



December 10, 2021

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! During this Advent season, we pray that the spirit of expectation has found its way to your heart. The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to officially announce that our pastor will begin a 3-month sabbatical leave on January 1, 2022. This leave will run through March 31, 2022. During this time, Pastor P will not be serving the Office of the Pastor. This leave, which is granted to clergy under full-time appointment every seven years, will be a time where our pastor can get some much-needed rest, replenish himself and renew his spirit and call. As we know, the work that pastors do is very demanding, and sabbatical leave enables clergy to continually serve the church to the best of their ability. We respectfully request that you refrain from contacting Pastor P during his leave. In addition, please understand that while on leave, Pastor P is under no obligation to respond to any communication that he receives (i.e., text messages, phone calls, e-mails, etc.).

During our pastor's time away, we will be blessed to have Pastor Eva Clark and Pastor Donald Smedley serving our Pastoral Office. We have been extremely blessed by their ministries for many years, and we look forward to how they will care for us during Pastor P's leave. Pastor Clark and Pastor Smedley will serve on-call and will be available as needed to both the leadership and the membership of the church. In addition, we are blessed to have Pastor Ronald Triplett, our former pastor, serving as Pastoral Consultant to Pastor Clark and Pastor Smedley. We can rest assured that our pastor has left us in very capable and anointed hands. Should there be a pastoral emergency during Pastor P's leave, we ask that you contact the Church Office at 301-894-8622 (if during business hours) or Pastor Smedley at 240-475-4821 (if after business hours). Pastoral emergencies include, but are not limited to a hospitalization, a death in your family, a tragedy, or a personal crisis. If pastoral counseling is needed, please contact the Church Office, and an appointment will be scheduled for you to meet with one of the pastors. Out of an abundance of caution, virtual pastoral counseling will be utilized as much as possible during this time.

The pulpit will be filled with an array of dynamic preachers from throughout the DMV. A schedule of the guest preachers will be provided at the close of the year. Our worship services will continue to function as currently scheduled. That means, we will worship both in-person and virtually on the FIRST, THIRD and FIFTH Sundays. We will worship virtually only on the SECOND and FOURTH Sundays. Please remember, you must register to attend in-person worship, and we are still adhering to CDC guidelines around the COVID-19 pandemic. To stay updated on our church's COVID-19 policies, please visit our website, www.journeyeverywhere.org.

We invite you to keep Pastor P, Pastor Clark and Pastor Smedley in your thoughts and prayers in the days ahead. We look forward to our pastor's return on Friday, April 1, 2022. On behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, thank you for the gift that it is to serve our church in this capacity. Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Min. Desmond Critchlow, SPRC Chair & Sis. Chandra Edmonds, Lay Leader

Camp Springs Campus
6016 Allentown Road
Suitland, MD 20746

Church Office
(301) 894-8622

Temple Hills Campus
1901 Iverson Street
Temple Hills, MD 20748