

# Community Connections:

A journey into our local school and why every church needs a place to be and a thing to do in their community!

Rev. John and Rev. Melony Paulus  
Valley Mission CoTN  
email: [jomepaulus6@gmail.com](mailto:jomepaulus6@gmail.com)

# Community Connections:

A journey begins with prayer:

- Asking for discernment to identify where God is already moving within the church and in the community
- Asking for the Lord to prepare hearts and minds within the church and outside in the community
- Seeking guidance and understanding for the next steps

# Community Connections:

A journey continues as we ask questions and begin to listen:

- If the church shut its doors, would the community even notice?
- What are we known for?
- Who are we?
  - What are our giftings?
  - Where is our heart?
- Are we duplicating efforts? Can we join with others?
- What is our starting point?
  - Do we have the people needed?
  - Do we have leaders?

# Community Connections:

A journey continues through seeking to partner with others:

- Discern appropriate connection point. (ex. Principal and other church-related staff connections)
- Request meeting to discover specific needs. (We should not dictate what needs we will provide, rather seek to understand their needs.)
- Invite the congregation to begin to meet the specific needs.  
Examples from our story:
  - Health & hygiene items
  - Playground equipment
  - Lunch for teacher appreciation and other events of recognition.
  - Meet the urgent need for an instructional aide

# Community Connections:

A journey continues recognizes when mid-course corrections are needed:

- Plan - create a draft plan
- Preach, teach, and lead through modeling mission-minded and outward-focused
- Invite all to participate
- Cover with prayer
  
- Adjust— begin the plan with eyes and ears open to obstacles.
  - Make adjustments along the way acknowledging what is working and what is not.
  - Be humble as mistakes will happen.
  - Be ready to change to follow God's plan.

# Community Connections:

A journey continues with next steps:

Remain consistent in efforts to connect with the community by...

- Building on the foundation that has been created
  - volunteering and tutoring
  - community dinner and basketball camps
  - special events such as back to school and movie nights
  - Participate in the school events such as the welcome back to school night and fall carnival
- By strengthening relational connections – be available when needed by school, teachers, and families.
  - Attending funerals, visiting at facilities, or providing essential resources.

# Community Connections:

Our results....through Wiggly Wednesday and other community outreach events

- Reach of up to 88 children
- Average attendance on Wednesday- 44 children as compared to previous 8
- In the last six months: 10 salvations and 3 baptisms (1 more planned)
- New families at Sunday services as well as Sunday School and discipleship participation. With one choosing to become a member.
- Extensive church involvement