



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link: Special Edition



Keeping the Members and Friends of First Church Connected!

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Dear Members and Friends of FCC,

By now you have all, no doubt, learned of the impending retirement of Kevin Pleas. While it was not a decision he reached lightly, we are nonetheless saddened at his imminent departure. His work among us has been marked by compassion, devotion to Christ's word, and a desire to lead us well into becoming a 21st century church. But it has also been a difficult year for him personally, and we respect and support his need to move forward in his well-earned retirement.

You may also be asking yourselves what will come next. There is a clear path forward. Although the details have not yet been finalized, you can be assured that our church will be well-served. We are thankful for the presence and capabilities of Barbara Papagian, Adam Peithmann, Linda Bonetti, Sokhom Sar, Peter Perich, Kelda York and Lauren Henderson, who execute their work beautifully. The many lay leaders have always committed themselves to the ongoing work of our church, and always with love and devotion to God's work. They all remain a constant for our beloved FCC.

At present, we will continue to move forward with our reopening plan, as we surround Kevin with support, understanding, and love. By late summer or early fall, we hope to have an interim to help with transitioning to a new pastorate.

By all accounts, at this juncture, our church is in a strong place. Though our resilience has been tested mightily over the past decade or so, nonetheless we have emerged strong and united in our love of Jesus Christ and the work he does through us. As we read in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This is our guide.

So, as we begin this transition, we want to wish Kevin well and support him during the coming weeks. Of course, there will be opportunities to do so, both formally and informally, so stay tuned.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Church Council.

**Yours in Christ,
Selma Naccach-Hoff, Moderator**

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