

**Wade Allen**  
Lead Pastor

**David McEuen**  
Pastor of Family & Worship

**John O'Connor**  
Pastor of Community Engagement

**Ron Fields**  
Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

## A True BLESSING

**Wade Allen**  
Lead Pastor

As I sit here in my office, pondering what I want to say in this article, I am suffering what many refer to as “The Blank Page Syndrome.” Anyone who knows me knows that I seldom strain to have something to say, but as I mull over the possible topics I find that I am a bit glum—even melancholy. Let me explain...

This past week, I was gifted with the chance to attend a pastors’ conference focused on rest and renewal. It was a tremendous blessing! After returning home and back to work, I found myself struggling to re-engage in life and ministry. It could be compared to the experiences of Elijah in 1 Kings 19—also known as the broom tree blues. When these times come, it’s important to follow Elijah’s example—rest, eat, repeat.

The work of a pastor is much more than a job—it is a calling. It is filled with joyous moments in people’s lives. I am front and center and can see the look in their eyes when a couple commits their lives to one another in marriage. I am there when their kids are born, and I am there when they’re born again and get baptized. I get to see first-hand how lives are transformed by the



*they call me*  
**Pastor**

power of the Holy Spirit. What an amazing blessing it is to be a pastor!

But the work of a pastor is not only filled with joyous moments, but dark moments as well. Not only am I there for the births, I’m also there for the death. I am right there in the middle of the conversation when the a couple’s marriage seems to be disintegrating. I stand by and watch as people make foolish decisions and wonder why their lives seem to be falling apart. I feel those hurts. I cry those same tears. I want to help—to fix it—but much of the time I don’t have a clue what to do. There is no formal education that can prepare a person for the joys and the strains that come with pastoral service. Most of us learn in the school of hard knocks!

Rick DeShon, a professor of Organizational Psychology at Michigan State University stated, “the pastor’s work activities are highly varied, taxing, fast-paced, unrelenting, and often fragmented... I have never encountered [a] job with such varied and impactful responsibilities.”

Leadership expert Peter Drucker made this statement just before he died in 2005. He said: “Over the years I have made a career out of studying the most challenging management roles

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# True COMMUNITY

**Ron Fields**

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

On August 13, we met our daughter, Ronda, and granddaughter, Caleigh, in the Branson area for lunch. Afterward we assisted Caleigh move into her new dorm room at the College of the Ozarks. Norma and I drove home and waited for Ronda who would stay a couple of days. Ronda then called from Seligman and said she was getting sick and therefore headed back to her home. Later she called and let us know she was positive for Covid-19.

Monday evening, August 16, Norma began showing symptoms. She tested positive a day or two later. On August 18, I also began showing symptoms. The following week or more we were in a daze. Pastor Wade drove us to different urgent care facilities. We both received the monoclonal antibody infusion. Renee came from Virginia to take care of us. We were both taken to Mercy Hospital in Bella Vista by ambulance but at separate times. And we were both placed on oxygen.

From the earliest onset of symptoms, people were calling, expressing concern, letting us know they were praying, and offering help including food. We felt we were covered by love! By the time food was getting low, our strength was returning and we were ready to get out.

We want to say thank you to our church family, our neighbors, and our children for excellent care and efficient prayers. We experienced true community in a time of need.

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

# LIFE Interrupted

**John O'Connor**

Pastor of Community Engagement

In our current sermon series, we are going through the book of Nehemiah. As I was studying through chapter two, I was drawn to the planning of rebuilding the walls—specifically the rebuilding of the gates. When a city would build a wall, it would also build gates. The intent of adding the gate is to let in approved things or people. If the intent is to just keep things or people out, there would be no gates.

So what does the building of walls and gates mean for us spiritually? As Wade would say "there is a lot to unpack here", however I just want to focus on the gate. We need to be discerning about the things we let into our lives; however more often, we need to be obedient when God brings something or someone into our lives that messes up our routine.



How often do we say 'No' to something just because it doesn't fit into our plan?

The Bible says, "But God commendeth His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 KJV). The word commendeth in this context means "to give into another's care, entrust". God gave us His love prior to our conversion. God made the first move. An unplanned hour out of your day could be the divine hour that God uses you to save a life.

