

¡Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

My friends, I feel a lot of emotions today as I write you a pastoral email for the last time. I think back to so many of the joyful times we shared together such as the laughs we shared at our “Not So Newlywed Game” last February. I think of the sad times when we had to face the loss of loved ones together. I think of the challenging times when we had to figure out how to get through the darkest days of the covid pandemic, and I even think of the holy times when the presence of God was so real to us during worship that words seemed to get in the way of the experience. We have been through quite a lot together in these past three years, and as we go our separate ways, my prayers go with all of you.

This Sunday, we will be having just one service of worship at 10:30 and there will be a brief reception afterwards to celebrate our three years together. Anne Hays Egan will also be giving a presentation of her books at an adult forum at 9:30 in the Upper Room. Anne’s books are titled *Building Communities of Hope* and *Moving Mama*. I hope you will join her for what promises to be a fascinating presentation of her work.

Finally, I want to say a word about who will be serving in this church after I am gone. At its meeting on Monday, the Session agreed to hire the Rev. Tom Ulrich on a part-time basis to be LPPC’s temporary pastor. Tom is a retired pastor who is new to our presbytery and to New Mexico. Like me, he moved from Northeast Ohio, and like me, one of the things that appealed to him about this part of the country is all the sunshine that you never get to see in Northeast Ohio. Tom will begin his ministry at LPPC as soon as his contract with us can be drafted and approved, which is likely to happen in November. I know you will all welcome Tom warmly and that you will hold him in your prayers.

This Sunday, the scripture readings will be Isaiah 45: 1-7 and Matthew 25: 31-46 . My sermon is titled “Final Words”. I look forward to being with you at 10:30am either in the sanctuary or over Zoom.

Blessings,

Pastor Rich