

## 2021 PASTOR'S REPORT

### **You can't put new wine in old wineskins!**

Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”- **Matthew 9:17**

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”- **John 3:8**

According to our Presbyterian (USA) Book of Order “The **Great ends of the Church** are the

- proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- the maintenance of divine worship;
- the preservation of the truth;
- the promotion of social righteousness;
- and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The Great Ends are the calling of our church. Our marching orders, our vision, our joy, our privilege in being the hands and voice of Christ, especially to the lost, needy, & discouraged. It is easy to get stuck in our old ways, old wineskins. But God's Spirit is always transforming with new wine, always finding new ways to love and be relevant in today's culture and to each of our neighbors. I desire as the Westview Family we can continue to pray about how we can be relevant today to those who need the hope and healing of Jesus! Changing our old ways so the new wine will be held in the new wineskins of our church.

How do we bend to the new trend of online worship and wave of people doing worship on their computer? How do we help them find fellowship so that we are not just passively looking at a screen? How do we better care for shut-ins? How do we care for the younger generation who is going less and less to church and identifying less and less with a spirituality? How do we continue to be a diverse church and a FAMILY especially in such divisive times?  
Amen!

“God help us to Be your church in new and vibrant ways. Give us creativity, wisdom, desire, courage, and compassion for others, that we might be swept up by your Spirit as you work through us in new and transformative ways.”

As I shared last year, “The building is not the church; YOU are the church, as you are Christ's hands of love to all you encounter. So, go forth and BE the church!” Amen!

You continued to care well for our members who are grieving the loss of loved ones during 2021. Thank you for all you did for bereavement care! This year we celebrated the life of Wally Osato as he went on to be with loved ones and his Savior.

It is a joy and an honor to be your pastor. You show me much about the love of Christ!

May you know ever more fully your beloved-ness in God,  
Pastor Dan

### **Thanksgiving to God for 2021**-from our Leadership Retreat January 2022

- God has provided for us financially - ended year in \$5591 in the Black
- Margo's leadership in feeding the people at River Park and getting all the help needed (i.e. HPHP and the Community Action Board)
- People we have gotten to know that are un-housed in our area
- How God has been caring for the volunteers at SonRise Kitchen and helping them grow in their faith
- Ways we have cared for each other amidst the pandemic:
  - Grateful for all the people that have kept Nancy connected (i.e. Diane dropping by, Sheri reminders, Micky, Margo - those that kept community/church alive for her)
  - Walks with Joanne and others
  - Sheri and all that she does in keeping us connected & Sheri's detailed eye for the needs of others and desire to address such needs
  - Wednesday Bible Reflection and Prayer Time via Zoom
- Grateful for working more with the other church (Iglesia de Cristo). Their offer to paint the church & Facilitation of Margo and Noemi to work together as two churches
- Earlier we had looked at ways to grow the church and now we see that it is growing
- Different musicians that have stepped forward to help us during this time (Michael) & Jolly and Midge being our dynamic duo in worship leadership
- We have so many More worship leaders online now
- That our church has been relatively been unaffected by COVID illness compared to other congregations
- Zoom keeping us together
- Sanders and Aunt Sally coming to church every Sunday & Skillicorns becoming members
- Who we are and how we serve in the community, especially those that helped keep up the gifts to the Women's Shelter (Polly thank you!) & Shizue's service during the filling of stockings for the Shelter
- Attitude of members and willingness to work together
- Michael O - willingness to work on Wednesdays and positivity. He is growing. He is also helping with the making of bag lunches
- Polly for ideas and enthusiasm
- Marlon and Steve for helping with church maintenance
- Barbara being Clerk of Session and keeping us connected with the Presbytery
- Bulletin Board Fairies (Mary Lou and Polly) updating them
- Organization and updating of the kitchen, other parts of the church building—so many people have helped!
- Margo's willingness to go out and buy extra/necessary additions to meals for SonRise Kitchen when things not available from Second Harvest Food Bank
- Diane and all she has done for SonRise Kitchen and Personnel (arranging speakers, session work). Also, her spirit of encouragement, astuteness and wisdom/advice

- Joanne - help with positive spirit of encouragement, astuteness and wisdom/advice
- Emma and Midge - wisdom, willingness to share it with all, and examples of service
- Micky - Making soup 5 days/week, checking in about church maintenance, checking in with others, and his various/many acts of service
- Jane and Margo and their service in assisting Adopt a Family for Christmas
- Marlon's organization of our Deacons
- Deacons and their willingness to help and be active in service in so many ways!
- David and his financial advice/service in regard to our accounts & David's wisdom in chairing the personnel committee and maintaining church investments. & David's inspiration during his illness.
- That we have sincerely been working on all aspects of the call to fulfill "The Great Ends of the Church"
- Leslie - All her behind the scenes work on the Chimes, Annual Report, Zoom Link Invites, & so much more!
- Lynne – Realizing all she did as Clerk of Session, Bulletin, Worship Songs, Envelope Orders, etc. and Thank you for all she still can do, but glad she is getting needed rest. We miss her and pray for her health
- Pastor Dan - His work, caring and compassion in keeping us all working together. Also, helping with unloading on Wednesdays for SonRise Kitchen
- Joanne, along with Shirley, Dick and Diane mailing out The Chimes
- That God has put together this group of people. We are all one spirit!
- Diversity of congregation
- Jolly and her willingness to give advice and assistance & Jolly's imagination - her ideas that ended up being drawers in our kitchen
- Good humor all around and positive attitude amid trying times during a pandemic
- Grateful to God for orchestrating things and bringing us all together. God is very visible in our church
- Getting to know so many people without in-person interaction, like new members from UPC
- We CAN be social over ZOOM!

### **2022 Leadership Retreat Vision/Discussion for being church in this new Reality of COVID and online presence:**

1. What are the lessons (about church, about being church together, about worship services) we have learned through this COVID mess?

-Eat, drink, discussion, no pressure in discussion, can leave early--church is much less intimidating. And less formal. Like Jesus, who seemed less formal.

-Easier to fit into your schedule.

-See people's faces!

-Easier to be at church from out of town, vacation, and attract younger generation.

-Be accepting of what people need, and lots of grace when go hybrid (in-person worship & on Zoom at same time).

2. How incorporate these insights into our worship service or how we BE the church?

-Get a WPC Facebook account. Possibly use Facebook Live for hybrid service

-Tech Grant- From Presbytery

This is very inclusive and pulls in possibility of reaching so many more people.

-How make in-person more community oriented/see faces/participatory?

3. Seems this pandemic will continue a while, so let us identify who still is not participating due to Zoom and how do we help them participate and feel cared for?

Maybe have a tutoring day to teach them Zoom. Or a caregiver work the technology for them and help them. How care for others who used to be more active?

4. Change worship space/location so can see faces (people love seeing everyone's face on Zoom)? More interactive service with all participating/sharing/discussing? Change Décor?

Some ideas to ponder (no decisions were made to do these things):

-Maybe first try doing worship in fellowship hall in a circle or at the tables so can see each other's faces. The Sanctuary is more meditative. Or could we make fellowship hall meditative?

Do we need Sound system, screen in Fellowship hall?

-Semicircle or circle rather than all facing forward?

-If we like it, then consider taking out pews and have moveable chairs?

5. How emotionally prepare to be together again in a large group?

6. We will begin painting the church— inside and out. (please give donations to building fund)

7. How reorganize areas of church in ways that will be useful? While continuing to honor our Japanese history.