

## MCCC Board Report - Pastor's Report - March 2022

Over the past month we have made some transitions as a congregation. The pandemic impact has dissipated enough that we've moved to mask-option and re-instating some of our previous practices like offering and communion. Meanwhile, we have had a resignation of our wonderful Children's Minister (Ally Bozeka) and the re-booting of our music ministry search. As much as we might hope that everything will "go back to normal" quickly, the reality is that we are living into a new reality and future. There are many moving pieces and I will be hoping and praying for patience, cooperation, and participation from the congregation as we do so!

Many, many thanks to Ally Bozeka who has been an AMAZING children's ministry leader with us over the last 6.5 years. She's loved by the kids and was a "rock" in the middle of those all-online days of the pandemic. THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for all her wisdom, creativity, and love as she worked with our children.

### **Some info to share**

- **Funeral Services** - Since January 1st, I have done 6 funeral services. Our local funeral director--Dave Green--will often call me if there is a family that has no connection to a church but would like a pastor to do the services for their beloved.
- **Hospital/Home Visitations** - with the pandemic easing I have done multiple home or hospital visits a week. It is a blessing to be a physical presence with people in a time of struggle or illness. If there are those that the church knows needs visiting please let me, the Elders, or the Care Team know.
- **Gathering Team** - again many thanks to the Care Team and Jon Secaur's leadership for making hard decisions about our policy changes. As I've talked to many of my colleagues we are about "on par" with the pace of their changes as well. I know many have been frustrated or desired the change quicker, but we have remained faithful to following the data from our county authorities. The pandemic has not disappeared and we will continue to monitor its presence in our county and state.
- **Week of Compassion** - we were blessed this year to hear from Jon Secaur during the Week of Compassion and was moved by his words of challenge and encouragement. We hope people continue to see the Week of Compassion as a place to give throughout the whole year, especially in light of the war in Ukraine.
- **Ash Wednesday Service** - We were blessed this year to host our first in-person Ash Wednesday service in over 2 years. Rev. Chris McCreight, Jan Green, and I served the congregation and did the imposition of ashes. It was wonderful to see so many people come for the service.
- **Lent** - I am grateful for the Worship Team's blessing as we again went with the Lenten theme created by a wonderful organization called Sanctified Art. I am deeply moved each week reading their biblical commentaries and words for worship.
- **General Board Meeting** - some of you may know that I was appointed by the Ohio Regional Church council to be on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In other years the meeting may be in-person, but this year was an online meeting with people from all over the United States and Canada to hear the "State of the Church" from our General Minister and President (Rev. Dr. Teri Hord Owens) and to

hear reports from the General and Regional Ministry heads. It was my first experience doing so and it was interesting soaking it all in. I also completed my semi-annual Anti-Racism Workshop while I was there.

- **District 3 Minister's Meeting** - over the last few years there has been few things happening at the district level, but with a new Regional Minister (Rev. Allen Harris) and District Minister (Rev. Terry Bartlett) they have started again. I have attended twice since the new year and led the one in March. I am thankful for the ongoing collegial support as we all are trying to figure out what pastoral leadership looks like as we go forward.
- **Chi-Rho/CYF Youth** - Chi-Rho and CYF youth got together for Ice Skating at The Pond in Chagrin Falls in February and this Sunday we are getting together at the Auble's house for a meal, bonfire, and games. Thanks to the Aubles and new MCCC-attender Kathleen Lewarchik for organizing the event!

### Looking forward...

- **Holy Week** - For Holy Week this year, we will be heading to Hiram Christian Church for Good Friday and Derthick's Farm for Sunrise Service. Looking forward to these joint services every year!
- **Coaching Ministry** - As you know I have offered my coaching services to the General and Regional Church in a very limited capacity. Currently the commitment with the General Church New Church Ministry coaching has not been demanding on my time. A new opportunity has emerged as Rev. Harris offered my name to a local Disciples church looking for a facilitator. Given the foreseen time commitments, I believe I will have no trouble fitting this into my schedule. It is an honor and privilege to represent our church and region in this capacity to assist congregations.
- **Camp Christian** - Chi-Rho Camp Director and Assistant Directors have invited me back to be a counselor at Camp Christian this summer. I will be gone the week of July 11-16 but will not be missing a Sunday! Looking forward to serving our region's kids and supporting Camp!
- **Pop Tabs** - Mike Hoskin has indicated to me that the organization the Pop Tabs (in the lower entrance) went to support has stopped collecting them. Are there any suggestions for Mike to direct those tabs? Otherwise, he has found a place to connect to.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Rev. Chad Delaney