



*Dear First Presbyterian Friends,*

I know that as we grow older, time goes by more quickly for the simple reason that each day, week, month, season or year is a smaller and smaller fraction of our total life span. Knowing that with my head and having regular existential experience of it are two different realities! That we are well into November leaves me a bit breathless as it means the beginning of Advent is very near indeed.

Our celebration of Advent this year will find us engaged in a church-wide study of Paul Gordon Chandler's book *Songs in Waiting*, in which the author explores four of the songs that make up a significant portion of Luke's account of Christ's coming. Our clergy will be coordinating their preaching with this study so that we will all have multiple perspectives to discuss as we ponder with others these compelling and lyrical reflections on the Incarnation. I hope as many of you as possible will find your way to one of the several study groups. They will be held at a variety of times in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. The deadline for signing up is this coming Sunday, November 15, so the books may be ordered in a timely manner. Look for sign up posters around the church or call the church office (662-4466) to register. Because we are taking the advent songs in a slightly different order than that in the book, please read the Introduction and the chapter on Zechariah for your first class session.

One of my guidelines as a pastor is not to let the urgent crowd out the important. Alas, I'm afraid I've violated that wisdom with some regularity in the early weeks of my time as your interim pastor. I've had glimmers of my work beginning to find rhythm and pattern in recent days and am thereby encouraged that I'm beginning to have some better understanding of the life of our church. The Lilly Residents are faced with the same challenges of adjustment. They and I, and all the staff, welcome your prayers as we continue our work to blend our gifts to serve God through this congregation.

A prayer to share, from the 5th Century and the heart of St. Augustine:

O Thou in whom all things live, who commandest us to seek thee, and art ever ready to be found: To know thee is life, to serve thee is freedom, to praise thee is our soul's joy. We bless thee and adore thee, we worship thee and magnify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See you in church.

Grace and peace,

*Jany Farris*