

A Liver Transplant for Alan Greer

My name is Alan Greer. I've been married to my wife, Amanda, for 31 years in September. Amanda and I met in college at UNC as two accounting geeks back when Dean Smith was basketball coach and Mack Brown was the new, young football coach. We have two children, Lauren (age 22) and Connor (age 17). Lauren works at Starbucks here in Charlotte and Connor is a junior at Manus Academy and works at Hungry Howie's slinging pizza.

Our family moved to Matthews in 2019 with a job move. I work for Truist bank, and BB&T before that for 28 years. We attended the new members' class and joined the church right before the pandemic. We are lifelong United Methodists having attended Trinity UMC in Winston-Salem for many years. Amanda is from Trinity / Archdale (south of High Point) and I am from Wilkesboro.

In 2008, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune liver disease that slowly, but steadily, damages a person's liver. This leads to cirrhosis and ultimately, to liver failure. So far, the biggest impact on my life has been, as the disease has progressed, my liver will support only a skinny version of me. Also, how well I feel and how much energy I have from day to day is unpredictable, so I am moving forward with my treatment with more haste.

Fortunately, there is a treatment and cure, and that is to be transplanted with a healthy liver. This is possible with cadaveric (deceased person's) livers, but with my particular disease, you have to get very sick before being placed on any "list" for liver transplant. I don't really want to wait that long.

The better option for me is to pursue a living donor transplant. A healthy donor may donate a portion of their liver to a recipient. Because the liver is the one organ that can regenerate itself, in a few months both the donor and recipient will have whole, healthy livers. Amazing stuff!

I am working with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center because they do more of this than anyone else (76 living donor transplants and hundreds of cadaveric transplants in 2021). They have never lost a donor and their success rate is about 93% for recipients. Fortunately, I am blessed to have insurance that will pay for my expenses and the donor's medical expenses. The medical center informed me that it's time to begin reaching out to potential donors by sharing my story and educating others who may not know that a living donor transplant is even possible.

I was raised to be a humble giver, who quietly helps people as best I can. My own personal mission is to make a positive impact on the lives of every person I meet. I am in the awkward position of needing to ask another person to make a big sacrifice for me. It is very humbling, indeed.

Early in my diagnosis, God gave me the verse Isaiah 41:10, and He has sent it to me again and again over the years when I was down about my prognosis. I scribbled it on a yellow post it note and carry it with me and take it into every procedure and scan and test I have had.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

I know He does not want any of us to be people of fear, and I strive to be hopeful no matter what happens going forward.

A Note from Pastor Chuck: MUMC, we have a history of rising to the occasion in helping one of our very own. Alan is a part of our family. Perhaps, God might be calling you to explore how you might help. If so, please don't hesitate to reach out me or contact Alan & Amanda at AlanGreer@truist.com.