



KPUMC
FEBRUARY 2021

Beginning July 1, Pastor Melody will become the pastor of KPUMC. She is currently the pastor of Anamosa UMC. She is a native Cedar Rapiidian.



Dr. Melody Williams

LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 17.

Plans have been developed by Bruce, Carolyn, and Pastor Jackie for this season of preparation and renewal.

Wed., Feb. 17 there will be a ZOOM service for Ash Wednesday at 7 p.m. A link to the service will be emailed.

The theme for the Sunday messages will be: **Rend Your Hearts: Claiming the Promise.** Scripture texts from the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, will focus our worship leading up to Palm Sunday.

A Maundy Thursday service will be a ZOOM service at 7 p.m.

EASTER is April 4. Plans are underway. Plan A—an outdoor service. Plan B—a ZOOM service. May God grant us the desires of our hearts.

A Lenten Study on Romans will be announced and the start date identified as soon as the publisher releases the new book by Max Lucado.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Without a double there has been sufficient time for pondering. As the days of winter drag on, with the evidence it is still winter with the additional accumulations of snowfall, I am reminded my time table does not guide the world, or God's. No matter how much I anticipate springtime's arrival, it will arrive at the appointed hour. Several have asked me if I am looking forward to retirement. The answer is, "Yes", on some days. Other times, I am aware I am beginning to grieve the anticipated separation from "my flock" and my new beginning. During my final year of professional ministry, I would never have believed it would be "the ministry of separation". My ministry has always been focused on "a ministry of presence."

With the announcement of Pastor's Melody's arrival, you now begin the process of transitioning, as well. It comes with great anticipation as you wait to meet her and begin your ministry together. God has chosen Pastor Melody for this next season. Together

you will discover how to reopen the building, restart ministries, begin new ministries, and rebuild the ministries of KPUMC. May it be your prayer during this season of transition that hearts are open to every possibility God reveals. May there be nothing too overwhelming or anxiety filled that will prevent you from risking everything for the future of KPUMC's witness in the neighborhood and world.

The pandemic, with the resulting closure of the building and the pausing of ministries, has taken a great toll on everyone. The rhythm of life suddenly changed. It has been painful, disappointing, frustrating...(you fill in your emotional response)... One blessing that has come from this season of "rest" is the deep desire to return to the church.

The church you will return to is already different. The church has changed. There are persons who will not be there when the doors open again. Some because they have died, some by choice and some who want to continue to worship on line. Will the community groups which used the building return? Only time will tell. There are repairs that need to be made and a deep cleaning to erase the remaining signs of closure. No one has traveled this road out of the pandemic into a new way of being. Churches have been rebuilt after fires and natural disasters. Their stories have much to teach about what the "new church" will be and what it will not be. In the meantime, we are all in transition, and God waits to reveal to you the NEW church that will become KPUMC.

The timing is God's. As we enter the season of Lent, it is a time to grieve, to let go, to forgive, to receive healing, to make personal changes, and to grow closer to God. Lent prepares us for Easter. We must go through this season we are in to be able to get to the new future which awaits us. It is a journey best lived when we allow God to lead the way.

Now and always, may the God of your baptism be the God of your every blessing!

Pastor Jackie



MISC:

February 7 worship on ZOOM will be a Communion Service.

March 2 the Leadership Council will meet by ZOOM at 7 p.m.

[This Date is](#)