



Friends in Christ,

My first day serving at OSLC was Sunday, 2/27, so I've been here for just over a month as your Interim Associate Pastor. Thank you for your warm welcome over the past few weeks. I'm enjoying learning about the wonderful ways OSLC serves one another and the community in Christ, and I'm appreciating collaborating with and learning from the dedicated and creative staff members. I'm glad to be here.

Interim pastors serve a specific role. We come into a congregation knowing our time will be short, which means we work quickly to integrate into the community and learn about the dreams, concerns, joys, and fears that are present. I've been asking a lot of questions and doing a lot of listening, focusing especially on (though not limited to) the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) programming at OSLC. One of the jobs of an interim pastor is to continually ask *why*. Since I'm brand-new to the congregation, I see everything with fresh eyes, which helps me encourage deeper thinking and evaluating about why things are done.

While I'm at OSLC, I will support and maintain current ministries and programs (especially pertaining to CYF ministries), yet my main goal is to help pave the way for the next CYF pastor at OSLC. As an interim, I'm not eligible to be called as the settled pastor. This allows me to fully focus on supporting the transition from the previous pastor to a new pastor. Interim pastors help the congregation to understand itself and its history, which facilitates an openness to what the future will bring, even if it is different and new (which it will be!).

In my role at OSLC, I also have the joy of working with Pastor Steve and Pastor Craig. I'm thankful to be working with two caring, committed pastoral colleagues who are supportive of my leadership. I was thrilled to preach at the Ash Wednesday service and look forward to preaching on Easter Sunday, and I'm excited to lead the planning council/staff retreat this coming Sunday afternoon from 1-4pm, when we will pray together, spend time in Scripture, and discuss what the future holds for this congregation. Please hold us in your prayers as we meet.

My favorite part of this role is connecting with congregation members. If you would like to chat, I'm happy to hear your story. Feel free to contact me to schedule a time to meet. I'm always happy to grab a cup of coffee!

Your partner in ministry,
Pastor Jen