May 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

2344 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-867-5865

Grace and peace to you,

We are writing to inform you of some upcoming staff news which the Session approved at its April 28 meeting.

Retirement

With both sadness and gratitude, we announce the retirement of Reverend Suzanne Trump, Pastoral Associate for Compassion, effective Friday, May 30.

Suzanne came to us in April 2023 after retiring from her Lutheran congregations. We are grateful for the many ways she has served here at FPC including working with the Deacons, visitation, and preaching.

Her last Sunday with us will be May 25. Please mark your calendar now to be with us to celebrate Suzanne. That will be the first Sunday of our combined 10 a.m. summer service, so we will follow worship with a wonderful brunch!

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

With Suzanne's retirement, we began to think through how to address pastoral care in our congregation. We are grateful to Reverend Cynthia Simmons for taking on the unpaid role of Parish Associate for Pastoral Care.

Both the Deacons and Session are delighted that Cindy is stepping into this role with a one-year commitment. She brings great expertise and organizational skills to the new position, having served as FPC-Allentown's Pastoral Care minister for 15 years. Cindy has already started working with the Deacons and pastors.

Mini-Sabbatical

Reverend Lindsey Altvater Clifton will be taking a well-deserved mini-sabbatical using accumulated continuing education and vacation leave, beginning on Monday, June 2, continuing through Sunday, July 6. We are grateful for Lindsey's leadership after Reverend J.C. Austin left FPC to take another pastorate.

Please let us know if you have any questions about any of these updates. We are grateful for the ongoing leadership of the Session, the Trustees, the Deacons, our committees, staff, volunteers and our congregation.

Sincerely,

Rev. Karen Kinney
Reverend Karen Kinney
Transitional Pastor

Kim Miner
Chair, Personnel Committee