

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church



... makes the presence of God real !

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Dear friends,

Last night I shared with the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) the news that I will soon be leaving Baldwin Community. Even though this is hard news to share, it's for a good reason—my family.

My husband Roger is soon beginning a full-time interim pastor position at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, a mile from our home. While he serves that congregation, he will continue teaching his seminary classes this fall until his sabbatical from teaching begins in the spring. We have been waiting and praying for the right opportunity for him to pastor and preach again, and this new beginning is an answer to those prayers.

For our family, however, it means we have some recalibrating to do. I want to be more present for our three kids in this new season when Roger's schedule will become much more demanding. When I consider Sunday mornings, I want to be with my kids in worship at the same church where Roger is preaching, rather than be at two different churches as pastors with our three kids floundering at home on their own. And with Simeon heading off to college next year, and Silas the year after, I don't want the demands of ministry to keep us from being present to them in these last years at home with us.

In addition to focusing on our family, I plan to continue my past work of being available to lead spiritual formation retreats, and I am hoping to take some classes at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary focusing on adaptive and innovative ministry.

Pastor Pam, the District Superintendent, and the members of SPRC have all been very understanding and gracious in my sharing this decision with them, and for that I am very grateful.

My last Sunday will be October 17th. Until then, I plan to work hard to wrap up some loose ends so that the staff and church leaders are well equipped to continue the administrative work of the church.

The SPRC will be consulting with the District Superintendent concerning the question of another associate pastor being appointed to the church. Any questions about this can be directed to Pastor Pam or Helen Akers, SPRC Chairperson.

I have loved my three and a half years of ministry with you at Baldwin Community UMC. Thank you for the ways we've partnered in ministry together. I am grateful for you all, and I look forward to seeing what God will continue to do through you and your ministry in the future.

In the meantime, let's visit together at church events like the Kickoff BBQ Dinner this Sunday at 5pm! I hope to see you there!

With gratitude for the gift of being one of your pastors,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginger".

Pastor Ginger Thomas

