

Saying goodbye is never easy. I knew that some day the time would come when I would need to sit down and write this particular pastoral letter. But to be honest I am very unprepared to say goodbye to you all.

Nine years ago, you graciously welcomed Audra and I along with our three very young kids at the time. As I reflect on my time here, we have grown as a family and a church. Over these years it has been my honor and pleasure to be in ministry with you as we have welcomed new members and families to the church. It has been a joy to see our largest ministry, Sonlight Child Development Center, grow from six kids and five teachers when I arrived to over 50 kids and 11 staff members currently. We've grown through our new ministries, especially Family Promise, which was a big leap forward in extending ourselves outward to care for the homeless families in our county. Through worship we have grown, especially through our music program that is always inspiring us. I know for me personally I will miss singing and being with the incredible musicians of this church community.

Over the past nine years, I have been with you in times of grief when a loved one has passed away and times of joy during the announcement of new birth to your family. I have laughed with you during the small groups. I have celebrated momentous times in your lives during weddings, baptisms, and graduations. I have worked alongside you on our common mission to make God's Love Real.

There are so many memories that Audra and I will take with us and leave behind. That is why saying goodbye is never easy. When you grow to love a person, it is hard to say goodbye. But when, as Audra and I have done, you grow to love an entire community of people, it makes it that much harder.

What helps in this time is to know that as I leave, you will be in good hands. I am confident that Pastor Sue is just who you need to take this church to the next level in your growth, worship life, and mission. Most importantly, you will all be in God's hands as he continues to hold you and walk with you through the next part of your faith journey.

As hard as it is, saying goodbye is a part of life. But what a joy to know that in that part of life God is with us. Caring for us and guiding us as we boldly take that next step forward. So it is with that faithful Spirit that Audra and I, along with the kids, say goodbye as we thank you for all your love over the years. You will always be in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you all and your continued ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

In God's Love, Pastor Tim, Audra, Alyssa, Connor, & Madelyn



Say Goodbye to Our Pastor and Family