

FAREWELL SERVICE

(Please note, some parts of the Words of Farewell were ad libbed, but this is most of what was said during the Farewell Service.)

The Scriptures are filled with stories of people who have been called to move to new places:

Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Joseph, and Jesus and his disciples.

Filled with uncertainty about what lay ahead, these people of God could not have found their moves easy.

Yet they were also filled with excitement, trusting that God was calling them and guiding them to a new place.

And now you, Jun and Jasmine, are preparing to leave us and go to a new place, a new home, and a new church.

As a part of this body of Christ over the past two years, Jun, you have given of yourself in ways that we have appreciated and will miss.

You came to us with enthusiasm that breathed new life in all of us here at CHUMC. Even though you look incredibly young, your heart is one of an “old soul” guided by God. Your seemingly endless supply of energy was evident in every aspect of our little church: Sunday Services, singing, playing guitar, Coffee Houses, City Reach events, the Snowflake Festival – you found time for it all! And then it all came to a halt due to covid. But that didn’t stop you. You stepped right in and got online services up and running – thank you for your technical support! You reached out to our Sunday School kids on their level creating incredible videos that were enjoyed not only by the kids, but by the whole congregation! (Personally, my favorite was the one you filmed at McDonald’s about supersizing a meal!) And, more importantly, you made sure you reached those who did not have access to a computer and still made sure they were included and got all the bulletins and enews.

One of my favorite things about you, Jun, is your compassion. You took the time to attend my father’s funeral with a few members of the church – two days before thanksgiving and for a man you had never met – but you came. I then watched you lead services for members of our congregation you had barely met. During those services, you spoke of them like you had known them for years – and it occurred to me that, in your heart, you had always known them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Everything you do is through God. You told us that it was God that brought you to us and God that was guiding us all. God was bringing out the energy and enthusiasm in all of us. And, in your sermon, you did it again. You, Jun, will be remembered for all you did for you, but for remembering Christ. You reminded us all of that and we cannot thank you enough for that.

We are so sad to see you go, but it helps knowing that God will be with us as we welcome Pastor Nicholas and Sabrina, and God will also be with you and Jasmine and your new congregations. We are always connected through Him, though we are not always in the same space. We hope CHUMC has been a good starting place for you and your future ministry no matter where it may take you.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for bringing Jun and Jasmine to Church Hill and for many cherished memories. We commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**