



# From the Pastor's Perspective

### Healthy Church Initiative Next Steps

#### HCI Prescriptions

We desire transformation for our church. We want to be the church that God wants us to be. We are seeking a rejuvenation of our congregation, with a future of growth and reaching new people for Jesus. We are willing to surrender all that we do as a gift to Jesus. Because of that, we have sought out the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) journey.

After praying, gathering information, and discerning together for months, our church voted at the end of June to accept the prescriptions of the HCI consultation team. Accepting the prescriptions means that we are assigned two coaches by the United Methodist Conference of MN to help guide our next two years, as well as having access to other specialized coaches for specific ministry transitions named in our prescriptions. Our goal is to be a vital congregation with renewed passion, a hunger for God, that engages new people, and that makes disciples for Jesus in new ways.

The prescription targets five areas:

1. Jubilee: Take a Sabbath year and stop doing the regular ministries, teams, and projects we normally do as a church. Also, it includes cleaning out our church building. The desire is to make capacity to discern and do God's specific work planned for us.
2. Simple, soulful worship. Invest in a worship service that is intergenerational and that grows our spiritual passion. This would mean a redesign of our worship so it engages all ages.

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### Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

August 2	6pm Community BBQ
August 3	12pm Sarah Circle 5:30pm Lobby Design Meeting 7:10pm UMC Twins Game Day
August 5	9 am United Methodist Men
August 9	6pm Community BBQ
August 10	1pm United Methodist Women 6pm SPRT Meeting
August 11	7pm YPA Peter and the Starcatcher
August 12	3pm YPA Peter and the Starcatcher 5:45pm Adult Fellowship 7pm YPA Peter and the Starcatcher
August 13	3pm YPA Peter and the Starcatcher
August 14	6:30pm Finance Team Meeting
August 16	11:30am Romeos and Juliets 6pm Neighborhood BBQ 6:30pm W.O.W.

**NEW WORSHIP TIME STARTS SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH! WE WILL BEGIN WORSHIP AT 10:00AM**

## Initial Steps

The Rev. Jim Haun and Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink will serve as our HCI coaches for the year ahead. They met with our church's HCI Leadership and Prayer teams to launch our initial steps. This includes current MLT members (Ministry Leadership Team, our current senior church leaders), staff, and other church leaders who have been involved in our HCI process.

We identified "low hanging fruit" (things that we can do easily to make a large difference) and possible conflicts and roadblocks as we begin to move into alignment with our five prescriptions (above).

We will meet again on Thurs., August 17 from 6-9 p.m. Before we meet, we are breaking down into five small task forces. Each task force is asked to meet once before the August meeting and is assigned one of the five prescriptions (above). The task force will brainstorm together ideas and ways that our congregation can live into the assigned prescription.

All of the teams will bring their ideas to the August 17 meeting, and compile an initial roadmap of what our congregation will do in the year ahead. Also at that August 17 meeting, we will form two other teams that will serve as our ongoing teams.

One is our Management Team, which will replace all the administrative teams that currently oversee our church (Resource, Finance, Trustees, LLMT, Staff-Parish, and other teams that handle regular activities). It will be made up of nine people, and meet monthly. This team will handle the daily operations of our church and work closely with staff for the ongoing life of our church.

The other team is the Implementation Action Team. This team will be about twelve people and will meet monthly or more as needed. Their job will be to receive the recommendations provided by the task forces on August 17 and work through the implementation of all the prescriptions during the year. This will mean taking a closer look at each program and ministry our church does now and assessing how we can: take a break from it for a season, make good changes to it, or continue to do it well. This process will take some time, but we hope the recommendations for our ministries will be done by our church's 50th anniversary, Sunday, December 10. Some of these we will need to do sooner rather than later, such as the worship service, the Wednesday programming, and the fall small group session. We hope to be implementing initial changes for these programs as the school year begins.

## How Can You Serve?

Those who have been serving on the HCI Leadership and Prayer teams are being asked to continue to serve on this HCI planning process. MLT has been compiling people we sense may have gifts and willingness to serve. We are also seeking anyone who may feel God's prompting to get involved to come to the August 17th meeting. We need people to serve on both of the ongoing teams.

We are also asking the HCI Prayer Team to continue, and to continue to lead us in prayer and call us to prayer during this year of Jubilee. We are asking everyone to join the daily prayer prompts (simply contact the office) and continue in prayer for our church's future.

## Long Range Plans

The intent of the HCI prescriptions is to create capacity for us to discern who God is calling us to be as a church. The Jubilee Sabbath will help us sit with Jesus so that we can hear and see what He is trying to show us.

A year from now, we expect to have a plan! We don't know what that is just yet, but we know there will be a plan! We expect major changes, changes that will be lasting and long-term. We won't simply be returning to doing what we've been doing. It'll be different. We will still Love. Grow. and Serve. We will worship together, have spiritual nurturing for all ages, and we will reach out into our communities and world as the visible love of Jesus. We will make disciples for Jesus. But HOW we do that will be different. And

August 17	6:00 pm HCI Team Meeting
August 19	6am Community Care Set-up 8am Community Care
August 20	6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
August 21	SCHOOL STARTS 6:30pm Trustees Meeting
August 23	5:30pm Food and Fellowship—meal supplied by Staff
August 27	<b>WORSHIP TIME CHANGE TO 10:00 am</b>
August 29	5:30pm Food and Fellowship—meal provided by Sanctify

## What We Need to Do Now

So, right now, I ask for us all to seek what God's will is for us. Pray. Pray for the teams that are forming. Pray for our coaches. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the changes to our regular teams, to worship, to Wednesdays, to our small groups. Surrender our church to God, being willing for it to be however God wants it to be. Commit to being involved: Sunday morning worship (if you're in town on Sunday, commit to being in worship!), Wednesday fellowship (schedule to eat and connect at church Wednesday evenings), and small groups (prepare to join one of the church-wide studies starting in September). Commit to using the time you would normally spend on other church activities to somehow serving and connecting with people in your family, neighborhood, work, and play. Expect transformation. Expect rejuvenation. Expect change. And constantly ask God, "What is your will for our church?"

