



We would like to let the congregation know that Sarah Chapman will be on a Sabbatical Leave from August 5th, 2024 to November 5th, 2024. The United Church of Canada has a policy on sabbatical leaves. It applies to ministry personnel who have completed five or more years of service in the pastoral charge. Sarah completed 5 years of service in September 2023 and is therefore eligible for this leave.

The biblical roots of the Sabbath are foundational to the concept of the sabbatical as a time of rest from the work of ministry. Sabbatical time is for learning through reflection, revitalization, and recreation. Sarah and the M&P Committee have worked together to develop a sabbatical plan that will meet the intent of a sabbatical.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is overseeing the sabbatical and has approved the following goals and plans for the sabbatical.

Leadership Development

- Develop skills and tools to support a renewed and emerging church.
- Learn leadership skills for the next phase of being a church in today's world that would add value to ESG.
- Equip Sarah to lead a diverse and changing church
- Nourish Sarah for meaningful and strategic growth

Visioning Development

- To dream and deepen the vision for ESG's next-gen and growth ministry
- To examine the current food ministry and vision scaling this ministry

- To learn about new ideas from other successful ministries and subject matter experts in visioning and alternative ministries

Spiritual Development

- To renew and deepen Sarah's spiritual practices to ground her in God and her own Christian Faith
- To feed Sarah's spirituality and transcendent connections
- To develop personal, healthy, embodied and heart-centered practices, to approach ministry from this place, for the betterment of her ministry at ESG and the broader community

During her sabbatical, the programs that Sarah has developed in her time at ESG will continue with the support of current staff and will be managed with the support of the Family Ministry workgroup, and the Next Generation team.

Once Sarah returns from her sabbatical, there will be opportunities for the congregation to hear about her leave, her learnings, and her takeaways for ESG, and for her.

If you have questions about this leave, please connect with Heather Parker, Sarah's M&P Rep at heatherparkeresg@gmail.com or Bob Blair, Chair of M&P at rblair1409@gmail.com