



March 4, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church:

As Chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), it is my privilege to announce the appointment of Rev. Jon Reynolds and Rev. Lindsey Hall to our church, effective July 1, 2020. Pastors Reynolds and Hall were introduced to the SPRC on February 28, 2020, by our District Superintendent, Rev. Elizabeth Hill, on behalf of Bishop David Bard, who set these new appointments. We are excited about the spirit, gifts, and abilities that Pastors Jon and Lindsey will bring.

Pastors Jon and Lindsey are married and have two children, Joshua (age 4) and Lydia (age 2). Jon grew up in Clarkston, Michigan and attended Albion College where he studied Philosophy and Political Science. After college, Pastor Jon was called into ministry while working as an intern at Cass Community UMC in Detroit. Pastor Jon attended Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago where he met Lindsey. After seminary, Jon served as an Associate Pastor at St. Paul's UMC in Rochester, Michigan where he helped launch two worship services and focused on reaching young adults. Pastor Jon currently serves as an Associate Pastor at Cass Community UMC. Outside of church, Jon loves biking, walking the dogs, and the Detroit Tigers!

Rev. Lindsey was raised in Lincoln, Nebraska and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University where she studied Communications and Theatre Arts. After college, Lindsey served as a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries in Hawaii, working with children and youth. Called to ministry, Pastor Lindsey attended Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity in 2013. Pastor Lindsey has served at Birmingham First UMC since 2012 as an Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Contemporary Worship. Rev. Lindsey loves mission work, small group discipleship, preaching, and working with people of all ages. Lindsey loves singing, dancing, drinking coffee, eating chocolate, and visiting her family in Nebraska and Texas.

Pastors Jon and Lindsey will serve our congregation as co-pastors, a model new to our church. Neither will be a senior or associate pastor; instead they will share responsibilities equally and cross-over in most areas.

Pastors Jon and Lindsey's first Sunday will be July 5, at which time we will host a welcome celebration for them. In the meantime, please pray over a green and blue baton that will be circulating throughout the campuses. The batons will pass from our outgoing pastors to our new pastors as a symbol of our congregation's love and prayers. The SPRC is also working on farewell celebrations for Pastor Sherry and Pastor Bob to thank them for their years of faithful service. Please look for more details on these celebrations in the bulletin and e-news in the upcoming weeks.

SPRC is pleased and excited about Pastors Jon and Lindsey's appointment, and know that you will welcome them with open minds and open hearts. Please hold them in prayer during these months of transition. Pray, too, for the Cabinet, including Bishop David Bard, as they continue to meet, pray, and discern God's will in the appointment-making process.

Trust God's amazing grace, Christ's faithful love, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as we move into the future.

Serving Christ with you,

Kelley Myers

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair
First United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis, Lead Pastor; Rev. Bob Fuchs, Associate Pastor

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