

2019 Pastor's Report

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There is a common refrain in the Hebrew Bible that is often repeated at pivotal moments in the life of God's people. On multiple occasions, as Moses and God's people wandered in the wilderness, God often reminded them in troubling times who God was: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." As Moses encountered God in the burning bush and before God told Moses that he would lead God's people to the place of promise, God reminded Moses who God was—the God who made a covenant with God's people. The task God is calling Moses to will not be easy. However, God is faithful and promises to Moses what God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As God was with them, so God will be with Moses as he leads the Israelites out of slavery and into the promise land.



*We grow through we love.
We love because Jesus commanded us...
...to love.*

I am mindful of this story as we enter into a new year at church. As your pastor, I am tasked to hold up where we have been and honor those who have gone before us with faithful stewardship, while also guiding us into the next season to which God is calling us. Let me be clear: I am not Moses, and we are not in a hard place like the Israelites were in Egypt. However, I believe that like them, God is doing something new and with God's help, we are becoming a transformed people! Below are my goals for 2019. If you have any questions, comments, or insights, do not hesitate to share them with me. We can only reach the place God is leading us if we work together.

Pastoral Care

I am your pastor. I have made vows to care for you, to pray for you, to serve you, and to love you with imagination and joy. My goal is to meet with every one of you over the first quarter of the year to see how you're doing, learn about your dreams, and to pray with you. Before I am an administrator or preacher, Presbyterian or teacher, I am your pastor.



Outreach

Did you know First Presbyterian Church played an important role helping Lincoln College get established? In fact, our current building was built at the corners of Pekin and Ottawa with the college in mind. One of my outreach goals is to re-establish a relationship with this historic institution. How can we minister to students who are hours away from home?

The Center for Creativity & Community

Did you know First Presbyterian Church received a \$5,000 grant from the Presbytery of Great Rivers to pursue an outreach ministry for youth in the community? I have a vision to create a space that facilitates and cultivates creativity through the arts and spirituality for children and youth in Lincoln. This after school program would minister to those children and youth who may not have an athletic team, a band, or a choir to plug into.



The Gift of Story

Did you know you have a beautiful story? Did you know you have a creative process? Did you know that you have gifts that shape and inspire the community? 2019 will have me teaching more about the different ways we encounter the Divine and finding ways for us to share our stories in a more personal way.

My Promise: The Ministry of Presence

For the past few years, a personal practice of mine is to choose an Epiphany word to guide me during the year. I use this word to help me return to what is important in my life and to remind me of the goals I have set for the coming year. My word for 2019 is "focus." One way I have already started to focus is to relinquish some of my responsibilities on the Committee on Ministry. While I found this work exciting and educational, it demanded a lot of time, energy, and travel from Lincoln. As I reclaim my time, I commit to a general schedule throughout the week to allow me to be a more present pastor to you. I do not have stated office hours, but there are many opportunities to meet with you at the church, over tea or lunch, or in your home. Equally, you can always connect with me and others in the congregation by attending any of the many-repeated events in the life of this church: Tea at Two (each Tuesday), Bible study on Wednesday mornings or Kirk Night in the evenings, the Women's coffee on the first Saturday of every month, the Men's Breakfast on the second Tuesday of every month, or the Women's Association lunches on the first Thursday of every other month.