



January 9, 2020

To All My Friends,

I have never looked my true age. I could get into the movies as a child way past the age of 12. I was still carded in the grocery store into my mid-thirties. Even so, it came as a shock to me – as undoubtedly it will to many of you – that I celebrated my 70th birthday this past July.

Along with the shock came the realization that it was high time to start doing some of the things I have put off doing for such a long time now – traveling more, gardening more, writing more, advocating more for the seniors in our communities, and being a grandmother come May.

And so, both with regret at leaving behind all we have built together and excitement about an unknown future, I have decided to retire as your pastor. My final Sunday with you will be Easter Sunday, April 12th.

Who knew that when I answered the call to be your pastor in July, 2005, I would become the longest serving pastor in the history of your church! However, as I read recently, "I can't expect God to write the next chapter in my life if I don't open the page."

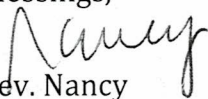
The decision to retire did not come suddenly or lightly. Joe and I have talked about future plans and next steps for many months now. Similarly, I have discussed my intentions with my Pastoral Relations Committee since the early fall.

Between now and Easter, my principal commitment is to my ministry here in Raymond – as it has been for the past 14 years. Patrick Martin and I have some exciting music and worship services planned for Lent and Holy Week. I will continue to serve you as I have throughout my pastorate. In the coming months, we will talk more about what it means to say goodbye to a pastor as well as possible directions RVCC might take in the future.

As we make this transition together, I pray that you will remember that though I am moving on, God is staying put. The Holy Spirit will still nudge you and guide you to where you need to be. In the words of the prophet Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

In the meantime, I pray that you will understand and support my decision and will look to the future not with fear but with great high hope – as do I for all of us!

Blessings,


Rev. Nancy