



SHAWNEE
CHURCH

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

May 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

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.

NEW PASTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of SPRC we'd like to announce the appointment of our new Pastor, Changsu Kim.

The SPRC had the opportunity recently to meet and briefly get to know Changsu, his wife Sue and their children Irene and Joshua. Changsu & his wife are originally from South Korea and were a part of the United Methodist Church. They came to the US for Changsu to study at St Paul's School of Theology and have remained in Kansas ever since.

Changsu and his family are so excited to answer this appointment and are transferring to us from Tonganoxie UMC. We look forward to welcoming them to SUMC in July!