

Congregational Season of Prayer, Listening and Fasting
"Sticky Notes" Responses

1. Praises for the things God has done in the life of our church.

- The community (8) of people. I love all of the small groups I've been a part of over the years.
- Brings people together and the love and support for each other.
- Growth and diversity.
- Replenishment. Their my children too. Be quiet and listen. Prayer works. Hope experienced.
- The group that have done so much for the church. Fellowship - those who embrace and consider family.
- Fellowship. Baptism @Thrive. God's provision of gifts and talents. Past support for homeless.
- Kept a focus on mission.
- Unity and love.
- Thankful for the love that we have for each other.
- Blessed to have people who give and serve.
- Bruce's compassionate way of looking at things.
- Community feel of the church.
- Quilting class - love the women and learning.
- Including me in this church without pause. Acceptance! Feeling at home here.
- So many people played a part of raising our daughter in the faith.
- I love to see all the community people at meals.
- Leadership of our church. Humble hearts, always seeking God.
- Feeding and housing the unhoused.
- Family orientation. Missions and youth. Surviving COVID. Open community. Coming as you are.
- I pray for the growth of our children and youth programs.
- I love Buzz's Broadway mash-ups in prelude! Rindy's Sunday group.
- The choir music in worship. The Christmas tea.
- Heart of service for the community. Stand firm in the difficulty times. Pastor Bruce's hear for Jesus.
- Familiarity. Embracing each other. Accepting. Love disciple group memories.
- Everything comes down to spending time. Warmth and love of people. Church not afraid to change.
- Reaching out through tv. (Do we know who many use it?)
- My family got here safely.
- Kept us strong through good times and bad. Know love lives here.
- Good food! Great family! Quality pens!

- Making good friends.
- Community ministry delivering of food. Fellowship. Friends.
- Small group ministries and opportunities to learn, grow, and get to know others better.
- Serving the community. Buzz's playing!
- Music ministry. Serving the community.
- Keeping us together.
- Friendships.
- I'm healthy.
- Friendliness & warmth. Fellowship of believers.
- The people and programs.

2. What needs in our community is God calling us to respond to?

- Homeless/Homelessness (19). Food/shelter. Family. Drug abuses. Focus.
- Food for hungry (5). Love & acceptance. Expanded children and youth programs.
- Madison Homes (4). Emergency shelter. Short staffed. 30-40 ppl a night. Funding gone. Volunteers scarce. Funding and volunteering.
- Wesley Center and ECU.
- Youth.
- Deliverance from drugs. Environmental stewardship.
- Addiction. Belonging.
- Driving food to shut-in people. We were leaders in Habitat for Humanity & wish it would start again.
- Enrich. Interconnectivity of denominations. We have a visible outreach.
- People who are hurting.
- More connection and coming together over difficult times.
- Acceptance. Shelter. Ministry to special needs. Community and homeless. Communication.
- Political unrest. Economic turmoil.
- Support refugees. A place to come together. Compassion.
- Reaching those who are right outside our door. Holding the fears for them as they come all the way inside!
- Sunday lunches for all in the community.
- Poverty, Elderly.
- Help the homeless (what's available now, what is needed).
- Friendships.
- To be a place of hope and safety.
- Leadership of this community. Do not stray from the light. Outreach to the forgotten in the county (disabled).
- More homeless shelters.
- Disaster relief. More volunteers. Support systems for those without them. Finances. Spiritual support. Community.
- Meals on Thursday. Food. Jail - needy. Small groups on Zoom. Shut ins. Those struggle with personal identity.

- The poor and homeless who don't have means to stay warm.
- Those financially struggling.
- Economic disparity.

