

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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August 3, 2025

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia,

I am very grateful to be serving as the Stated Supply Pastor for this church. We have been through a lot since I returned here to serve again on Sept 3, 2020. That is just shy of 5 years ago. We struggled with and have survived many challenges as a church. And we have been helped by God's hand and the help of others to continue in Christ's name.

Just before I started service again, I was invited to celebrate the 122<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of the Church. At that time, I wrote,

*"I am honored to be here for 122<sup>nd</sup>, especially honored to be welcomed home and grateful to be about to be your pastor again for whatever time God gives us to journey together... this time I am drawn to be a part of an ongoing story of FPC Arcadia, drawn because I believe in the world's need and Desota's need and Arcadia's need for this part of the Body of Christ in this place in this time. I have no doubt of the challenge ahead of us and I also have no doubt about whom we follow and serve and love. I have no doubt of the human fragility of each one of us and I also have no doubt that the same was true for the disciples and yet God transformed them as God will transform us."*

As we look to the future the challenges are still before us, but the grace of God still accompanies and blesses us and we still give thanks to God as we celebrate our 127<sup>th</sup> Birthday as a church on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

As we move into that future, I would like us to strengthen the ties that connect us. In the old days a pastor could just wander around and visit without invitation or announcement or care for wise boundaries. For good reason those days are behind us but the need to talk with you face to face is still very real. I would really like to talk with each of you individually or in small groups and strengthen our connection together as Christ's body.

I am generally in town Monday, Wednesday and Friday and could visit with you from about 11 a.m. on. If you can come to the office that might be the best setting, but I can also come to meet with you in your home or some public place where we can talk.

I look forward to visiting with you. Please give me a call at 941-928-7504 to set up a time.

Joyfully Yours in Christ's Service,

Will