



EAST END UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Three Years Later: Remembering, Reflecting, and Rebuilding

A Message From Pastor Brandon

Greetings my beautiful East End family in Christ,

Today marks three years since deadly tornadoes ripped through East Nashville leaving destruction in their wake, including our beloved church building. In some ways it seems like yesterday and in others it seems like a lifetime ago. Although the years pass, the sights, sounds, and feelings from that time continue to remain fresh in our collective memories. Tragic events like the one on March 3, 2020 leave a lasting mark. They wound us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And yet, as with every wound, there can be mending and healing. You have not only believed this to be true, but you have embodied it in your commitment to keep this congregation alive and well despite all odds.

East End UMC is a remarkable congregation that has never forgotten that there is hope, even amid pain and sorrow. I continue to be impressed by the faithful tenacity of this congregation and the ways you have continued to worship God, love one another and our community, and lay the groundwork for a bright future for our church. When I came to join you for your worship service in the EEUMC park on the Sunday following the tornadoes, I could never have imagined that three years later I would have the honor and privilege to accompany you on this leg of your journey forward. I count it a blessing to be included as a small part of the ongoing story of EEUMC's resurrection story. It is a story worth telling and retelling because it is a public witness to the restorative power of God's hope and love.

As we acknowledge this milestone day, I invite you to read our February Rebuilding Committee update below. I also encourage you to watch, read, and share this recent story from WSMV on our continuing efforts to rebuild. Let these be small reminders of the tremendous distance we have traveled thus far and of the ongoing work that lies ahead. This year stands to be a pivotal year on the way to rebuilding as we secure final funding for and break ground on our new church home. May we continue to hold one another in love, grace, and encouragement as we work together to help God's dream for us become a reality.

With prayers for healing, hope, and a better tomorrow,

Pastor Brandon