



THE PASTOR'S NOTEBOOK

From the Desk of Pastor Garret

Summer is a time of great joy and relaxation! I hope that you are able to find that and feel rejuvenated heading into the fall. Of course, finding rest and rejuvenation in the summer is not a given, and my prayer is that whatever season of life you are in this summer, God will give you strength, purpose, and direction about your work and life.

To be honest, the ministry at Lynnwood slows down considerably during the summer months. While things slow down, there is a variety of ways in which we are planning for the ministry year ahead. One of the major projects being worked on is the goals the Design Team created in line with our congregational values based on the Appreciative Inquiry we did last November.

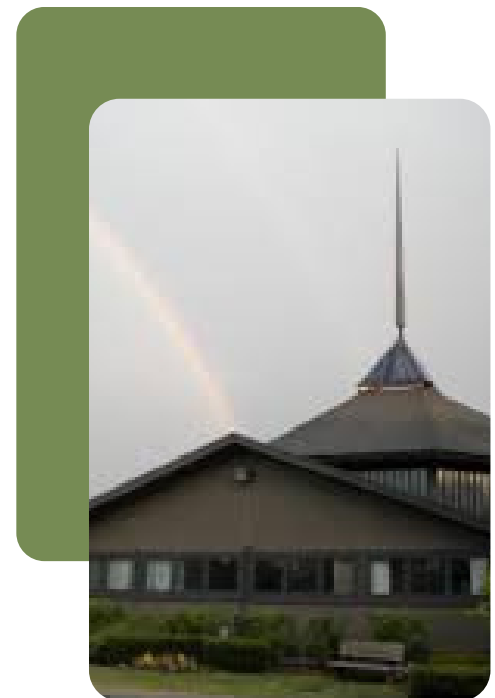
At a congregational meeting in early May we gathered in the sanctuary to hear those goals presented by the design team. After the goals were presented, each person was asked to sign up to support at least one of the goals. Perhaps you remember this because you did the exact same thing. Perhaps you don't because you were not able to attend.

Whatever the case, I want to put those goals in front of you again to remind us all of those goals, and the work that we are committed to doing in the coming months and year.

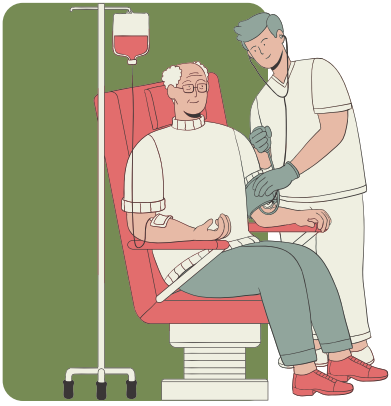
The complete Appreciative Inquiry report is listed at the very end of this Newsletter, and I encourage you to read through it in order to become familiar with our values and our goals for the near future.

If you would like to participate in the work that will be done, you can reach out to me or a member of the design team for more information.

Thank you for your love, care, and support of Lynnwood's ministry! I am looking forward to the work we will do together and where God will lead us!



UPCOMING EVENTS



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Red Cross will be holding a blood drive in the Fellowship Center on September 19th at 1:00 pm. Please sign up online, and help them with their mission to save lives! This blood drive will be held in honor of those who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001.

BROOKS' BBQ

Hurry and place your order! Brooks' BBQ is coming back to Lynnwood on Thursday, August 24th! Volunteer sign-ups are available in the Narthex. Please note: there are 2 sign-up sheets, 1 for day-of volunteers and 1 for brownie bakers. Thank you in advance for your participation and all of your hard work!



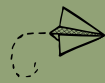
JUNK IN THE TRUNK

The Buy Nothing group is holding another Junk-in-the-Trunk here at Lynnwood! The event will be held in the sanctuary parking lot on Saturday, August 12th, at 1:00 pm. If you would like to be a part of this event, please follow the Buy Nothing group on Facebook and fill out their short "Group Member" questionnaire.

GOSPEL MUSIC SING

Jean La Crosse is holding Lynnwood's first ever Gospel Music Sing! This event will take place at Lynnwood on August 16th, at 6:00 pm. Jean will be providing some light snacks and refreshments!





