

# *A Message from The Pastor*



Greetings!

As I prepare to take my leave from Perry Hall and enter retirement, I am pondering the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:

- 1        There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2        a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3        a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4        a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5        a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6        a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7        a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8        a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that seasons come and go: in nature, in our lives, and in our churches. During our years together, we have probably experienced almost everything on the list. I remember the baptisms, weddings, funerals, dinners, flea markets, bible studies, Holiday celebrations, singing, praying, preaching, fellowship, friendship and so much more.

Throughout it all, we have bonded and grown while experiencing a great deal of mercy, grace, joy and love!

I have mixed emotions about my season of retirement. It is a new and unknown time for me, as your season with a new Pastor will be to you. I am excited, and a bit uncertain, but mostly I look forward to discovering what God wants to teach and show me in this new season of my life.

It has been a rich and rewarding 36 years under appointment as a United Methodist pastor. Others will now lead, and I will rest, rejoicing in the knowledge that it was never about me, but about the God who loved me and who loved you as we walked for a time together. You will always be a part of me, and I will always be a part of you.

Thank you for all your patience, kindness, mercy, grace, generosity and love that you have shown me! May you continue to grow in faith, hope and love, worshipping the Lord with your whole heart, mind, body and soul and remember to do everything for the glory of God!

Blessings,  
Pastor Victor Harner