

## ***Spiritual Renewal Leave***

Rev. Jeff Losey



You may have heard that I will be taking a Spiritual Renewal Leave from May 9<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Church Council gave their approval at our March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

During this time Pastors Kate Merriman and Geri Judd will be available for pastoral care. PLEASE be sure they know of anyone in the hospital or with other needs.

Our Lay Servants will be leading most of the worship services. Our Lay Leader, Rich Flaville, will be the contact person for anything that comes up and you don't know whom to contact or ask.

The letter from Rev. Jeff McDowell does a good job of explaining why Spiritual Renewal is so important for pastors (see newsletter, page 4).

The Bishop and our Conference are strongly encouraging clergy to take a three month renewal leave every six years. I have spoken with some of my colleagues who have made it a regular part of the rhythm of their ministry and they speak enthusiastically about the benefits for both the pastor and the congregation.

I have never taken this sort of leave before, but look forward to clearing out the cobwebs and becoming "spiritually renewed."

So - from May 9<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> I will not be available for pastoral needs. My plans for this time are intentionally unclear. The best advice I have gotten from those who have done it is to avoid a set agenda and put aside any list of accomplishments for this time. "Let the Spirit Lead!"

I'll be around doing all my usual stuff until May 8<sup>th</sup>. You will hear more details as they become clear.

*Rev. Jeff Losey*

