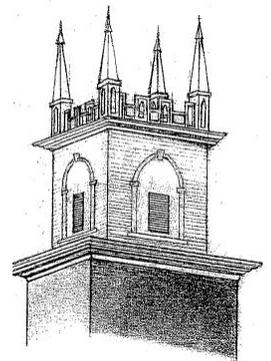


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Message from the Pastor



A Prescription for Continued Good Health

Have you ever wondered about this symbol for a prescription? It is the letter R with a diagonal through it, an abbreviation of the Latin verb *recipere* from which we get our English word recipe. In Latin, it means “take,” as in a series of sequential steps one must take.

Good health is indeed a blessing. We can look back on 2022 for many signs of our church’s good health. These include strong attendance at services, dedicated trustees and committee members, new members and baptisms. Good health can never be taken for granted, especially as we get older—true for people, true for churches. Together we must take important steps to keep growing. When we grow, we are not diminishing! The best investment we can make as part of our future growth does not involve a financial planner. Instead, we must invest our time and talent in the following initiative, or I should say re-initiative because you all have done this before.

We need to provide regular and ongoing religious instruction for our young people if we expect them to stay involved with our church. Yes, I am wearing my teacher’s hat on this imperative. We welcome children during our service and often, thanks to our volunteers who taught Christian Education in the past, we usually have a “word with the children.” That inclusion will continue, but that is the starting point not the end point.

We all know that Sunday as the Lord’s Day is not what we experienced a generation or two ago. Work obligations, sports practices, and a host of other things have prompted families to make choices.

Acknowledging that, however, does not mean we should write off Sunday mornings for young families. To provide a new model of what we used to call “Sunday School,” I would like us to try on the second Sunday of each month to have children, with their parents if they wish, to come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for about 35 minutes of class and activities. Families are then welcome to stay through the service. We will work in the next two weeks to get the nursery in better shape. We hope that the regularity of the same Sunday each month will encourage parents and children to think about this commitment.

A deeply held tenets from teaching and my own faith life is this: **If there are fundamentally important things that all children need to learn, then we need to teach them.** And that includes a plan. For now, let’s think about February through June.

We can do this! Let’s get started. I hope to see children on Sunday, February 12, at 9:30.

Yours in shared faith,
Michael F. Dwyer, Pastor.