



June 6, 2018

GREETING SUMMER...PLANNING FOR FALL

I know a minister who is fond of saying to his congregation: "I promise that nothing will ever change...and, of course, we are constantly evolving."

It's a promise made with good humor and love, knowing that it is natural to desire consistency and to be anxious about change. It is a gentle reminder that life is always changing, both inside and outside of the church. The mark of faithfulness is not to keep everything exactly the same, but to manage change with grace.

I have been reflecting on the balance of change and stability as we prepare to recognize the conclusion of Rev. Katherine Blaisdell's service as our Acting Associate Minister on June 17. Katherine has served the Hills Church for twenty months, and we are thankful for her time here. She has chosen the timing of her move to coincide with the end of our program year.

The new program year will begin on Sunday, September 9, when we celebrate worship on our Rally Day and then adjourn to the front lawn for our annual ice cream social. Ministry programs for youth and children have already been planned for the new church school year that will begin in the fall, including youth group events and retreats, confirmation classes, church school, and intergenerational family events. Dates have been set, and the church is becoming equipped now with all the resource materials and curricula we will need for the fall.

The search committee has been working with commitment and faithfulness. They have been meeting every week, and are in the midst

of conducting interviews with several ministers as we discern the right calling to this important position.

Some traditions in our program year will remain the same. The lawn will be covered in pumpkins in October; all generations will gather for the Advent Dinner; children and youth will be invited to grow in faith by learning, having fun together, and joining in service. But we will also evolve, inviting new friends into the church community and discovering new ways in which the love of Jesus may be known and shared. As the psalmist wrote with trust, we will sing a new song.

I'll see you in church!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister*