

Pastor's Annual Report-2024

It seems just yesterday that I arrived here (March 4, 2024) to serve as your Interim Senior Pastor. And yet, we have accomplished much in these months together.

When I was selected to come here, the Presbytery leadership told me to “be a conductor,” that you all are so capable and didn’t need someone who would do things FOR you. That has been the right role, indeed. At each and every turn, I have found that the good people of Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church have been willing and able to do the ministries to which you have been called. My role as conductor has been one to make sure the different parts have the space to run effectively without bumping into each other.

Together, we put policies in place to ensure that activities are conducted “decently and in order” (a phrase which depicts the PCUSA polity!).

We hired a Director of Christian Ed, Anna Strong. Elders and Deacons have stepped up to serve as second adults in the room for each church school class (as per our Child Protection policy), showing they support the program.

The Rev. Heather Finck was able to take a well-deserved sabbatical. Working alongside Heather has been a joy for me personally and professionally.

Another important part of my time here has been to nurture your marvelous staff by helping to create a sense of deeper community.

I had the pleasure of training Your Pastor Nominating Committee, along with the Rev. Dr. John Miller, and supporting their process.

Each Sunday has been joyous for me to worship here. Especially joyous was Pride Sunday, held in June. FPUPC’s long-standing inclusivity statement became more visible, and the service was well-received.

I have great hopes for the continuing energetic ministry and vision of this congregation. It has been my honor to have served among you. I will keep you in my prayers.

Blessings,

Shannon, Interim Senior Pastor