

Upcoming Sabbatical for Pastor Scott

November 2022



Pastor Scott will be taking a ministry sabbatical this December 5th through March 5th.

The church council and Common Ground leadership have granted this sabbatical according to our church policy and have made arrangements for our pastors and ministry leaders to carry on Pastor Scott's ministry responsibilities during his time away. During his sabbatical, Scott will not be receiving calls or messages regarding the work of the church; we ask that you send all your communication to either the church office, one of our pastors, or ministry leaders.

The church office contact information is: info@butlerchurch.org / 559-252-3741

What is a Sabbatical?

A sabbatical is an extended time away from routine ministry for the purpose of retooling, and receiving a fresh vision. It is meant to provide a time of special renewal for the pastoral leader that will bring personal nourishment to his/her soul, a deeper relationship with the Lord, family refreshment, and a focus and clearer understanding of God's vision for the church. A sabbatical helps prevent ministry burnout and may give the pastoral leader a fresh perspective for his/her ministry. The practice of sabbaticals is rooted in scripture, and a meaningful practice for the church as well!

What does the Bible say about Sabbaticals?

The concept of sabbatical is deeply rooted in Scripture. The term is derived from the Old Testament idea of "Sabbath." The Hebrew word means "rest." God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh (Genesis 2:1-3). During the Hebrew children's exodus from Egypt, God directed them (Exodus 16:26) to gather the manna daily but to rest on the seventh day (Sabbath). In numerous Old Testament passages, God admonished his people to work six days but to devote the seventh day to God as a day of rest (Exodus 20:9-10, 23:12, 31:15, 34:21, 35:2; Leviticus 23:3 and Deuteronomy 5:13). Among the Israelites, God instituted the Sabbath year (Leviticus 25:1-5). On every seventh year, the children of Israel were to refrain from farming the land and let the earth rest. Both the Israelites and the land benefited from the Sabbath rest.

These passages suggest that there is a rhythm to life. As the man of wisdom said, "For everything there is a season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Jesus' own life and ministry reflect a deep understanding and appreciation for the rhythms of life. The demands upon him were so great that his own ministry was punctuated with times of withdrawal for prayer and spiritual solitude (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46; Luke 5:16, 6:12).

What does Sabbatical Mean for Us?

We all have a role in the sabbatical process while Scott is away. Our current leaders will learn and grow during this time as they take on new roles and responsibilities that will assist us not only now, but going forward. Many of you can also engage in the interim in ways that will move you forward in personal growth and in service, too. We invite everyone to "lean in" and ask how you can help in the months ahead!

God also wants to do a work in each of us during this time. While Pastor Scott is away, please pray for him; grow alongside him, and with our Butler teams. God is going to do something in all of us - even while apart - that will work beautifully as we come back together. Let's do this together, with Confident Hope!

Your Invitation to Respond

I'd like to lean in...

- Join a prayer team for Pastor Scott and Family
- Receive more information to begin a regular sabbath practice in my own life
- Serve on a Sunday morning

[Click here](#) to let us know how you'd like to lean in!