

PASTOR'S REPORT to the CONSISTORY of RICHVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 3rd, 2022

PASTORAL CARE for APRIL "By The Numbers"

- Visits/Counseling Sessions: 15
- Communion (off-site): 4
- Hospital Visits: 5
- Nursing Home Visits: 1

Christ is Risen! And we are rising with him. While we continue to experience significant fluctuations in worship attendance & other areas of participation, Holy Week activities & Easter showed a decent uptick. We posted 67 during service on Palm Sunday (with over 100 kids at the Egg Hunt, not counting their families -many of whom registered for our mailing list, etc.). Maundy Thursday (where we returned to not only in-person, but the traditional meal) had 21 participants. Good Friday was as good as some of our Pre-Covid years (with 26 worshippers). Finally, amidst scaling-back to one service on Resurrection Sunday, we were blessed by resuming a breakfast prior to worship (with over 30 people) & service itself had 72. My great thanks go out to our musicians, special volunteers, the committees & donors who helped to pull all of this together!

Since my last report, our audio/video presentations have improved & we've only experienced a couple of hiccups (some of which are to be, unfortunately, "expected" -given the challenges with constant software updates & limited equipment/staffing). We have reached new heights with our online engagement -showing a recent increase in both those who "like/follow" our various social-media platforms, but also actively watch worship engage with our posts.

At present, I have (tentatively) scheduled May 22nd to hold our New Members' Reception during worship. We will be bringing-in 4 parishioners (1 who was prepared to become a member had to move recently). We still have others in the pipeline, but I didn't want to wait any longer. Of course, the first Sunday in June (Pentecost Sunday) will be Confirmation Sunday (with the "traditional" Welcome Breakfast beforehand at 9AM -hosted by Christian Education).

Throughout Lent & since, we have continued to be blessed with a few new (& returning) worshippers. Our outreach ministries & assorted missions remain active & supported (if still altered & suffering as a consequence of the broad-ranging effects of the pandemic). Our youth are staying faithful in their own age-specific ways (but we are once again entering "one of those times of year" when extracurriculars pull the kiddos & their families in multiple directions). Much appreciation needs to be shared with with/for all who continue to undergird each program of our congregation.

Pastoral demands have been relatively "normal/routine" of late. I am currently getting back to more intensive visitation (following the annual chaos of Lent & so forth). I have been unable as yet to determine how/when I can take my vacation or Personal/Professional Development time, but they do remain top priorities.

With Summer nipping at our heels, I once more want to remind anyone with a graduate to send us their photos/information so we can celebrate their accomplishments in the days ahead. Additionally, I'm thankful for the people getting ready for VBS, Habitat, & our other seasonal programming.

As always, thank you all for your generosity & hard work, & I look forward to what The LORD will unveil & build within us.

Respectfully submitted...

All Peace, Love & Blessings; your brother & servant in Christ-Jesus,



Will Stuart (pastor)