

Greetings to the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Westfield!

I am so thankful to be able to worship with you this Sunday, and I thank the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, Jeremy, and the staff and congregation of the church for welcoming me so fully. I know that this has been a long road for you, and for myself as well, but I fully believe and trust that God has brought us together for good reasons and I am excited about the possibilities for the future.

From the first time I learned about the position at Westfield, I felt a strong respect and connection to the church. Programs like Agape and others that have been in place for many years but have also adapted and continued during the pandemic are indicators of the health of the church and its place in the community. The congregation has an obvious care for and investment in children and youth, a strong volunteer base that has helped programs continue even during times without pastoral staff, and a commitment to reevaluate how the church leadership is structured. All of those things, and many more, were indicators of a healthy, vibrant congregation, and one that I am thrilled to help lead and walk alongside in the years to come.

As a pastor, I'm passionate about educational and relational ministry, and I look forward to exploring intergenerational opportunities with all of you, getting to know you and your families, and to learning more about Westfield and the ministries of the church.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Sara Benedetti