

What will you find in this document?

In this document are notes from both our congregational meeting with our District Superintendent, Rev. Nancy Cushman, and notes from our “Tree of Life, Tree of Learning” gathering. Both meetings were tailored toward identity. We were trying to name who we are and help focus some of the things we want accomplish in the upcoming year. This document is not an extensive overview of the meetings; these are answers from our community about who we want to be and what we hope to see at PVUMC. As you read the answers, please note that the numbers after each answer represent how many people replied with the same, or similar, answer.

Congregational Meeting w/ DS Rev. Nancy Cushman

Notes:

Question 1: Where do I see Jesus alive and active in our life together at PVUMC?
In what ways do I experience God here?

- Diversity: there are many ways to serve God
- Care/ Caring (4)
- and share
- Church family (7) -in all circumstances, love and support, warm family
- Mission Work/outreach (7)- Food Bank, Volunteer service
- Prayers/loving concern for prayer (5)
- Sunday Service/ Worship (2)
- Fellowship (7)
- Friendships/ friendliness (3) inside and outside of the church
- I invite all to come to PVUMC
- Generosity/Giving (6)- to missions, to each other, sharing time and gifts
- Be evident in the community as a Methodist where we are located
- Uplifting
- Helpful
- Loving (3)- Love
- Small groups
- Open/welcoming/inclusive church family (3)
- Greeting card ministry

- Laughter
- Praising God/Relying on Him (2)
- Music/choir (4)

Question 2: What of the ministry of Jesus will go missing in our local community if PVUMC is no longer here?

- Caring relationships (3)- for shut-ins
- Support for missions: financially and physically (7)
- Connection with others/support (5) -with the Senior Connection/resources for seniors, neighbors
- People helping people (6)- community missions, love of neighbor, Hungry kids
- Loss of concern
- Void in belonging
- Place for hope
- Void of church family helping others: food bank, school
- “they will feel alone in facing life challenges which can lead to depression and self-worthlessness
- Recognition of needs
- Loss of spiritual connection for local community (3) Missing pastor and Bible interpretation, no church, Christian Examples
- Pray for others
- Missing discipleship gained from members
- Support group
- No reasonable place to hold meetings: AAA, Leagion and other churches that use facility

Question 3: What are the two most important things you pray the people of PVUMC would be known for in the community?

- Welcoming/open doors/inclusive (15)
- Generosity (6)
- Community involvement/reaching out (4)

- Caring (6)
- Godly people
- Friendly/ kindness (6)
- Loving (5)
- Compassion
- Support of groups in need
- Aiding the start of another church
- Spirit-filled
- Our pastor is involved with other churches

Question 4: What needs to happen for me to remain a vital part of this living Body of Christ? What are my non-negotiables? Can I say anything more about why I feel this way?

- Moving
- A strong voice from the pulpit
- “I feel this way because it is what Jesus taught us”
- Christ-centered/serving God/more spiritual/prayer (6)
- All is negotiable
- Open to “ALL”/Acceptance for all/inclusion/openness (9)
- Always compassion for everyone
- Always show love for all
- We need healthy youth groups and Sunday school
- Caring
- Needed/ opportunities to serve or give (5)
- Continue to feel like I belong
- Loving others
- Not changing churches (2)

Question 5: What 1 % change in my own way of participating am I willing to make in order that e may flourish as a vibrant body of Christ?

***This question is a personal question that is going to be for each individual to ask/make.*

Our Tree of Life, Our Tree of Learning

Strategic Planning Notes:

Question 1: What would make this clear for you? What do we need to be clear about in our church?

- Be more specific about how we achieve these values, guiding principles, etc.
 - Ex. Evangelism, write down ... one once a month. Focus on ONE step to achieve each month life our missions.
- More specific on our areas of focus
- Pick a specific topic and focus mainly for a month on solutions. Individual topics
- Communicate our mission statement? What does it mean...
- We need to make a church more inviting to younger people
- Open door for everyone: young-middle age- old
- Training for greeters and ushers
- Open doors
- 1 Happy Song
- Greetings in the congregation
- Open door policy to all people
- Studies for demographics
- Mission statement—how we focus in on the statement?

Questions 2: Who do we need to include? What do we need to consider?

- What younger people want from a church. How they want to worship- what brings them to church
- Hospitality
- Concert in the park
- EVERYONE!
- Proactive in greeting
- Project team
- We need to include EVERYONE into our church

- Youth program- music?
- Connections w/ new visitors
- Everyone present is different
- Presentations to ALL
- More personal connections
- Passing of the peace (handshakes)
- Everyone. Be inclusive of all topics as we achieve and find answers and solutions. Consider “personal invitation” against general requests. Including everyone. All transparency

Questions 3: What steps do you think OUR church should be taking?

- More communication with the community outside the church.
- Strong online presence
- Again, more personal invitation/
- More small group events like “dine-out”
- Ad (publicity in daily courier) about church times etc.
- Keep online presence
- Brochure at chamber of commerce
- Dine-out: keep it for getting to know people
- Not becoming just a place to meet
- Reach-out---mission trip local or global
- Connect cards? Visitor...
- To make our church more exposed to the community
- Newspaper advertisement
- Signs outside of the church
- Concert on saturday (one time only modern music---service for younger people showing we are open to everyone
- Put out billboard along with openness at church
- Advertise
- Sign
- Concert in the park
- Contemporary music
- More proactive greeting—training

- Project teams
- Contemporary music
- Membership drive
- Weekly advertising in paper
- Send letter of welcome to new people
- More proactive in greeting use ...book
- More times to worship?
- Sunday school for adults
- What do we want to learn
- Reaching our into our neighborhood
- More visiting to shut ins and people with health problems
- Passing of the peace to each other before hymn sing or after

Question 4: What sparks your fire so that you can burn? What is something that YOU are passionate about?

- Learning about the Bible and Christian life
- Contemporary service and music
- Concert in the park
- Inclusiveness
- Being accepted.
- Being included.
- Being together with a “family” of believers.
- Inviting inactive members to become more active family member