

Annual Report of the Lead Pastor for 2021

Roman Catholic priest and spiritual writer Henri Nouwen wrote “Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.” The ups and downs of life with Covid continued in 2021. It would have been easy to give in to anxiety and frustration, but I chose joy.

I am happy to be healthy. I am happy to be a part of this faith community. I am happy with our congregation’s generosity and patience and adaptability. I am happy with our staff and key volunteers and leaders who serve so faithfully. I am happy with our discontent to continue to strive forward in mission and ministry.

We are so blessed to be the church in this time and place. I am so thankful for all of you and hope you experience joy in knowing Christ and the power of his resurrection.

In August I was able to take a mini-sabbatical to reflect on our ministry together in a post-Covid world. In the book, [The Post-Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation](#), writer Thom Rainer identifies 6 post-pandemic directions the church should engage; find new ways to gather, seizing the digital opportunities, connecting locally, encouraging prayer, reimagining facilities, and making lasting changes that make a difference. Our newest Strategic Plan is addressing many of these opportunities.

Another learning for me was the idea of creating a yearlong theme to focus the congregation and give direction to our ministry. 2022 will be the year we learn how to “Live Like Jesus.” This year look for worship, learning, and spiritual events to help you and your family live like Jesus.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Jack Horner