

Pastor Appreciation Month

Having been in the Methodist then United Methodist church for 74 years I have had a lot of Pastors. Some have been good; some have been okay. Some have been excellent. I believe our current Pastor falls into the last category. I had one that told the choir when they had been standing waiting to process into the church and it was 10 minutes after church was to start that church was like a (insert foreign country) airline, that you didn't go until the seats were full. To say as the head of Social Concerns and a member of Pastor-Parish I was horrified is putting it mildly. (That was not UUMC.) I couldn't find a category he fell into. I've had others who seemed to be more interested in U of M versus Michigan State and talking about it. That was irritating but harmless until someone complained to me, and I took the complaint to the pastors. I've had Pastors that have broken their vows but more that have been faithful to their calling. I've had more that have led me to the cross than have turned me away. I've had more that have given me good advice when I struggled than the ones who shut their doors when they saw me coming.

In July of 2011 Reverend Gotham came to our church to be our Pastor. It was the same month and year that my husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He was with me in so many ways. He made sure I stayed connected to the church and kept serving. I needed that outlet. He made sure I went to the Emmaus Walk and had recruited people to stay with my husband for three days and told me it was paid for, so I had no excuses. And he was there for my husband's death and the funeral during Covid. He was there when I just needed to vent. I can't thank him enough for his help in that 10-year struggle. He is one of the best. He has been with us from the Father of the Bride to the grandfather of two. He will be here 14 years next July and this is Pastor Appreciation Month. How blessed we are.

Please thank him for his service and write him a note telling him what he has done in your life. Perhaps it's a sermon that touched you or a visit or help at a loved one's funeral or maybe you just think his car is really cool. Whatever it is appreciate your Pastor this month.

Grace Epperson