

— Feb 2022 —  
*First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Community and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

### **Believe It or Not Saying Goodbye Can be Good**

We oftentimes hear the words: “I hate goodbyes.” I suspect you may have said those words yourself at some time. It is natural not to want to separate from others. We easily grow attached to those we have connected with, and we frequently don’t like letting them go.

It is no less true for me as well. I have always said as I come into a new transitional ministry I love this work, but I hate the goodbyes.

This is especially true at Aberdeen First Presbyterian Church. I love the ministry we have done together. I love the relationships I have gained. I have grown attached to the way we function and live as the body of Christ together. It is extremely hard to walk away and give you folks and your service to a new leader, shepherd, pastor.

Still, when I arrived, I was clear that this is part of my job. This is part of the call to transitional work I have made throughout my many churches of ministry. This is what God has called me to do.

Many people have asked about my next steps. Where am I going from here? The simple answer today is I have no idea. I don’t know where God is going to send me.

I am exploring a few options at this moment. They are all in the infancy stage. However, the one thing I know about transitional ministry is that things may happen very quickly. As it takes a while to find the new called pastor to a church, it may take very little time to engage a transitional pastor once the dialogue is begun. Part of this is because it is done by the session and not by the whole church which is true expediently. However, the main reason is that it is a temporary position from the start. I start, knowing that my work includes a short-lived hello. The goodbye is always right around the corner.

Something else I know about departing our church is that it always comes too fast. It seems that the moment I arrive, the next moment follows that it is



Rev. Dr. Dave Emery  
Transitional Pastor

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## CON'T FROM THE PASTOR

time to move on. It always seems to me that I just get here when I need to say goodbye. All this is true and is the case every time. It still doesn't make it any easier or comfortable.

Still there are two things about my departure I hope to accomplish.

Just as there were many things, we needed to do to find the new pastor so too there are a couple of things I pray we will be able to do well as we transition between myself and Pastor Chuck.

I want you to know that I seek to leave well. I want you to know I have no regrets. I have no unfinished business. I have no hidden expectations that have gone unfulfilled. I only have one disappointment. I am sorry that I wasn't able to visit you in your homes. This has been a part of my ministry always and because of the Covid-19 pandemic wasn't possible this time.

However, I have given you everything I have. I have spent all my energy, efforts, and experience in providing you the leadership I pray was helpful for this time.

Second, I embrace the unanimous decision of you folks in your choice of a new pastor. I pray and I know that you will be in good hands. I trust the process. I trust the PNC. I trust the work of the session throughout these months. I trust the decision of the congregation. And, most of all I trust the leading of God in your corporate lives.

Finally, even though this is all true, I acknowledge that once again it is hard to say goodbye. You should know that I am planning to be your pastor until your new pastor arrives. In this regard, I pray for a good and appropriate transition from being your pastor, to the joyous celebrative and welcome at the arrival of your new called pastor.

So, know that you are in my prayers for the weeks ahead. Yet, likewise know too that you will be in my prayers all the days of my life. May God richly bless you and keep you now and always. Amen

Pastor Dave



Left to Right: Rev. Dr. Dave Emery, Transitional Pastor of FPCA  
Rev. Shari Jackson Monson, Transitional Executive Presbyter  
and Tom Hill, Olympia Presbytery COM



## MEET THE PASTOR CHUCK & HIS WIFE CHERYL



Left to Right: Cheryl Guth and Gean Ross (Deacon)



Pastor Chuck Guth answered questions from the Congregation during the meeting.



Left to Right: Pastor Chuck Guth (Pastor Nominee) & Pastor Dave Emery (Transitional Pastor of FPCA)



Floyd Plemmons (PNC member & Elder) signed Pastor Chuck's Terms of Call during the Congregational Meeting on February 13, 2022.



## FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons have decided to leave some funds in our treasury to help with a future "welcome back to church" celebration. Remember the barbecues we traditionally had in September? We don't know what the celebration will be or when, but we want to help with it!

In January, we donated \$200 to help support Family Promise. During the pandemic, the families who have been in the program have been staying at the Day Center. We hope that the host churches will be able to participate again soon.



## Serving Others

Volunteer: Marilyn Sturm

## Stay in Touch

Have you moved, changed phone number or gotten a new email address? Please let us know which way you would like to receive this monthly newsletter either by email or through regular mail. Please provide your preference by sending us an email at [office@aberdeeenpres.org](mailto:office@aberdeeenpres.org) or by calling the church office at 360.532.1330.



### Installation of Officers (Class of 2024)

Left to Right: Pastor Dave, Harry Carthum & Scott Light (Elders) and Don & Gean Ross (Deacons)



## YOUTH GROUP FIELD TRIP

The First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen's youth group not long ago made an expedition to the mountains. We drove up into White Pass, for inner tubing and frolicking in the snow. Scott and Aries Light drove in two separate cars along with Carrie Warren (William's mom) who was in attendance as an extra adult. The youth group includes Alyssa, Bethie, Gabby, Judy, Maddie, Miley, William and Xander (some go to Miller Jr. High, some go to St. Mary School and some are home school.)

By God's blessing, we had a safe journey and all of us had great fun. Some chose to skip partaking in the inner tubing and rather play in the snow. The weather was entirely clear and beautiful as a reminder that God is present everywhere in many ways, especially in such a splendiferous way as the gorgeous mountain view that we received on the drive home.

But at the end of the day, we created memories that we can share forever. And we are grateful that God granted us that glorious day in the snow. Hallelujah!

Submitted by Judy Light





## IMPROVED LIVESTREAM EXPERIENCE

Good news! We just installed a new improved internet service to enhance our livestream connectivity. We had very poor signals in the past few months. It was frustrating to miss a good Sunday sermon and not being able to watch it online. Thanks to the knowledgeable technician and our hospitality volunteers Steve and Sue Cavin's knowledge about the church building and the wiring, the technician was able to install the service for us. It took almost all day to get everything set up. We are blessed!





# PRAYER STUDY EVERY WED AT 7 PM

## **First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen**

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Facility Maintenance Hours: 9 am – 1 pm (Tues)