

# Restoration

## IN WYTHEVILLE

**In** the summer of 2018, nearly a dozen ministers gathered at Withers Park in Wytheville with one purpose: to specifically pray that God would plant a new church in the community of over 9,000 residents. Despite several previous attempts at church planting in the southwest Virginia community, it remained one of the largest localities in Virginia without a SBC of Virginia church.

Among those present at this prayer meeting were Wythe County residents Jeremy and Allison Farley. They were currently ministering at a small country church in a neighboring county but felt God leading them to launch a

call to plant a church in Wytheville.

"I firmly believe that churches should plant churches, so it was important to me to have the blessing and support of other congregations before our launch," said Farley. The ministry received financial support and prayers from four separate churches leading up to their kickoff service in March 2019.

Choosing a name for the church involved significant consideration. Farley explained,

"Naming anything is difficult, and when it came to naming the church, we struggled greatly. As we neared our launch, I drove past an old



*Jeremy and Allison Farley with their daughters*

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church in their own community for many years. At the time, neither had any previous knowledge of the SBCV or experience with Southern Baptists.

Jeremy Farley shared, "When we met that day in the park, my wife and I were blown away by the sincerity of so many who had gathered to pray for our community. It left a lasting impact on both of us."

The prayer meeting touched Farley so deeply that a few weeks later, he resigned from his pastorate and began preparing to answer God's

house that had been falling apart and saw that someone was restoring it. I immediately remembered how Jesus was a carpenter and that he desired to see lives restored. From this experience, our name, **Restoration Church**, was born."

Since its launch in 2019, the church has grown from a mere vision and prayer of the Farley family to a congregation that averages roughly 100 attendees each week.

"What I appreciate most about the growth we've seen is that it's been

slow and steady. We didn't explode overnight, but each year, we've witnessed three or four new families surrender their lives to Christ, get baptized, and begin serving in the ministry," stated Pastor Farley. Large churches have abundant resources; we simply do our best to love people, especially broken people, and point them to a Savior who desires to see them changed ... and God is truly honoring this."

Although initially launched as an independent work, Restoration Church joined with the SBC of Virginia in January 2023. Farley credits SBCV regional strategist Travis Ingle for leading the church in that direction, highlighting Ingle's friendship and support for the ministry from its inception.

Restoration Church is an accurate picture of Gospel partnership. It began in prayer, was conceived through obedience, strengthened by partnership, and is growing for the glory of God to reach their neighbors and the nations with the Good News of Jesus. ■