

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Dear Fellow Church Members,

The Pastor Nominating Committee is excited to inform you that they have extended an invitation to Jeff Young to be the new pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church in Collinsville, and he has accepted the offer. Jeff will be preaching at the Sunday morning service Feb. 16th, after which there will be a congregational meeting to vote on extending a call to him. We sincerely hope you will be in attendance at that 10:00 service. There will be a luncheon following the congregational meeting to provide time for meeting Jeff and his family.



Jeff lives in Dubuque, Iowa with his wife Ashley and son Braylon, who is in first grade. Jeff received his Master of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 2012. He has a B.A. degree in Psychology from the University of Kansas where he met his wife as both were members of the Marching Jayhawks and other music ensembles. Jeff and Ashley married just after graduation in 2001. Ashley has a career in healthcare services and is currently working for the State of Iowa's Medicaid program.

Since graduating from seminary, Jeff has been an Adjunct Professor for Religion and Research Writing at the University of Dubuque. He also works with churches in the Dubuque area as extended and pulpit supply. Although this would be Jeff's first church, we feel that he brings considerable experience and a good sense of pastoral identity to this position. He has grown up in a church environment as his father is an honorably retired Presbyterian minister, presently living in the Kansas City area.

Jeff has the same theological views as our church. We found him to be warm, compassionate, and personable. He is a good listener and is interested in working with Session to develop a vision for our church. He describes himself as a fellow journeyer on a spiritual journey, offering leadership but also sharing the journey with others. Jeff is a gifted preacher who applies the scripture to everyday life and likes to bring theological and spiritual insights into his sermons.

Jeff and his wife visited here the weekend of the bad snowstorm. Instead of preaching at a neutral pulpit on that Sunday, he and his wife spent the day snowed in at the Drury Inn. We were able to open our church to him on that Monday to hear him preach, and we were truly blessed by his sermon. Upon returning home, Jeff emailed the following about his visit: “We love the area, the schools, and especially the PNC as representatives of the congregation. As we toured the church, we felt as if we were already a part of it and not as if we were walking into someone else’s building.”

The PNC is extremely excited about a new beginning for our church with Jeff as our pastor. We feel that God has brought him here; and he, in turn, feels that God has led him here. We hope you will join us in worship **Sunday, Feb. 16th, at 10:00** to meet Jeff and hear him preach. Please plan to stay after the short congregational meeting for a luncheon and time to fellowship with Jeff and his family.

God’s Blessings to you and our beloved church,

Mary Lee Muniz, Jodee Kleb, Matt Bader, Allyson Burr,
Bernie Kunz, Calvin Butts, and Alex Dow
(Members of the PNC)