MESSAGES



BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES

Your Building and Property Team is seeking referrals for commercial painting contractors to paint our church exterior. If you are aware of qualified contractors, please send their names and a brief description of your experience with them to Mark Watson at mwatson204@verizon.net. Thanks!



PRAYER SHAWL

Prayer Shawl Ministry is taking a break for the summer and resuming in the Fall.

It was wonderful to see most of you for our last meeting, especially Jean Anderson. Keep knitting those prayer shawls! Feel free to set up a knitting/crocheting time, maybe outside, to enjoy God's beautiful world. If your schedule permits, a meeting on a deck or porch would be wonderful, even if just a handful of people can attend. Enjoy your summer.



FROM THE OFFICE

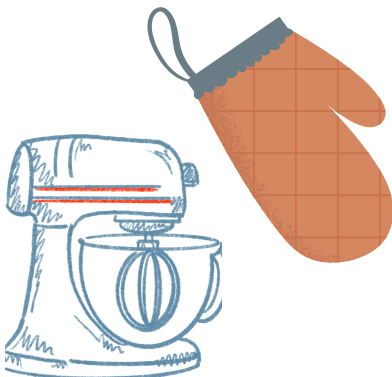
Pastor Garret will be on vacation from Friday, July 28th through Saturday, August 12th. He will be back from Sunday, August 13th - Thursday, August 17th and leave again from August 18th - August 26th. Additionally, Pastor Garret will be unavailable and out of the office Monday, August 28th until Tuesday, September 5th for continuing education. He will not be in attendance for service on Sunday, September 3rd.



GUILDERLAND FOOD PANTRY

The Guilderland Food Pantry has reached out to Lynnwood for help! They are currently in need of items, and are looking for donations, especially cake mix, brownie mix and muffin mix. Donations can be brought to the church office or dropped off at the Guilderland Food Pantry at 4 Charles Blvd, Guilderland, NY 12084.

Thank you all in advance!



THE MISSION TEAM THANKS YOU ALL!

Greetings Lynnwood,

It is with great joy that I am able to report a very successful response to the Summer Youth Adventure at the Schenectady City Mission.

As it turned out, with you and your generosity,

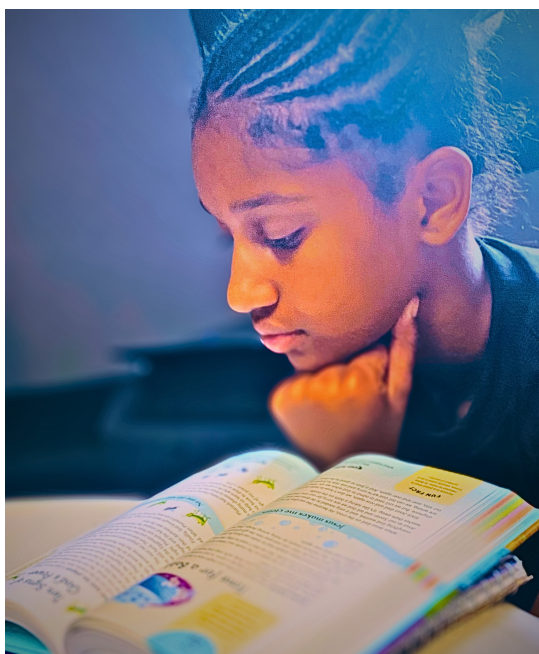
we were able to present a check for \$848.00 this week. Congratulations!!!

The Daily Devotionals are a big hit with the children and staff.

This is what they said:



"Each day we are so grateful for our devotionals. The children in our camp get the opportunity to read about Jesus. They read, listen and learn practical lessons for life and about how they fit into the plan of God. It is awesome to see how they all light up when they pick up their very own copy of the devotional. The look of excitement on the youth to see what new lesson is to be introduced daily is beautiful. My class is called the Master My Mind group.



This group is comprised of youths ages 12 and 13. Each day they race to read first! God is really moving on their hearts. Thank you so much for this blessing of the gospel. What a blessing it has been to have these devotionals and your partnership in putting these in the hands and hearts of little children. There is no greater joy!!!!!!!"

