

Pastor's Report

Annual Meeting 2023

As I sit here in the office, sun shining on this bitterly cold day, I suddenly find it hard to look back over this last year. I spend so much time looking ahead and planning, thinking about what comes next in the life of the church, that it's hard to pause and reflect. But in a way, maybe that's a good thing. I think it means that we are settling in to a routine together, that I've been here long enough to do things I've done before even as I still try new things. I am definitely feeling more confident in my role as your pastor, even as I know that there are still opportunities for me to grow. As I flip through my calendar some highlights that are jumping out at me are the Good Friday service, the support I received after Winchester died, marching in the Can-Am parade, our movie nights, the return of the choir, baptizing our youngest member and having his parents join the church, starting the Presbyterian 101 class, Synod Assembly, and the conversations we've had in our classes. We've definitely had some struggles, especially over the last couple of months with weather and my bout with Covid, but what a joy it has been to see the way we have pulled together and gotten things done. This past year I took my Continuing Education time and attended two different conferences: the Next Church conference in Montreat, North Carolina where I was able to relax and reflect on my call and the call of the Church, especially when it comes to racism, and the Early Ministry Institute where I was able to meet my cohort in person for the first time and reconnect with friends from seminary who both pastor in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. I became more involved with the Presbytery and joined the Coordinating Council and attended Synod Assembly, which I really enjoyed and hope to get the opportunity to go again. I am looking for ways both personally and as a church to become more involved in the community, and I'm hoping that now that I feel more comfortable here and that Covid restrictions seem to be lifted I can move forward with that. Overall, I constantly pray that I am doing the work God wants me to do, and that *we* are doing the work God wants *us* to do. I am also looking for ways to connect more with our virtual congregation members, to make sure they feel just as much a part of our community as those who live here and/or those who worship in person in our sanctuary. I feel that as we head in to 2023, I am allowing myself to be more open to the Holy Spirit and where it is leading. I have some plans but let's see where the Spirit takes us.

Blessings,

Reverend Summer Sattora, Pastor