



April 4, 2018

### ***EMBARKING ON AN ADVENTURE***

After church **on Sunday, April 15**, I will embark on an adventure: a three-month sabbatical away from my responsibilities as Associate Minister at the Hills Church.

Some of you may have questions about sabbaticals in general – and my sabbatical in particular – for example:

#### ***Why do pastors take sabbaticals?***

For the rest and the renewal of energy for ministry. The joys and sorrows of all the relationships in a congregation weigh on a pastor's heart, and in this technological age of constant contact it can be difficult to tend to the pastor's own "garden."

#### ***Is this a common thing?***

Yes, It's a normal part of every United Church of Christ "clergy covenant" to plan a three month sabbatical every five or six years.

#### ***Has this been planned for a long time?***

Yes, the Deacons, Matt Wooster, and I have been planning my sabbatical for over a year.

#### ***Do you have to write a book or something?***

No. The purpose of the sabbatical is to refresh the spirit!

#### ***Are sabbaticals the same thing as vacations?***

Not really. Some pastors combine them to make more time for renewal all at once. I'm scheduling mine separately.

#### ***Who will be covering your responsibilities?***

Matt Wooster and Katherine Blaisdell will be here, and our former seminarian Adam Isbitsky will serve as an interim minister to cover many of my worship and pastoral care responsibilities.

#### ***Do you have plans for your sabbatical?***

Yes! As I shared with the Deacons: my sabbatical will revolve around **Family, History, Poetry, and Baby!**

I want to spend time with my sweetheart Carl, my 95 year-old Dad, our kids and grandchildren. And I want to take time to enjoy one of life's most wonderful moments, welcoming a new grandbaby in California!

I'm also studying American history, and hope to rekindle my own poetry writing.

***When are you coming back?***

I'll return from my adventures and be back in the office again on **Monday, July 16, 2018**. I will look forward to catching up on all your adventures then, too!

Until then, thank you – everyone – for this gift of renewal.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent loop at the end of the "y".

Judy