

FPC Dillon: Background

- Slow Growth in Dillon. Increase across all ages and stages.
- During our Children's Message on any given Sunday, I'm joined by anywhere from 2 to 25 kids
- Full Disclosure: A good portion of our family growth can attributed to our Kids Choir (K-5th)
- Balancing between culture change that is going to take some time vs. things you can do this Sunday

Choosing a Church: Mel and Sandy Rice in the late 70's vs. Sky and Tara Jones in 2021

How did you find us? Why did you stay? (Why did you make this your church home?)

Mel and Sandy: Grew up Presbyterian, moved to Dillon, searched for a Presbyterian church

Sky and Tara: Have worshiped across many different denominations, found us online, later said to us: *"We just want to be at a church where the Spirit of God is at work"*

Know Your "Why"

We want the younger generation to join our churches. But why? Do we want this "for them" or "from them"?

"From them" sounds like:

"We want our church to have a future"

"We want our church to feel alive and exciting once again ..."

"For them" sounds like:

"We want people to know and be transformed by the all surpassing love of Jesus"

"We know that life is richer and fuller when we're shaped by one another through intergenerational relationships"

Faith Formation - Home vs. Church

"Generally speaking, when it comes to their kids faith, parents get what they are" - Christian Smith

Understand the basic math: Hours at home vs. hours at church

Invest Time and Energy and Resources in Equipping Parents to lead at home

The Challenge of Nursery/SS Volunteers & Rallying People to the Cause

"The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few" (Matthew 9)

There are logistical/equipping obstacles (“I don’t want to miss the service”, “I don’t have time to prepare the lesson”, “I don’t want to commit and back out”), but there are also heart challenges (“I don’t want to”, “someone else will do it”, “I’ve already put in my time serving in my younger years”)

Continually point back to the “why” (see above)

Continually point back to the Congregational Vows made at Baptism:

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture N. and N. by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?