

# First Presbyterian Church Boone, NC

FPC proudly announces the calling of Rev. Joel M. Long as Interim Pastor



Joel brings to FPC Boone, a wealth of experience, charisma and leadership ability. Since earning his undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Lenoir Rhyne University, Hickory, NC, and his Master of Divinity Degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, Joel has served First Presbyterian, Quitman, GA, Mulberry Presbyterian and Sharon Presbyterian churches, Charlotte, NC, and First Presbyterian, Eden, NC. Rev. Long is a Certified Interim Ministry Specialist, Levels I & II (PCUSA). His most recent work has been as Interim Pastor, Fellowship Presbyterian, Greensboro, NC. Joel is a member of Salem Presbytery where he serves on the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, Liaison to Transition Teams and Pastor Nominating Committees, Stewardship, and Budget and Finance. He has also served as a commissioner to General Assembly. Joel is the proud father of two sons, Preston (Cherryville, NC) and Zackary (Eden, NC) and the grandfather of Alexander, Dawson, Madison and Isabella.

Joel recently described himself as:

- A loving dad and grandfather
- Committed to proclaiming God's Word
- Coming to FPC Boone with a great sense of excitement
- Dedicated to sharing Christ's redeeming love
- A shepherd who cares
- A golfer
- Looking forward to growing together as disciples in Christ
- Someone who loves mashed potatoes, country-style steak, English peas, and homemade biscuits

When recently asked, he further described himself as "*...a little country and a little rock and roll*".

## **In his words:**

My number one priority as an Interim Pastor is to glorify God in all that I say and do. My second priority is to serve and meet the transitional needs of the congregation. It is my calling and responsibility to listen to and clearly assess where the congregation is during its time without an installed pastor. I will offer myself as a Christ-like servant in order to facilitate a church's movement from "where it has been" to "where it is going". Employing a servant leadership style, I hope to foster a level of discipleship that attracts a diversity of people, creates an atmosphere where God's justice and love is of central import, and reflects the teachings of Christ as revealed in scripture.

My skills are in the areas of: pastoral care, church growth, officer training, leadership development, preaching/teaching, spiritual formation, conflict management/resolution, administration, stewardship development, facilitating the work of staff to staff and staff to laity, and relating pastoral concerns/issues to preaching, teaching, and worship.