

June 2026

Dear friends of St. John's United Church,

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (RSV)*

It has been a deep joy and a true privilege to serve as retired supply minister with St. John's United Church over this past year and a half. I carry with me a profound sense of gratitude for the welcome I received, the trust that was extended, and the many relationships that have taken shape along the way. I especially treasure the friendships that have been formed, and I give thanks for the spirit of care, encouragement, and faithfulness that so clearly lives within this congregation.

That spirit is evident in the way you support one another and in the thoughtful and faithful way you support your minister. As you prepare to welcome Rev. Emily in August, I encourage you to continue offering that same care and support in the days ahead.

Worship has been at the heart of my time with you. On average, I devoted 12–16 hours each week to the preparation and leadership of Sunday worship, seeking to offer services that were meaningful, grounded, and attentive to both Scripture and the lived experience of the congregation. Throughout the year, several special services invited deeper preparation and creativity, including Christmas Eve, Good Friday, and the dedication of the Wellington Chapel. These moments of gathered worship were significant, not only in their planning, but in the spirit of community and faith they nurtured.

Beyond worship, I sought to use my remaining time each week to be present in the life of the congregation as fully as possible. This included connecting with individuals and families, often following up on names thoughtfully shared with me, as well as preparing for and leading funerals, offering pastoral care in hospital settings and long-term care facilities, and walking alongside families in baptism preparation. Each of these moments provided an opportunity

to share in both the joys and challenges of life and to bear witness to God's presence in their midst.

I met regularly with Council and Spiritual Oversight and attended meetings of the Trustees, the Annual Meetings and special congregational meetings. These gatherings were important spaces for conversation, discernment, and shared responsibility in the life of the church.

I am especially grateful to Rev. Jenny for her guidance and steady support, which helped me remain focused and grounded in the work of ministry. Her insight, wisdom, and encouragement have been a gift throughout this time.

As I reflect on this season of shared ministry, I do so with deep gratitude. There is a spirit of joy in this place on Sunday mornings that I have come to cherish and that I will truly miss. It has been a meaningful and grace-filled chapter in my ministry, and I am thankful to have shared it with you.

I also want to express my heartfelt thanks for the wonderful farewell you offered me. The kindness, generous gifts, fabulous music and thoughtful words shared on my final Sunday were deeply appreciated and profoundly touching. They reflected the warmth and generosity that have characterized my experience among you from the very beginning, and they will remain a treasured memory.

As one season draws to a close and another begins, I give thanks for all that we have shared together and for the many ways God continues to be at work among you. May God's blessing accompany you as you move forward in ministry together.

With gratitude and every blessing,

Rev David