

FAQ for Pastor Chuck's Time of Renewal

Since I have begun mentioning to people about my renewal time away this summer (July 16 – September 5), I've heard some questions. Here is a sampling with my responses.

Chuck, we know you are taking some time away this summer, but what are you going to be doing?

At this point, I have nothing planned and I do mean nothing. I will probably play some golf, a lot of pickleball with Karen (wife), MacKenzie (daughter), and Tyler (son-in-law), go to a few movies, spend time with Grandpa getting him to tell stories of earlier generations (This is Karen's 94-year-old dad and he lives with us), visit the grandchildren, read a few books, browsing at Barnes and Nobles and connect with my sister. Most of all, I'll be trying to put my brain in neutral for a few weeks.

Way too often we hear of pastors taking time off like this and it turns out they're in trouble.

Let me be clear, my life is **NOT** in crisis ... at least until my next pickleball match. You see, if I don't improve my performance in pickleball, I may wind up in critical condition in the hospital after Karen gets finished with me. She doesn't like losing in mixed couple's play.

Seriously, my health is good. Karen and I have been married for 40 years and she still puts up with me ... AND we are hopeful of surviving another Wilson family summer vacation. As I've told you before, these can be challenging.

Do you think Karen will grow tired of having you under foot?

Probably so. I can hear her saying something like, "Would you stop following me around? Why don't you go do something?" I'll probably grab my backpack and head to Barnes and Noble.

Have you ever done this before?

Yes, and it has done wonders for my soul. I think it is the reason my best work in pastoral ministry has occurred in my second half of ministry. I'm not sure how many more years I'll work before retirement, but these bursts of replenishment are helping me to do as my dad always challenged me, "Chuck, finish on your toes, not on your heels."

Who will be handling your ongoing responsibilities?

You are in the best of hands with Pastor Paul leading the way. I think. Ha! Ha! No, no, you are in the BEST of hands. Paul has been a faithful partner in ministry with me for many years now in two different settings. I think he is the funniest man alive. Karen asks me most every night, "What funny thing did Paul Craig say today?" Of course, we all know him to be an amazing man of faith and we are most fortunate to have him in our midst.

We will be simplifying things a bit. My weekly **Just These Lines** will be built around essential communication things only. I will not be doing the weekly devotional but will resume when I return. Pastors Paul, Jenny and Corey will be preaching while I'm away, along with some wonderful guest preachers. In addition, we have two extraordinary, retired pastors in our midst, **Nancy Miller-Campbell** and **Larry Watts** who will be assisting with congregational care matters.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee has encouraged me to stay away from doing email, texting or phone calls during this time away. Thank you for understanding. If there is an emergency where I could be needed, please be in touch with Pastor Paul and the Church Office and they will know how to reach me.

Again, thank you for this wonderful gift of rest and renewal.