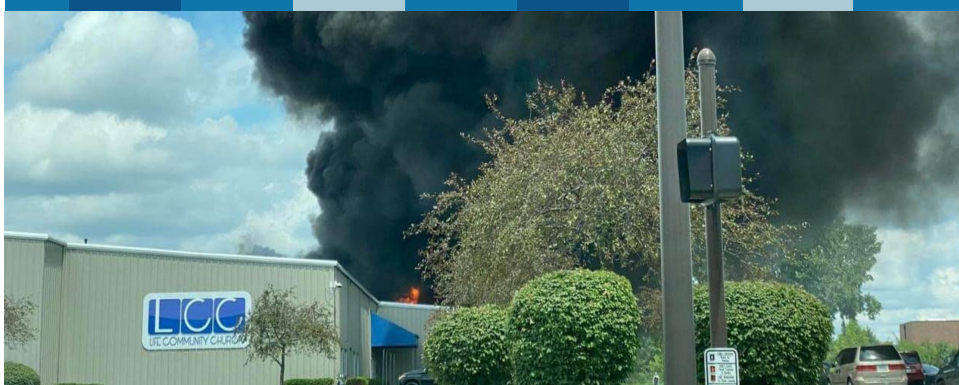


# FELLOWSHIP NEWS



## Life Community Church Rallies After Fire in Hilliard, Ohio

A fire occurred at Life Community Church in Hilliard, Ohio on July 9th causing severe damage throughout the facility from fire, smoke, and water. Thankfully, no one was injured. LCC has remained united and strong, says Pastor Dan Burmeister in a letter published on the church's website. "God is Sovereign and in control," Dan writes. "We believe it and live it too...We'll overcome this together."

Churchgoers showed up to LCC the Sunday after the fire and met in the parking lot. Many in the Hilliard community who witnessed the blaze brought tents and water for the congregation. "It has been an amazing testimony of God's provision," says Monica Matheny, Connections Director at Life Community Church. Just one Sunday later, the local Lutheran church offered their facility as a temporary meeting place. Monica has heard from several of the Lutheran congregants who've said, "It blesses us so much to serve you."

Also temporarily dislodged was the Hilliard Food Pantry, Life Community Church's

partner in neighborhood service. For more than 30 years, HFP has served this region diligently with meals, classes, and community events. Normally based in LCC's warehouse, the food pantry currently operates out of neighboring churches while repairs are underway. Both organizations are eager to get back together and serve side by side once more.

People in the community, along with several FEC churches, also rallied around Life Community Church to replenish a collection of backpacks destroyed by the fire. Every year, LCC ships several backpacks full of supplies to impoverished school children in Honduras. Because of God's provision, this year was no exception. "In the midst of us losing lots of stuff, we still got to be globally minded," says Monica. "The heart of the church has not changed one bit."

In November, demolition crews removed the back of the building where the worst damage occurred. Restoration efforts continue weekly. Life Community Church's goal is to move back into the lobby in early 2024.

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### Pine Hills Auburn Celebrates One-Year Anniversary with Testimonies of Praise

Last month, Pine Hills Auburn celebrated its one-year anniversary in Auburn, Indiana with a morning of worship, testimonies, and a meal together. Pastor Matt Lehmann was encouraged as congregants shared stories of God's goodness. "It was awesome watching how people had gotten connected with other people in our church, watching how God moved through the Spirit to help people live on mission for Jesus."

Since Pine Hills Auburn opened its doors in November 2022, its heart has been for the Auburn community. Pastor Matt says it's about finding ways to love the people well, like hosting movie nights, joining local events, meeting families, and being "proactive about building relationships with people where they are."

God has knitted together much of the church body within Pine Hills Auburn. One young woman testified at the anniversary service about how she'd been struggling, but found support, love, and discipleship by other women at church, both young and old. "That's where real genuine gospel effectiveness takes root," says Matt. "It's awesome watching God taking people out of the messiness of life and putting them on the firm foundation of faith."

Pastor Matt was also able to pray with a young man who recently filled out a connection card and lead him to Christ. "At the end of the day, my heart and my goal is not to be built on a personality. We want our church to be built on relationships in Christ. That's what's going to carry us as a church and make us effective in our community."

### Halloween Street Party Deepens Reunion Church's Roots within Colorado Community

For its third year, Reunion Church hosted a Halloween Street Party in Commerce City, Colorado. After discovering how highly the community values celebrating Halloween, Pastor Andrew Morrison set up treats to pass out in his backyard that connects with an alleyway. "It was way bigger than we anticipated," says Andrew reflecting on how quickly they ran out of supplies. The church provided 10,000 pieces of candy, hot chocolate, s'mores, cotton candy, and more. A nonstop flow of people visited Reunion Church's hub in Andrew's backyard for four straight hours.

The 500 church fliers printed for the occasion were gone in 30 minutes. "People were very interested," Andrew says. People expressed a consensus of "Hey, this church is actually in this community and doing something." One couple that had previously "written off" church grew more open after meeting Pastor Andrew and has remained in touch. Andrew's wife, Hannah, was able to share the gospel with several people, and seeds were planted as the community observed a church going out to be among them.

Other ways God is using Reunion Church to connect to the people of Commerce City are through a recent Strongman competition used as a school fundraiser and a bike repair shop one member opened in his garage to connect with more neighbors. These are just some of the ways Pastor Andrew says they're "watching God do the extraordinary in the ordinary." It's not about creating some big church event, he says. "People are looking for community."



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