

SAINT PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE VISIONING SESSION TWO
PARTICIPANT RESPONSES
SEPTEMBER 2022

High Points in Saint Peter's History

Bible study with a book Sunday mornings before church services
Celebration of holidays and big events in church
Children's and adult choir
Christmas dinners where members did ceramics to build a set during Advent Sundays (1980s)
Congregational growth necessitating addition to sanctuary
Contemporary church building
Core group of founding members and pastor
Development of pavilion
Early Learning Center
History of hymnals
Large number of kids—more than thirty at one point—and kids would bring their friends to church. Youth fellowship served dinners to congregation. Games and scripture, reading. (1970s)
Luncheons and events following church services on Sundays.
Outdoor worship even before we had a pavilion
Observation of Christmas—had to bring in chairs to accommodate audience
Our 50th anniversary
Participation in local outreach—Habitat for Humanity, WAFP, soup kitchen, Western Berks Shepherding Ministries
Spaghetti dinner fundraisers

Challenging Times

2020-2021 with Covid and changing pastors and challenge to staying connected
Budget concerns: frequently an anonymous donor comes through. It's amazing that this church is so resilient!
Covid and Kris's retirement coinciding and subsequent rallying to members' needs
Covid and retirement of Pastor Hayden, leading to a period of uncertainty
Pandemic and new technology requirements and transitions of church leadership ad pastors
When we needed to let go of two pastors, which caused a lot of disruption

Favorite outreach efforts

Blood drives
Caroling at Christmas
Clean-up projects with Scouts BSA
Confirmation projects, like visiting local synagogue

Dinners with neighboring churches

Food pantry

Joint ministry in Saint John's in Reading with Pastor Darryl Cruz

New Journey Community Outreach soup kitchen participation

Participation in Helping Harvest

Salvation Army angel tree

Stewardship visits, not only to shut-ins

Women's Ministry projects, including candy making, which helps outside groups

