

March 29th, 2025 by Kelly Anne Grundhauser

Quick update for the past few days and the week ahead.

This past week has been another whirlwind. It was filled with both blessings and challenges. On Wednesday, Donny was prayed over and blessed by the sisters at the Saint Paul Monastery, surrounded by the incredible love of the sisters, staff, and friends/family who could attend. It was such a special moment, one that we will always cherish.

On Thursday, Donny had another liver biopsy. He had a bit more pain than expected, making Friday a slow-moving day with lingering discomfort. But by Friday afternoon, we got a call from his doctor, one we weren't expecting. His neuropathy continues to worsen past his ankles now and his eosinophil levels (Eosinophilia) are rising rapidly. (there are also other labs that are off) The doctor is concerned and mentioned a rare autoimmune condition called Churg-Strauss Syndrome (EGPA) as a possible cause.

The plan is to allow Monday's treatment to proceed, but after that, Donny will undergo several tests to figure out what's happening:

CT scan (Abdomen, Chest, Pelvis) on Tuesday

Pulmonary Function Test (PFT) – to check his lungs on Wednesday

Echocardiogram – to assess his heart TBD

Bone Marrow Biopsy (depending on Monday's labs)

Neurology Consult, Nerve Conduction Study & Possible Nerve Biopsy – to evaluate his worsening neuropathy all these remain unscheduled, but I assume will try to be squeezed in ASAP

The neuropathy has been tough. It's making driving difficult and uncomfortable for him, and unfortunately, it's not something that improves quickly. The uncertainty of all of this weighs on him, even though he puts on a brave face. I worked the spring clean up in the yard for him, so he could feel

proud, (I never knew a man to love his yard this much besides my dad) I know even the walking up and down the garage attic steps is so much for him. The uncertainty. I cannot imagine doing all that with feet you cannot feel or that have a sharp tingling pain. He said it was a 7/10

This week we pray for:

For wisdom for his incredible medical team as they search for answers and solutions. For his CEA tumor markers to remain stable or decrease. For a simple solution to ease his neuropathy. For answers regarding the rising eosinophils and abnormal labs; one that does not require discontinuation of the trial. For Donny's emotional and mental strength. This is all so heavy, even when he pretends everything is fine.

Every time he gets through one hard week, something new appears. He just can't catch a break. Please keep him in your prayers. Your support and love mean everything to us.

– Kelly