

Annual Pastoral Report 2023

Dear friends,

When I began my sabbatical 18-months ago I felt very deeply that God was calling me to a season of rest. The purpose of this rest was to recharge and delight in God and his many blessings. Through that time I began to establish rhythm that I had not held before and have worked diligently to sustain them. God was saying, “We need to prepare for what I am about to do.” While I was expectant of a move of God, I never expected what he has unleashed at Wallenpaupack Church in the past 12-months.

- Our church-wide study of Experiencing God opened our eyes to how God could move if we would join Him in the work he was already doing.
- In February we were overwhelmed by the manifest presence of God as we baptized 24 people in a single service, with many more making decisions in the following months.
- Sunday attendance increased so much that we had to expand to 3 services on Easter to meet the growing needs for space.
- Our expanding congregation led us to hire 2 new staff members to support the continued growth. Cissie Kolk as Director of Operations and Helen Kelly as Small Groups Pastor
- We mobilized a team of 18 people to serve the people of Dublin Ireland for 10 days. In the process we baptized 2 Irish and 3 Americans. 3 of those team members have stepped up to lead our local and international missions efforts.
- 3 people have taken the step to become Local Ministerial Candidates as they explore and answer the call of God on their lives.
- Partnership has reached a milestone as a fourth generation of partners was trained. This marker is significant as it shows that disciples are making disciples.
- More than 10 people made the decision to become partners at Wallenpaupack Church.
- The feasibility study yielded positive results and determined that we are ready to begin the process of expanding our facilities to better serve our community and congregation.
- Grow Groups expanded from 2 in fall of '22 to 20 in the fall of '23.

This is only a snippet of what God is doing. Each one of these points has so many names and faces that are experience life transformation as they KNOW God in a

deeper more significant way. Individuals are stepping up and stepping into God's call on their lives to join him in His work.

As we look toward 2024 I cannot wait to see what God will do as we remain faithful to His mission to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." We can only accomplish this mission with an attitude of confidence that God will provide people, resources, and passion to accomplish His will.

- Bi-annual Encounter weekends to awaken and train new church planters. We must move to reach our region in a more comprehensive way. Imagine a world where every person is within walking distance of a life-giving church.
- Initiation of a capital campaign to raise funds for our building project. Creating this base of operations for the church to deploy from will be an important strategic move in going out.
- Vision casting and moving to begin the groundwork for a Christian childcare center.

We are on a strong forward trajectory and we will continue to move as long as God is with us and in it. God continues to provide through the time, talents, and treasure of his people. My prayer is that we will continue to see the value and beauty that come with trusting God completely with this ministry. I have the unique pleasure of have a front row seat to all the incredible things that God is doing.

Thank you for continuing to trust me as your Lead Pastor, it is an honor and a joy to serve this congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kenneth Platt III