

Pastoral Report 9/15/19

This year has been one of learning what it means to pastor a congregation, through entering into relationships, providing spiritual and emotional support, preaching, leading and walking beside this wonderful group of people known as University Mennonite. What a gift to be known as Pastor Kate! I am grateful for the ways God continues to provide in such abundant and unexpected ways.

As we begin the new church year, we will focus on what it means to “Grow Roots and Bear Fruits” together. One way is through the 12 Scriptures Project – a naming what scriptures guide us, transform us and lead us as seekers on the Way. In naming our ‘canon within the canon’ my hope is that we will clarify and embrace who we are and how we are called to live as followers of Christ in the landscape of central Pennsylvania, 2019.

One goal for my first year here at UMC was to visit most, if not all of you in your homes or other spaces. I have not had that opportunity with everyone yet and hope to make that happen. If we haven’t met for a meal or a simple glass of water and conversation, feel free to reach out to me. Hearing stories and learning what matters in your life continues to be vitally important to me.

I have recently begun a 10-month preaching mentorship through Back Story Preaching. It’s a virtual course, done through the magic of the internet, where I will get feedback and hone the craft of preaching. I welcome your continued input as I learn and improve in bringing the Good News on Sunday mornings.

Connecting with the larger State College and Centre County community also continues to be important. I take part in the ecumenical faith leaders’ gatherings, attend community meetings as I’m able, and have begun to volunteer through the PA Prison Society. Finding ways to serve Christ outside of our church building brings life and keeps me engaged and proximal with the suffering around us.

I have begun working on a personal/pastoral vision statement and hope we continue to ask ourselves ‘to what is God calling me, calling us, as a community of faith at this time, in this place?’

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 8:38-39*

I look forward to growing with you, serving with you, and walking beside you in this year to come.

With Gratitude,  
Kate