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January 24, 2024

Dear Ones of Janesville UCC, First Congregational Church,

The season of Epiphany is a time of God's unfolding messages to us of the journeys of faith that are on the horizon in our lives. While I deeply cherish each of you and the incredible ministry we have shared over these 9 years together, I have received news of God's call in my professional life. This past weekend I received a call to serve as the newly settled minister of South Church UCC in Concord, New Hampshire. It is with a heavy heart that I share this news with you, my beloved congregation. Thus, as is customary, I am giving you my notice of resignation effective May 15, 2024, more than three months from now. My last Sunday with you will be April 28th.

The Star Word I received this year was "cherish" and it is fitting. I have grown to cherish you and the amazing work we have done over these many years. You are a strong and courageous church. You show great compassion for people who are seeking to belong to a faith community where others have suggested that they do not belong. You are fierce advocates of love and justice in the world. Christ's compassion lives powerfully within you and even now the Holy One is sending out a call to a new leader to come and serve Janesville UCC.

Our Consistory President Tom Clippert and I have begun our transitional work together with our Associate Conference Minister Rev. Rachel Bauman. Your President along with Consistory will select a small team of people who will work with Rev. Bauman to write a paragraph about our congregation and the opportunity of interim ministry here in Janesville. While it is true that the available pool of clergy ready to serve is shallow, our church is well known in the Wisconsin Conference. I am confident God is preparing someone's heart to say "yes" to this work!

We are beginning a new season together. While this is a time of transition, and we have much work to do before us, we are also casting new visions of who we will become as leaders and ministers of the future. In the time we have remaining we will walk the journey of Lent together, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection at Easter, and we will see the installation of two new grand stained-glass windows in our beautiful sanctuary in March.

April will become the month of our parting and our work will turn to saying a 'good' goodbye. Until then I am still your pastor. Stop by the office, send me an email, give me a call. I am here to support you until we say our final farewells. Your Consistory and Shared Ministry Team is available to listen to you. Reach out and connect with the caring people of your church home.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan