

PASTORAL REPORT

March – April 2023

March 15, 2023 – April 12 2023 (Since last report submitted March 14, 2023)

Worship:

Led worship/preached on the following days:

- March 19, 2023- virtual and face to face worship (live stream to church FB; and Dialpad/uber); also posted on YouTube, pastors Facebook pages and church website (new system used) (spoken word for Dialpad worked; warbling for some music for Dialpad) system worked fine – Rachel led worship
- March 26, 2023- Ash Wednesday service - virtual and face to face worship (live stream to church FB; and Dialpad/uber); also posted on YouTube, pastors Facebook pages and church website (new system used) (spoken word for Dialpad worked; warbling for some music for Dialpad) system worked fine image was a little fuzzy (been this way for a few weeks) try to sharpen?
- April 2, 2023- virtual and face to face worship (live stream to church FB; and Dialpad/uber); also posted on YouTube, pastors Facebook pages and church website (new system used) (spoken word for Dialpad worked; music worked well with streaming and ok with Dialpad
- April 6, 2023- Maundy Thursday - virtual and face to face worship (live stream to church FB; and Dialpad/uber); also posted on YouTube, pastors Facebook pages and church website (new system used) (spoken word for Dialpad worked; music worked well with streaming and ok with Dialpad
- April 7, 2023- Good Friday - virtual and face to face worship (live stream to church FB; and Dialpad/uber); also posted on YouTube, pastors Facebook pages and church website (new system used) (spoken word for Dialpad worked; music worked well with streaming and ok with Dialpad
- April 9, 2023- Easter - virtual and face to face worship (live stream to church FB; and Dialpad/uber); also posted on YouTube, pastors Facebook pages and church website (new system used) (spoken word for Dialpad worked, music warbling)

Funerals:

Weddings:

Baptisms: April 2 Paisley Sager baptism

Administrative: We need to remember the Passion God has for us, and we, in turn should express our passion in faithful living.

Meetings:

- April 2 – Christian Education council meeting\
- April 2 – church and ministry meeting
- April 4 – pastoral concerns
- April 6 – transition meeting #1 with Administrator Lyndsey
- April 11 – CCC

Pastoral Care:

- Calls – 3
- Pastoral Care/Counselling – 10
- Texting using social media to connect with people in the community, in need, and outreach

Outreach:

- March 14 – SPY group for summer plans
- March 27 – discussion with Gale Dupont about community thanksgiving service on Nov 19 at 7 pm (door entrance and door locking expectations for worship)
- April 2 – handing out palms with Rachel 9 encounters with members and people from the community
- April 11 – walk in
- April 12 – walk in return
- April 12 – helping person from cantate

Theology Pub:

- April 2 – Back Porch 5 people in attendance, 2 new people, and 3 new contacts

Community Prayer Time:

- March 21 – on vacation, no community prayer time
- March 28 – on plaza, did community prayer
- April 4 – on church ramp, first attempt at community (this did not work), did second community prayer later
- April 11 – on church plaza did community prayer

Community Office Hours:

- March 16 – on vacation
- March 23 – held community office hours (2 returning contacts, 4 new contacts)
- March 30 – held community officer hours (2 returning contacts, 3 new contacts)
- April 6 – held community office hours (2 returning contacts, 1 new contact)

Fellowship Events:

- No Sunset Vespers or Messy Church for winter (further evaluation)

Informational:

- I went on vacation March 15 – 22 intentional community visit
- I will be attending the Penn Central Convocation event May 2-4
- There are some initial plans to have 2-3 events this year to feed the community. A grant has been secured to help with some of the cost for the food events. There may be some music tied in with at least one of the events
- First event June 2 – feeding the community 6 – 7:30 pm

Sabbatical:

- July 27 – Sept 6
- Second round of sabbatical, different approach to event (first year, no connections in events, second year, will have connections)
- Rachel will cover pastoral care and preach
- Lewis Burgett will assist with pastoral care when needed

Recording:

- Relevant sermons this time period
- March 26- impact vs success, Indiana trip 2023

Feedback Requested:

Would people on consistory (or people from the congregation) be interested in helping newly arrived refugee families? It could be a project that the congregation take should there be enough interest and willingness to help (concrete steps people could take to help are listed at the end of the report).

Suggested ways to help refugee families:

There are a large number of things people can do to help newly arrived refugee families. Here is a partial list:

- If people have items to donate, families will need furniture, household items and supplies for their apartment. Also can help them get items from New Life Church and New Digs. They may need help finding an apartment.
- Help getting utilities transferred into their names.
- Clothing drive. They may or may not have clothes suitable for the weather.
- Help enrolling children in school- filling out forms, going to orientation with the families
- Enroll in and making appointments with health clinics. Unless done prior to arrival (not done for the Afghan refugees), newly arrived people will need health screenings done at Sadler. It can be a couple appointments per person, includes health assessment, dental, mental health screening. (They will qualify for Medicaid, might need help with applications if not done by agency). Health clinics/doctors are required to have interpreters available, usually by phone.
- If not English speaking, enroll Adults in English as a second language courses offered free at Employment Skills Center.
- Accompany them to the grocery store. (They will qualify for SNAP, might need help with application if not done by agency)
- Enroll at Project Share and bring them for first visit. Most refugees appreciate the "Choose your own" days when they can get foods they are familiar with.
- Assistance in finding employment.
- Show them around the community- esp library, stores, schools, other places they will frequent.
- Help them get connected with others from their place or origin. The agencies try to place people where there is an established community.

- If the family has no English, the agency will supply an interpreter whenever needed, esp. for things like interviews, reviewing apartment leases, etc.
- If bicycles would be helpful, help them contact Lifecycle at New Life Church.
- Lots of transportation for all of the above.
- Driving lessons when the time comes, if you have someone willing and are still connected to the family. It is almost perfunctory for people who have driven in another country- they basically have to pass the permit test, then for the driving test, just parallel park.