

May 1, 2023

Dear SRPC Family,

For the past 8 years I have been blessed to serve as your Senior Pastor. Julie and I have been thinking and praying about God's leading in our next "season" of life. We believe God is directing us to begin the transition out of my role as Senior Pastor and into retirement. I have shared my desire with our Session, and we have begun to put the foundation in place for a healthy pastoral transition.

This change will not be immediate. I will remain in my role at SRPC through the end of 2023. At that time, if a new Pastor has not been found and, if you the congregation desire, I am willing to continue in a part-time capacity while you seek to complete a transition.

Julie and I love our church family. We believe God is at work among us and will be faithful to carry us through. A verse we'd like us all to anchor deeply into, is I Chronicles 28:20,

Be strong and courageous and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. He will see to it that all the work related to the Temple of the Lord (SRPC) is finished correctly.

In the coming weeks, you'll be hearing more from Session about the transition process, including the forming of a Pastor Search Committee. For now, Julie and I just wanted to share our hearts with you and invite you to join us in praying for God's provision for SRPC.

As we begin this journey, I want you to know of my continuing love for each of you and for SRPC. I want to assure you of my deep commitment to finish strong. SRPC is a great church. Both you and our church deserve my best.

In the months ahead, we will continue to pursue the vision and mission God has given us. We will keep loving Jesus, loving one another, and loving our community. It's who we are – and it is who we will continue to be.

With you on the journey, Mark