

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
February 12, 2020

“GROWING PAINS?”

This past three weeks our average for worship attendance has been nearly 175, that's up almost 20% over a year ago at this time. Praise God for that! We are so blessed to be a growing family of God at a time when most churches in our nation are in decline. But there are some challenges involved with our growth, ones that we must be aware of and rise to meet. On two of these Sundays the attendance at the 10:30am worship has exceeded 110, the point at which our sanctuary is “functionally full”. Three Sundays ago, there were 125 people crammed into our limited space. At the same time, it is extremely difficult to find parking around the building when folks arrive just a few minutes before the service starts, as guest and visitors typically do. This past Sunday we even had a couple that came for the first time, arriving just as the late service began, that looked around and couldn't find two seats together, then decided to leave. To me that's heartbreaking. Obviously, this may not be an issue from May through October, when our seasonal members are back up north, but for now it's something that we have to pay attention to. The first and easiest thing to do in terms of seating is for our members to use the front row and the chairs along the wall next to the organ. I don't bite. I shower every morning, and I only drool/slobber in my sleep, so this should not be a dangerous position to occupy. When the front row is populated, I typically step back a bit in conducting the liturgy and preaching the day's sermon. At the same time those of us who are able bodied enough should park our cars in the grassy areas of the property out toward where the site is being prepared for the new church building. Our neighbor Bobbie has also told us that his spaces are available for us on Sunday morning as well. Yesterday at the Church Council meeting it was decided that we will be setting aside 3 parking places (signs will be posted soon) and reserving 6 chairs in the church for our visitors. Both will be in close proximity to the main doors on the east side of the building, that which fronts the highway. Growing pains are “a good problem to have”, while at the same time they call for medical attention. While we wait for God's perfect will and timing to provide for us a new sanctuary space working together we can put the church area that we have to its best use.