From Angela Williams,
City Mission of Schenectady

Sincerely,
Peg Kniskern
For the Mission Team

TECH TEAM UPDATES

Spring Barbecue

The 3rd Annual Tech Team barbecue was held at the Satterly's home on June 15th. With help from very cooperative weather, the group enjoyed a barbecue-style social with lots of food and fellowship. Thanks to all for attending and contributing generously with food.



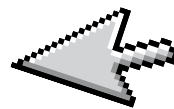
Tech Team group photo at Satterly's

Going and Coming

Going - We salute our two graduating high school seniors Andrew Comparetta and Lexi Pris and thank them for their service with the team. You will be missed but always welcome to join us when on breaks from college.

Coming - Welcome aboard Emily Conti and Nick Comparetta. The Tech Team is delighted to have Lynnwood's new Office Manager Emily Conti, join our team. As weekly producer of the screen graphics, Emily is automatically on the team. We also give thanks to Jan Mason for helping to bring Emily up to speed so quickly with graphics software training along with everything else Emily had to learn. Janith is still on the team and will operate graphics from time to time.

Nick Comparetta joins us as the newest team member. In his first week, he began running the video switcher. We welcome both Emily and Nick.



Nick Comparetta (center) at the video station.
Ken Klapp and Gail Mihalik look on.

Internet Connection Repairs

Last month a repair was made to the church's Internet connection which was necessary for live streaming. During April and the first part of May, we were dogged by internet interruptions which were the result of a failing, aged internet router. The router has been replaced. Clinton Smith has since been replacing Wi-Fi access transmitters for the entire church because there have been several problems with them as well. Thank you, Clinton!

Skills Sharpening

"Refresher" sessions are held occasionally to sharpen skills with performing the audio and video work. Audio continues to challenge all of us with changes in the audio mix each week, but we are improving these skills. If you are just curious about how we operate on Sunday mornings, you are welcome to just sit in without signing up for the team. Contact Neil

Sanctuary Audio Upgrades

After considering many options, we are finalizing our list of audio hardware upgrades. In the coming months we will be collaborating with Pastor Garret, Worship, Choir and Jean Lacrosse, and Building & Property teams on the Sanctuary Upgrades which you are reading about separately. This work will take us into the late Summer and early Fall. There will be much to report on as we make progress. Follow this link to read more about this: <https://www.lynnwoodreformed.org/sanctuary-techaudio-upgrades>

Summer months

The team doesn't take the summer off, and we ask that wherever your summer travels take you, you will continue to join worship via livestream and check in with "hellos" on the Facebook chat line.

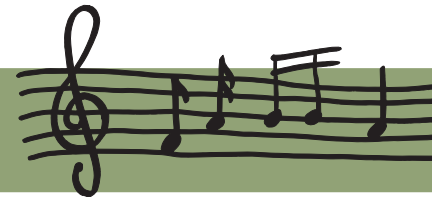
Join us online with Facebook or YouTube all summer! Need help getting connected? Call the church office or email nmsatterly@gmail.com



SUBMITTED BY NEIL SATTERLY



LYNNWOOD MUSIC



COLOSSIANS 3:16

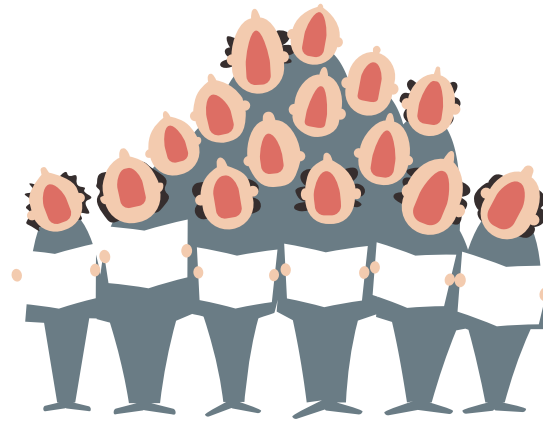
LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY,
TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER. IN ALL
WISDOM, SINGING PSALMS AND HYMNS AND
SPIRITUAL SONGS, WITH THANKFULNESS IN YOUR
HEARTS TO GOD.



