



THE CONNECTION

Connecting Westside to the Community

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOSH

Dear Church Family,

We start a new year with a hope that will carry us through the end of this pandemic. Yes, we have a few more months of these Covid restrictions but the goal line is getting closer as the vaccine becomes more widely available. I do encourage all to receive the vaccine, if you're medically able, so you can be sure of your safety and the safety of those you come in contact with. As soon as I am able to receive the vaccine, I will be in line.

As we begin 2021, I would like to thank our Leadership Team for another year of commitment. As the entire leadership team makes up our single board governance, we do have our folks with dedication to a specific areas, as needed: Sally Leidy - Leadership lead; Pam Ditto - Worship; Carol Blass - Pastor Parish lead; Jim Newland - Treasurer/ Finance lead; Emily Sharp - media; Judy Steigleder - Leadership secretary; Clarissa Frail - Leadership member; Missy Keller - Leadership member, and Kristen Davis - Youth Director.

We are all thankful for Barb Keller - Financial Secretary, who diligently takes time to accurately record contributions and make sure every tithe and offering is securely counted. Thank you Barb and all who help out. Thanks to our staff, Heather Long - Office Manager, Eileen Hartles - Pianist, Kristen Davis - Youth Director and for picking up custodial services, for all your hard work and dedication to your areas of ministry.

This year we will continue to run into challenges for as the world changes, ministry also changes. We must be ready for ministry areas that need to continue to change and to reinforce what is working well. Thank you all who volunteer your time for many visible ministry roles like liturgist, usher, sound/ audio, decorations, et al., and those behind the scenes where things get done without being noticed. Know that you are loved and the church couldn't operate without you.

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Office Hours
(by phone only)
Monday—Friday
9am to 1pm

This year we will see change as Westside continues with deep financial struggles. This area is still being discussed with Barry Burns, District Superintendent, about the future of Westside. We hope that a United Methodist ministry will be able to utilize this property for the foreseeable future; what this will look like, we don't know at this point.

We want to focus more this year on areas of ministry where we can make a difference. John Wesley talked about works of piety and works of mercy that developed the character of a Christian. Works of piety is serving our God through worship, praise, study, devotion, meditation, contemplation, and other spiritual means of grace. Works of mercy is hands-on devotion to the Lord by helping out your neighbor.

Serving, volunteering, putting care packages together, sewing club, caring for the poor, uplifting the lonely, et al., are all examples of things we should be doing more. Writing a check for a cause is a great sacrifice and we thank all with generous hearts and know, at times, this is a very easy and clean action to do. We are also called to the messy part of ministry where writing a check won't help much but rolling up our sleeves, spending time with another person, or simply having a listening ear can do so much more than cash only. The majority of the works of mercy are completed and received outside the church walls. Outside the walls is where the church can be seen in action. This is great news because we may not know the future of Westside but you are the church and you don't need walls to be the church.

So this year, I and the leadership team put out a continued call to action for works of mercy. Let us seek out areas of our neighborhood, local, and extended community where we could chip in and then let one another know about the opportunities. We all can't do everything but when two or three of us do a work of mercy together then we show the love of Christ to those in need.

God bless you all and let's pray for a good 2021.

Pastor Josh

**This is a new year,
a new beginning.
And things will change.**

Meet Westside's Leadership Team

The following Leadership Team has been assembled to lead and serve Westside under the guidance of Pastor Josh during 2021. Sally Leidy is now serving as Team Leader while Jim Newland is serving as both Finance Team Lead and Treasurer. Bruce Hodges continues to serve as our Lay Leader as well as our Lay Member to Annual Conference. Carol Blass is now leading Staff Parish/Pastor Parish Relations. Kristen Davis serves in her role as our Youth Director. Those members serving at large positions include Emily Sharp, Missy Keller, Clarissa Frail, and Pam Ditto. Our entire team will function in the role of Trustees. We ask that you pray for us as we lead Westside through these uncertain times. Please contact us to share your thoughts and concerns.

We want to express our deep gratitude to Stephanie Shutt Steinke for serving Westside as our Treasurer and Finance Team Leader these last few years. We appreciate her dedication, professionalism, and passion in this challenging position. We wish her and her family the very best.

Sally Leidy, Leadership Lead

Annual Christmas Candy Sale

What a challenge it was to begin to plan for our annual Christmas Candy Sale and to do it in a manner that would be safe for the candy makers and customers. As we began to plan to give it a try to see if we could bring some holiday fun and goodies to the church family, we discovered we could accomplish the job by doing it differently!

Of course as usual, Sue Osman immediately stepped up and asked what she could do to get the word out to the community. She did an excellent job in accomplishing that task which was truly a blessing. The greater amount of our sales came from the community. Thank you friends of Westside.

Judy Steigleder again began to make the delicious turtles; Dean Casperson made the chocolate covered caramels; Tom Ditto made who knows how many batches of buckeyes; Bill Avery, Judy Steigleder, Karl and Carol accomplished the chocolate covered cherries. The fudge and chocolate covered peanuts were accomplished in the Blass kitchen.

Using the church canopy area for order pick-ups kept the traffic out of the building plus the customers seemed to like to stay in their cars and drive through for their goodies. We were able to add \$2,500 plus to the general fund through doing things differently, joining together and sharing our gifts for the good of all.

Thank you to all the candy makers for making this year a successful candy sale.

Carol Blass

Forget Me Not's

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