



The Messenger

Our mission: Connect people in a growing, engaged, active relationship with Jesus Christ.

Shawnee United Methodist Church | 10700 Johnson Drive | Shawnee, KS 66203 | 913.631.2280

April 2020

From the Pastor A New Appointment

CLERGY/STAFF

Pastor Shane Britt
Pastor

Connie Perry
Office Administrator

Chris Lehew
Director of Student and
Young Adult Ministries

Becca Lehew
Kid's Club Coordinator

Scott Fears
Worship Coordinator

Harry Moyer
Building Services

Many of you may have heard by now of my announcement on a recent Sunday, that I have accepted a new appointment to St. James UMC in Bellevue, Nebraska. Receiving the call was a surprise but not a shock as pastors in the UMC are asked to be itinerant.

This call, however, was the culmination of the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of many people, including mine. That work in my heart began 8 months ago. I surrendered my life to this calling many years ago and told God I would go wherever He asked me to go and do whatever He asked me to do. This recent 8 month journey brought me to a place where He assured me I was still hearing His still small voice. He tested my commitment to His call on my life by opening a number of doors to me. As I always do, I began to walk toward each of those doors with the same prayer I have always carried with me at a time such as this...Lord, close the doors that are not your will and open the one that is. As each of those doors closed, one by one, this became the door that He led me to.

It was the answer to a nagging question that kept coming back to me over that 8 month period...am I just the foundation guy here?

We have spent the past 3 years ripping out an old foundation that was crippling this church. We are better off today financially than we have ever been (although there is still work to do). We have placed the leadership of this church back into the hands of the people through their elected representatives. We have made sure there was equal representation of both male and female on the committees and also that all generations were represented.

And now, it is time to begin building on this new foundation. Foundation work is dirty, stinking work that puts you in the trenches much of the time. So, when is the best time for a change in leadership? Part way through a rebuilding project that will be several years in the making? Or is it now that the foundation has been set and ready for that building? The answer is now!

And let me be very clear about this: I didn't ask to be moved; no one complained to the DS in an effort to get me moved; no one drove me out! That is the truth and the only narrative you should hear.

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This was the work of the Holy Spirit as He began working in my heart 8 months ago, then worked in the hearts of a group of people asking for discernment. **This is what is best for the future rebuilding project of SUMC.**

From this point on, you can begin to build on the excitement we have built over the past three years. There is the excitement of the new foundation of leadership; the excitement of the New Beginnings and 63 people who have committed to it; the excitement of the new Common Ground area; the excitement of the new Welcome Center that will be coming soon; the excitement of the new Electronic Sign; the excitement of a new Marketing Plan that is currently being developed; the excitement of knowing your immunity to change; the excitement of knowing how to engage people in spiritual conversations in your Monday through Saturday worlds; and now, the excitement of a new pastor who will help you to complete this rebuilding project.

You are now uniquely situated to set the first building blocks on top of this new foundation in order to build for the future of Shawnee UMC as you reach the Shawnee community. I will still be your pastor through June and we will spend the next few months together shoring up this foundation. Blessings on you as you move forward in Christ.



Church family,

It is with great sadness we must announce several staffing changes as we continue to move forward and adapt to changing times both inside and outside our walls. A decision was made late last Fall in partnership with SPRC, Trustees and with the approval of Church Council to reduce our staffing budget by moving to an outside cleaning service. This affects the position Harry Moyer has held in our church since March 1, 1993. It's been a process to vet and hire the cleaning service, but one has been retained and will begin their contract with us March 23rd. Harry will remain in his role through the end of March and of course will remain a member of SUMC. Harry's devotion & loyalty to this church and its people is unmatched. His eagerness to help and serve at any time in any way is one of his greatest gifts with which we have all been blessed these many years. Please take time to thank Harry through your cards, calls and caring words.

We'd also like to officially announce the role of Child care coordinator held faithfully by Cari Saucerman has also been eliminated. This decision was made in the 4th quarter by SPRC also due to budget considerations and came to a close the end of 2019. Cari has continued to volunteer her time & gifts in the nursery and Becca Le-hew has taken on the coordinator duties. Cari has served in various roles in the nursery since March 1, 2006. We'd like to thank and acknowledge Cari for her commitment to caring for the well being of so many little ones – we've been lucky to have her share her gifts with us. Cari also remains a member of SUMC. Please take time to thank Cari through your cards, calls and caring words.