

## **MCCC Board Report - Pastor's Report - January 2021**

By mid-October, I finally started to come to terms with the certainty that Christmas Eve wasn't going to be inside our building. I avoided it for weeks on end, just hoping that the pandemic would "turn a corner" and that it might be possible. Obviously, that didn't take place. This was discouraging, but I was greatly boosted in a conversation with our Worship Team. Pam Auble has done an extraordinary job leading the group--not just logistically and planning-wise--but also with creativity and deep spiritual leadership. The members of the group are all enthusiastic, intentional, and willing to offer ideas and helping hands. While I was discouraged and disappointed, I was lifted by this wonderful group of Christians and human beings. Together we planned Advent and with many hands helping made it as unique and special as it could be. Despite not being "in the house," we had hung greens, lights, and banners on the southside of the church. We had special music from Jan Green, Beth and Ellie Schabel, Jon Secaur, and Ally Hurd and Jon Bozeka. The greeters and parkers got everyone bulletins, ornament gifts, and glow sticks. I was "alone" in the sanctuary...but I wasn't. I truly felt the congregation and felt the spirit of God flow through that place. The church is indeed more than a building. Thanks to all who made Advent and Christmas Eve so special.

### **Some anecdotes to share**

- The survey I sent out before Christmas revealed that the mode of worship most appreciated was our YouTube Remote Service. That being said, people really loved the Worship at the Windows services and while the YouTube Live service was appreciated, there were some technical problems. Over the next several weeks/months we will try to make the online stream of our service a better worship experience as that will certainly be a mode of worship continued into the future.
- I have invited the Elders and some leader to do a yearly "spiritual" with me and so far I have not heard from many. I am considering sending a broader invite to the congregation and making it a part of our Lenten season together. Stay tuned.
- I will continue to offer Get Centered devotional on YouTube.

### **Gratitude**

- Our family was overwhelmed with the generosity and goodwill of the congregation shown in our Christmas gift. The generosity shown to us and to the whole staff is a wonderful gift and shows the appreciation of the congregation. Thank you for all the love and support shown throughout 2020 and pray that we keep working together through 2021. Again, I am so extraordinarily blessed to serve this gifted and loving congregation! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

### **Looking forward...**

- The Worship Team will begin our more detailed Lent Planning as Ash Wednesday this year is on Feb 17th.
- Our Gathering Team will be convened again soon to start our deliberations and planning for what 2021 might hold as far as use of the building.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Rev. Chad Delaney