

# Joy to the World!

DECEMBER 2021

Dear *Maple Grove Church friends,*

We hope you have experienced the love and joy of Christ in deep and meaningful ways throughout this past year. This time of year is always one of reflection and gratitude for Amanda and I as we think about all the Lord's blessings. Your partnership in the Gospel is one of the foremost ways we have seen God bless us and provide for our family as we continue our work with Cru on college campuses.

Another blessing that you may have seen in our recent e-mail update is that we are expecting our fourth child in May, 2022! It's a joy to add another child to our family and we can't wait to meet him or her (but let's be honest, it's probably a "her," and we would love that)! Our daughters are especially excited for the new addition.

One more major life update involves our home. Ever since I (Jon) joined staff with Cru in 2011, it was my dream to own a home close to West Chester's campus with the

purpose of blessing and ministering to students out of our house. Four years ago, the Lord miraculously answered our prayer by providing a house that wasn't even on the market. It's an amazing story that you may already know—but if not—it's for another time. Purchased in 2017, our home directly borders WCU's student union and is within a five minute walk of any building on campus. We are deeply grateful for its proximity to campus and the ministry enabled as a result. Cru events, barbecues, and worship nights in our backyard, Bible studies in our living room, discipleship at our kitchen table, and hosting dinners with men I meet on campus playing basketball—these are all ways we have been able to use our home for God's glory and for the good of the college students living just across the street.



The only downside: our home's size. It's small with three children, and will not be an option for us to live in with four. For the past two years, we have prayed and sought counsel about what the Lord wanted us to do moving forward. Move to a different house or add to our current home? We strongly believe that we are being led to stay and add to our current home. We want it to be a stake driven firmly into the ground for college student ministry for years to come. We want to expand our capacity to show hospitality to students, all while growing our family in a home that meets our needs. This will allow us to commit to being a light for the Gospel at West Chester and the surrounding area for the next 20+ years.

God has used you and many others to provide for our monthly financial needs, enabling us to devote our full efforts to ministry on campus. In light of our growing family and our ministry vision, we are humbly asking you to help us drive this stake deep into the ground. This is a big vision and we are trusting God for a big response. We are praying and asking Him to provide \$50,000 to build a second story on our home, adding more living space and 2 additional bedrooms. With this amount raised, we will borrow the additional funds needed and are planning with our contractor to break ground on the project on April 1, 2022 (continued on back).

We have already had two incredibly generous donors pledge a total of \$25,000 as a matching gift. This means that if you give before the end of the year, your gift will be doubled! As you think about your year-end giving, would you prayerfully consider investing in this vision with us?

If you feel led to give, please mail a check payable to "Cru" with our staff account number in the memo line, #0647500, to our address: 814 S. Church St., West Chester PA 19382. You can also visit our secure giving site at [give.cru.org/0647500](http://give.cru.org/0647500). Your ministry investment is tax deductible.

Above all, please know that we absolutely love partnering with you to reach college students with the Gospel and are extremely thankful for your generous and regular support of our ministry. Your prayer and giving enable us to do what we love: advance the Gospel as we serve the students on West Chester's campus and beyond. During this Christmas season we thank God for you and wish you His abundant blessings!

Sincerely,

*The Ruchs*

Jonathan and Amanda Ruch

*P.S. Hope your church community experiences the Gospel in refreshing ways this Advent season! Merry Christmas to you all and God bless!*