



BOZEMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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May 22, 2022

To the People of Bozeman United Methodist Church,

It was announced today that Bishop Karen Oliveto intends to appoint Rev. Amy and Rev. Eric to serve as Co-Lead Pastors at First United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, effective July 1, 2022. Our last day will be Sunday, June 12th. We recognize this is an unexpected, fast, and likely emotional, transition.

In our United Methodist system, clergy are appointed by the Bishop yearly. This system is different from a call system, where clergy are hired. All systems have blessings and curses. The United Methodist process began in 1784 and is called itinerancy. Clergy take a vow to go where the Bishop has discerned our skills and gifts are most needed. We take this vow seriously.

Your Personnel Team will be working closely with District Superintendent, Rev. Jan Whitman, to appoint the pastor for Bozeman's next step into the future. We will work closely with this team and the next pastor to provide a smooth and effective transition.

Thank you for your love and presence during our time as your pastors. These four years will be marked by a global pandemic we did not expect, but which caused us to adapt to the needs of a different world. A world we could have never imagined. We are thankful for the relationships we developed here and know you will always be in our hearts and minds.

Many blessings,
Rev. Amy & Rev. Eric Strader