



CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

PENHOOK, VIRGINIA

As pastor, I am responsible for providing spiritual leadership to a group of believers known as Christ Community Church. Our church is unique in that its parishioners tend to be transitory in nature. Retirees from all walks of life and various parts of the country find homes at Smith Mountain Lake to enjoy their golden years. Many of our parishioners travel during the year and occasionally miss church. Some split time between their home at the lake and a home in another state. A few are Franklin County natives and rarely leave the area. Most spend 20 years or less in our fellowship.

Our congregation primarily consists of retirees looking for a place to worship that somewhat resembles where they previously worshipped. This is both a blessing and a challenge as we represent parishioners with the following denominational backgrounds: Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Catholic, Baptist, United Church of Christ, and a few others. Christ Community Church is not affiliated with a denomination and prefers to be called an all-denomination church instead of a non-denomination church. Personally, I take great joy in serving such a diverse group of believers. To me, this is representative of the Kingdom of God.

If you were to visit our church, you would likely sense a community of believers who love one another and attempt to love those outside the walls of the physical building. We try to maintain a focus on emulating the life of Christ. Sermons are bible-based, practical, encouraging, challenging, and inspirational. I avoid “getting in the weeds” on divisive theological issues while focusing on the basic tenets of the faith. My goal is to encourage the flock and spread the good news of the gospel of Christ. You will rarely hear words of condemnation.

My vision for Christ Community Church is simple and threefold. First, we aim to provide a weekly meaningful worship experience for our parishioners and the Penhook community in an attempt to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25). Second, we aim to fulfill the law of Christ by showing care and concern for one another (Matthew 22:37-39). Finally, we aim to grow organically as others witness our love for one another and our community (John 13:34-35).

If you are considering a visit, we will welcome you with open arms! I believe in strength-based leadership. Most of our people in leadership roles are exercising the gifts and strengths endowed to them by God. We would love to utilize the gifts God has blessed you with! I hope to see you soon!

Derek Layman