

## 2024 Pastor's Report

### Hospitality

**Hospitality...**the word brings forth visions of Martha Stewart and a perfectly set table in a meticulously decorated home.

**What is hospitality?** In Scripture hospitality comes from the Greek word which means "Love for strangers."

#### **Where do you see hospitality in Scripture?**

-Lord's Supper is rich with themes of Hospitality.

-Likewise, are the references to the Great Banquet at the end of time in Heaven in Luke 14:15-24, Mark, & Revelation 19:11-13.

-Mary and Martha and a meal with Jesus—in which being present for the guests is more important than a perfect meal or perfect preparations.

Less Obvious (but the heart of hospitality):

-Healing of the outcasts—leper, bleeding woman, blind man, the physically handicapped.

-Caring for groups that feel on the outside: Samaritans, gentiles, women, and Jesus welcoming children to come unto me...

**"Hospitality is a space we need to create within ourselves before we can offer that space to others. Cultivating hospitality begins in our own souls and flows outward [from our relationship with God]." (Our *Unforming, De-Westernizing Spiritual Formation*, Cindy S. Lee p 103.)**

Jesus offers us hospitality.

What has Jesus done to welcome you and care for you, perceiving what you need most?—loving reception, being known, Acceptance or freedom to be ourselves, spiritual nourishment, a place of rest, grace for our faults, restoration and healing!

Hospitality reflects the heart of Jesus: unconditional love, being known, seeing us in the place that we are and gently inviting us into healing, growth, and becoming fully who we are meant to be.

Cultivating an inner hospitality, especially through connection with Jesus, frees us to offer an open, nonjudgmental space for others and involves taking risks.

"Hospitality is a posture of openness with which the hosts share of themselves to create an environment where others feel comfortable sharing of themselves too. It [can be] is facilitated through the sharing of food, space, [but it is so much more as it actually is any] and embodied practices that invite the opening of our souls to one another."-Cindy S Lee

"They welcome us into the messiness of their lives and share whatever they have to give." -Margie Chiang

Henry Nouwen adds another element—that of being Real, and of giving full

Attention: **"Healing spaces ARE created--those who suffer can tell their stories to someone who can listen with real attention. Full and real presence of people to each other is indeed one of the highest forms of hospitality."**

**“We can offer hospitality to each other by creating space to receive each other as we are, extending generosity and grace, being present and listening intently. We create space for the work of the Holy Spirit in us.” -Margie Chiang**

**In summary, this spirituality of hospitality is:**

- First, it's experiencing God's hospitable love for us!
- Its root in Scripture is welcome of the stranger.
- Hospitality is acceptance, love, openness to the other, attentive listening, invitation to God for healing, (invite them into God' unconditional, lavish, loving presence).
- Accepting, nonjudgmental.
- Helping others feel comfortable & welcome as they are.
- Food, generosity, & fellowship with others.
- Being REAL and honest so others feel free to be real and honest. It's restoration & healing, unconditional love, being known, being seen.

**How have you experienced this kind of Hospitality?**

**How and to whom can you extend this hospitality of God's love? And how can we extend this hospitality as the Westview family to visitors, neighbor, & residents of Recurso De Fuerza Village opening likely in September?**

**2025 Vision from WPC Leaders Retreat**

2025 Theme of Hospitality which is love of the stranger (according to Scripture/original Greek), while also embracing patience and uncomfortableness.

Most popular ideas:

- Talk with Community Action Board (CAB), who will manage the Recurso de Fuerza (RDF)Village, about
  - 1.How we can help,
  - 2.Ask if we can have a regular meeting with residents with food & maybe games (Games, Basketball hoop we provide, cornhole game)?
  - 3.Help get sign-ups for Adopt a Room to decorate resident's rooms: ask JACL, Local Classrooms, Wednesday Bible Study, Valley Heights people.
  - 4.Training of WPC members by CAB on how to care for residents in a healthy way. Maybe in July or Aug.
  - 5.Invite CAB to worship to share about their work/passion and why they do it. (June 1?) on a Sunday with Potluck. Pastor Dan tie into a message on Matthew 25 (care for the least)
- Reach out to surrounding Neighbors (after consult with CAB):
  - 1.Open House with Food-CAB is already planning on having one, so how can we help & be there?
  - 2.Adopt a room
  - 3.BBQ and Games (maybe Eiko?-the game master!)
  - 4.Park cleanup on 2<sup>nd</sup> St and Pizza?
  - 5.Coordinate work with Loaves and Fishes & Salvation Army too.

- Lead a Life Reflection/Bible Study in the RDF Village after they have settled in a while. WPC members attend/lead too in order to form relationships and care for them. With Food.
- Make a pew in sanctuary wheelchair accessible, but cutting out part of it, not in back but ½ way up.

Other ideas:

- Tell RDF residents of our First Sunday of the month Brunch after church
- Do a BBQ with residents cooking
- Give RDF residents space at first to settle in
- Invite Residents to help us with SonRise Breakfast and lunch packing—for partnership/dignity/ relationships
- WPC members be intentional in relationships with residents, staff, volunteers, & RDF Board (which will have neighbors on it)
- Pick up friends/neighbors and take to church, so not alone and can get there
- Make effort to sit with new people in pew and at Brunch
- Resume “Pass the Peace” time during WPC worship—we already did
- Spanish language headsets—buy and use AI/software to translate. (10 cost \$100-Reckless Church Translation System FM transmitter)

What helps people become part of the congregation and stay (the experts say)?

- Relationships formed with church members
- Participation—not just attending, but getting involved in ministries
- People feel they are growing spiritually/personally
- People feel they meet/experience God in the service
- People feel that church members are real/genuine
- People feel they can question and grapple personally & with presented ideas/theology

**Thanks for 2024 from WPC Leaders Retreat:**

- For our leadership team (Elders & Deacons & Treasurer) and for our Pastor Dan
- For our musicians: Jolly Bilstad, Joanne Hayashi, Evelyn Veal
- For Stability & Faithful people
- For our many Worship chairpersons who lead prayer/readings
- For God giving us a vision and for us saying “Yes,” and for Courage
- For our partners in ministry: The Health Clinic through HPHP/County on Mondays and Thursdays, Community Action Board and their Homeless Services to adults and youth, Association of Faith Communities providing the portable showers and rotating shelter services with other churches.
- For faithful volunteer angels with SonRise Kitchen: Micky Luevano, Mike Rodriguez, Gavino Lopez, Judith Kent, Mary Lou Hoffman, Victor Pacheco.
- For Marlon Veal and Steve Kajihara and all they do to maintain our building.
- For Marlon’s faithful leading of the Deacons.
- For having such a busy church now with many meaningful ministries.
- For the ministries of and partnership with Iglesia de Cristo & Templo Betania.

- For resuming Potlucks 1/month after church
- For wonderful guest preachers Mick Erikson & Rich Garcia.

God, help us to continue to grow in experiencing your loving hospitality to us and extending that hospitality to others.

Help us to BE your church, your hands and voice of love to those who are in need. Please from this center of your hospitable love give us creativity, wisdom, desire, courage, and compassion.

In 2024 you continued to care well for our members who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Thank you for all you did to care for grieving families! This year we celebrated the life of Walter Resh, Ted Tahira, Faye Hashitani, Willie Yahiro, Toni Magallanes, Tracy Tsuchimoto , Louise Sako, George Stewart, and Polly Loftin as they went on to be with loved ones and our Savior.

It is a joy and an honor to be your pastor. You are such a loving community! “The building is not the church; YOU are the church, as you are Christ’s hands of love to all you encounter.”

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