

English Ministry Annual Report

Pastor Eric Sandberg

As we can understand, 2020 was a very challenging year for all of us. The Pandemic forced us to hit the brakes on our lives as usual. Every aspect of our lives was drastically changed. Everything from our health, jobs, school, relationships, free time seemed to be forced into a “new normal”. We watched in sadness and helplessness as many lost their lives, health, businesses, and suffered the realities of isolation.

As the church, and members of CGCM, we were not immune to those hardships as well. While all of us experienced some of those stress factors, some suffered more than others. In addition to all the other impacts, we followed state guidelines and thus severely limited our ability to gather in person for fellowship and Sunday morning worship.

It is the goal of the English ministry to try and support and encourage one another during the difficulties that happened as well as navigating the ongoing effects. We also seek to give thanks to God and to bear witness to the good things He was able to do even during such a challenging year.

God’s grace through His Spirit has been working to provide our congregation everything that we need to grow in godliness. It is our sincere hope, that regardless of how long we are restricted from meeting in person “like normal”, that our relationship among our congregation members will continue to grow as we meet online.

Areas of Encouragement:

Friday Fellowship

Our mixed aged Friday night zoom meetings studied Jonah, Judges, and a “Faith @ Work series”. Every fourth Friday night was dedicated to playing games together over zoom.

Sunday Morning

Sermon series in Hebrews, focusing on how Jesus is the complete fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures as well practical applications of how we can take God's call to “not forsake meeting together (10:25)” seriously, even when you can’t be in the same room.

Sunday Sermons

Nehemiah
Hebrews
Ruth

Sunday School

1st Corinthians
Sermon Discussion

COVID Relief

Members from all congregations at CGCM donated money to help provide food and snacks for the doctors working in COVID-19 units at UMASS Memorial in Worcester and in Marlborough.



Food Relief

Daniel's Table (Framingham): During the latter part of the year, members of CGCM were able to volunteer at Daniel's Table Food Relief. While there, we were able to pack groceries, interact with community clients, distribute food, and learn more about the organization. We are hoping to volunteer 1 day every month in 2021. If you are interested in volunteering. Please contact Pastor Eric Sandberg

Through the generous donations of CGCM families, we were able to donate food and nonfood related items to *A Place To Turn* (Natick) during December and helped that organization provide relief to approximately 450 families! Great Job!

College Care Packages

In a change of tradition, the church provided Uber Eats gift cards to the college students during their finals before Christmas. They were much appreciated!!

Moving Forward

As we look back at the challenges that 2020 presented as well as the ways that God was able to use our church, we now look forward to some of the possible difficulties of 2021.

Areas of Challenge and Change for 2021

Rethinking the various ways for our church to continue to meet as possible without succumbing to "zoom fatigue" more than many of us have. In addition to this is the reality that is very easy to get "used" to being able to view a service on YouTube and it will make it challenging to get people to come back once we are able to meet in larger numbers, with precautions in place.

What is the mission and purpose of the church when it is severely limited in the way it gathers and send out en masse?

In many ways this forces us to re-energize efforts at relationship building, both within members of the church as well with our neighbors and communities to help lay the solid foundation for sharing the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.