

Over the last year, we have seen so many things to be grateful for and it has been amazing watching God work in so many lives here at Wallenpaupack Church. This is in part because we have intentionally created places for whole families to come together on Sunday mornings, and a place for students on Tuesday evenings as well as other opportunities to connect with each other and their leaders. 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. I believe as we follow Jesus others will see that light. We then have the opportunity to share what He has done in our lives by creating spaces where they can find new 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.

- Moved our WallyKids 3rd, 4th and 5th graders down to our finished basement. Our WallyRoots High Schoolers have been able to use this space on Tuesday evenings also and it has been great to see full couches during WallyKids and WallyRoots!!
- Our leaders have walked with our WallyKids and WallyRoots to guide them toward a relationship with their creator. This has led to questions from the kids about their faith, support in times of trouble, prayer, and reading the bible more. Many kids have stepped out in faith and been baptized! For all of these steps, we are so blessed to guide each of them in their journey.
- Researched and picked a whole family kids curriculum from Grow, it has helped foster relationships with not just our Kindergarten through Seniors in High School but also their parents.
- 12 Students participated in our first Winter Youth Retreat at Spruce Lake. Along with 4 leaders, we had a great three days away. During this time away, 2 of our students rededicated their lives to Jesus. This year we watched them step into a deeper walk with God from it!
- Our average attendance since switching back to 2 services has been 60 kids in our WallyKids Sunday Mornings. On November 3rd we had 73 kids total, this is the highest attendance we have seen in WallyKids ever.
- WallyRoots divided into 2 groups this year. We now have Middle School and High School groups on Tuesday evenings. This led to 6 new leaders to help with our Tuesday night youth group.

- Grateful for some members of the church allowing us to have a Super Bowl party for our students. We were able to host over a dozen kids. We had a great time of fellowship, continued relationship-building, and fun!
- The teen worship team has been blessed and encouraged to use this space for our worship on Tuesday evenings. They are even recruiting other teens to play with them. We have watched this become a place for the students to utilize their spiritual gifts and grow in their faith!
- The WallyRoots survey that was filled out by 25 kids allowed me to plan a summer packed with fun events to connect with the students, even away from meeting weekly. This survey also allowed our leaders to press into the areas where our teens needed guidance and allowed our lesson plans to equip them in spiritual disciplines they wanted to grow.
- Summertime with WallyRoots was a blast! It included bonfires, games, hiking, cooking out, ice cream social, and we had an amazing trip for 11 students to Point Pleasant Beach. We had a great summer connecting with our students in some NEW ways.
- During September with back to school, we kicked off our regular WallyRoots on Tuesday evenings again! We have been off to a great start to a new school year. We got back together with 25 students in total. This includes 7 brand new 6th graders in our group!

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 grow deeper in their faith. It brings me so much joy to see the connections of families in the church and the comfort these families have through the building of relationships and trust. It is exciting to continue to build these relationships and deepen that walk with Jesus for our families.

I am beyond grateful for this past year and all that God called me to do. To support families, kids, and teenagers in their walks with Jesus has been a huge blessing, along with the support of so many of you here. The relationships God has blessed me with here at Wallenpaupack Church have been a gift to me. I can't say thank you enough for your support and your helping hands. I'm beyond grateful for all of the leaders who have helped guide and love our families. Without each of you, our WallyKids and WallyRoots ministries would not be flourishing as they are now. I am also grateful for all our WallyKids and WallyRoots students and their families. Each one of them is a gift that I

am grateful I've had the opportunity to steward as well as be a part of their lives as they've grown in their walks with Jesus.

Thank you, Wallenpaupack Church Family,

Mike De Vito