

## ASSY 50 - Slide Show #3 2000-2024

Narrative Script - John Blosser

- *Reflections on:* **Significant events and issue of the past 20+ years**  
**Many things have occurred over the past 2 + decades**

A few include:

- We ended long relationship with Walnut Hill Child Care
- But added the Montessori School (Board = all Assembly Members)
- We ended our relationship with IND-MICH CONF (we resisted their push to relinquish membership over Assembly's stance on INCLUSION, but then when we were invited to stay.....we decided to leave!).
- Added a 4<sup>th</sup> pastor
- Joined SCN (Supportive Community Network)
- Built a new worship space & upgraded the building and grounds THEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER...
- Pandemic = meeting out of doors & ZOOMED
  - *Shifts in attendance. (like most congregations, some folks chose not to return).*
- As Assembly has aged, we have experienced the loss of many beloved members
  - *NOT ONLY OLDER MEMBERS, but also suffered the pain of several stillborn deaths or deaths at birth*

## SLIDES

1. Title Slide
2. & 3. Middle Years = CROWDED & Arguably could use an upgrade
  - **THE QUESTION: Expand into new space or NOT?!...**
  - **Few really wanted to split off ...SO we began to dream...**
4. Organized a group to explore and plan for an expansion of our building (completed 1992)
5. Hired architects.
6. Selected a Design Subcommittee (incl me)
7. & 8. PLANNED AND BUILT & PLANNED AND BUILT

8. AND FINALLY!

9. BUT THEN.... COVID 19!!!

- *I Recall one of our last church services in this new sanctuary...wondering how long we would be away from this place...and who might not make it!!!*

11. Worshiping out of doors (when weather permitted) and By ZOOM (some of us still wearing our PJs!!!)

12. & 13. Pandemic DRAMA....even Pandemic Baptism!

14. & 15. AND Sadly as our congregation aged, we said farewell to a number of our beloved older members...(these photos are only meant to be exemplary...**in no way is this a complete representation of all who passed away!**... these pix were available...so I used some of them).

AND

They included the sad loss of infants at birth experienced by several of our church family.

AND

16. Though some people didn't come back, we gained a large number of WONDERFUL NEW people!!! (our attendance has remained quite strong!).

17. Including many children who gather for Story Time!

18. **AND WE CONTINUE TO DO MANY THINGS!**

19. Weekend Retreat at Camp Friedenswald!

21. Sunday School HIGH DRAMA!!!

22. Special Blessings for our CHILDREN!!!

23. AND our congregation has continued to try stay informed on issues of long-standing injustice to African Americans and Native Americans. And we are working to address these injustices with right relationship and meaningful action.

24. We have also regularly supported the work of the INDIANA MICHIGAN MCC RELIEF SALE!!!

## **AND THEN THERE'S**

25 CARNIVAL

26. EASTER SUNRISE SERVICES

27. & 28. & 29. CHRISTMAS

30. & 31. & 32. OUR ANNUAL RENDITION OF THE MESSIAH

33. SOOO We've gone from a gathering of clusters of small groups to a sizable community that cares about each other, worships together and tries to make a difference in this community and the WORLD!!!

**34. So ON WE GO!!! We might wonder just what Assembly will look like in 50 more years!**

**But we go on...ONE DAY AT A TIME!!!**

**May the coming years grow healthily out of these past 50!!!**

**35. Special TX to Marshall King and Jep Hostetler!!!**