

From the Pastor

June 2019

A Message from Rev. Kurt Landerholm



"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:3-6

The Apostle Paul opened his letter to the Christians in Philippi with these words of appreciation. The saints in the church of that community had blessed him with their generosity in giving and serving. Paul also sought to prepare the congregation for the coming of Timothy.

Philippi was located in Macedonia about ten miles from the Aegean Sea. That meant there was a good source of fresh water.

Mentor has been my Philippi, not just for the location on the fresh water of Lake Erie, but because of the generosity you faithfully display. A generosity carried out in ministry and mission, to Lake County and beyond.

I came to Ohio for my first appointment as a pastor. I was assigned to a community where one of the two churches, Beech Grove, was located where the waters of Newell Creek Run find their way into the Ohio River. From that southern outpost of our conference, Ohio became my home. Seven years ago we came to the north shores and ironically, settled on Newell Creek Drive. Mentor has become our home and we think Lake County is truly one of the best kept secrets in Ohio.

But it is you, this dynamic congregation, that has been a blessing. My life verse has been Romans 12:1, "...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." My heart's desire has been to present myself to God, wherever that is. What a blessing it has been for Nancy and I to live out our faith and calling among you.

With the arrival of June, I take my final turn toward retirement. I will leave this appointment with the joy of having served among you.

Here's a bit of a schedule for how my June looks:

- Organizing, cleaning and packing my office
- June 16 Last Sunday I preach
- June 23 Vacation Sunday
- June 30 Not present as this is the transition Sunday
- Week of June 24 I officially leave as Rev. Sondra Snode begins her service.

Whether we stay in the community or not, we'll be friends, but I will no longer serve as your pastor. But it has been a blessing. Thank you!

Pastor Kurt