PRaise BAND



CHORUS



CONGREGATIONAL SINGING



**SUBURBAN SOUNDS
community chorus**



INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE



KIDS SING

We welcome your participation!

JEAN LA CROSSE, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MUSIC

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HARRY COTON JR.



Harry Coton JR.
1927-2023

Coton, Harry P. Jr.

LAKELAND, Fla. - Harry Painter Coton Jr., 95 of Lakeland, Fla., died on Friday, July 21, 2023, at Good Shepherd Hospice in Lakeland, Fla.

He was born on September 4, 1927, in Schenectady, the son of Harry Painter Coton Sr. and Elsie D. Rossler Coton. Harry was a member of Lakeland Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, and was a charter member of Lynnwood Reformed Church in Schenectady, where he served as elder, deacon, treasurer, and on many committees.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy Reserve as a seaman first class. Following his service, he entered the General Electric Apprentice Course in Schenectady, where he trained and later worked in the Turbine Generator Department as a drafting supervisor until his retirement. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Florence Spooner, on the Bride and Groom Radio Show in Hollywood. They were married until her unexpected death in 1971.

He later married Milena Mikulcik and they enjoyed many happy years together until Milena passed in 2014. Five years ago, in a civil ceremony, Harry married Harlene Verkler. Always active in his community, Harry was instrumental in starting both Lynnwood Reformed Church and the Fort Hunter Fire Department in the Fort Hunter community on the outskirts of Schenectady. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and sang with the SPEBSQSA barbershop chorus in both Schenectady and Lakeland. Harry was also an avid traveler and visited 23 countries with his wife, Milena.

Harry had a love of the outdoors, especially the Adirondacks. He enjoyed camping and canoeing with his family and friends and volunteered to take kids on weeklong canoe trips out of Camp Fowler, a Reformed Church camp in Speculator, N.Y. He enjoyed golfing and snow skiing into his 80s.

In his retirement, he volunteered with Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM) and at his residence, The Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wives, Florence Spooner Coton and Milena Mikulcik Coton. He is survived by his wife, Harlene Verkler, and her children; his children, William H. Coton (Donna), Terry L. Schell (R. Daniel), and Edward Mikulcik (Connie); five grandchildren, Heather L. Coton (Scott Keller, deceased), Matthew A. Coton (Raianna), Rebecca R. Rockwell (Edward), Jessica B. Anderson (Christopher), and Elizabeth Mikulcik (Matthew Ames); and 10 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in the Lynnwood Reformed Church in Schenectady on Saturday, September 16, at 1 p.m. Harry will be interred in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. The family requests that any donations be made to Lynnwood Reformed Church or the Fort Hunter Fire Company.

Published by Albany Times Union on Aug. 6, 2023.

Report of the

LYNNWOOD REFORMED CHURCH

Appreciative Inquiry
Design Team

~ ~ ~

Design Team Members:

Shannon Comparetta	Carol Lynch
Jane Domaracki, PhD	Lexi Pris
Michael Hall	Lou Smith, MD
Sandra Lundstedt	

Facilitator:

The Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck, MDiv, DSW, LCSW
Coordinator of Clergy and Congregational Care
The Samaritan Counseling Center of the Capital Region

Lynnwood Reformed Church

Design Team Report, May 2023

The Core Values of Lynnwood Reformed Church as discerned at the Congregational Discovery Summit in November, 2022

CORE VALUE 1

Being an Inclusive/Welcoming Community where all can belong

CORE VALUE 2

Vibrant, Dynamic, Relevant worship experiences that encourage congregational participation

CORE VALUE 3

Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth for youth and all ages

CORE VALUE 4

Missions, Service, and Community Outreach.

GOAL 1 - Invitational Congregational Volunteering

Within 6 months, Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its Core Value of *“Being an Inclusive/Welcoming community where all can belong”* by inviting the congregation to take part in monthly/seasonal events at the church to encourage people to deepen relationships with one another.

Rationale and Benefits: We want members of Lynnwood Church to be intentionally invited to participate in ways that they may have not considered participating in before. Too often it is the same people doing the same events the same way as they have always done. Individuals who participate in this goal will express gifts they have and areas where they would like to volunteer, and the Fellowship Team will work to connect and foster those interactions.

