Belvedere Family Community: A Personal Update - Honoring Family Time

Justin Okamoto June 16, 2025



Dear Beloved Belvedere Family,

I'm writing to share something personal and important with you.

On June 7th, our family welcomed our newest little blessing into the world - a beautiful baby boy named Jason. Becoming a father again has been a deeply joyful experience, and it's also reminded me of something essential: God's love is expressed first in the home.

With that in heart, I've made the decision to take Paid Family Leave (PFL) to be more present with my family during this precious and foundational season.

Here's how that will look:

From now through July 1st, I'll be taking Mondays and Thursdays off.

From July 2nd through the end of the year, I'll shift to taking Tuesdays and Thursdays off.

This adds up to a total of 60 PFL days - time I'm committing fully to my family, rest, and renewal.

On these days, I kindly ask that you not reach out to me for church-related matters. Instead, please direct any questions or needs to Pastor Daryl or another member of our ministry staff. This will allow me to be truly present with my wife, our children, and especially our newborn - without being split between roles.

This decision wasn't easy, but I believe it's right. We often preach that family is the cornerstone of God's kingdom - and now I want to embody that more deeply, not just in words but in practice. I believe this is also part of building the kind of church culture that will inspire future generations of leaders: one rooted in integrity, wholeness, and love.

Thank you for your understanding and your prayers. I'm still here - just with different rhythms for this season. I look forward to continuing to grow together in love, purpose, and community.

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Justin

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