

## LOVE IN ACTION – APRIL UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Congregational Study focus groups held last fall. Session identified three immediate areas of focus and formed teams to make plans and engage the congregation.

We are energized about how, together, we can take some bold steps in action, and see where God is leading us. Part 1 is framed to go through August 31, and then we will regroup to plan for the next phase. At Session, this will be a regular agenda item at our monthly meetings. The initiative teams will meet each month to put the plans in place. Look for monthly communications with updates and information on how to get involved.

For questions or comments please reach out to the team leaders listed below.

### Faith Development Initiative

Team lead: Mike Guerriero, [mike@dischounds.com](mailto:mike@dischounds.com)

**Goal: Intentional Faith Development is our Journey of Faith towards becoming the people God wants us to be.** Christian Education gives us the context and background to help us understand this calling. We learn what it means to be a follower of Christ by taking the Next Faithful Step.

#### Recommended Actions

- Involving children and youth more in worship, for their faith development and to remind adults that we all grow throughout our Journeys.
  - On one Sunday in both June and July children would be in worship instead of Sunday School/Jam. This leads into family friendly worship in August.
  - Simple one page handouts (such as a word/image find) could help keep younger ones engaged – they would relate to the scripture readings in worship.
  - This could continue on a consistent basis after August
- Regular coordination between the directors of each main area (Nursery, Sunday School, Youth, Adult Education) on how they are supporting the vision of our Journey of Faith.
- Consistent and clear signage (posters) should be put up to reinforce the vision:
  - Journey of Faith
  - What is the Next Faithful Step?

### Service & Outreach Initiative

Team lead: Elizabeth Guman, [ecguman@gmail.com](mailto:ecguman@gmail.com)

**Goal: Serving God by serving our neighbors and to engage more of our congregation in the faith practice of service.** We plan to learn about our local neighbors—where has God placed our church and what are the needs in the community that surrounds us?

#### Recommended Actions

- Prayer walk – Walk and pray. Come back and share – what did we notice?
- Neighborhood social event—just to get to know our neighbors. Be very conscious that this is like inviting a neighbor over to a cookout—not with an ulterior motive to get them to come to church. (Not on Sunday.)
- Learn about our local neighbors

- Statistics – who lives around us?
- Interviews – learn about our neighbors, Boro Council rep for our area, Police, etc.
- Neighborhood or community service opportunity – (part of Summer Campaign). For example – collecting food for the food cupboard. Maybe even flyers and we’ll come pick it up. (Invite Bucket School families to participate.) – Maybe raised beds for produce for the Food Cupboard?

## **Worship Initiative**

Team lead: Kathy Westhafer, [Westhafer@christianacare.org](mailto:Westhafer@christianacare.org)

**Goal: Providing a variety of engaging and authentic worship opportunities that connects with worshipers in our community today.** In the Congregational Study conversations, many people expressed an appreciation and desire for different opportunities to engage in worship.

### **Recommended Actions**

- Worship-focused “Town Hall” meetings to let people know what was heard during the Congregational Study meetings and ask specific questions about the feedback.
- Session is reading Tom Long’s book *Beyond the Worship Wars*. We invite everyone in the congregation to read along with us!
- Review of documents with statistics to gain a deeper understanding about who is attending worship in our church, our presbytery and across the country.