



REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastoral Sabbatical

After seven years of service, RPC's Session granted Pastor Austin a 12-week Sabbatical. Running **from June 3 – September 2 Pastor Austin will be away from RPC** to rest and renew his life for another season of ministry.

During his time away worship and weekly programs will continue to happen with the help of many wonderful leaders. Austin Rehbein will step in to assist with regular preaching and worship leadership as well as assisting with pastoral care needs. We will also see a handful of guest preachers throughout the summer helping to give Austin R. the time she needs to continue doing wonderful youth ministry. The Praise Team and Jessica Ahnert will help to ensure that we are able to enjoy musical worship all summer long.

While away, Pastor Austin hopes to spend time with his family, enjoy resting, traveling, and baking loads of bread. In fact, his one learning goal is to read and continue learning about the intersections between bread, communion, and hospitality. Perhaps we'll hear more about that in the fall!

Pastor Austin is incredibly grateful for this time away to recharge and is looking forward to sharing his learnings when he returns in September. For more information about this or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on this sabbatical please see below. Feel free to ask any additional questions you might have to Session or Pastor Austin.

Sabbatical FAQ's:

1. Is this sabbatical so that Pastor Austin can research, write, or produce something?

While there are sabbaticals in the academic world that are geared toward research or writing projects, this pastoral sabbatical is aimed at providing Pastor Austin with the time and space he needs to recharge his mental, physical, and spiritual batteries. That means his focus will be on rest and renewal.

2. Has Pastor Austin been here long enough to take a sabbatical; didn't he just start working at RPC last month?

Time sure does fly. Pastor Austin began his time at RPC in 2017 and as he has now completed 7+ years of service our RPC sabbatical policy allows for this leave at this time.

3. When Pastor Austin is on sabbatical, how can I reach him?

The short answer is you won't be able to reach him during his sabbatical. During this time away Pastor Austin will not be checking or responding to his work email address. He also won't be available by phone or text message. To maximize his time away and truly unplug from work he will be completely away during this time.

4. What if I have an important question or issue and I need the pastor's help?

While Pastor Austin is away Austin Rehbein will be available to support RPC with pastoral care issues. If you have something come up that needs help or attention, please contact her first at austin.rehbein@redmondpres.org. If there is any issue that needs additional support, Austin R. will have several pastors and Presbytery personnel that she can ask for assistance.

5. Will we still have worship, Sunday school, and other activities during this sabbatical time?

Yes! Great question. During Pastor Austin's sabbatical RPC will continue to worship each and every week. We'll celebrate communion. Our children will still have wonderful Sunday School and our youth will continue to have great opportunities to learn and have fun this summer.

There may be a slight decrease in activity this summer, but most everything will continue to happen as usual.

6. How can I support RPC, Pastor Austin, and Austin Rehbein during this sabbatical time?

Again, great question! Please pray for Pastor Austin as he steps away. Pray that his time would be restful, meaningful, and encouraging.

If you are able, please offer to help support RPC by participating in regular worship, continuing your generous giving, assisting with reading scripture or prayers on Sunday, or generally offering your help in any way you would like to serve.