



First Presbyterian Church

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THE REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE, PASTOR

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Beloved Friends,

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven." I'm writing to let you know that I hear a new Call: I'm retiring from my role as pastor at the end of June.

In 2006 when the phone rang inviting me to candidate here, Tom and I wept for joy! We had grown full of admiration for First Pres and God's work here. We wanted to be part of the hospitality, spiritual depth, and creative joy of this place. We wanted our 10-year-old (!) to be immersed in faith like yours. When you called, our hearts overflowed. We were right to be so excited and so glad.

What a time it's been! We've tested new ways of Being Church and loving God's world in Jesus' name. We've grown in caring and understanding; we've raised up leaders. We've made mistakes, we've recovered. We've known radiant joy and faced great grief, experiencing the Spirit's touch in both those landscapes. Gift upon Gift upon Grace!

I promised to stay 7 years- and have stayed 10 more because I have loved it so. I am forever changed- You've helped me become a truer version of myself and deepened my faith. How could I *not* be full of gratitude when every day I witness the Light in you? You've loved me so well that I trust the Spirit more deeply than ever: for my future and yours.

When Tom turned 65, we made plans to retire to Monte Vista Grove, (a CCRC in Pasadena). We placed our name on their "3-5 year" wait list. This winter a cottage became available, and we realized with surprise that it was 'ours'- and that it is 'time'.

Professional ethics require me to make a clean break, so I won't do weddings or funerals after June. I'll keep my distance so there's room in your hearts for the next person who will know the extraordinary blessing of being your pastor. I will always be praying for you. There will never come a day when I do not love you. And there will never come a day when the Holy One is not leading you onward. All manner of things shall be well.

There's a lot to be done, and the Presbytery will help. Wendy and Steve and your officers will be here. We will figure this out the same way we've figured out everything else- trusting God and each other.

I thank my God every time I remember you,

Much love to you —

Sandy