

Pastor Update:

I officially began as pastor at UMC on September 1. The last 2 weeks have been full as I live into my place and space here.

Here are a few of the things I've been doing:

- * Visiting members/attenders - I've been in 5 of your homes, getting to know you, hearing stories, dreams, joys and concerns. I look forward to more visits in the coming weeks, and welcome hearing from you - if you'd like a visit sooner rather than later, please let me know.
- * Preparing to lead worship and preach
- * Participating in church retreat at Camp Hebron. What a gift to spend a big chunk of time with some of you! Owl prowling, conversations over tea, a hike up Peter's Mountain, celebrating communion, learning about the work some of you engage in allowed me to glimpse a little deeper into this community of faith I've come to serve and participate in.
- * Met with Leadership Team and Elders.
- * Participated in clergy breakfast with Nadia Bolz-Weber.

A few goals for this year:

- * Visit everyone in the congregation.
- * Participate in ecumenical gatherings in the Penn State area, Allegheny Mennonite Conference and MCUSA.
- * Listen and learn about the desires, hopes and dreams of how we might serve Christ - both through interior spiritual disciplines and outward acts of service.
- * Explore ways for the congregation to engage with one another outside of Sunday mornings.

Getting to know you, as individuals and as a body of Christ, is important to me as I enter into relationship with you. I will be setting up office hours, and welcome you to come share a cup of tea and conversation here in the office, but also am willing to meet in your homes, offices, coffee shops around town. I want to find ways to get to know the children of UMC - to learn about their lives, interests and challenges.

For the fall, my day off during the week will be Thursdays, as well as Saturdays. Please feel free to email, call the office, or call me on my cell phone (717-606-2909) the other days.

I am excited to be here! This week I spent some time meditating on the following scripture, and offer it to all of us as we live into the multitude of transitions that make up our lives:

"So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you."

1 Peter 5: 6-7 (from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*)