November 18 will be the last Sunday of the Rev. Adam Bowling as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian. He and his family will be moving to Virginia, where Adam will become Senior Pastor/Head of Staff at First United Presbyterian Church, Dale City.

What now for staffing this congregation? The Pastor Nominating Committee for a Senior Pastor/Head of Staff continues to meet almost weekly, considering and interviewing candidates. They are prayerfully taking seriously the charge to nominate your next pastor.

The church Session has elected the following individuals to serve on a Search Committee for an Interim Associate Pastor or Interim Educator: Doug Veazey, Lisa Roller, and Scott Davis. We hope to have that interim position filled early in 2019. It would remain as an interim position until after a Senior Pastor is called.

In this time of waiting, how do you continue and hopefully thrive as a congregation? Robert Fulghum has pointed out that when children start kindergarten, they are always told to hold hands as they cross the street or when they go somewhere new. They are taught to have a buddy. I want to suggest that you be a band of buddies, brothers and sisters holding hands, bonded together and determined to create a fruit-bearing future for this church. Keep showing each other you care about them, read the biblical stories about God's faithfulness, and share stories you have of that faithfulness. The Spirit will provide a way through the change, will surprise you with everlasting joy, and will bring you hope.

Blessings, Wanda Neely, Transitional Pastor 828-929-5001, mobile