

April 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

This is the last Friday e-mail I will be writing, as this Sunday is my last here at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian. I will use some unused vacation days until the end of April, at which time my contract as your Bridge Interim Senior Pastor ends.

Each church in transition I have served has been unique. I, as well as you, never thought the uniqueness of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian would be that I was serving with and among you during the Covid-19 pandemic, thus preventing me from personally saying good-bye (and getting a few hugs, I hope).

When I remember PHPC what I will remember is the way this congregation and staff came together to continue being the church during this unprecedented time as we deal with Covid-19. There are so many things that have occurred these last weeks and I know I won’t remember them all as I write this, but here are those that immediately come to my mind:

• We have been able to worship together via the gift of technology and the creativity and gifts of our staff and volunteers.
• We have stayed connected to each other via our Zoom connection opportunities and through the efforts of some you individually to keep connected within your PHPC groups via Zoom and Facebook Live.
• Our committees have continued to do their work, meeting virtually.
• A wonderful group of folks have been calling to check in with PHPC members who live alone.
• You have grocery-shopped and run errands for those in our church family who have not been able to do so.
• You have kept the Lil’ Pantry stocked so folks in our community are supported.
• You have ensured the PHPC staff and PHP pre-school employees have continued to receive their paychecks.

AND

• I have heard no complaints as we all realize this is new territory for all of us and we have been feeling our way through, stumbling some along the way, but knowing our intent is to be the church as best we can.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do as we live in our current reality.

Thank you for all the kindnesses and support you have extended to me while I have been here with you. It’s hard for me to believe it is coming to an end.

Thank you for the warm, although distanced for a bit, welcome you will extend to Katie, Kevin, and Elijah as they begin life among you on May 1 because that is just who you are regardless of present circumstances. I know there will be a grand celebration when everyone can be together to meet and greet them when it is safe to do so.

May God bless and keep you, not only through our present situation, but in all the days to come. I am grateful to God for my time with you.

Blessings,
Susan

A Note from our Transition Team:

Sunday, April 19th, will be the final Sunday for our church family to be led in worship by our interim Senior Pastor, Susan Haynes.

Reaching this milestone brings both sadness and joy for our PHPC family. Susan's ministry, service, and leadership have guided us in ways and under conditions that none of us could ever have imagined when she joined us. We have collectively and individually been blessed by her deep faith, her calming voice, her encouraging smile. She has been our shepherd through these days of COVID-19, soothing our worries, understanding our fears and reminding us constantly of Who is in control and caring for us. If ever the term "heaven sent" applies, it is to her and her ministry to and with us.

Our joy and certainly hers, too, is that we are saying goodbye to her because we are ready and able to welcome our new Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Katie Day. Like Susan's last days with us, Katie's arrival will be accomplished in ways that we have not imagined. As we turn the page on a new chapter at Pleasant Hill PC, we do so with gratitude and love for Susan and her time with us. It has been said that patience with God is faith; patience with humankind is love; patience with ourself is hope. Susan has blessed each of us during this time with faith, hope and love. It is the fervent prayer of this congregation that she receives God's greatest blessings and the deep peace of our Risen Christ. Amen.

A Note from our Mission and Outreach Committee:

\*Volunteers Needed at Duluth Co-op\*

Pleasant Hill members and friends staff the Duluth Co-op every year in the month of June. The Co-op is practicing ‘Social Distancing’ as far as humanly possible. It may be that by the time June arrives, current safety practices will not be needed. You can sign up to volunteer for PHPC Month at Duluth Co-op using this link:

 [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4AAAAD29A6FD0-phpc](https://pleasanthillpc.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=639ecaea44c66650e01fe03d3&id=c6e44c0a8f&e=c2430adbdf)