

Congregation's strengths:

- Calvary – welcoming, skilled office staff, choir/music, close to IUP
 - Blairsville – Christian education resources and hymnals
 - Jacksonville – clothing ministry and volunteers (one – two times per month), strong mission and outreach
 - Crete – monthly mission lunch (multiple benefactors)
 - Trinity – strong youth program (interdenominational), 100 meals at Thanksgiving
 - Ebenezer – special seasonal services programs, possible wider invitations
 - Shelocta – mission strength, choral library, large air-conditioned space, safe church resources
 - Presbytery's website for connection
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- VBS – Gilgal, Marion Center, Plumville, CT
 - Mission – Gilgal, Washington, Rochester Mills, Plumville, Marion Center, Heilwood, Shelocta
 - Commitment of Members – Gilgal, Washington, Marion Center, Shelocta
 - Music – Washington, Marion Center, CT
 - Welcoming – Rochester Mills, Marion Center
 - Dinners – Marion Center
 - Space – Marion Center, Heilwood, Shelocta
 - After School Program – Marion Center
 - Sunday School – Plumville
 - Food Bank – Arcadia, CT
 - Budget – Heilwood
 - Diversity – Calvary
 - Staff – Calvary
 - Nursing Home - Shelocta

Challenges now through 2027

- Crete – losing older members (maybe 50% less over 10 years), lack of musicians
 - Trinity – young people reluctant to commit (maybe aren't asked to commit), no national messages of advertisement, need to look at growth of whole of Presbyterian church
 - General – if all our services are at the same time, how do we share?
 - General – can we learn from the megachurches?
 - General – loving relationships, loving invitations
 - General – how to meet the budget
 - General – could an alternative time of service be moved among several churches? Rotate pastors?
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- Young families – Marion Center, Shelocta
 - Aging Congregation – Calvary, Marion Center, Rochester Mills
 - Declining Members on Sundays – Marion Center, Rochester Mills
 - Regular Pastor – Heilwood, CT, Rochester Mills
 - Finances – CT, Marion Center
 - Manse – Marion Center
 - Retention – Marion Center
 - Having a supply Minister – Rochester Mills
 - Lack of diversity – Gilgal
 - Building upkeep - Calvary

What are we open to sharing?

- Trinity – could we reach the unchurched with a mailing and have all churches in the area contribute to the overall cost based on location?
- Ebenezer – trunk & treat at Halloween shared with Tunnelton, Jacksonville, Trinity, Bethel, and Saltsburg Methodist; family promise meals verses hosting; build on what's already happening; yoked churches have a strength of doing the work on their own; lunch in Lewisville
- Calvary – Saturday Night Club (senior group)
- Shelocta – partners with Elderton PC for VBS – especially the big sets/artwork
- Blairsville – shared secretary with Bethel

- Music – Gilgal
- VBS – Gilgal, Marion Center, Plumville
- Volunteers – Gilgal, Marion Center
- Mission Outreach – Rochester Mills (food)
- Space – Marion Center, Calvary, Heilwood, CT
- Talent – (Jim) Marion Center, Shelocta (workers)
- Tools

What are we willing to receive?

- Blairsville – more special musicians
- Crete, Trinity – pianists/organists
- Ebenezer – mutual care, we know people in other congregations
- Apollo – elder day caregivers/companions
- General – leadership, recruiting

Comments

- What is welcoming? Are we close-knit in ways we don't realize?
- What do we do unintentionally?
- Whom do we overlook?
- How to "keep" people for worship (and not have them leave after Sunday School)?
- Could we bring seminarians here? Could we talk to Pittsburgh seminary about this and offer a package of specialized small-church learning?
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