

WUMC letter – Fall 2023

Momentum. We think of momentum as a good thing, a positive thing.

In sports, a team may begin to put a few positive plays together, and it builds momentum that excites the players and fans, and the team builds positively upon that feeling. In politics, a candidate has a few good speeches or rallies where prospective voters get excited about the prospects of the individual doing good things in office, and soon the momentum is enough to carry the candidate to victory.

For churches, the idea of momentum is commonly considered when talking about growth. A church might put a few good activities and events together, people are attracted to that church, and some semblance of growth within that church occurs.

From the Wadsworth United Methodist Church point of view, one might determine that we have some positive momentum right now. We are doing things to hopefully attract people to God's mission. Consider these recent activities:

- Our one-day Vacation Bible School event in August attracted 81 children from our community to spend a day at a farm, play games, eat together, learn about Jesus and receive loving guidance from teen and adult helpers. Even a little rain didn't dampen the high spirits there. What a blessing to connect with so many children – and parents and grandparents!
- We've added a new Care and Connection Ministry, designed to help ensure we don't lose touch with those who have been a part of our church – whether just once or for years. Increasingly, we will create new small groups and get people plugged into areas of interest to them.
- Our three separate worship service times (8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 on Sunday mornings) have been brought together twice in recent months (July and September) for inspiring combined worship services and all-church picnics. We know people love food and fellowship! The recent Celebration Sunday was a positive day of sharing a meal, enjoying games and simply spending time together.
- A new Worship Committee is formed to more intently dig into what works on Sunday morning and determine how we can help attendees truly feel the Holy Spirit in our sanctuary.
- Even physically at our church, we're committed to being more appealing to those who visit. From signage, parking lot upgrades, seating/social areas, carpeting, technical improvements and more ... both the building and our people are tools to welcome others to Christ.

And there's more to come! Consider these upcoming highlights in the final quarter of the year:

- Celebrating the fall harvest time, our Children's Advisory Team is sponsoring the Pumpkin Café on Oct. 15, with sales of pumpkins, mums and food items.
- As we have for many years, our church will host the Community Thanksgiving Meal on Nov. 23.
- In the Christmas season, we will have an Advent Dinner (date and time to come).
- For Christmas Eve services (it is Sunday this year), we will have a combined worship service in the morning at 10:30, which will include a children's program, bell choir, praise band and chancel choir. This will strive for an upbeat and cheerful atmosphere.
- A single Christmas Eve service in the evening will be an authentic and traditional candlelight service with several music pieces, such as solos, duets and the full chancel choir. The time of this service is yet to be determined.

These are a few examples of a positive direction, but let's keep this momentum in perspective. And let's remember that *we* are the church. We have Jesus our Lord and Savior. He is the truth. The truth doesn't change- that's why it is the truth. But we who possess the truth will change and must change, because we are not the truth. We are becoming more like Jesus which is our goal. I look forward to keeping this positive momentum and working together at the Wadsworth United Methodist Church to achieve our grand goal of becoming more like Jesus.

Rev. Hyun-Suk Kim

Lead Pastor of Wadsworth United Methodist Church