

Pastor's Report Annual Meeting 2024

I was just rereading my report from last year, and my opening statement still holds true: it is hard to look back when I am always looking ahead. And in another repeat, here I am once more starting a new year recovering from Covid. Let's not make this an annual thing, okay?

Where to begin as I think back on last year? I am proud of us for continuing to participate in the Village Wide events, and the way everyone steps up to volunteer whether it's baking cookies, running a tower tour, helping with the Can-Am parade, constructing a scarecrow, or saying yes when I suggest we participate, I think it's great. And it's so fantastic that we continue to open our doors for gathering space as Thursday morning yoga continues, Tai Chi has started meeting here, and even the Paint & Sip event back in December. Looking outside our walls can only strengthen what we do for God. I am also impressed with how this small congregation continues to step up financially, in pledges and in mission work, and of course in collecting items for InterFaith, the school hygiene cupboard, and our platoon we have "adopted."

I had the honor of conducting two baptisms this year and participating in two funerals. Nothing brings to mind more the cycle of life sometimes than being with those at the start of their journey and at the end. I have continued to offer classes, Bible Studies, and book groups across varied interests for the congregation. While I don't see the numbers that would maybe hope to see, those who participate are there whole-heartedly and willing to engage in some deep and meaningful conversations. We had our first Ash Wednesday service this year, and I always look forward to these services we can offer outside of our regular Sunday mornings. I tried a potluck Maundy Thursday service this past year, and I look forward to offering it again this year.

In regards to continuing education, I attended my third and final year of Early Ministry Institute, which has led to a monthly Zoom gathering with my cohort that I look forward to every month. I attended my first year of the Credo Conference which was incredibly affirming for my call. I'm looking forward to the second and final year of that conference again this year. I've also started doing more webinars and online conversations through the denomination, the synod, and Next Church. I have taken on the role of chair of the Presbytery Nominating Committee and am excited about continuing on with my work in the presbytery in 2024.

I am so grateful that we have spent another year together, learning from each other and growing in our faith together. The road may not always be smooth, but when we travel with each other in God's love, we will always get where we need to go. I look forward to another year together.

Blessings,

Reverend Summer Sattora, Pastor