

As hard as it is to believe, my tenure as a pastor at Portage Chapel Hill Church comes to a close with my last time in worship with you, a final sermon, and a closing meeting with Pastor Jess and the staff. You all have honored Lesa and me so much in the last month with cards, emails, letters of appreciation, a really fun evening of music, laughter, conversation and dessert in "A Little Night Music", and an open house at Jac's Pizza! You have given to the Kaleidoscope Kids Preschool stewardship fund, and have contributed to a parting gift. I will be working on thank you notes...since my handwriting stinks, I will be typing these! For now, know that my heart has been filled with your kindness and appreciation for leadership and care I have tried to offer here.

After 23 years working in regional ministry in Portage, I am returning to the Grand Rapids area to lead a small urban congregation. I am appointed full-time to Wyoming Park United Methodist Church, first worship on July 7th. Wyoming Park has stepped out in wild and creative faith, selling their building to the non-profit, Family Promise. The building has been recreated into offices for the organization and 12 small family apartments for short-term, transitional, housing. Wyoming Park has leased back portions of the building for worship, fellowship, small groups, and a pastoral office. My ministry will include helping the congregation with visioning for what is next in faith development and in their connection to the larger community.

I give thanks to God for the time we have had together...more than a third of my life, and more than half of my years in ministry! God has shaped me, my family, the Chapel Hill congregation, and the communities we serve into ever more faithful "workers in the vineyard." So grateful we could all share it together!