



Summer 2023 Letter

As many of you know our theme this year is: **Remain in the Vine and with His branches (John 15:5)**! I want this to be a summer of enjoying the presence of the Lord, the presence of your family, and our church family. There will be several unique ways, not to mention your own, to do just that.

In case you hadn't heard, I have decided after much prayer, thought, and conversation to take a three-month Sabbatical this summer. In twenty three years of full-time ministry, I have not taken a sabbatical nor much extended rest. One of our Church Council members said, "*Please take the Sabbatical before you really need it.*" For whatever reason, I have not been able to get that statement out of my mind. I believe this is one of the many ways God has confirmed this decision for me.

It is extremely important to me that you know the following: I love what I do, I love Who I do it for, I love who I do it with, I love the momentum we're experiencing at Sunnyside right now, and both Jenny and I absolutely love Sunnyside Church. So, for me to take this Sabbatical is bittersweet. Part of me doesn't want to be away because I will miss you and what the Lord will be doing here. On the other hand, I sense God calling me to rest, rejuvenate, and allow Him to minister to my soul so I can return to my assignment as Lead Pastor fully recharged for the next beautiful season. You will be in my thoughts and prayers, and I will miss you!

I have prepared an extensive plan that both the staff and Church Council have spoken into, vetted, and wholeheartedly support. This plan covers the many things I am responsible for, from the preaching schedule, to who's running staff meetings, to who is visiting people who are sick and those who need prayer. Everything will be covered by our incredible staff, team members, Council Members, and people like you stepping up. What a blessing that is to all of us!

I want to encourage you to be involved this summer in the following ways:

PRAY

I cannot stress enough the importance of prayer for the church, staff, and for our family while I recharge and rest. Please join me in a deeper commitment to prayer this summer as the Holy Spirit will lead us.

GIVE

Thank you in advance for remaining generous in tithing and giving as the mission of the church, the commitments we have, and needs of the church continue even in this season of the year. For simplicity, please consider downloading: Church Center App, which is a user friendly way to tithe wherever you are.

PARTICIPATE

Be intentional to grow in your love for God and others! Here are a few opportunities that will help deepen your relationship with Lord and others (along with your kids):

Father's Day BBQ | **Sunday, June 18th** | Following Service

Kids Summer Camp | **July 10-13** | To register visit: sunnyside4.org/ministries/kids

Sunnyside Sisters Resource Kit Assembly night | **Monday, July 10th 7-9pm** | Imago Dei

Youth Summer Camp | **July 17-21** | To register visit:
sunnyside4.org/ministries/students

Together Worship Gathering | **Sunday, July 23rd 4-6pm** | togetherpdx.org/events

Church Camp out | **July 23-26** | To register: sunnyside4.org/opportunities

ENGAGE

I love the increased activity of the summer months and the relational opportunities it presents for us to spread God's love and hope to others. Choose to "make the most of every opportunity" (Eph. 5:16) with those who cross your path.

Also, this summer we will have our own **Fireworks Stand** and the proceeds will fund missions and help scholarship students for summer camp. Please buy your fireworks from us and spread the word to family and friends!

May Jesus bless all of us with a summer of abiding in Him and with His branches! When I see you again, I'm confident we'll all be a little more like Jesus, which is the ultimate goal. Amen?!

Your brother in Christ,



Pastor DJ