# Knowing My TRUE IDENTITY

**David McEven**

Pastor of Family and Worship

My daughter has an amazing gift. She absolutely, 100% knows who she is. Incredible, right? Let me explain. From time to time, someone will jokingly call her by a silly name. When this happens, she defiantly and confidently retorts, “I not \*insert silly name here\*, I am...” and then she’ll say her name. It never fails. No matter how many times this happens, she always answers the same way because she knows who she is. It doesn’t matter what anybody else may call her, she knows her true identity.

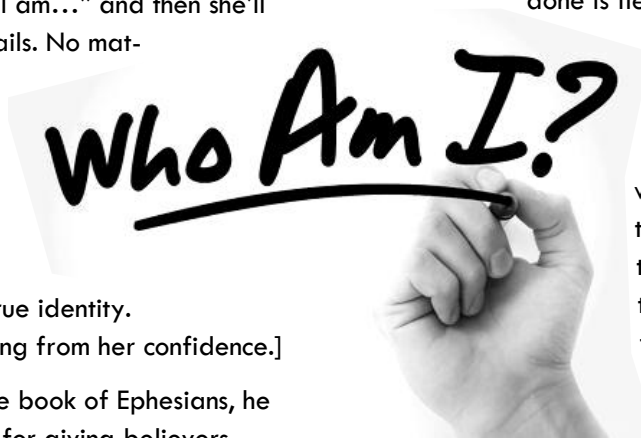
[We could learn something from her confidence.]

When Paul wrote the book of Ephesians, he began by praising God for giving believers

every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He then goes on to explain that these blessings have been secured for us through the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in salvation. But because what God has

done is tied so closely to who He

has made us to be, these works also serve as description of our identity in Jesus Christ. For Paul, it was incredibly important that the Ephesians know all that God had done for them but even more so that they knew who they were in Christ.<sup>3</sup>



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out there. After all of that I am now convinced the most difficult jobs in the world are these—one, to be the President of the United States, and two, to be the leader of a church.”

I don’t know if that is true, but I do know that there are times it seems that the weight of the world is resting on my shoulders! So why do I tell you all these things?

JR Briggs explains it well. He writes, “You may not know it, but this is a significant month for your pastor. October is Pastor Appreciation Month, bringing with it a complex mix of conflicting thoughts and emotions for most pastors.”

Briggs continued by saying, “Pastors who serve

with proper motives feel like they can’t say anything about Pastor Appreciation Month—especially to those in their own churches. Doing so would seem grossly self-serving.”

God has blessed our church with a team of pastors that love the Lord, have a calling to serve and attempt to do so without the applause and admiration of our church members. Having said that, I want you to know that our team of pastors often need to hear words of encouragement from you—to feel your love and appreciation for the sacrifices they make to serve. So let me encourage you to take time to appreciate your pastors. And let me say again, what a blessing to be one of your pastors here at Temple Rogers!

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**UPCOMING EVENTS** *Mark Your Calendars* 

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- Oct 7**      **Christian Seniors**  
12:00
- Oct 9**      **Memorial Service for Jim Moore**  
3:00 PM
- Oct 10**     **Singing Men of Arkansas—  
Heritage of Hymns Concert**  
2 PM — 1st Church, Springdale
- Oct 11 & 25** **Ladies Bible Study**  
6:30 PM
- Oct 23**     **Apologetics Student Conference**  
Mena, AR
- Oct 31**     **Lifeword Sunday**  
5th Sunday Fellowship Meal  
Walk for the World

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This passage from Ephesians 1 has been our focus in the student ministry on Wednesday nights lately. So far, we have discovered that in Christ, I am Chosen, I am Holy, I am Adopted as a son, I am Redeemed, I am Forgiven, and I Understand the mystery of God's will set forth in Christ and the implications of these on spiritual lives. My hope is that as our students learn these truths, they'll gain a better appreciation for what God has done and who He has made them to be so that when the Enemy comes to accuse or blur the lines of truth, they can answer with the same confidence my daughter has in her identity. This is not just my hope for them but for you as well. I pray that you KNOW who you are in Christ. But if not, I or maybe even one of our students, can share this with you.



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