EXAMPLES:

- Soliciting donations for a meal
- Coming up with activities and crafts for an event
- Helping to organize an event
- Coordinating music for an event
- Event outreach

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS: This will be primarily measured by the number of congregation members who are newly invested in contributing to these events as well as the number of congregation members who attend.

GOAL 2 - Audiology Accessibility

Within 6 months Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its Core Value of *“Being an Inclusive/Welcoming community where all can belong”* by forming an **audio accessibility task force** to investigate how Lynnwood can be more inclusive to those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Rationale and Benefits: Increased accessibility and inclusivity was noted in the dreams of the congregation. This goal emerged in discussion about meeting needs that other churches may not already provide that can help the congregation live into its core value in a unique, innovative way.

EXAMPLES:

- Signing up for an initial meeting to participate on the task force
- Forming a group to start learning ASL; learning a common blessing or greeting to use in service for all
- Researching other churches and places that use ASL and other audio accessible resources (i.e. [T-Coils](#))
- Reaching out to the RCA or Classis for disability justice and inclusion [resources](#)
- Connecting with SCCC with their ASL program to learn about best practices

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the number of people who sign up to participate in the initial meeting and the potential ideas that are brought up in the meeting.

GOAL 3 - Intentional Visitor Welcome and Engagement

Within 6 months Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its Core Value of “Being an Inclusive/Welcoming community where all can belong” by developing a system to actively welcome visitors and reach out to the visitors after attendance.

Rationale and Benefits: This goal is not about growing the number of visitors but connecting individuals with gifts of hospitality and welcome to a more intentionally crafted model of engagement in order to help those who are visiting to see the connection. Individuals working with this goal would work alongside and support the deacons in an intentional way.

EXAMPLES:

- Develop and serve on a “visitor welcome and engagement team”
- Individuals who create welcome gifts such as homemade bread/baked goods, handcrafted cards, etc, who can donate these items to help provide an intentional welcome.
- Volunteering to serve as a “coffee hour ambassador”-wear a nametag, host by announcing upcoming events, be the “point person” for any guests or visitors.
- Developing a QR code for the bulletin and tracking individuals who use the link to sign up for more information

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the number of participants that play a role in the design and execution of the plan.

GOAL 4 - Expanding Congregational Missions

Within 12 months, Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its Core Value of “*missions, service, and community outreach*” by organizing **four**

events and intergenerational opportunities for service outside in the greater community (city mission, food pantry, meals).

Rationale and Benefits: Different from Goal 1 which focused on intentional invitations to participate in ongoing, internal church activities, this goal focuses energy on the expressed dreams of the congregation to serve missionally outside of the church. This goal will help provide a space for individuals to feel rooted in a congregation that shares their values of missional outreach, as well as supporting those who feel called to this work but may not be able to go out into the community as easily.

EXAMPLES:

- Coordinating with your work place to host a service opportunity
- Calling different groups where you can volunteer (who might you have connections with?)
- Organize a meal for after an event for volunteers
- Providing a vehicle or tools to use in the event(do you have a truck? Lawn tools?)
- Reaching out to the immigrant community to see what their needs are.

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the number of people that agree to lead these events as well as a representative sample of ages that attend.

GOAL 5 - Intergenerational Retreat Planning

Within 12 months, Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its core value of *“Faith formation and spiritual growth for youth and all ages”* by offering a intergenerational retreat.

Rationale and Benefits: Faith formation and resources for our youngest folks was an expressed dream among many congregants. However, we want our youth to feel just as much a part of the congregation as anyone else. This goal focuses on developing an event (and following it through!) that fosters intergenerational connections between individuals of all ages.

EXAMPLES:

- Serve on a planning team to organize the retreat
- Organize games, materials needed
- Donate supplies, food, at a tent you might have, that could be an activity that could be done together
- Volunteer to drive! Many folks may not want to drive to Camp Fowler or beyond. A personal invitation to include as many individuals as possible is important!
- Liaison with Camp Fowler.

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the number of people scheduling and planning the retreat. This will also be measured by the number of people who attended the retreat as well as the feedback received after the retreat.

