

OPEN LETTER TO HILLSIDE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Howdy, Hillside!

It has been 5 months now since my last day serving as a pastor among you. I miss greeting so many of you on Sundays, and my family misses the consistent fellowship with you all.

As we look back over the last year and a half, Meg and I have said time and time again that we would not have made it through the unprecedented amount of hardship faced by our family without the church community God placed around us. With this letter we simply hope to express our deepest gratitude to that community.

It is impossible to know where to start or how to detail all the ways you have shared in our sufferings. There are those who...

...responded in crisis to roll up carpets and salvage items.

...helped us with water mitigation.

...tracked down a place to live when our insurance couldn't find anything within an hour of our house.

...literally offered their own home to us for over 5 months.

...laundered our clothes, brought us meals, shopped for groceries, and offered ballet rides when Meg had shingles.

...connected us to legal counsel when enduring a CPS investigation against our family.

...showed up with trucks, trailers and helping hands when we moved and moved and moved again.

...stepped into the mess of our house project to provide a plan and some hope.

...volunteered their time and skills and resources to get us back home.

...cleaned up debris and prepared for our return to the house.

...laundered every remaining piece of clothing and fabric we own.

...sanitized every surface of our house to ensure there was no mold when we reentered.

...restocked our fridge and freezer to lighten the load.

...helped us replace destroyed items and celebrate Christmas.

...captured our story for us to remember God's presence amidst agony.

...threw us a lifeline and invited others to help our family.

...walked with us through the darkest days and deepest pains of this experience.

There are so many who gave gifts large and small, anonymous or in person...so many that it is impossible to fully recount. There are so many who checked-in faithfully, offered encouragement, prayed regularly, listened attentively, wept with us in the pain, and rejoiced with us in the Father's faithfulness.

We remain overwhelmed by God's grace toward us through you. The stories of the Holy Spirit bringing us to mind with instruction to help reminds us he is a God who sees. The concern, compassion, and care you gave to us ensures us of the Lord's nearness.

As my own family begins a new season of our lives, we want to say "THANK YOU!" to the family of faith who carried us through this past, painful season. We pray God's richest blessings upon you, your families and your leaders.

Gratefully,



Matt and Meg Wallace
along with Kate, Kai, Corban, Canon, Crew, Cosette, and Quinn

August 13, 2022