

Pastor's Corner, September 2021

It seems fitting that I'm writing my first Pastor's Corner on a beautiful Monday morning in my newly remodeled office in our newly remodeled church. As I write this, schools are back in session for the fall semester, we're all slipping into the rhythms of autumn, and for me, the world feels new again. I admire people who start their year in January with New Year's resolutions and stick to them. I've always resonated more with an academic calendar that begins in the fall. I have long thought of fall as a new beginning. It might be because I love school so much (don't even get me started on my love of school supplies – my son and I can't even share them, we have to each have our own). It might be because fall is my favorite season, or because I'm usually ready for some cooler temperatures by the time September rolls around. Whatever the reason, fall feels like a new beginning.

This year really does feel new. After years of discernment, three years of seminary, and being commissioned as a Provisional Elder in the church, I find myself stepping into the role of Pastor of Northgate. While I actually started on July 1, I've spent most of my time getting to know people, preparing sermons, and learning how to be a faithful pastor. And as I sit here in my office enjoying the glow of the light from a candle on my desk, I'm saying a prayer of thanksgiving for new beginnings.

Just a few short months ago, our buildings weren't even fully open yet due to the ongoing repair work from the winter snowstorm last year. Through the incredible work of William and our Trustees, the building has been renewed and it's a joy to worship and serve here. When I visited with our volunteers at the food pantry and clothes closet over the weekend, they remarked how COVID and the snowstorm were incredibly challenging, but also encouraged them to develop new ideas that they otherwise might not have considered. As I think about all the

ministries Northgate supports, from our food pantry and clothes closet to Many Helping Hands to our back-to-school program, I am astonished by the fruit of God's work in our church.

I am grateful for Northgate's incredible legacy and witness to Christ that has lasted for over fifty years. As we reopen our campus and continue to love God, love others, and make disciples, I can't wait to see what God does in and through the church. It is a privilege to be your pastor and I'm thrilled to be in ministry with you. Today as I think about my blessings, I'm most thankful for this wonderful church and the possibilities born out of new beginnings.