Blessings,

Pastor David



# KID'S CORNER

Summer is already careening to its end!

Those of us in Forest Lake are lamenting an extra early start to the school year. Due to construction concerns and new developments the schools have planned, kids are back in the classroom come Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>! Of course, the year will balance out and come to an early end but for now, we are working to transition our church calendar to line up with the school year.

As you know, our normal Fall schedule will not look the same as it has in the past. We once used this time of year to launch new ministries and have people sign-up for classes and teams. Normally we would be looking to start up Awana again. But this is not a normal year for our church...instead of gearing up for more programs, more maintenance, and more busywork, we are instead making plans for less.

We are preparing to enter into a time of rest. This means that Sunday Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> will mark our first Sunday with no Kid's Church (**and remember, worship time changes to 10:00 a.m.!**) No longer will kids be dismissed before the sermon, but rather they will become an integral part of our Sunday mornings. We want our worship services to take on a more inter-generational nature. We want to be able to minister to whole families together!

This is no small feat (it's why most churches separate kids and adults), and it will require our church leaders to think differently. However, we believe that one of the main strengths of our church is its ability to house and care for all ages. We have a strong family feel already and we are looking to fully live into this strength so that we are able to offer this type of experience to our community.

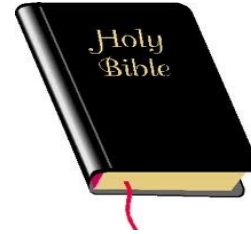
This family focus is also the impetus behind our Wednesday nights. Before, we were committed to a program and had to maintain a tight schedule. But no longer will people have to rush to a classroom or blow by each other with nothing more than a quick wave. Now, we can take time to develop relationships, learn more about each other and actually exist together as a family. Now we have the chance to really open up the storehouses of imagination to make Wednesday nights fun and engaging for the whole family. Now, kids can spend time with older folks in a life-giving way. They can learn without sitting in a class. Church can become fun for all! We will begin each night with a meal and move into a time of activity that will vary from week to week. Maybe we will be creating crafts one week and playing games the next. Maybe we will be spending time outside one week and learning a new skill the next. There are endless possibilities, which mean we will be able to multiply our ability to minister to others!

God is calling us to rest. He is calling us to make disciples. He is calling us to slow down and create time to lead by example, to talk about faith with one another, to worship him in Spirit and in Truth. It's a simple idea, some may say it is too simple, but ministry does not have to be complicated to be successful. There is a simplicity that we have been missing. God is calling us from distraction so that we can step fully into a culture of discipleship that includes us all.

For the King,

Andrew

# Worship's Word



*"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

*Psalm 118:24*

Life is full of its ups and downs, twists and turns. Sometimes you hit a home run and sometimes you get beamed by a curve ball. There is no telling what each day will bring; but success or failure are only circumstances, they will change tomorrow. What is unchanging and iron clad is God's presence and promise to us. We are called his children, we are gifted with his Holy Spirit. Life will get the best of us at times. We will feel the pangs of sadness and anger, doubt and grief, but underneath the surface of emotional storms lays a bedrock of joy.

We have joy because God has saved us from the clutches of death. We have joy because we are able to live in fellowship with Him. We have joy because we know that we will never be forsaken. Joy is a product of the Spirit who dwells within us. It is not a fleeting happiness or a faint hope. It is a rushing river that flows from the throne of God! Jump in! Be refreshed!

Many of us have known the blessing of this cool, clean river, but many of us have also left it behind thinking it was just a temporary experience; something that was bound to fade. I believe God has called our church to a time of Jubilee so that we can rest, we can regroup and refocus, but I believe that this is also a time for us to reclaim our joy. It's a time to remember who we are and to whom we belong.

We are going to introduce a new song to our worship time. It's a new chorus for us, the people of God, to sing. We sing it in praise to God, but we also sing it as a reminder to each other: "There is joy in the Lord, there is love in His Spirit, there is hope in the knowledge of Him."

No matter my circumstances, it is a good day to be alive because I serve the living God who might not always see to my happiness, but he guarantees that I will always have a reason to rejoice!

## Events and Info

### Adult Fellowship

August 12th at 5:45 pm. Watch for the signup sheet in the lobby.

### Romeo's and Juliet's

August 16th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come; watch for updates on locations.

### A Call to Prayer

Forest Hills is a place of prayer! We want to move where the Lord is leading by asking, "God, what is Your call for us?" To do that, we need everyone seeking God together. To receive daily prayer prompts on your phone simply text your name and number to [612-200-4421](tel:612-200-4421).

### Community BBQ

Community Barbeques start this Wednesday at 6pm, and will continue throughout the month of August. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

### Community Care

Saturday August 19th 8 am - 11 am

### Lifeline Sunday August 20th 6:30 pm

Sometimes God can feel distant and it seems like we are alone. If you are weary and disconnected, come and seek God's presence. Lifeline is a simple gathering of prayer and praise. Come and be filled!