

Sermon Title: Celebrating the Wins in 2024

People often take time at the end of each year to look back and reflect upon all that has happened over the past 12 months! This practice provides opportunity for celebration... gratitude... encouragement... & momentum...

It has been a great year of seeing God's goodness/faithfulness at work in & thru us as a church! We would be remised not to take time to acknowledge it!

At the beginning of 2024, the Consistory affirmed 6 primary areas of focus for us as a C.H.U.R.C.H. It is what/who we aspire to be... & our goals as a church, are to flow out of this identity! Let me share some of the highlights!

We, Brunswick Reformed Church, are a church that is...

C - CHRIST-CENTERED - Our focus in all things is to know Christ and to make Him known! **Matthew 16:13-19**

Consistory Goal—To provide services of worship, and other activities/events/studies/ministries, that center on Christ, & provide for the spiritual benefit & growth of God's people (strongly emphasizing preaching, teaching, & praise).

H - HISTORICALLY GROUNDED - Our Reformed roots provide us with a strong foundation to stand upon. **Hebrews 12:1-3**

Consistory Goal—To lay down a doctrinal floor of historical foundational truths by creating statements that emphasize the core beliefs of our faith for the purpose of unity, clarity, and sharing.

U - UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE - The Word of God (the Bible) informs, instructs & governs our faith & practice. **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

Consistory Goal—We will join with, & encourage, what is already happening in our congregation, as well as provide additional opportunities for people to be more faithfully immersed in the Word of God.

R - RELATIONALLY DRIVEN - Everything we do is with a desire to build, & grow in, our relationship with God and each other! **Ephesians 2:11-22**

Consistory Goal—We will celebrate the faith that unites us, & seek to bring down any barriers that divide us, by using Scripture as our guide & Jesus as our example.

C - COVENANTALLY CONNECTED - By faith, we are a multi-generational family, connected by God's covenantal promise! **Galatians 3:26-29**

Consistory Goal—To encourage all members to find purposeful roles within the church; with added focus on specifically and intentionally engaging our Greater Consistory, our youth, and our senior saints.

Consistory Goal—To intentionally plan services/events/ministries with all ages in mind so that generational connections may be enhanced and celebrated.

H - HEAVENLY FOCUSED - Our hope for eternity, & for today, is found in the Kingdom of God! **Colossians 3:1-4, 2 Corinthians 4:18**

Consistory Goal—To commit to being a people of prayer so that we may more fully align ourselves with God and His Kingdom purposes.

Consistory Goal—To discern & execute good stewardship with the use of the financial resources received from the home sale, the memorial fund, and what's left of the Parma Park fund, for new, or revitalized, endeavors.

The hope for today, as we wrap up 2024 is to celebrate, express gratitude, be encouraged, & create some momentum as we head into a new year!

I don't know what 2025 will bring, but I do know the One who will walk with us through whatever He has in store for us! I/we don't have to be anxious! **Matthew 6:25-33** May we continue to seek Christ & His Kingdom!

Let us continue to do the good work that He began... a work that is on-going through the work of His Church until the day He returns in glory! **H.C. # 86**

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