

"CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING"

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

THE PASTOR'S PEN January 29, 2023

2023: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING

During the last Leadership Meeting, I asked the leaders to reflect upon two questions in preparation for their fulfillment of their ministry for 2023. As we all are preparing for the fulfillment of our ministry in 2023, I offer the two questions to you:

1.	What have I been carrying that I want to/need to set down?	
2.	What in my life is ready to emerge?	

How we answer these questions will assist us in determining what we need to individually and personally do to ensure that we are ready to participate in 2023 as God would desire or remain stuck in the past.

This is not to suggest that the past is bad. Indeed, how God used us in the past is significant. Praise God for all of the meaningful ways that God used us to accomplish ministry that transformed lives. Therefore, we are not negating nor dismissing the past. Rather, we are acknowledging that what we did in the past was needed when we did it in the past. Today is a new day, a new year, a new opportunity. Since today is a new day, a new year, a new opportunity, what is the new thing that God is calling each of us to do?

Therefore, what have I been carrying that I want to/need to set down? What do I not need to carry into 2023? What do I want/need to set down in 2022 to free me up and lighten me up to receive the fresh expectations of 2023? What in my life is ready to emerge now that space and a place is provided for the fresh expectations to grow and flourish?

To further assist in releasing (2022) and receiving (2023), our church emphasis for 2023 is:



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Our guiding scripture is **1 Chronicles 12:32**, "Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..." (NRSV)

The people of Issachar understood their times. Because they understood their times, the text shared, "they knew what Israel ought to do." If we are going to be effective in ministry in 2023, we must understand our times to know what we ought to do. Understanding our times in 2023 will reveal that everything is much different than it was years ago.

There is an African Proverb that says, "You never step into the same river twice." We will never again have what we had. However, when we understand our times, we can have what we are supposed to have for today.

Pray for the "lightbulb to come on" as we experience fresh, new ideas to explore fresh, new ministry opportunities so that we are relevant for our time in Milwaukee, in 2023.

Praise God as we prepare to receive all that God has for us and prepare to transform and liberate our community.

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future

Through faith God has given us the space to be an **oasis** in the middle of the city.

An **oasis** is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

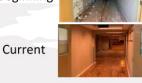
Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the **Oasis** today! Let's continue to make progress!

Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.













Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)	• 1 iPad	10 basketballs	10 art sets for aspiring artists	External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks	100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students	10 tennis rackets	4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins	Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs	1 computer for graphic design and website creation	12 sets of golf clubs for children	10 Play Scripts with performance/ licensing fee and cast instructions	Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning	1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities	3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars	100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers	Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU	100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects	Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place	200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company	LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 1:27

JANUARY MEDITATION QUOTE

"We may go on from this day to Mars and to Jupiter and even to the heavens beyond, but as long as racism, poverty and hunger and war prevail on the Earth, we as a civilized nation have failed."

Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy