

Good morning, I'm here on behalf of Church Council to give an update on Messiah's leadership transition.

Pastor Burce's retirement is quickly approaching. We will miss him dearly, as well as the many gifts he has shared with us over the past 28 years. That said, Pastor Bridger and Church Council have been working to plan and schedule a wide array of educational, volunteer and fellowship opportunities in the months ahead. To that end, I want to highlight the following.

- First, Messiah remains a congregation best served by two pastors. As such, Messiah in consultation with the Northeast Ohio Synod, is working to identify an Interim Pastor to help support Pastor Bridger as he continues to lead during this period. This process, of identifying and onboarding an Interim Pastor is, God willing, nearing completion and we hope to provide a more detailed update soon.
- Importantly, we will continue to welcome members and visitors to our two in-person worship services each Sunday morning. Online worship will continue as it has. The 5:30 pm Saturday evening services will continue to be offered twice monthly. The next 2 opportunities to worship on Saturday evenings are Aug 6 and Aug 20th.
- Fellowship has been and remains an important part of our faith and life here at Messiah. As such, I invite each of you to Messiah's Church Picnic and Fall Kickoff, to be held after the 10:00 service on August 28. After Labor Day, the weekend of September 11th will mark the beginning of a new season of adult education, Sunday School, confirmation classes, and first communion instruction.

- Furthermore, [Today of all days] we must thank Connie Triplett and celebrate her contributions to Messiah's music ministry over these past four years. Connie is certain to be missed - yet we also give thanks to God for Deacon Linda Kempke and her willingness to serve as our interim Music Director in the months ahead.

I'll end with two final thoughts.

- One, now more than ever I'd encourage you to keep an eye on our regular communications channels including the monthly Messiah Memos, via email with the Mid-Week Memos, and the Sunday bulletin. An update sent earlier this week in the August Memos contains more information than I have the time to share here today. Also included is a list of key dates to remember as we look forward to August and September.
- Two, remember that God continues to bless us beyond measure. Pray for our church, our school, our staff, and our council as together we navigate the days and weeks ahead.

Thank You