

GOD'S SPIRIT AT WORK

A Guiding Vision for KHPC

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” (Jeremiah 29:11)

At Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church, we are shaped by God’s dream of a new creation, a vision of hope for our time. We have experienced God’s dream in the life of this faith community, as an integrated congregation for 50 years. We have seen how the divisions of race and class could be put aside to offer a warm embrace to everyone who would cast their lot with a people claimed by Christ’s reconciling love. We are not finished crossing boundaries that Jesus would invite us to cross to join Him in reaching people hungry for compassion, justice, and peace in our time.

Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church is a community of servant leaders called to respond with extravagant generosity to God’s overwhelming love. As a church congregation, we strive to engage in dynamic worship, radical hospitality, intentional discipleship and life-changing mission for all ages, which empower us as a congregation to model Christ’s teachings.

Dynamic Worship

“What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?” (Psalm 116:12)

In grateful response to all we have received, we gather as a community to worship the Triune God. Through worship we are called to a new kind of living. We use our rich cultural and artistic diversity, encouraging all to participate and offer their gifts. Above all, we are empowered to take what we receive in worship as our inspiration to participate in mission work outside of the church, modeling Christ for our community and the world.

Radical Hospitality

“For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35b)

Following Jesus, who invited people into deep relationships with Him and others, we practice Christ’s radical hospitality. We embrace every age, race, ethnicity, lifestyle, culture, socio-economic status, and ability level, encouraging participation in the whole life of the church. We nurture people both physically and spiritually, celebrating joys and sharing hurts. It is this depth of care and respect that we take out into the world as a reflection of God’s grace.

Intentional Discipleship

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of God and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded to you.” (Matthew 28:19-20a)

Discipleship is a lifelong process which helps God’s people learn to connect their faith and their gifts to God’s mission in the world. As we grow together as disciples of Christ, we are called to deepen our faith through spiritual practices that are both ancient and modern. In a world that prefers the safety of sameness, we believe the Spirit of God has called us to be a reconciling diversity of people. We are a community where it is safe to explore faith, by sharing our doubts as well as our questions. As we mature in Christ, God will cultivate in us the fruits of the spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

Life-Changing Mission

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

The Spirit of God invites us into life-changing mission. We are surrounded by a world and a city in need. As servant leaders, we are called to give voice to the voiceless all around us who have given up hope that life can be better. We are called to forge partnerships in mission and service to give witness to Christ’s love for all people. Therefore it’s not the size of our church that matters, but the size of our hearts joined in faithful service. We understand that reaching out is a continuing commitment. It takes time. Jesus teaches us to treat the people’s need for healing, justice, and mercy as holy and tells us to “Love your neighbor as yourself”. Because His love knows no boundaries, neither does our service.

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.” (Romans 12:1-2, The Message Bible)

And so we affirm that God’s transforming presence in **dynamic worship**, Christ’s gracious invitation of **radical hospitality**, and our call to **intentional discipleship** will develop within us a community of **life changing missionaries** sent into the world to live and share God’s reconciling love. With a rich tapestry of love and mercy joining the threads of our lives into a beautiful creation, our doors are open to all who want to make a God-sized difference in the world around us.