

## **Pastor's Report - April 2021**

### **Staff Updates**

By the end of this month our entire staff will be fully vaccinated, which is a gift. We are grateful for the hope and flexibility this brings with our ability to work from the office more and more. Erin continues at reduced hours, but will be scaling back up to her average of 15 hours a month in June. Ken continues coming into the church 2-3 times monthly to record worship music. As we anticipate moving to in person gatherings - whether outside or inside, we will need to discuss the safety/expectations around music in worship and singing. Lee continues with excellent care of our custodial needs.

After last month's difficult board meeting, John and I were able to process, make amends and move forward with the help and support of the PRC. I am thankful for their leadership.

### **Pastoral Care/Worship/Ministry Updates**

Now that I am fully vaccinated I am available for in-person pastoral care assuming the folks on the receiving end feel comfortable with this. During the last few weeks I've made or scheduled a few pastoral visits and I've officiated a wedding for someone not associated with our community, but who reached out to our community specifically for a wedding officiant. We do have a gathering at the Mayflower scheduled for the last week of April, and I am looking forward to that. Unfortunately yet understandably, Mayflower has asked us to limit it to only Mayflower residents, which means several families in that retiree demographic will not be able to attend. Hopefully we will be able to host another gathering later in the summer which will be more inclusive.

With the board's blessing, the ministry staff is exploring ways to make an outdoor Pentecost worship service meaningful and special. The upcoming preschool graduation will give us good insight as to how to ensure our worship space is safe and welcoming for a return to in-person worship. In addition Elizabeth is exploring the possibility of using the seekers class as a guinea pig/trial run for how we might move forward with a hybrid in person and Zoom worship offering.

### **Wider Ministerial/Denomination/Continuing Education Updates**

This month has been intense, schedule wise, with multiple denomination/wider church meetings. I have done my best to attend the ones I can, to make sure I am up to date on the ones I haven't been able to attend and to manage my time to ensure that I am taking days off and having time for my family as well. It's felt a bit like "life before Covid" and it will take some intentional boundary setting and priority shifting to find the right balance of "normal" work and life again.

**With Grace and Peace,**

**Pastor Jessica**