



195 Broad Street, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

Email: office@wadsworthumc.com

Website: www.wadsworthumc.com

Phone: 330-336-6689

February 29, 2024

Hello Friends:

I hope you and your loved ones have started 2024 in a positive way, with joy in your hearts and fellowship with others on your minds. Admittedly, winter in Northeast Ohio doesn't always provide the warmest of thoughts, but there is a comfort in being in our church and surrounded by fellow Jesus followers that does help to bring us peacefulness and fulfillment.

Briefly, I'd like to talk about Vision. We rely on it at any stage of our lives. When young, everything is new and fresh, and we experience the world with childlike amazement. As we age, we come to believe we've "seen it all." Beyond our "sight vision," we also form visions of what life should be – and perhaps look upon events as what we wish or hope might happen. We tend to visualize things as joys or disappointments, depending on our perspectives.

Several members of our church have been working on the vision of what our church stands for, and what we feel we should believe and achieve. That work is represented in our newly clarified mission and vision statements, which we recently shared during Sunday worship services. I hope you will read, ponder and consider the following overview.

Mission: "We are a fellowship of believers who embrace a joyful life, connecting with one another, growing in the Word of God, and serving the world."

Vision: "My people. My place. My joy."

It is our hope that this new vision tagline is catchy and memorable for you and others. But beyond that, we pray that you truly feel it and believe it to be real in your heart.

My people ... is our focus, because everything we do is about loving people – the people whom God loves so much.

My place ... is our responsibility. Our church is not our only "congregation." We also have a little congregation in our home and a larger one in our community. If we call any of these – church, family or community – a "home," then we're taking ownership. That means we are not complaining about what we don't like; we should instead work cooperatively to make it better.

My joy ... is our goal. We might already feel great joy and occasionally be filled with the Holy Spirit, but can we get into the right frame of mind and heart, and make joy our foundation? If so,

it will change the way we live and treat other people. Joy will indeed come into our lives and help equip us to share the joy of Jesus with others.

As you continue to hear and learn more about our church's vision, I hope it excites you. We have the promise of a joyful life through the power of the Word of God and the great gifts of both abundant life (now) and eternal life (forever). Let's accept those gifts! And at the Wadsworth United Methodist Church, let's cast our eyes upon the fulfilling vision of "my people. my place. my joy." Amen!

In realizing that joy potential – and the gracious gift of salvation available to us – I also hope you will find time to benefit from upcoming Lenten services and activities. Our church is offering a "prayer partner" program, a Lenten challenge with related thought cards, a devotional, "The Season for Healing Hearts," community-wide Lenten services and lunches (each Wednesday at noon at Grace Lutheran Church), and our Holy Week services – Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. on March 28, Candlelight Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. on March 29, and a combined Easter Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. on March 31. Please join us!

Joy is the One Thing we want to find in the hearts of us and others when we believe, live and serve. And we will rejoice because of a God-Be-With-Us outlook. This is true always, and especially during this significant season of self-reflection and preparation.

With blessings,

Pastor Kim