

Pastor's Report for September 2024

Since our last board meeting, I have seen a summer of changes, grief and hope.

This summer, my granddaughter graduated from high school, as did several of our church youth, marking the end a journey I saw take off 12 years ago. When I started here in 2012, Jaden Groh and Morgan Olexa were in first grade. Today they are both college freshmen. Where did the time go?

This summer I celebrated the retirement of our former DS Bob Zilhaver. I know that it was Bob's efforts that had allowed me to stay in Connellsville so long and change this place from an appointment to home. I will miss Bob's leadership, but I so look forward, also, to working with Rev Ross Pryor, our new DS.

I have watched the United Methodist church change, while die-hards like me try to hold on the traditions and polities that were ingrained in me from the moment I joined the Methodist church, I must accept that things will be different moving forward as a denomination. But I also know that the truth of scripture, and the love of Christ will remain steadfast regardless of church doctrine.

This was also a summer of grief, as the church said goodbye to three beloved members and friends. Marylin Banks, Chuck Watson and Jean Rahl will be greatly missed by all of us. I am so thankful I got to call them friends.

This was also a summer of hope. I have seen the church work together to tackle the fiscal challenges we have had to deal with since disaffiliation covid and the expanded cooperative. We joined in fundraisers, meals for the district, and this summer was a well-attended season of services, considering past summers.

We must continue to do the work of invitation and hospitality. We will work with Rev Pryor to adjust our co-op obligation and expand our footprint in our community.

So let us continue to worship, pray, give, visit our shut ins, join in fellowship service, and witness to all the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev Steven Lamb