

November 28, 2018

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

I hope and pray that this letter finds you well. As your Interim Pastor, I am writing to you to communicate important information regarding changes in our church staff. Our Director of Music, Alexis Ward, has recently informed us of her resignation.

Alexis did not arrive at this decision easily, and below are her own words to her church family:

Please know that I did not make this decision lightly, nor am I resigning due to job dissatisfaction. I had hoped to stay at FPC Covington for a long time to come. However, after a lot of thought and prayer, my husband and I realize that we need to be closer to family as we start this next chapter.

Although I cannot share when or where, I can tell you that my husband has been assigned to a tough, year-long deployment overseas. This mandatory assignment came a bit unexpectedly and is a longer deployment than we were promised he would ever have to do. I ask that you keep our family in your prayers as Hazel and I move to Delaware to be with family and prepare for this tough time.

I can honestly say that the First Presbyterian Church of Covington has been one of the kindest, most loving, and most generous congregations I have ever served. I have been blessed during my time with this music ministry, and I will miss every new brother and sister in Christ that I have met during my time here.

During my short time here at First Presbyterian Church, I have come to know Alexis as a friend and colleague. It has been a privilege to support her and work with her these past few months. She is an extremely talented young woman with a very bright future, and she will be deeply missed from our church staff, from the choir, and so much more.

Alexis' final Sunday as a staff member will be Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. On that morning, we will worship together on Music Sunday and be filled with the beautiful music that Alexis has arranged and organized. Then we will honor Alexis by having a reception for her and her family in the narthex following the service.

In the upcoming days and weeks, I encourage everyone to find opportunities to thank Alexis for all her hard work and faithful dedication to this congregation, to our music ministries, and for loving and serving all God's people here in this place! May God's grace, mercy, and love continue to guide and direct Alexis and her family into a future filled with hope and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Rev. Steven Barnes, Interim Pastor