



YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

The Rev. Amy C. Gopp, Senior Pastor

Kent United Church of Christ
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Dear Congregation,

We are writing to you to let you know what is happening while Pastor Amy is on her leave. We rejoice with Amy and Frederic as they become new parents! Many have asked lots of questions as to how we are handling worship services, who is taking care of pastoral care, what can they do to help, and are we going to have a baby shower? We hope we can answer these and other questions you may have.

First, as to Sunday services, we made a decision to not seek out an interim pastor, partly due to the short timing, but also to not widen the gap in our budget any further. We are asking members of our congregation to offer their gifts and step into the pulpit for those Sundays we do not have Communion. We have altered the schedule some to allow for this. We are working to line up guest pastors to fill the two Communion dates we have, including Easter. We are sure you will enjoy hearing from your fellow congregants. Our deacons and others will fill in the ministerial portions of the services other than the liturgists who are already signed up to serve.

When Pastor Amy went on sabbatical last year, the deacons and Stephen Ministers worked together to provide pastoral care, and they are doing this now as well. Leah will field calls and refer them to either Jackie Peck or Sue Otterson. We are seeking a professional pastor to take care of any need above what is appropriate for deacons or Stephen Ministers to handle.

At this point, nothing formal has been discussed about having a baby shower, but it will be in the works as we are more sure of timing, especially knowing when the new family is ready. We are sure that, at this point, monetary gifts are the most needed and appreciated. We are not doing a formal collection at this time.

One caveat before closing: please be aware and vigilant about email and text messages purporting to be from Pastor Amy asking for help in the form of money or gift cards. These are scams. Pastor Amy would NEVER ask for help in this way. Always double-check the phone number and email address to see if it is legitimately coming from Amy. Most likely, it is not!

So, what can you do to help? Rejoice. Pray. Continue to attend services. Step up or volunteer as needed. We have a rich and diverse congregation, and we need each of you!

With Rejoicing Love,

Sue Otterson, Moderator, Al Barber, Vice Moderator

Whoever you are...wherever you are on life's journey...you're welcome here!!!