

11 September 2018

Dear Church Family,

I know you will join me in giving thanks to God for Pastor Rosie's ministry and presence. She has touched many lives and will continue to be a powerful servant for Christ's kingdom as she transitions to extension ministry with the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. She will be missed!

As we look to the future, I know there are questions about the Associate Pastor position. I've been in conversation with the Bishop's office and have worked on a plan to cover this position until a new appointment can be made. A team of retired clergy: Jeanne Devine, David Linkletter, and James Shackelford have all agreed to serve as interim associate pastors. They will share preaching, teaching, leadership and pastoral care responsibilities. I am very grateful for their love and support of Manchaca UMC and for their willingness to serve Christ in this role. I am also grateful for Scott Abel (our Lay Leader) who will also assist in preaching in the Life on the Road Service.

I will continue to preach at every 8:30am service but will occasionally move between the 11am traditional and LOR service. The five of us are currently finalizing a preaching schedule through April 2019. I am fully confident in God's ability to work through us and to lead this church into a vibrant and faithful future. As the prophet Isaiah so boldly proclaimed: ***"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand!"*** (41:10)

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee will work closely with the Bishop on our next appointment. Although it is possible to receive a new appointment at any time, it is likely we will not receive a new appointment until next summer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

In Christ's Service,

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