



Today, SPPRC is pleased to announce that we have been assigned a new pastor.

You may have met him already as he has filled our pulpit several times in the past ~10 months. Pastor Mike Zahn will serve our 2 churches on a part-time basis effective May 1st. His first Sunday in the pulpit with us will be May 8th.

Pastor Mike spent much of his first 35 years in Oshkosh, graduating from North High School and attending First Congregational United Church of Christ. He graduated from Ripon College with an English major and later earned an MBA.

He explored different career options including acting and writing. He joined his father's paint business for several years and then moved around and worked in NE Wisconsin - ultimately being hired as a traveling paint salesman for Benjamin Moore Paints.

He first joined a Methodist Church in Iola, later moving to Wausau and joining First United Methodist Church where he has now been a member for 21 years. During his time at First UMC he has been a confirmation mentor, a middle school teacher, a SPPRC co-chair and a Lay Leader. He currently serves as the North Central District Lay Leader and a Certified Lay Speaker. Even now he continues with pastoral studies.

Pastor Mike loves music. We have heard some of that during his past times with us. He has performed in other churches and has recently begun to lead guitar sing-alongs at senior care facilities around Central Wisconsin.

He met his wife, Diane, in 2003 in Merrill. After they married in 2005, he joined her in Merrill although he maintained his membership at First Church in Wausau. Diane taught kindergarten for 20 years in the MAPS School District but now they have relocated to a small farm between Merrill and Wausau where they raise sheep and turkeys. They also have a farm dog, Jack; 4 cats; 2 chickens and two goats.

Between them, Mike and Diane have 6 children and 13 grandchildren.

Please take time to introduce yourselves to Pastor Mike and help him get to know you and your family.

Thank you for your patience as SPPRC worked to keep speakers in our pulpit each Sunday.

And join me in giving thanks to our District Office as they worked to fill our open pulpit.

Please say an extra prayer today to guide Pastor Mike in his assignment with our 2 churches.

Thank you!

The SPPRC