

Castleton UMC Governance Board April Meeting

During the recent board meeting, members took a few moments to share joys and lift up prayer requests. Mark shared a thoughtful reflection, reminding everyone that in any situation there are many perspectives. The glass is not limited to being half full or half empty. Continuing the journey through the book *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*, Chris emphasized one of the four ways of being with God: Feel your feelings.

The Community Transformation Team and Pastor Matt met on Tuesday, March 18th, with Rabbi Aaron and the Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance. They learned more about the vital work of eviction court watchers, and they're excited to offer a training session for all who are interested on Wednesday, April 23rd, at 6:00 PM at the church.

Pastor Matt had a productive meeting with Margo Takehara, the Director of the Marion County Network for Gleaners, to discuss the summer food program. The parking lot on Shadeland, a location we've used in the past, has a new owner who has not yet granted permission for its use. If this location becomes unavailable, Matt will be reaching out to Lawrence Township schools and the Community Health Network to explore alternative options.

Continuing his support for Gleaners, Pastor Matt will once again be playing catch for 30 days to raise awareness and funds for this wonderful organization. This year, he's partnering with the Old Fort Baseball Company and will have a table at an Indianapolis Indians game in September to sell t-shirts and stickers, with all proceeds going to Gleaners. He will also be featured in the University of Saint Francis alumni magazine.

The church's recent expenses have been a little higher than expected. Part of this increase is due to the insurance now being paid quarterly rather than monthly. The snow removal costs were \$6,000 higher than last year, and the church has incurred \$7,000 more in repair expenses. While the pledged giving for the month was over expectations, the unpledged giving did not quite meet the mark.

In mission updates, Susy shared that Family Promise had a meaningful mission moment during a recent Sunday service, and Chris shared many of the mission activities at the Big Family Dinner.

The Trustees reported that the sprinkler system in the Ministries Center building will need to be repaired or replaced, which will be a significant expense. The committee is currently awaiting a third quote for this important project.

This year, the Spring work days will be held on the last three Wednesdays of April. This change will allow people who are not available on the weekend an opportunity to participate. We are providing a set of Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM on April 16, 23, and 30 for our Spring Work Days this year. There will be both indoor and outdoor projects.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee shared that our table groups are continuing their excellent work in showing appreciation for our dedicated staff.

Linda closed the meeting with prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting will take place on May 13th, and the agenda will be posted to the church website one week prior. Please contact any of the Governance Board members with questions, ideas, or concerns.