

# St. Paul United Church of Christ

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

November 8, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church,

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, we hear, *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

Friends, a new season awaits. After prayer and conversations with my family, I have decided to retire from parish ministry at the end of May 2023. My last Sunday in worship at St. Paul Church will be May 21, 2023.

There are two primary reasons to retire at this time. First, I have been infected with Covid19 twice this year. I am no longer comfortable putting my health and the health of my husband at risk. Second, the current pace and expectations are no longer sustainable. Until a year ago, St. Paul Church had two fulltime pastoral staff positions. I am unable to pace myself and the workload in a way that is healthy for either the congregation or for me. My retirement offers St. Paul Church the gift to reimagine staffing and ministry moving forward.

While my contract calls for giving 90 days' notice prior to retirement, I am giving you six months to allow for the smoothest transition possible. The Rev. Dan Busch, Northwest Ohio Association Minister, will work closely with our Church Council in the coming weeks and months.

I thank you for your support and encouragement of my ministry at St. Paul Church these past thirteen years. Together, our congregation has expanded its wide welcome as we seek to Love God & Love Our Neighbors. I have no doubt you will continue to shine Christ's Light in our community and beyond.

I also thank the staff of St. Paul Church for all they do on a daily basis to build up the Body of Christ in our community. Each and every one of them go above-and-beyond their job descriptions. In the coming months, I encourage you to offer your support to them.

St. Paul is a congregation gifted with strong lay leadership. You have a heart for mission and a passion to share the good news of God's love beyond our walls. You have responded to the pandemic well. My prayer for you is that this time of transition will become an opportunity to prayerfully envision God's future call for St. Paul United Church of Christ.

With Deep Love and Gratitude,



Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang

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