

November 10, 2024

Naomi and I started attending People's Congregational Church a little over two years ago. We came from a new church start of 30 years that intentionally did not own real estate. Rather our resources were focused on nurturing our members and then freeing them to be God's presence in their vocations and volunteer work in the larger Des Moines community. The people were literally the church.

When we arrived here, we perceived this was a faith community of open and caring people where we could experience God in the work of doing church together. We believe God is found in those connections

Indeed we experienced God's comfort these past months during the loss of my brother and Naomi's surgery and recovery surrounded and uplifted by your acts of kindness. In a short time, you have welcomed and included us. It's not lost on us that having a loving and welcoming community is becoming more rare and precious.

We have been encouraged further by the combining of our two faith communities and the outcomes thus far in identifying and naming who we are, where we came from, and why we are here.

Naomi and I gladly support St Croix United Church as we take the next steps in identifying how we extend those God connections to the larger community... because as Pastor Clare reminds us, "Love is counting on us".

David Kirstein