**COMINGS, GOINGS, AND RETURNS …**

June 19, 2018

Dear Park Avenue Family,

Our congregation has experienced a season of trial over the last ten months after Pastor Will’s diagnosis and his journey to recovery. But God is faithful … and we want to thank YOU for your continued faithfulness as we’ll be experiencing no small measure of transition in our staff over the next month.

Take note of these important events and join us throughout the summer as we recognize God at work!

**Pastor Will returns!** He will be serving us at a half-time time rate through the summer and into the autumn and plans to gradually increase his workload as his recovery continues and strength grows. He will preach and co-lead worship and communion with Pastor Alanna Tyler on July 1, her last Sunday with us. **A reception for Pastor Will follows worship Sunday, July 1.**

**Pastor Alanna** has accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor of Social Justice at Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis – it’s an exciting role near and dear to her heart. **She will preach her last sermon on June 24, and a Reception of Thanks for her service and ministry will take place that Sunday after service.** Please plan to attend as she goes where God is sending her and wish her the very best.

**Pastor Jia Starr Brown** will begin her ministry with us July 16 as our new Associate Pastor. Her first Sunday will be July 22, and she will preach her first sermon on August 5. **A Welcome Reception for Pastor Jia will take place on July 29 after service**, and her Installment Service will come in the fall as she is concluding her pastoral licensure process for the United Methodist Church.

**Interim Pastor Cooper Wiggen** will be able to return to his “retirement” after Sunday, June 24. We were blessed to have him in our midst to provide leadership and guidance over the last four months. **Join us for a Farewell Reception for Pastor Cooper after service on July 22**.

We thank God for these fine leaders and their ministry and service, and for Pastor Will’s recovery journey as we continue to be a vibrantly Christ-centered, multiracial, multiethnic, intergenerational instrument of transformation, actively
engaged with our urban neighborhood and our world.

In Christ,

 Jon Urban – Administrative Board Chair
Sherri Boone – Staff Parish Relations Chair

Park Avenue United Methodist Church 3400 Park Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55407