



Dan & Heather  
Litchfield  
July-August 2025



# The Harvester

our team pictured above

*One  
generation  
commends your  
works to another;  
they tell of your  
mighty acts.  
-Psalm 145:4*

## Please pray with us:

*For our staff to be  
physically,  
relationally, and  
spiritually  
rejuvenated*

*For our upcoming  
events, especially the  
mother-daughter  
adventure and men's  
retreat in September*

*That God will  
continue His work in  
all our participants*

## Legacy Retreat

The dads sprinted up the road, legs pumping, determined to reach their kids. Then they passed the baton and cheered for the rest of their family to win the relay. We were racing to win, but the point of the activity was the passing of the baton, which is a lot harder than it looks. Done poorly, it can cost the race or even eliminate the runners. Done well, fresh runners are anticipating their turn to race and are ready to take off when the baton is firmly passed on to them. That was our first analogy for the weekend as we led 12 adults and their 10 teens on a legacy retreat to help the church consider how to effectively pass on the faith. "Every activity was very thought provoking, which allows you to evaluate your life," commented one mom. Another participant learned "a deep conviction to pray daily for my kids and to be strategic in my parenting and more goal-oriented in my guidance." At one point, the group split; the kids rappelled down a cliff to learn about taking risks, and the parents did a paddleboarding activity about letting go and trusting God to work in others. And while parents brainstormed ways to invite teens to be a bigger part of the Body, the kids demonstrated responsibility by making dinner for the group of 30+ people and by considering ways that they could be involved in the growth of the church. "I would say this retreat helped redirect us back to the big picture- glorifying God" one teen said of the retreat. Another added, "This really helped me understand my role as a teen in the church." "The morning devotions were incredibly meaningful for me," another boy stated, urging us to make this an annual event. Praise God!





## Marriage Adventure on the St. Croix

*As for me and my house, we will follow the Lord by staying grounded in the Word, intentionally investing in each other, loving our neighbors, and giving generously.* That is one of the commitments Dan and I made when answering our own questions on the marriage retreat last month. Each couple did the same as we sat on the banks of the Saint Croix River at dawn. We were on a multi-day canoeing adventure and had already addressed love vs indifference, faith vs sin, and hope vs despair as it relates to marriage—all topics that readily surface when canoeing with your spouse 😊. Now we were discussing Sabbath rest and dreaming together for the future. Although we are hosting these events, Dan and I always learn from the couples we are leading and we come away with fresh perspective, which we always need. It was also a joy to have Micah serving as an intern on this trip, as he and our volunteer, Austen, helped push canoes off rocks. Austen, a talented musician, played guitar and led us in worship around the campfire. We were encouraged, too, that one of the couples had come on a marriage retreat with us in the past and that the other couple signed up for two more Thrive events!

## Women's Rest & Renewal

“We definitely have to do that again” and “this was the best weekend of my whole summer” were some of the responses to our rest and renewal weekend, designed for women to be refreshed in the Lord. Our coworkers, Shawna and Jess, planned the whole thing and did an awesome job with all the logistics as we kayaked eleven women out to Great Cranberry Island for a camping overnight. God blessed us with gorgeous weather and the words of Psalm 23 which became our focus. We also collected sea glass, making it into a craft to remind us that God is patiently grinding away our rough edges and transforming us into something beautiful.

## All the other stuff

Also in July we hosted a mother and child adventure day, the staff men hiked the Cutler Coast for an overnight, and our staff spent a week on the river as Dan, Joe, and I trained them to become white water rafting guides. We were grateful to have Ethan Allen, our new Thrive staff member in New Mexico, fly in to join us and spend a few extra days visiting us. Meanwhile, our daughter, Emma, flew home from a three-week mission trip in Asia, and Aliza volunteered as a team leader for Child Evangelism Fellowship's Downeast Day Camp, where two of the girls in her group accepted Christ! In the midst of our legacy retreat we helped our church host its second annual Blueberry Festival followed by an outdoor evangelistic movie the following night. This past week, Micah wrapped up his internship by doing his exit interview with me in the car on the drive out to Cedarville, OH where we dropped off he and Emma at college. Phew! (tears!)

Needless to say, it has been a whirlwind and we have been depending on the Lord for strength a day at a time. In my personal devotions I have been studying the life of David and I have been amazed by how he waited on the Lord, often at times when the next step seemed urgent and obvious. David first sought the Lord and then waited for direction. It has struck me that our ministry and life schedule has been so full and wearying, and I have not truly waited for the Lord's direction or intervention. I pray consistently and I read the Word devotedly, but I do not pause well. I trust God on the fly to bless the work of my hands or to guide me as I go, but David did not budge until the Lord said so. What a demonstration of faith and a recognition of his own impotence. David knew he needed God. I know that logically, and I think I am depending on God, but have my actions demonstrated that? I am not so sure. Please pray that I would stop to listen to God and be willing to wait for His answers and leading. Pray that we would do that better as a staff team too, truly glorifying Him.