

Rev. Sally's Sabbatical: April 8 to July 7, 2024

What is a sabbatical?

A sabbatical (from the word sabbath) is time away from the regular routines of work for rest, renewal, and rebirth.

When will this happen?

Rev. Sally will be away on sabbatical and vacation from April 8 to July 28, 2024. Rev. Sally's last Sunday leading worship before the sabbatical begins will be April 7.

Why is the sabbatical happening?

The United Church of Canada has adopted a policy on sabbatical leaves, which is incorporated into a call or appointment to a pastoral charge. It is applicable to ministry personnel who have completed five or more years of service in the pastoral charge. More information can be found in the document, "Pastoral Relations: Supporting the Pastoral Relationship" available on The United Church of Canada website.

Purpose of the sabbatical:

The biblical roots of Sabbath are foundational to the concept of sabbatical as a time of rest from the work of ministry. Jesus modeled extended time away to connect with God. Spiritual leaders need to follow his example to stay healthy and close to God. A healthy minister helps lead a healthy church.

The global pandemic has taken a toll on our faith communities and their leaders. Our ministers adapted and pivoted and faithfully proclaimed the Gospel and survived. Sabbatical offers time for Rev. Sally to recover, reflect, rebalance, and recharge.

Sabbatical also offers opportunities for our congregations:

- to hear different preachers,
- to lift-up lay leadership,
- to take up new practices that offer spiritual refreshment,
- to extend caring to our minister.

One of the goals of sabbatical is to completely disconnect from work, so that Rev. Sally can connect more fully with God, self, friends, and family. Therefore, she will not be responding to emails, phone calls, texts, or Facebook messages until she returns.

What will happen during the sabbatical?

While Rev. Sally is away, the mission of the church will continue. From April 8 to June 16, Rev. Dr. Linda Yates will lead worship, offer emergent Pastoral Care and Funerals, and attend meetings that relate to the worship life of the church.

On June 23, 30, and July 14, Rev. Jenny Eisener will be our worship leader. Guest preachers will be recruited for July 7, 21 and 28, 2024. Arrangements will be made with local ministers to cover pastoral emergencies and Funerals from June 17 to July 28, 2024.

Council/Board/Session Meetings:

Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council will name a Pastoral Charge Supervisor for the duration of the sabbatical leave. They will be present for any Board/Council meetings.

Transitions:

Leaving: On Sunday, April 7, 2024 during worship, there will be a short blessing of the sabbatical leave.

Please pray for Rev Sally as well as her spouse, Rob, and their family, that God will refresh and restore them during this sabbatical. Thank you!

Returning: Rev. Sally will be back in the office on Monday, July 29th, 2024. She looks forward to sharing with our congregations her sabbatical experiences and learnings in the fall.

What if I have more questions?

Please speak to Tanya Matthews at tmatthews@borisholdings.com, representative for our Pastoral Charge's Ministry and Personnel Committee.

Thank you:

The sabbatical is seen as an opportunity to renew the energy and mission of both the minister and the congregation. Thanks to everyone for making this experience possible!!