Rev. Susan Reisinger served the church as interim pastor from June 10, 2007 through August 30of 2009. She led the church through a mission study, a spiritual discernment process which provided the congregation with an opportunity for self-reflection. Following the study, the church was led to the Rev. Wendi L. Werner as its next pastor. Rev. Werner was ordained in the PC(USA) in 2006, having completed her Master of Divinity at Drew Theological School. Prior to Dayton, she had served in large, multi-staff congregations in educational ministries in north-central New Jersey and more locally at the First Presbyterian Church at Dutch Neck in Princeton Junction as Associate Pastor. Rev. Werner offered her candidacy sermon in August of 2009 that included a memorable children’s message which left many with happy, teary eyes. The congregation unquestionably knew she belonged at the Dayton Church. She was installed during an afternoon service in October of 2009, where the Rev. Dr. David A. Davis of Nassau Presbyterian Church offered the sermon. The church was excited to welcome Rev. Werner's entire family into its life, including her husband Noel (Director of Music as Nassau Church), and Sophie and Emily who were ages 6 and 2 when she began.

During the first 10 years of Rev. Werner’s tenure, the church undertook approximately half a million dollars in building expansion, restoration and renovation, without accruing debt. These projects were made possible through the financial generosity of the congregation, including saints of the church no longer living who contributed to the church through planned, legacy giving. Smaller, but significant projects included the increase of lighting in the sanctuary with installation of new chandeliers which can be mechanically raised and lowered, installation of a commercial grade oven and gas range (made possible with a gift from Harold Errickson), installation of new commercial grade tile flooring in the kitchen, an upgrade of electricity in the kitchen, replacement of all furnaces in the church building, new roofing over fellowship hall and a host of other minor projects.

During the early portion of Rev. Werner’s time as pastor, there was a significant shift in long term lay leadership. After serving for a period that spanned over 20 years, Jane Duchak stepped down as church secretary and Ruth Velez stepped away from her position as church treasurer. Carolyn Bryant, who spent over 32 years in service as clerk of Session, retired from the position. In recognition of all her efforts on the congregation’s behalf, the Session voted to recognize Elder Bryant as “clerk emeritus” in 2015. While each person was greatly missed in these roles, the transition provided opportunities for new leadership, new models, policies, practices and methodologies. The church transitioned in its communication, moving from a mailed monthly newsletter to a revamped website and e-newsletter format. New accounting software introduced, and the church began to have a presence on social media.

A Board of Deacons had been part of the church’s history from 1869 through the early 1950’s, when the congregation stopped ordaining and installing deacons. The church reactivated a Board of Deacons in 2010, striving to recognize that some among them were called by God to the office as defined by the polity of the PC(USA). The new board was charged with the caring ministries of the church. Working in conjunction with the pastor, the deacons ministered to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who were in distress within and beyond the community of faith. Deacons became a visible presence at both weddings and funerals, doing hospital visitation, organizing meals as needed, along with a multitude of additional efforts. They were notably present during “services of wholeness and healing” led by Rev. Werner, where time was made during worship for individuals to come forward for anointing and the laying on of hands.

After witnessing a woman being carried up the narthex stairs in a wheelchair in order to attend funeral services of a friend, Rev. Werner re-started conversations about the possibility of an accessibility project in 2012. These conversations were not new, having begun in 1995 with interest in both building accessibility and the potential of building expansion during Rev. Dr. Nelson’s tenure. In 2013, the Session opted for a concentrated focus on accessibility with the inclusion of a small addition to serve as a fully accessible lobby area, designed to communicate welcome. Taking inspiration from plans initially drawn up by George Knigge, the church eventually contracted with architect Bill Doran and Hobar Construction Company for the project which included the installation of a three stop Garaventa lift and the construction of two fully accessible bathrooms located in both the lobby and fellowship hall. Elder Keith Watlington served as project manager on the church’s behalf. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 29, 2013 in which the completion of the project was celebrated with great fanfare including welcome of the touring choir of Princeton Theological Seminary and its chapel leadership. The event coincided with the dedication of a beautiful Steinway baby grand piano that was gifted to the church for our sanctuary. The church’s upright sanctuary piano was donated to Crossroads Middle School North.

Under Rev. Werner’s leadership the congregation has lived out its commitment to welcoming all God's children through ever widening circles of ministry. Hospitality has been a core value, evidenced in the weekly fellowship hour following Sunday worship which the pastor worked to re-establish. Following the completion of the accessibility project, the Session further widened the circle of inclusivity by working towards a public declaration of welcome. In 2013, a statement of full inclusion was formally adopted and the church began to outwardly identify as open and affirming. Following a period with no active mission oriented committee, the Session re-established its outreach commitment. Under the leadership of Elder Leslie Lanphear, the Mission Committee re-organized itself around Matthew 25, shifting to a different focus each year with efforts to alleviate hunger, provide clothing, give comfort to those in jail, etc. Core outreach efforts grounded in hospitality became established including the Clothing Closet, an effort that gathered gently used and new clothing for redistribution at no cost; and the Open Kitchen, which provided a meal with multiple entrée options on the last Saturday of each month at no cost. By 2019, the Open Kitchen was serving an average of 50 people each month. In recognition of these expanding circles of ministry that kept hospitality at its heart, the church adopted its central vison as the place where the welcome is wide.

Noting that in the church’s long history, there has been an argument every couple of generations about whether the manse should be preserved or torn down – the congregation decided to re-invest in the manse property in 2015. Once again, Bill Doran provided architectural plans and Sodano Contracting was hired to do the construction. Elder Matt Verney acted as project manager. The project began in earnest at the end of December 2015. The entire structure was re-insulated, insulated in the rear of the building for the first time, and re-sided. A large section of roof overhang unique to the manse was reconstructed. An existing deck was demolished to make room for a kitchen addition and porch. The half bath on the first floor was expanded to a full bath. A large coat closet was added along with a walk-in pantry. The back room was gutted and refitted with new walls and lighting. Although navigating a construction project mid-winter brought many challenges, there was running water on the first floor of the manse by Holy Week of 2016. Rev. Werner has utilized the manse as an extension of the church, holding various meetings, hosting the annual Christmas party, and gathering there with people as needed.

Rev. Werner organized five Vacation Bible School programs from 2012 through 2016. With backdrops artfully designed by George Knigge, children learned about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus by exploring Mt. Everest, moving around castles and examining the depths of the oceans. Dramatic backdrops allowed them to cross mountain bridges, sit regally in a medieval castle and walk with sea creatures that depicted the presence of Jesus throughout all creation.

It is important to note that there has been a radical shift in demographics in the village of Dayton since the church’s inception. While approximately 90% of the church membership is white, according to Datausa.com in 2015 there were 136 times more Asian residents (46.4%) in the village of Dayton than any other ethnicity. Of that percentage, an overwhelming majority are families with children in the school system and who identify as Hindu. While being part of such a radically diverse community is cause for celebration, there has been impact on the church’s continued growth. The church has been committed to the interfaith presence in which it finds itself. Rev. Werner has been an active participant in the South Brunswick Interfaith Clergy Association, regularly participated in interfaith services and dialogue and was appointed to the township Human Relations Commission in 2019.

Additional highlights of during Rev. Werner’s 2009-2019 tenure included the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 108, the hosting of several interfaith Thanksgiving services, the introduction of four Master of Divinity candidates over a period of five years who completed their field education requirement by serving as a student pastor; the introduction of an annual officer’s dinner. She lived out service to the wider church by being active in the presbytery including being moderator in 2016.