

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

January 2nd, 2023

PASTORAL CARE for DECEMBER "By The Numbers"

- Visits/Counseling Sessions: 8
- Communion (off-site): 2
- Hospital Visits: 6
- Nursing Home Visits: 3

The new year is upon us and we continue to move forward in mission and ministry, guided by the Light of Christ!

The weather has been rather odd the last 10 days or so, and, of course, it had an impact on Christmas Eve worship. However, pleasantly, surprisingly, we still had upwards of 90 people in attendance (which was a mix of our most faithful folks, the occasional worshipper, neighborhood guests, and first time friends).

Similarly, Christmas Day was lightly attended (as it fell on a Sunday, and, well, it was Christmas). However, we still managed 20 or so people (some of whom did not make it Christmas Eve).

Along with holiday worship, we also held a number of our traditional seasonal outreach activities (collections of assorted donations, Breakfast with Santa, poinsettias and cards for other organizations, the Kids' Christmas Skit performed at The Inn, etc.) and they all seemed to have gone exceptionally well -over and against the "weirdness" that is the post-pandemic world.

Additionally, we're in the throws of planning for the new fiscal year. The reduction of my hours has been voted-upon and, while people have their (understandable) questions, as far as I'm hearing, folks "get it" and are adjusting their expectations and so-forth, accordingly. Other areas of the budget appear to be running relatively smoothly and, once again, the congregation was incredibly generous during the C.O.G.s bakesale auction (as well as toward my family and myself for Christmas).

Confirmation is now in full-swing and the kids have met a couple of times with both MaryJo and myself. We, technically, have 2 participants this year, but Charles Stuart has been coming as often as he can (since he only had a 1 year program prior to his baptism and confirmation). We have scheduled a Lock-In and Service Project for Friday and Saturday of MLK weekend, and a couple of other churches have been invited (New Way United Methodist and St. John's UCC in Massillon have already started expressing interest/giving RSVPs).

Lent is quickly chomping at our heels (Ash Wednesday is February 22nd) and I am endeavoring to take Study Leave January 27th through 30th.

Pastoral care has been pretty standard over the last few weeks (with a couple of minor "crises" here and there), and I am deeply grateful for Bonnie Willis' support in visitation!

As always, I have been overwhelmed by the dedication, faithfulness, and sacrifice of our core volunteers, officers, and staff -especially during this time of the year!

Don't forget that, next month (February 24th and 25th), we will be holding our Leadership Retreat and continue our work of Long-Range Planning (particularly regarding O & A issues).

Respectfully submitted...

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



Will Stuart (pastor)