



1. Spiritual Leadership & Worship

- **Worship:** Christmas Eve Service was well attended. A special thank you to all of you who helped greet guests, prepare and serve communion, provide such a sacred and moving atmosphere in song, made sure our livestream feed remained strong, and that what we discovered as we sang, holding our candles before us, that we welcomed the light of Christ to lead. Two Sundays ago, three young ladies became our first Acolytes to carry the light of Christ into the Sanctuary. This important ministry provided by our young people invites them to serve, while teaching them several valuable lessons. I watched as they assigned one another to different duties as they came forward and returned to their seats, with smiles, both on their faces and among those who watched.
- **Special Services:** Lent is only 22 days out, and already Ash Wednesday service has tentatively been planned. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter will continue to invite us to reflect on and consider our own spiritual journeys.
- **Sacraments:** I will be providing a pastor's class for those seeking baptism and those seeking membership on March 22 and 29, 2026. This will provide Session the opportunity to meet all candidates during the Session meeting on March 31, 2026. I presided over Communion Christmas Eve, as well as the first Sunday of December.

2. Pastoral Care & Congregation Life

- **Visitations:** While Rev. Sebring continues to visit many of those who are homebound, or sick, I visited four individuals in the hospital, as well as officiated the wedding of one couple.
- **Staff Interaction:** The personnel committee was busy during the last month working with staff concerning evaluations and goals for the coming year.

3. Strategic Planning & Initiatives

- **Visioning:** I am glad to hear that the Vision Committee has been “resurrected” and that a few people have volunteered to serve.
- **Community Engagement:** I attended two Presbytery gatherings for clergy and offered the liturgy for communion at the Installation Service for Rev. Tamika Nelson at Kirkwood South (Disciples of Christ). Additionally, I attended a musical where I saw two of our young people display their amazing gifts. I worked with Judy when a young man from TCU, Skylar Cloyd, asked to use our organ to practice prior to returning to campus following the Christmas break.

- **Staffing Updates:** No updates currently. Personnel is working with the church secretary to explore taking computer classes to enhance Word skills, while the Parish Associate provided pulpit support the Sunday, I was out due to health problems. I have requested that staff begin providing the dates for planned vacations so that we can get them on the calendar.

4. Upcoming Absences & Administrative Items

- **Vacation:** I will be taking vacation February 9, 2026, through February 16, 2026, and will be taking March 23, 2026, to March 30, 2026, off, returning March 31, 2026, for Session.
- **Continuing Education:** I will miss the March 28, 2026, Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, however, will be present for July 18, 2026, and November 21, 2026, meetings. I will be attending Racism Training again this year as part of the ongoing requirements for standing, I will be attending the Grawemeyer Award in Religion lecture in Louisville April 16, 2026, while attending several classes as part of my continuing education requirement of 15 hours by the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

5. Reflection & Conclusion

While I want to acknowledge and respect the current Executive Session Meeting that has been called for next week, I do not believe that this is the time or place to share the events that occurred on Christmas Eve and the two weeks prior. Even as I worked on this report, I was asked, “what my opinion would be for reconciliation?”

It takes more than one person to pursue reconciliation, noting differences, while acknowledging times when our actions spoke louder than words.

On the Sunday that I was asked to remain home, I did. On that Sunday, certificates that I had redesigned and framed were handed to those who were being installed and ordained, and liturgy that I had written was read.

I am your pastor, and I have and will continue to respect the requests that are made of me. I do care deeply about each person within our community, and for those who have placed their time on “pause” at WPC or withdrawn due to several other reasons (and some have been building for years if not decades), it is heartbreaking for me as well.

The PNC provided our faith community with an amazingly accurate and thought-out presentation, and at the end, offered a few options of “what could happen.” I would encourage that, as one issue is addressed next week, we be bold and explore what the PNC brought before us.

I know that God can do amazing things! I presided over Christmas Eve Service, played and sang a song I had written, all while one blood clot in my neck, and the other behind my heart, were slowly cutting off my circulation, making it impossible for me to feel the fingers in my left hand (and yet I still managed to play the guitar), while my blood pressure went into the stroke range.

Sixteen years ago while battling cancer, I sat in church and told God, "I am not finished yet."

Today I want to share, "God is not finished with us."

Stay in God's grip!

Todd

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