

Dear Tullahoma Friends,

During worship on Sunday our SPRC chair shared news that I will be appointed as the Pastor of Belmont United Methodist in Nashville, beginning in July. We did some crying and I attempted to share the following points.

Foremost, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of pastoring Tullahoma FUMC for the past six years. The way you graciously welcomed Connie, my boys, and my mother will always encourage me as a pastor. Your compassionate caring for mother allowed us to fully embrace church life, you have helped "proclaim the Good News... (and) surrounded my family with a community of love and forgiveness" (UMH Baptismal Vows). We give thanks to God for you.

As a Methodist clergy person, I belong to a religious order abiding in a covenant relationship with our 500 middle Tennessee churches. Our Bishop and District Superintendents prayerfully consider where to send each pastor. Twenty years ago, as a bit of a rascal I believed I could serve Christ better under the religious accountability and guidance of spiritual leaders. In our consumer culture, it is hard to look beyond our own self-interests. I am deeply grateful for the United Methodist Church, for in her arms God has nurtured within me a better understanding of grace, goodness, forgiveness, and community.

I would count it a great gift to continue serving here through Caleb's senior year. It fills us with some sadness, even as we know God is at work. Connie and Caleb will stay in our Tullahoma home during his senior year. I fully believe God is working within our appointive system sending me to my next field of service at Belmont UMC. I am thrilled to know that Rev. Rickey Wade will come to shepherd our wonderful church. I believe Rickey will bless, grow, and deepen Tullahoma's ministry and service to God and neighbor.

Please know that our church, our community, and our world desperately need you to step up and lead. We are blessed with a wonderful, united, Christ-like staff but each of us takes a vow to serve God. Christians, we lead by serving. Lead by embracing Pastor Rickey. Forgive his shortcomings as you generously forgave my failings. Celebrate his gifts! Welcome his wife Becky, their four grown children and especially their daughter who will be a freshman at Tullahoma High next fall. "Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3). Serve Christ by upholding our church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. And above everything else love God, love each other, and love our neighbors. Love is what makes a church great!

I look forward to worshipping with you on Easter Sunday as we celebrate our Lord's triumph over sin, hopelessness, defeat, and death. We will immediately begin a series from Acts, on how to be the church in changing times, talking about smaller transitions and the larger cultural shifts affecting us all. I look forward to seeing you over the next few months and helping Pastor Rickey as he prepares to lead our wonderful church.

Grace and Love,

Pastor Paul

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
United Methodist Women  
Are Sponsoring A  
“New and Used Treasures Sale”**

*First United Methodist Women are sponsoring a “New & Used Treasures Sale” on Friday, April 28, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 29, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in the FAC Building at Tullahoma First United Methodist Church.*

*Church members may bring new and used items at any time beginning Monday, April 24, or if you have items you want to bring to the church before April 24, contact Elmo.*

*We will have tables set up for your items. Items should be clean and NOT broken. Several circle members will be pricing the items on Thursday, April 27. If you have an idea of what your items should be priced at, just let us know when you come.*

**Examples of Items to Donate**

Sheets & pillowcases, blankets,  
Kitchen items such as small appliances, glassware, sets of dishes, etc.  
Small furniture, lamps, knick knock's,  
Paper and hard back books,  
Pictures/picture frames,  
Children's toys,  
Jewelry,  
Shoes, purses, etc.

This is just a tentative list,--you might have other items you want to donate.

*If anyone has something big such as a large piece of furniture to donate, contact Margaret Savelle.*

**NO CLOTHES, ENCYCLOPEDIA SETS OR OLD LARGE TV'S**

*The proceeds from all United Methodist Women projects are donated to local charities such as:*

Blue Monarch  
Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center  
Coffee County Imagination Library  
Coffee County Literacy Council  
Haven of Hope  
Partners for Healing  
Shepherd's House  
Trinity Adult Care Center  
Tullahoma Day Care Center

*Your help for any length of time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Margaret Savelle (454-0718), Treasures Project Chairman or Charlotte Hatheway (455-2879), Publicity Chairman.*