

Dear friends,

We are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Tom Kort to the PCW community as our Parish Associate. This position was created and budgeted for by the Session to help our community stay more connected as we enter the hard winter months, in the midst of an unprecedented health crisis. Tom is joining us now as we head into December and will be helping me and the rest of the worship team with some aspects of Sunday and special services over the coming months, as well as planning and teaching Bible studies, and supporting ways for us to keep growing in faith, including more leadership development with me, our Elders and Deacons. This role, while not permanent, the contract is for 6 months with an option for longer, and part-time, specifically 19 hours a week or less, is an exciting step as we continue to search for our permanent Associate Pastors.

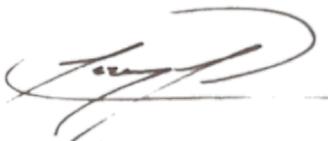
The role of Parish Associate is a growing one in communities like ours. Sometimes the person is a professor or leader in the non-profit world, but also an ordained minister seeking relationship with a congregation. In other cases the person is retired, but wishing to keep some relationship with congregational ministry, like in Tom's case. We are especially excited to have Tom's extended experience as a Senior Pastor in a large church setting.

Pittsburgh natives, Tom and his spouse, Corrine, met in college. After a brief, but formative stint as a Special Education teacher, Tom recognized a call to seminary and the two packed up for Princeton (where Tom was a fellow student of Bill Forbes). Over the next 41 years the two would raise their family as God led them to ministries in four states. Starting in Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church in PA and then Senior Pastor roles in Wellsburg, West Virginia; Maumee, Ohio, and then for 27 years as the Senior Pastor of Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Tom retired from congregational ministry in 2015 and has been serving Princeton Seminary as an Associate Vice-President for Advancement until this fall, a role that introduced him to the PCW pastoral search committee and several of our members. In fact, just last winter it was Tom who played matchmaker with PCW by introducing us to Professor Migliore, who led *Winter Prayer: Prayers of Lament and the Rebirth of Hope*.

Tom's ministry reflects so many of the passions that fuel our church community, emphasizing great worship, education, building up a caring community, and serving neighbors.

Join us in welcoming Tom and learning from him in the weeks and months ahead!

Your Pastor,



Jeremy Jinkins