

MEET THE INTERIM PASTOR TEAM

The Reverend Dr. Brewster Huntington (Budge) Gere grew up in Clinton, New York, graduated from Dartmouth College and received both his Master of Divinity and his Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. Beginning his ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Budge next served at Wedgwood Presbyterian in Seattle. Returning to Michigan, Budge was Senior Pastor of the Farmington Presbyterian Church. He then was called as Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. Returning once again to Michigan in 2005, Budge spent a year as Director of Development for U-M's Matthaei Botanical Garden and Nichols Arboretum. A pastor at heart, he was invited to return to the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor as Executive Pastor and Director of its Residency Program, which supports first call pastors in parish ministry. In his ministry, Budge seeks to bring alive the timeless truths of Scripture and make them timely. Outside the walls of the churches he has served, he has been recognized for work on behalf of issues of justice emphasizing multicultural, multi-racial understanding and tolerance. Outside of church interests and activities include travel, sports, reading, music, time with family near (including two Golden Retrievers) and far, and cooking. Budge and his wife Anne, a professor of English at the University of Michigan, have raised three children and are now enjoying three grandchildren--alas, from afar through daily Skype sessions during the COVID-19 crises--who (with their parents!) live in New Jersey.

The Reverend Dr. Judy Shipman hails from Oklahoma where she received her undergraduate degree in Microbiology from the University of Oklahoma. She worked in that capacity at Scripps Medical Research Institute in La Jolla, CA and Conoco Oil Co. in Oklahoma. Her first foray into ministry was at First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa where she served as Children's Director and then Director of Christian Education, with oversight of a summer camping program. After graduation from Phillips Graduate Seminary Judy moved to the land of snow and ice as an Associate Pastor for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Madison WI. Most recently she was Pastor at Saline First and Interim Pastor at Westminster Ann Arbor. Her post-grad work was through Columbia Presbyterian Seminary where she was certified in Christian Spiritual Formation. She also is a certified conflict mediator through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Chicago. Judy spent several years as an adjunct professor at Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, in both the Master of Divinity program and the Doctor of Ministry Program. Her service in the presbytery includes Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and coordinator of the Healthy Congregations conflict management team. She recently served as Moderator of Detroit Presbytery. Her passions in ministry are teaching and mission. In her spare time, Judy likes to quilt, restore antique furniture, flower garden, visit family, and spend time up north at her cottage. She has a son in Texas, a daughter in Missouri, 4 grandchildren whom she adores, and a beautiful and entertaining pup named Annabelle.

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The Reverend Bill Zambon is a retired Presbyterian pastor who grew up in Cincinnati, Connecticut, and Oklahoma, where he graduated from the University of Tulsa. He embarked on a cross country bicycle trip after graduation from McCormick Seminary, and eventually rode into a small Oklahoma town to take a call as pastor of the local Presbyterian Church. From there, Bill went to First Presbyterian Tulsa and served as interim Assistant Pastor with youth, and then Associate Pastor with administration and mission responsibilities. His path of ministry eventually led him to Galveston, TX where he served as Senior Pastor for 14 years and developed a partnership between the church and University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston to do an ongoing medical mission in Nicaragua. Bill was an interim pastor in three Detroit Presbytery congregations before retiring after 35 years of ministry: Wyandotte First, Grosse Isle, and Lincoln Park. His passion in ministry has been teaching and preaching. He has served on the Hands-On-Mission Committee of the presbytery as well as Committee on Ministry. Bill enjoys fishing, long road trips through the United States and Canada, reading, and visiting with friends. He lives in Ypsilanti and plans to remain in Michigan. He has two daughters—one in Missouri and another in Texas, and four grandchildren, who account for at least half of those "long road trips" mentioned above.

Bill, Budge, and Judy are excited by the possibility of returning to serve with an "interim team" of equally retired ministers who no longer have anything to prove, but instead are open to new and creative ways of doing ministry, even as they draw on decades of experience (actually 115 years total!). Bill and Judy, as well as Budge and Judy, have previously worked together as colleagues in ministry, and they are committed to collaborative leadership—both with one another and with the Session. This is a challenging moment for the church of Jesus Christ as it maintains ministry, mission, and community in new ways in this time of COVID-19.