



Hope For Renewal seeks to serve, build relationships and to share the love of Christ for those living in the Glenwood Corridor in Youngstown, Ohio.

HOPE FOR RENEWAL CHURCH BAPTISM AUGUST 2024

REVEREND GARY KOERTH

### **Blessings Upon Blessings!**

*Blessed are all who fear the Lord,  
who walk in obedience to him.  
You will eat the fruit of your labor;  
blessings and prosperity will be yours.  
Psalm 128:1-2*

We have been worshipping as a church for almost five years. Spiritual growth and numerical growth has been slow and sometimes very hard to walk through day after day and week after week seeking God's purpose and wondering what God's plan is for us. In the past few months it seems as though God is leading us through growth in all areas, especially in our worshipping community. The only phrase that I can think of to describe what is happening is Blessings upon Blessings!

Of course it is awesome to see new people join us every week

but the individual and church wide spiritual growth and oneness is one of the greatest blessings God could pour out on us. Each Sunday is a gift from God and August 4<sup>th</sup> was no different. On that Sunday we were blessed to baptize four adults and a one year old. We gathered on our new deck with over 55 in attendance. Each adult presented their testimony and why they desired to be baptized. The tears and joy and the presence of God was so evident. What a blessing!



The one year old is known to our church body as "Our Church Baby". Her mother is in prison and one of our church families has adopted her and they are part of each Sunday worship. We desired to have her baby baptized. What an incredible joy it was to proclaim God's promises upon her.



### Our New Deck!

It has been a dream of ours to someday have a deck built on the back of our building that would be used for Sunday worship, café and special ministry events. A number of months ago New Albany EPC contacted us and desired to bless us with volunteers and a financial gift to build the deck! With a huge thank you we can say that we are truly blessed by their commitment to our ministry! Our first use of the deck was our Sunday morning baptism service.

### Prayer Requests:

- Please continue to pray for our Playground Ministry. We have three more Wednesdays left in our summer ministry. It has been an amazing summer and we are asking God to bless these last few weeks together.
- Please continue to pray for our Café Ministry. God has been abundantly blessing our relationships in the neighborhood and giving us many opportunities to pray and encourage our neighbors. Continue to pray for new volunteers to come and be part of the serving ministry at the café.
- Please pray for our future ministry. We are praying about what new ministries God is calling Hope For Renewal to start and to continue. Please pray for God to raise up an assistant pastor to help lead in all areas of Hope For Renewal Ministry.
- Please keep us in your prayers as Cindy's father passed away on August 10<sup>th</sup>.



On behalf of Hope For Renewal Cindy and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the ministry that God has called us to.

Gary and Cindy Koerth

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