

## Annual Pastoral Report 2024

Dear Partners and Friends of Wallenpaupack Church,

This past year has been beautiful to celebrate, with challenges to learn from and potential to hope in. As a church we continue to dream about what God will do through us moving forward as we keep a keen eye on what has occurred.

### **Ministry Highlights:**

- One of last year's primary goals was to continue planting more churches within our region. We held two Encounter trainings this past year with 20 people in attendance, resulting in two brand-new churches. Greentown Family Church, which currently meets weekly, reaches 40-50 people on any given Saturday. Summit Trails Church is a hiking church that has adopted a nontraditional model to worship and celebrate God on the trail.
- As reported by Marty O'Hora, our building committee team has also gained a great deal of traction in the past few months. We are excited about beginning our capital campaign as early as May to begin our project, potentially in 2026.
- A lot of internal work was executed to create a more solid foundation for our paid and volunteer staff through policies, vision statements, and expectations.
- Cissie De Vito completed establishing and implementing volunteer ministry teams and reinforcing them with leadership training.
- We welcomed Anna Considine back to the team in October.
- We were able to commission Pastor Helen to an interim Pastor role at Bowman's Creek Free Methodist Church.

### **Metrics and Growth:**

- Our attendance has expectedly plateaued. This is due to a variety of factors.
  - We reduced the number of services from 3 to 2 to focus on our greatest strength: relationships.
  - Each time we plant a church, a critical mass of people leave to start a new church. We see this as positive growth.
  - Attendance will maintain its current trajectory until we get a larger meeting space.
- Welcomed nine new people into partnership
- Dedicated 15 children and baptized roughly ten more. All these acts of faith came with powerful testimony of God's love, grace, and faithfulness.

Looking Forward:

In the coming year, the primary focus of our church will be shifting to implement our new vision:

Our vision is for Wallenpaupack Church to be defined by our commitment to making and multiplying disciples. We do this by cultivating three critical environments: Micro (2-3), Small Group (4-12), and Large Group (13-125).

The strategies we will implement to execute this vision.

1. **Prayer:** We will implement regular prayer and worship gatherings and trainings. Nothing happens unless we spend intentional time seeking our God. We
2. **Alignment:** We will ensure that each ministry at Wallenpaupack Church can articulate how it contributes to the relentless pursuit of obedient disciples.
3. **Investment:** We will hire staff and fund their most effective training. A primary function of paid staff at Wallenpaupack Church is to empower and train the next generation of disciple-makers.
4. **Training:** We will equip people to make disciples and plant churches through Encounter Training.
5. **Deployment:** We will empower people to serve and reach out to others locally and globally to learn a deeper understanding of the heart of Christ and serve those in need.

The needs of our community continue to be great. People need Jesus now more than ever. While we will always face challenges, I believe that God still has great things for Wallenpaupack Church, and we will continue to seek his will for what is next.

Thank you for your continued support and love; it is truly a joy to serve this congregation.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. Ken Platt