



6402 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings and blessings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! On this last day of 2021, I want to take a moment to look back and praise God for what He has done and look ahead in anticipation of what He will do.

I have always enjoyed history. I've often wondered if people living in significant historical moments have understood the significance of the moment in which they lived. I believe we are living in a moment of massive historical and spiritual significance for churches generally and our church specifically. In eternity, the historical record will be written by God, and the standard of judgment will be His Word. We cannot fail if we prize faithfulness to King Jesus in obedience to His Word above all other worldly pursuits and standards. I am praying that, as we navigate this season of change together, we will set our hearts and minds on Jesus — trusting His Word as an unfailing guide in an unpredictable world.

By God's grace, we have seen Him at work among us this past year. Small-group Bible study on Sunday mornings has returned at 9:15; we recently launched a new 3D group, and many have resumed in-person worship. We have also witnessed 17 people follow Jesus in baptism, and several new individuals, couples, and families have joined our family of faith. Despite the limitations of COVID, we hosted more than 100 children for WinShape; our students went to a summer camp, and some students came to faith in Christ. It has been a good year!

Over the past year, we've also begun (and in some cases completed) important work for the future. The installation of programmable and wireless thermostats throughout the building has already led to improvements in our energy costs. The roof over the awning at the east end of the building has been replaced and is working well. A security camera system has been installed covering all points of ingress/egress, and we will be able to scale up this system to address individual rooms as needed. In response to a rapidly-changing culture and legal climate, we have begun an important process of becoming an incorporated entity which will provide our staff and leadership important protections as we continue to proclaim and live the gospel faithfully.

As for our church campus, we recently contracted with an architectural firm, Visioneering Studios, for a fresh look at our facility. They will assist us in developing a master plan to guide our approach to the facility and help maximize our ministry impact in the years to come. I am excited to see what they will recommend and hopeful we will rise to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities God will give us. In the meantime, worship will move to the gym to provide ample room not only for those who are coming now but also those God brings to us. We will launch worship in the gym on Sunday, January 9. Please come, and bring your friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

Did I mention we are living at a pivotal moment in our church's history? May God find us faithful with this moment, and may He graciously grant that we and the generations to follow us will see many lives gloriously and radically transformed in Jesus' name!

Psalm 67 reminds us we are saved to love others the way Jesus loves us. Jesus' love is selfless. It is sacrificial. It is astounding, and I have been astounded by the faithfulness of our church over this past year. Because of the generous giving of those who call North Roanoke home, the budget was met for the year, and we were able to see God accomplish much and to bless many. Through your generosity, here in the Valley, we were able to help five schools, scholarship dozens of WinShape campers, help the Blue Ridge Women's Center, the RAM House, Care Portal, Hollins Fire & Rescue, and Night to Shine. Globally, we gave approximately \$32,000 to the IMB which means we were an important part of supporting more than 3,500 missionaries serving around the world. These missionaries are sharing the gospel and training church planters. In the past year, our missionaries saw more than 18,000 churches planted and more than 86,000 baptized. Beyond our support for the IMB, we also provided strategic ministry support to church planters in Guatemala, to Iglesia Bíblica Metro in Puerto Rico, to three missionary units serving in places of high security risk, to a church planter in France, and to our own Jason and Anna Reedy who served in Japan. As we continue striving to be Christ's church – united, biblical, faithful, prayerful, and generous, God is at work through us to impact the Valley and reach the world all for the glory of King Jesus.

As we look to 2022, I am asking God to keep us spiritually clean and close to Jesus – to keep giving us a powerful love and unity that flows from His presence and an abiding passion to see people come to Christ and grow in their walk with Him. God is able to do abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine, so let's lean in together and ask for big things for the glory of Christ our King. I praise God for you, and I look forward to being with you as we worship Him in the New Year.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Daniel