GOAL 6 - Improved Campus Utilization and Connection

Within 2 years, Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its Core Value of “*missions, service, and community outreach*” by increasing the utilization of Lynnwood Reformed Church facility, property and resources to benefit the community. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Schools
- Government agencies
- Missional organizations
- CPR Class
- Warming/cooling Facility
- Community Garden

Rationale and Benefits: This goal aims to collectively as a congregation model the values that are seen in partnering and investing in our community through offering the resource of space. This, in turn, helps Lynnwood be seen as a church partner where connection to the broader community is valued.

EXAMPLES:

- If you need to host an event for your work, have it here!
- Knowledge of groups that need space to meet
- Liaison with schools and government officials to host events
 1. After-school tutoring, childcare?
 2. Blood-drives, community resource hubs?
 3. Small non-profit organizations needing office space
- Acting as a building host on evenings when the building is heavily in use (being a way-finder, opening/closing the building, etc)

Measurement of Success: Number of points of connection made; future community partners developed; volunteers to assist.

GOAL 7 - Community Group Development

Within 6-12 months, Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into all of its Core Values by offering a variety of small groups that meet the wants and needs of the congregation as identified by surveying the congregation.

Rationale and Benefits: Just like the Appreciative Inquiry process has helped Lynnwood identify its expressed values (its Core Values) and the things the congregation would like to see more of (through its dreaming), this goal aims to develop relevant, intentional community groups based around the interests of the community. After the Faith Formation Team completes a congregational survey, participation in this goal could look like the following examples.

EXAMPLES:

- Volunteer to facilitate a small group about a common interest.
 1. Cooking together/ “Dinners-for-eight”
 2. Craft circle
 3. Musical groups (drum circles, jam sessions)
 4. Book study
 5. Hunting club

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the number of ideas that are contributed.

- Developing and executing a survey
- Facilitate a small group based on feedback
- Ongoing activities or single activities

GOAL 8 - Increased Missional Opportunities

Within 6-9 months Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its Core Value of “missions, service and community outreach” by researching two possible mission trips to ascertain the interest of the congregation.

Rationale and Benefits: Lynnwood has demonstrated an understanding of the value of mission trips throughout the past decade. Participants have returned with a sense of having been God’s hands in the world and have gained an increased understanding of those culturally different from themselves. In alignment with these values, this goal aims to offer opportunities for additional congregational participation in a mission trip.

EXAMPLES:

- Reach out to partner organizations for needs that align with our congregation (RCA Global Missions, World Renew, etc)
 1. Forming a prayer team
 2. Hosting a fundraiser
 3. Participation on the mission trip

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the presentation of the mission trip to the congregation and number of individuals who participate in gathering and presenting information.

GOAL 9 - Alternative and Diverse Worship

Within 12 months Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its Core Value of *“Providing vibrant, dynamic, and relevant worship experiences that encourage congregational participation”* by piloting alternate (forms/style and times) opportunities for worship outside and within the Sunday service.

Rationale and Benefits: Worship is often seen as the cornerstone of the church. Yet, those that do not display traditional talents like singing or preaching or participate as Consistory members might feel like outsiders. This goal aims to be intentional about recruiting those who might represent alternative styles of worship to be included.

EXAMPLES:

- Individuals who are interested in learning to preach (drama ministry, preaching, elder training, leading liturgy and prayer)
- Individuals who want to bake for communion
- Individuals who play different musical instruments to be included in
- worship (strings, percussion, etc)

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the participation in the alternative opportunities.

GOAL 10 - Learning in Community

Within 6 months Lynnwood Reformed Church will live into its core value of “Faith formation and spiritual growth for youth and all ages” by providing educational opportunities such as bible study, sermon talk backs, book clubs etc. for all ages.

Rationale and Benefits: A Sunday morning sermon does not always lend itself the depth of teaching that helps individuals feel connected to Scripture and community. This goal aims to create smaller, more connected spaces where individuals can grow together in depth; forming community where people can ask questions.

EXAMPLES:

- Volunteer to host a book club/study group
- Baking for a meeting
- Lead a book club/ study group
- Book Suggestions

Measurement of Success: This will be measured by the participation and age range for the given opportunities.