

A message from Pastor Dave about retirement written in the summer of 2020:

About a year ago, Cathy and I began the process of discerning what might be next. Discernment to me is like a 1,000 piece puzzle. You lay out all the pieces on a table and then begin seeing where each piece fits. If you've ever put a 1,000 piece puzzle together, then you know that it isn't put together overnight. The only way the picture on the box comes together is by staying with it, day by day, piece by piece.

Discernment happens like that. Prayers of listening, learning, conversations, times of silence, retreating, and paying attention to what is happening inside of you and around you are some of the pieces that come together to reveal the picture of what God is doing in our lives.

Through this spiritual practice, we have discerned that it is time for our retirement.

One of the last pieces that was put into place was that in May of this year, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. In the first consultation, my doctor prescribed active surveillance as the way forward. However, after further testing it was revealed that the cancer is not a low-risk cancer but an intermediate-risk. That diagnosis moved the prognosis from active surveillance to having a prostatectomy – removal of the prostate which I will undergo on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

When we began the discernment process, we thought that retirement would come in the next year or so, but when we heard the news of cancer, we knew that the time to retire was sooner than later. So with that piece fitting into the puzzle, we have discerned that our retirement will begin October 1st of this year.

In October, I will be passing the baton to Larry Thompson, an interim pastor assigned by the Conference to work with you to keep the vision and mission of Crossroads moving forward.

I am thrilled to hear that Larry is coming to bring his passionate love for God and his many gifts in preaching and teaching to this congregation. I know that when you meet Larry you will immediately sense his love for God, his passion for the way of Jesus as he shares with each of you his many gifts and the wisdom acquired with 48 years in ministry.

In July of 2021, another baton will be passed to the long-term pastor coming to Crossroads who will work within furthering the call of Crossroads to change the world, one person, one family, and community at a time.