

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce that Rev. Terry Gosnell will be the next senior pastor at Lakewood United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2024.

Rev. Gosnell is currently serving as senior pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He previously served the Harmony Grove charge (Harmony Grove, Holly Springs, and Lakeside), Ft. Smith First UMC (associate), and Methodist Healthcare/Lebohnur Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN (chaplain resident).

After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas, he received a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, GA. Rev. Gosnell also received Clinical Pastoral Education from Methodist Healthcare/Lebohnur Children's Hospital in Memphis. He was ordained as an Elder in full connection with the Arkansas Conference in 2004.

Rev. Gosnell is currently part of the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas Compelling Preaching Initiative (funded by the Lily Foundation) and was previously named a Lewis Fellow by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership by Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.(2019-2020). He is also an Eagle Scout (1989).

Rev. Gosnell enjoys spending time with his two dog children, Axel and Roosevelt, cooking, traveling, hiking, working out, watching movies, listening to music, refurbishing furniture, and spending time with friends.

When asked how he feels about serving the Lakewood UMC community, Rev. Gosnell shared, "As a spiritual leader, we know what the problems are, and my role is to create an environment of possibilities through listening deeply, learning from curiosity, and leading with wonder. Lakewood has been an amazing presence of love and openness—a place where hope happens and is shared with the community and beyond. The prophet Isaiah teaches us that 'God is always doing something new,' and we are here to ask how we may help."

Rev. Gosnell added, "Since 1955, Lakewood has been a place where hope happens. We are to continue with that spirit and embrace the possibility to widen that hope to new neighbors and friends. We are to build on the faithful past, the present, and the amazing future God has for us as disciples and friends. The way that I measure the relevance is this: If the church would vanish overnight, would it be missed the next morning? With that said, Lakewood would be missed as evidenced by the amazing connections with the neighborhood and the wider world."

"As in the beautiful Wesleyan hymn, 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,' let us be 'lost in wonder, love, and praise,'" Gosnell closed, "I want the people of Lakewood UMC and beyond to know something... God loves you, and there's nothing you can do about it."

Help us welcome Rev. Gosnell and pray for him as he enters this new ministry journey. His email is terry.gosnell@arumc.org.

In Christ's love,

Dr. Andrea Shaw, SPPR chair