

Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

The message of the Transfiguration story (see Matthew 17:1-9) is to go forward by furthering our worship experiences and mission/outreach experiences. It means living not only with the power of supernatural mountaintop experiences, but to also risk forging that clearer vision for mission, outreach services, for reconciliation with our neighboring communities, for giving of ourselves in loving and sharing the suffering of others.



As I mentioned in my sermon on Sunday, February 19, I believe that the Purpose and Vision of Centennial Christian Church as stated in our Constitution is still God's vision for us in Christ Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Article II. PURPOSE and VISION

Our congregation is a loving fellowship of faith and prayer, inviting all people to share with us in the unity of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Growing together on our spiritual journey, we reach out in service, celebrating and proclaiming God's gracious Word. In doing so, we will: seek in all persons a faith and commitment to Jesus Christ; serve the communities of which we are a part; support and be supported by the various organizational entities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); work cooperatively with Christians in other churches; seek the oneness of the body of Christ; and in all ways seek to make known the love of Christ.

I believe we are doing a wonderful job maintaining this vision. Here are some ways that I see us currently fulfilling this vision, and I'm sure there are other ways I'm not listing.

- Growth in faith and prayer: Worship services (in-person and online); Prayer Chains; Bible study; Adult Sunday school; Pastor Classes for Baptisms
- Serve our community and neighborhood: Blessing Box in our green space; Christmas Dinners for the needy; nonmember outreach; supplies for Bent School; outreach to the homeless; Second Sunday food pantry
- Youth and adults are involved with various entities of Christian Church (DOC) such as "Week of Compassion" (and similar financial donations), camps, retreats, conferences, and CWF.
- Ecumenical relationships: VBS; Maundy Thursday Service celebrating God's love (receiving and sharing) with First Christian Church; Community Good Friday Service celebrating God's unconditional and self-sacrificial love for our salvation; Community Thanksgiving Service thanking God for all our gifts.
- Local Mission with our neighborhood: We already have one household in our neighborhood that is asking for our assistance this summer.

Our Pastor Relations Committee (PRC) is discussing some additional ways Centennial CC can go forward fulfilling its purpose and vision. Soon, the PRC will ask our congregation to form small groups to further the discussions.

Blessings on all as we Journey through Lent together.