3. In what ways do you hear God calling us to love one another better?

- Speak out against the culture of hatred.
- Acceptance of differences. No division.
- Organize efforts to visit in homes, share family history, & take baked goods or flowers or etc.
- Give hope to homeless people.
- Creating a new Bible study.
- Reaching out to each other in love.
- Loving and opening to those who have felt left out of religion.
- Public demonstrations. Love for others. Public works. Prayer walks.
- Being intentional about gathering & inviting others to beloved spaces.
- More welcoming to visitors!
- Be kind. Share.
- Personal contact on a routine basis. Devoting time to family and friends. Nursing home visitations.
- Intentionality about newcomers & long timers getting to know one another.
- Teams to visit shut-ins, deliver communion, etc. Invite friends to join us.
- Volunteer. Serve.
- Being present. Acceptance. More engagement. Giving grace to each other. More interaction between the church's ministries (Adults - Youth).
- Elderly shut ins. 3 ways called to love each one better. 1. Be available for one another. 2. Loving -honest. 3. More pastoral contact.
- Come together - no matter political differences. Accept one another as we are.
- Grief support. Expanded youth & children's programs.
- Be more open and provide more events for the community.
- Giving? Volunteering? Gathering? Supporting each other in the collective national crisis.
- Listening (4). Extend friendship to visitors. Pray for each other.
- Prayer partners. Family life groups. Daily devotions/prayers.
- 1. Be available. 2. Engage. 3. Get connected. 4. Pray.
- Call/visit shut-ins. Build prayer/phone cells. Prayer during services for members and church.
- Time. Refocus on Christ-centeredness. Persistence.
- Stay connected in divisive times.
- Helping the mentally & physically disadvantaged.
- Increase attendance.
- People seem more divided and not listening to each other or as empathetic.

4. What beautiful thing does God have in store for our future together?

- More community love.
- Making our church a safe place for everyone.
- God plans transformative action.
- More unity services and potluck celebrations of love. Togetherness and understanding.
- I don't know but we will give him all the glory!
- Increased unity (7) & community.
- Togetherness. Endless, unconditional love.
- Growth through acceptance & love. Heaven.
- Deeper relationships with each other. A unity as a church.
- Fellowship. Outreach.
- Prayer for each other.
- Being a church that lives out Matthew 25:41-43. That we are the kind of people who give our very best to all we encounter.
- Acceptance. Heaven.
- A better trajectory in the leadership of our country.
- 1. Life at its fullest. 2. Love. *3. Heaven.
- Unity midst (because of) chaos?
- A church overflowing. Washing in Jesus.
- Celebrations. Helping those in need of shelter and food.
- Undivided unity. Growth. One church unified.
- Renewal of hearts & minds that propel us into transformative work in the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus coming back to live on earth.
- Being an inclusive welcoming church.
- A growing, vibrant church, overflowing with love for God, each other, and our community. And the next few months we will start on that path.
- Becoming a beacon of (and force for) love.
- A place for people to come together and for people to belong. Use of space - a sanctuary - a place where anyone can be welcome.
- Keep alert for new opportunities in church & outside.
- Heaven. Friends. His will be done! He does not change.
- More than we can imagine. Fountain of living water spreading across Richmond. New thing that all will see.
- More youth involvement. Inclusiveness.
- Love, life, humility.
- Godly people showing God's love to the world!

Prayers and Miscellaneous Thoughts

- Prayer for immigrants and to protect their basic human rights both domestically and globally.
- Prayer against greed and corruption in human affairs.

- Lord - help me be more intentional about speaking to others regarding your love & grace.
- Lord, let us be not just a welcoming church, but a loving church.
- Help me open my heart and resources to the least, to the marginalized, to the unloved.
- Pray to protect our physical environment against further degradation, particularly with respect to climate change and all that impacts.
- Prayer for our trans and LGBT+ siblings and our immigrant communities.
- The Lord's Prayer
- Flooding across the state. The Veteran's community.

- I need to use my words to be "softer" to those around me so I can better glorify God.
- Youth revival & renewal.
- We can be so focused & challenged by the needs of the homeless, addicted and impoverished we NEGLECT those in this (body of Christ)_here who are alone, lonely, in pain & suffering and facing end of life issues.
- I have a house, family, and food.
- I am blessed at the (incredible) all do show in one another.
- Hopefully a full church with lots of members and boys.
- Refrain from sound bites offering superficial solutions.

