

Pastor's Annual Report 2025

As I sit here looking back on this past year, it feels like the last time I sat down to write a report for the Annual Meeting was a million years ago. So much has happened in this past year, and I certainly didn't see myself in a new call at the start of last year. These last five years have been life-changing for me. I learned about myself as a person, as a pastor, and as a Christian, and grew in ways I never would've imagined when I accepted the call to the United Presbyterian Church in Sackets Harbor. I hope you as a congregation have grown as well. In our time together we have said goodbye to some and welcome to others, we have opened our doors both in person and online to individuals whom we may never meet but who consider themselves part of this faith community, and we have explored the different ways being Christ in the world might look like in the North Country. We've tried new things, brought back some familiar things, and let go of things that no longer serve us. We've laughed and cried and worshiped (sometimes all at the same time) and I for one have tried to learn to not apologize for being emotional in the pulpit. We've studied the Bible and read books and taken a closer look at *The Chosen*. And we have shared many meals together. We've engaged with the community around us through various village events and through the ringing of our bells. We've watched movies and played games and enjoyed concerts. There is no doubt that our time together has had an impact on my life, and I hope it has on yours as well.

As I flip through my planner from 2025 there is so much that is making me smile. I see the day we first visited Emmanuel UCC to learn more about their Community Meals, and I think of all the volunteers who have made it their monthly mission to feed people and the joy it brings them. I see Pete and Cara's wedding, and I think about the new life they will be bringing into the world. I see meetings, both in our church and at the Presbytery. I think about all the groups and committees I was a part of, including the Community Collective. I see Lenten Studies and Advent Studies. I see potlucks and ecumenical services. My heart is warmed when I remember how you embraced my family, whether it was my mom and stepdad or my cats. I see Alex's ordination and how important it was to her and all of you to be together for that next step in her ministerial journey. I see love and family and community. I see God.

I know the Spirit will continue to lead you and guide you in whatever comes next. Even though I will not be there to see it, I will continue to hold all of you in my prayers and in my heart. Thank you for the last five years. I love you all and I miss you all and I am excited to see what God has in store for you next.

Blessings,
Pastor Summer