

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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TrinitySpringfieldPCUSA.org



Rev. Christopher Miller

Pastor & Head of Staff

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Dear Trinity Family,

As we shared at our last two congregational meetings, beginning on May 1, and continuing through the end of July, I will be away from Trinity for a three-month time of sabbatical study and renewal. I want to take this opportunity to share with you a bit more detail about my goals during this time along with the plans we have put in place to make sure the life and ministry of Trinity continues as smoothly as possible.

I have established three goals for my sabbatical: **Renewal**, **Reconnection**, and **Creation**. It is my hope to find **renewal** by engaging in intentional time of physical and spiritual rest as well as constructive practices of reading, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines. I plan to focus on **reconnection** by spending time with colleagues and spiritual mentors, as well as dedicating a two-week time to travel with my wife. Finally, my main project is focused on **creation**. I am arranging several conversations with clergy and other ministry leaders to discuss how they navigate the many challenges of ministry and personal life. As I travel to these conversations I will be engaging in photographic and other visual art projects. I am planning to compile this photography and art, along with written reflections, into a coffee-table style book. At the end of my sabbatical time, I will be sharing what I've learned during a special study on two Sunday mornings; look for more details as August approaches.

To allow me to fully focus on this time of renewal, reconnection, and creation I have arranged for my pastoral duties to be covered by a wonderful team of familiar faces. Our worship services will primarily be led by a team of three clergy: Rev. Barry Williams, Rev. Bill Havens, and Rev. Dennis Winzenried; all of whom have shared in worship with us before. I am also excited to share that Nissa Krier, our children & youth staff, along with our Living Waters for the World team will each be leading us in worship one Sunday over the coming months. Carla and Robert will continue to lead our amazing musical program and our Worship & Music Committee is continuing to recruit liturgists, ushers, and communion servers.

Pastoral care for more routine issues will be covered by our Elder / Deacon pairs with support from our Congregational Care Committee. If you have a specific need, I encourage you to contact your Elder and/or Deacon first. You may also reach out to Brenda Havens, as the Chair of Congregational Care. In the event of more urgent or emergency pastoral issues, please contact either the church office or Rev. Bill Havens, who will be serving as our point person for pastoral issues.

I have put together a list of who to contact for various needs and support at the church; please reference this list if you aren't sure who to contact about an issue. You may find contact information in the church directory or by calling the June Thomas in the church office.

Type of Need / Issue	Contact Person(s)
Audio/Visual Concerns RE: Worship	Carla Wootton
Bulletin Announcements / Inserts	June Thomas
Church Calendar / Event Scheduling	June Thomas
Church Governance Issues	Carole Hudgings
Financial Questions (Including Online Giving)	Steve Kane
In Worship Announcements / Moments for Mission	Nissa Krier & Robert Reed
Items for Session	Carole Hudgings & Rev. Barry Williams
Music Program Questions	Carla Wootton & Robert Reed
MyChurch App Questions	Nissa Krier
Other Technical Issues	Nissa Krier
Questions about Communion Prep / Servers	Jeannie Reed
Questions about Liturgists	Susan Hart
Questions about Ushers	Kristin Butler
Social Media Posts	Nissa Krier
Sunday Morning Worship Email	Nissa Krier
Website Updates / Questions	Nissa Krier
Weekly Newsletter	David Bohnenkamper
Worship Slides / Announcements on Screens	Robert Reed

I am deeply grateful for the support of our Trinity leadership as I enter into this time of study and renewal; especially for our Personnel Committee as they helped navigate many logistical concerns and helped identify the best time in the church calendar for me to engage in this sabbatical. I am confident this time will allow me to grow in my vocation as a husband, father, and pastor.

Over the coming months I would be thankful for your prayers as I travel and study. I would also ask two things of you. First, please hold all our Trinity leadership in prayer as they continue the work of the church with love and grace. Second, I encourage you to find time in the coming months to care for your own soul as well. May this be a season of renewal for us all.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Christopher Miller