



When and How to Contact the Minister

This is just a periodic reminder that your minister is available to you and loves hearing from you. Some people are comfortable getting in touch, some people are in regular touch because of their involvement in church, and others are unsure of when they should call the minister. Here are some suggestions:

A good time to call your minister is when...

- You are sick or going into the hospital. We really appreciate knowing!
- There has been a death, or you or someone in your family (including animals) is in the dying process.
- You have a Rite of Passage to plan (wedding, christening, memorial service).
- You are in a big life transition and want someone to care about it with you and perhaps recommend resources.
- You are in danger or financial crisis and need help right away.
- You are experiencing abuse.
- You had a spiritual or mystical experience and want to talk about it.
- You have a family issue you'd like to discuss in total confidentiality.
- You want to know something about the church community that isn't covered in the Weekly Update or on the website.
- You want to talk about your spiritual life, questions, doubts, struggles and discoveries.
- You want spiritual support in your recovery from addiction.
- You want to talk about the spiritual dimension of your mental health care or treatment.
- You need help working through or responding to a crisis.
- You have a problem or dilemma that you don't feel comfortable bringing anywhere else.
- You need to work through a moral or ethical issue in your home or professional life.
- You want to process something about your experience at this church or with another religious community, even from long ago.

These are just some of the reasons people reach out to the minister. Because ministry is a commitment to respond and to be present to individuals and families, leadership teams, community partners, and programs, my schedule is different every week - but due to the wonders of technology, I have a computer with me almost all the time by which I can check my emails and texts.

Please email me at Victoria.weinstein@gmail.com if you want to set up time together. I meet with people mornings, afternoons, evenings, weekdays and weekends!! Fridays are my day off, but otherwise I work around your availability. Some of my regular weekday meetings are with staff (one and one and staff meetings on Thursdays). I tend to work from home on Mondays but am in and out of the church on Tuesdays-Thursdays. I often have evening meetings but they change from week to week, so we can find time if you are busy at work during the day.

We can meet at the church, in your home, at a café or restaurant, and sometimes my home or yard. I do coffee dates, dinners, breakfasts, and counseling sessions for more focused conversations.

I prefer to set things up and to save business conversations for email so I have an archive of them, but it's fine to text to confirm a meeting, send me a quick message or fun photo via text. I'm grateful we have such a convenient way to touch base!

I generally put my phone away by 10PM unless I am on call for you during a crisis or dying process. In those situations, you will have my number, be entered into my system, and I will keep the phone and near me at all times. My phone number, 781-775-7601, is on my outgoing message on my church extension. If you give it to someone I don't know, I appreciate a heads up so I can be prepared for that call and know who referred them.

I am always available for pastoral counseling with children but will never give your child my phone number without your permission.

In faith,
Reverend Vicki