

Pastor Sarah January 2023 Report

Happy New Year! We get to begin once again with new calendars, new balance sheets, new visions for what is to come – and I'm excited!

January was busy, but for lots of good reasons. We had meetings with the renovation team to help us move forward in that process. (we'll talk about this at another point in the meeting!) We met with our team to interview candidates for our Children & Youth ministry director position and will begin those in February. We had two beautiful baptisms! We worked on plans for lent and the coming months, and we walked together in whatever the month brought us! It was nice to be post- Christmas and still busy!

Thank you for wonderful council/leadership retreat. It was a great day of visioning and recognizing the strengths and dreams of our leaders in the church. Thank you to Sue, Bill and, Beth Ellen for the planning they put into the day. We will talk more about the plans that we can make based on those visions and move into the future with hope! Some of the main things I heard about were improving our outreach to school families and finding ways to reach the community with success like we do with the LFP and our Wednesday Dinners.

I spent 2 days in Gettysburg at Lead Pastor Training and we talked a lot about adaptive leadership – the idea that we have to adapt to our context and continue to lead with confidence and grace, both of which are important. I can't express enough how proud I am to serve as St. John's Lead Pastor after these trainings, because it makes me realize that we are a wonderful, healthy congregation that treats their pastors with love and respect. Not to compare to others, but not every church can say that, so thank you.

Items to consider:

1. Please look at the proposal from KD3 Designs. We will be talking about this with Old/New Business
2. Make plans to be part of Lent! Come to dinner – come to midweek worship – be part of the book study. Come together as we journey to the cross.