

August, 2023

Dear church family,

It's hard to believe I have been with you for a year! In that time we have had to tackle some budget restructuring and navigated staff changes. We have completed our self study and elected a PNC. We have kicked off a fundraising campaign to bring our buildings and grounds up to date. We have established a team to designate special projects for the Martha Sutton bequest, and those projects are under way. I'm confident that we are on track to welcome your next called and installed pastor by fall of next year. More than that, I'm so glad that the members of our church have continued to function as a church family during this time of transition. Rather than checking out and waiting for the next pastor, you've been engaged, session has been actively working, committee members are doing their part, you are visiting and making meals for our members in need, you are stepping up to teach Sunday School and chaperone youth trips, and worship attendance is steady, even throughout the summer. The work that we do for the kingdom of God has continued!

This next month we resume Sunday School, coffee fellowship returns, we commission the PNC, we continue to update and review our policies and procedures, our women's study circles continue to expand, and we worship God together. Please keep our church in your prayers, and pray for whoever will be your next pastor. God knows who it will be, and we pray that God brings us together so that the divine plan is accomplished. I am so excited to see who God has in mind for us!

I will be taking my unpaid sabbatical from mid-August to mid-September, as a help to our 2023 budget. During that time, I'll be working to renovate my 1944 fixer upper home in North Charleston. Rev. Terri will be taking the lead while I'm out, and you'll be hearing Sunday sermons from Beth Robertson and Catherine Parler, as well. I've created some art plans for the communion table on Sundays I'll be away, which I hope you'll enjoy. If you'd like to lend a hand setting them up, please check with Terri.

You may want to pick up a [favorite hymn request form](#) next time you're in the sanctuary. You can fill it out and drop it off in the office or in the offering plate. We will be singing all your favorites from September through November.

I'm so grateful to God for bringing me here. You continue to fill me with joy, even through times of loss or change. I have seen grace, faith, hope, and love here. I hold you in my heart as we serve God together.

In Christ,

Rev. Tricia