

Farewell Message

As I bring this season of ministry to a close, there are two words that echo in my heart: **“thank you.”**

I thank God for the privilege of walking with this church family for so many years. From the very beginning, this has never been a one-person journey—it’s always been *us*. And I’m so grateful for that. As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, I, too, thank God for your “work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I’ve seen that faith, love, and hope lived out in countless ways—both in everyday faithfulness and in extraordinary steps of obedience.

This morning, I’m wearing a few visual reminders of our journey together. These are just symbols—but they represent stories, and stories shape us.

- **I’m wearing my preaching shoes**—a gift from my wife, worn almost every Sunday. They remind me of Romans 10: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Together, we’ve heard and shared the gospel over and over again.
- **I’m wearing this shirt**—the same one I wore for my ordination and installation. It reminds me of the calling we all share: to serve, to follow, and to be transformed by Christ.
- **And I brought my “toys”**—the props and visuals many of you remember from sermons over the years. Whether it was a wheelbarrow, a trash can, or a loaf of bread, these weren’t just gimmicks. They were ways to help us see the gospel more clearly, to embody truth in tangible ways. And if they helped you remember Jesus a little better, I’m glad.

If I could leave you with just one encouragement today, it would be this: **Keep going. Keep walking by faith.** Not because you have all the answers, but because you know the One who does.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He’s the Bread of Life. He’s the One who walks on water and calms the storm. He’s the One who holds you when the bottom falls out. He is the Word made flesh, and He is still with you. Always.

So I’ll end with the same words I shared in my very first sermon here, words I’ve clung to ever since: **“The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”** (1 Thess. 5:24)

Thank you, church family. I love you. I always will.