

5 Minutes for Faith – “Warm Up with Jesus”

We’re deep into winter right now, with many asking: “Can you believe how cold it is?!?!”

Instead, I’m asking those in our church congregation: “Can you believe the energy and excitement that we’re experiencing? Isn’t it great?!?!”

By the hand of God, we are so blessed. Sure, we have challenges, and we have people who are hurting, and we have many needs within our walls and our community. But we also have much for which to be thankful. Consider some of the recent examples of the grace extended to our church.

- We have new faces in our church family. On a recent Sunday, we had the joy of baptizing three children. We have a continuing stream of visitors, which is exciting. Even more exciting is the return of those visitors for successive weeks. And beyond that is the step taken by many to commit to membership in our church! In fact, out of 97 United Methodist churches in the West Plains District, our church was credited with the most new members – 18 – in 2025.
- Financially, times are challenging for churches. Expenses go up, just as they do in our personal lives. While we budgeted for a projected loss in 2025, our loving congregation said otherwise; we were blessed with abundance, as giving was up 9% over the previous year, and we finished the year in the black. Our church has no debt, and we hold a surplus of funds – allowing us an opportunity to continue great ministry and outreach.
- Speaking of that, we are indeed delivering in this area. In the past year, we have added programs to help in many varied areas. We host a new GriefShare program, offer multiple Bible and book studies, free meals and clothing, quilts and blankets to children’s hospitals, recovery group support, hikes, activities, parent support, donations to partner programs and much more.
- Representatives of our church were invited in the fall to our Bishop’s “Multiply Ohio” conference (one of 60 churches out of 990 in the state) for presentations and discussion related to growth ideas for United Methodist congregations. It was an honor AND it will be helpful.

All of this momentum is wonderful, and we want to continue it! Our focus in 2026 is on Worship – To Connect with God and each other. This is part of our Wadsworth United Methodist Church mission: *We are a fellowship of believers who embrace a joyful life by connecting with God and one another, growing in the Word of God, and serving the world.* Throughout the year, you will see and hear more about this emphasis on Worship, and I sincerely hope it makes a positive difference in your spiritual health.

As we drive through this cold January with energy and enthusiasm, we strive to become more like Jesus in our actions and behaviors. That is how we will communally add warmth to our world and those around us – even in the midst of winter. As you come into the main entrance doors of our church, you now notice a large lighted message: “Jesus Changes Everything.” We don’t simply say it; we must believe it and live it. I am so glad that many in our church display evidence of this message – AND you’re sharing it with others. As our church vision says, “My People. My Place. My Joy.” That’s faith in action!

With blessings, Rev. Hyun-Suk Kim (“PK”), Wadsworth United Methodist Church Senior Pastor