

January 30, 2017

Dear Fourth Family,

As we move further into the new year, I pray that the joy of our Lord is with you in the good times, and his strength in the hard times. As each of us faces the twists and turns, peaks and valleys of our journey, it is comforting to belong to a community of faith, prayer, and support.

As the Session and the Personnel Committee discern the best staffing arrangement to meet the ministry needs of the congregation, and to further our mission in Christ's name, please know that I am here for you as your pastor. I have shared with the church's elders that I would very much like to spend more time in the ministry of pastoral care. Prior to coming to Fourth, I was much more involved in the pastoral care than I have been here, due primarily to the delegation of duties under Fourth's staffing plan. Pastoral care is meaningful work that I deeply value and that nourishes my own soul.

In the days ahead, when you are in need of spiritual support from a pastor, or additional support from your church family, I want you to know that Fourth Presbyterian Church will endeavor to provide for you. If you find yourself dealing with an illness, or receiving news of the death of a loved one, or facing any of the crises that often beset us, please do not hesitate to call me to ask for a visit, or a prayer, or the tangible support our congregation regularly and lovingly provides to members in need of care. I have already begun to work with the Congregational Care Committee in this ongoing ministry within the Fourth family.

I consider it a blessing to serve as Fourth's pastor and to come alongside our members who are facing personal, family, and spiritual challenges. I look forward to continuing our journey together and joining hands in ministry and mission as followers of Jesus Christ, the light who enlightens everyone.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Michael Hoyt  
Pastor