Good afternoon Wallenpaupack Church, my name is Mike De Vito and I am the Next-Gen Pastor here at Wallenpaupack Church. Over the last year we have seen so many things to be grateful for. We have created places for whole families to come together on a Sunday morning, in fellowship opportunities and community outreach events. It has been a blessing to watch adults, teenagers and children learn more about what we do, who we serve and why we do it at Wallenpaupack Church. I believe as we follow Jesus and others see that light, we have the opportunity to share what He has done in our lives and create a space where they can find life in their own relationship with God.

This year’s highlights show us creating that space and welcoming people to a deeper walk with Jesus.

* Partnered with Hawley Downtown Partnership for Winterfest, Movies in the Park and hosted fun games for kids at Hawley Hoe-Down
* We hosted a Drop and Shop where over 25 kids had a full day of crafts and games while their parents were able to take a break and finish holiday tasks.
* Fellowship events such as Faith and Family Hockey Nights and a baseball game
* Easter started two WallyKids Services, so our children could have a more engaging time by offering different service times to spread out the attendance numbers.
* Substantial growth in leaders in WallyKids and Youth Group to cover the need for two WallyKids services.
* Largest Easter Egg Hunt in the area with 10,000 eggs and over 300 kids signed up.
* A hugely successful Vacation Bible School, the Wallenpaupack School district able to bus over 40 kids to our program, over 60 total kids at VBS and a strong team of over 30 volunteers helping to make it such a great time for the kids.
* New youth leaders and now youth lead worship at our meetings on Tuesday
* We were able to take 14 teenagers to see Big George Foreman in theaters. It is a Christian film that spoke to resilience and paired with the lesson I was teaching.
* A consistent Saturday Morning Teen Bible Study that is giving an opportunity to grow deeper but studying The Word of God and growing in understanding it better.
* Partnering with the school for another amazing Trunk or Treat. We had almost 50 trunks signed up and even in the rain we had a great time with so many families!!

It has been so amazing to watch our church family grow over the last year and to create places for them to connect, serve and get deeper. It brings me so much joy to see the connections of families in church, but also so many that want to connect at events and even staying after church to let their kids play on our playground. We are excited continue to build these relationships and deepen that walk with Jesus for our families.

* Researching a new WallyKids curriculum, so our leaders can help build a strong biblical foundation and showing the love that Jesus has for each and every child.
* Our first every winter retreat for our middle and high schoolers. Where they can grow in understanding of God’s word and relate with other student to deepen their faith.
* Create a welcoming space in our newly renovated basement for Youth Group but also as a meeting area for teens on Sunday morning.
* Youth Mission Training in partnership with Touch the World
* Youth Mental Health Awareness training for our volunteer leaders
* Training for our leaders in classroom management and relationship building.

I am beyond grateful to be walking in my calling, to support families, kids, and teenagers in their own personal walks with Jesus. To be doing this at Wallenpaupack Church is a blessing and to have the support and relationship of so many that are here today but also call Wallenpaupack Church their home. I can’t say thank you enough for your support and your helping hands. I’m beyond excited to see how God will work thorough each of us in the next year.

Thank you, Wallenpaupack Church Family,

Mike De Vito