



Rev. Joy Douglas Strome

I couldn't be more pleased that the church has granted me permission to go on a three-month sabbatical starting Sunday, April 19. That Sunday after worship we will have a party to celebrate my time away and on July 19 we will have another one to festively bring me back home! I have been busy making plans and look forward to sharing with you my journeys through that time via a blog I will be writing with pictures that I will share as I go to four different mountain ranges, see new places, reconnect with family, and spend some concentrated time at the Iona Community in Scotland. Iona is where Christianity first came to the British Isles and has long been considered a sacred space for Presbyterians. I have scheduled two weeks on my own at Iona and look forward to the respite and challenge of this experience. I have committed a lot of my sabbatical time to reading and you will get to participate in that through a book study program that will provide free books for those who want to read along with me.

While I'm gone you will find yourselves in good hands, leadership wise. David Bebb Jones, a retired pastor in our presbytery, will come as our Visiting Pastor to preach and moderate the Session, and fill in for me while I'm away. David has a daughter who lives in Lake View and he will spend a few days each week here attending meetings, leading our worship services and being another pastoral presence for you all while I'm away. I hope that you will take some time to get to know him while he's here. He's thoughtful, lively, and funny and will have many good stories to share with you I'm sure! Of course, Larissa, Sue, Jennie, John Erickson and Drago will still be carrying their same load of responsibility while I'm away.

Pray for our amazing staff and support them as they adjust to this change. I know that you will feel well supported and I appreciate all the time and planning that has already happened to make it possible for me to be gone! If you have any questions, make sure you ask! The time will go by fast and while I'm gone my prayer for you all will be that you celebrate life and our LVPC community.