

Weekly Newsletter

JANUARY 4, 2024



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Everything has its time...

“There is a time for everything and a season for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to sew, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

This pearl of wisdom found in the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament tells us there is a time for every season. I believe that. Some seasons are prescribed, like when the buds bloom or the snows fall. Other seasons are felt, as when a ball player just knows it is time to hang up their glove.

My season with you as your pastor is nearly complete. I will be taking retirement from full-time ministry at Annual Conference in June. I will have completed my 13th year (a baker's dozen) as your Pastor. You will receive a new pastor appointed by our Bishop on July 1st.

During my season with you, I have been blessed to share your joys and tears, baptize, marry, and bury many of our church family, and bless the bread and cup at Christ's Table of Grace. You have allowed me to be present with you when you were in a hospital gown, wedding gown, or mourning suit. We have prayed for each other. I have loved you, and felt your love in return. You have honored me with your trust and affection, and I am deeply grateful.

Since arriving in July of 2011, we have undergone the upheaval of the Healthy Church Initiative, added new staff positions, changed our name and developed branding, become a Reconciling Church, started a second worship service, and then waded through to the other side of a global pandemic. I am so very proud to have served congregants who faithfully strive for inclusion and grace, who are exceedingly generous with their time, money, and talents, and who are passionately engaged in their community and beyond.



We still have much more to do. There are people all about us who are hungry to feel the love of Christ in their lives. As we move through the close of my season with you, let us not lose sight of our mission to make new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! I look forward to continued growth and joy.

Grace & peace +

PASTOR SHARON

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please Pray For

Bev Mesey; Stuart/Reesor Family; Lou Stuart and Cindy (Traci Stuart); Mary Lynn Jones-Wright (Cindy Andrews); Rev. Kim Shirar; Mark Kremer; Terri Samples (Connie Kroenung); world leaders, and peace.



Baby It's Cold Out There!



We are collecting clean gently used coats of all sizes for distribution to those in need by our friends at InExcelsis. Place your contribution in the bin at the Elevator Foyer Door. Can you share the gift of warmth this winter?



NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES!



We announce with pleasure that Amanda Furbee has accepted the position of Director of Children's Ministries beginning January 1st! Amanda has been working as our Director of Youth Ministries since November, and many of you have met her or her son Chase on Sunday mornings in worship. Amanda will be phasing into her responsibilities with the children over the next few months.

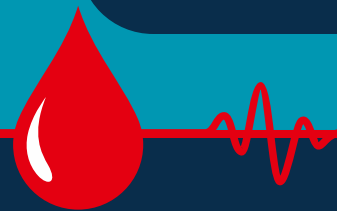
We are grateful for the time, energy, and creativity of Linda Guth Stangl and Michelle Hostmeyer who have provided excellent instruction for our children during our search for a new director.

Welcome to the Children's Ministries, Amanda!



THE SEEKERS CLASS

The Seekers class (between the choir room and the Space room) is starting a new discussion on January 7th. The Adam Hamilton book “Unafraid” will form the basis for our discussion. We all face fear; life simply presents so many challenges that fear can feel like a member of the family. Adam has some thoughts to help us cope. All are welcome to join us. We’d love to see you.



RED CROSS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY JANUARY 26, 2pm - 7pm.
at the Brentwood REC CENTER

PLEASE SIGN UP AT:
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Questions email aleahy2833@gmail.com