



We are a community united in God's love, actively sharing that love with all.

February 6, 2022

Dear Friends:

Greetings! In Ecclesiastes it is written that *for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...* Life, I believe, is full of seasons, those times in which we experience the fullness of joy we have in life and in a life rooted in the Love of God. It has become apparent in my own life that one season is ending, and another is beginning. And so it is with a mixture of joy and sadness that announce to you that I will be retiring from active ministry and from the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2022.

I did not come to this decision very easily. I have prayerfully pondered my decision to retire for quite some time. I have always believed there is a “shelf-life” to everything, and this includes our professional lives. I have served this beloved church we call the United Methodist Church for over 36 years. I have been blessed to serve in many different settings. I have served rural churches and suburban churches. I have served on Conference staff. I have worked with so many wonderful people: pastors, lay persons, youth, and children. With God’s help, I hope to have been of service in living out my call to ministry. But I am ready to move on and enjoy new endeavors with my beautiful wife Kathy, and to enjoy that penultimate life blessing, being a grandparent, to not one but two new blessed lives come April.

Moving forward, your Staff-Parish Relations Committee chaired by Ben Weise will in consultation with our District Superintendent Shinya Goto to identify the best possible candidate to succeed me. This process is very deliberative in nature. On July 1, 2022, Bishop Minerva Carcaño will have appointed a new pastor to serve our beloved church.

In the next five months, I will be working hard to make sure the transition to a new pastor will be as smooth as possible. And of course, there are plenty of other things I will be about, including helping bring on a new Director of Music Ministry. So I am excited for these last few months of my ministry!

Finally, I will share much more about our pastoral transition later. But for now I would like you to know how much a blessing you have been to me in these years we have had together. Thank you.

Blessings...

Pastor Colin