

Dear Friends,

I hope you will read what I have written in the summer newsletter and take it to heart in the weeks and months ahead.

One of the biggest roles of an interim is to be a reliable presence as a congregation is navigating change. You might not notice some little things day to day, but what you are doing here at CPC is monumental -- a big shift in your reality is taking place over this year or so. One author calls navigating such things "Canoeing the Mountains." Interim pastors help equip you, in word and presence, to do just that.

My friend Roy Howard, pastor of a church just outside D.C., shared the following from his sermon last week, which echoes some things I have said to you over these past months, but more eloquently. Please read, pray about, and digest this.

If Karl Barth is right that we are living in the interim time between what-has-been and what-is-coming, then the greatest spiritual danger is nostalgia. There is always some period of time known as "the glory days" for which people pine away for its return. Remember how it used to be when there was more of this and less of that? You fill in the blank. HBO and Netflix make movies of the 50s. Others yearn for the 60s or the 80s. Whatever. The glory days are a figment of a limited imagination.

The Church in the 21st century has a choice to make. Do we live by nostalgia for what used to be and then arrange our activities, our budgets, our plans for the return of the glory days? This is the path of little faith and courage that leads to denial and decline.

What used to be is not going to be again. Ever.

Thanks be to God for all of the now and the not yet. We go forward together.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Leigh

*"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him..." 1 Corinthians 2:9*