



The Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

I write with anticipation and joy, wondering about God's vision for this new partnership in ministry. Our future is wide open! Coming to Trinity UCC in Gettysburg is a homecoming of sorts. I was ordained in 2005 by the Gettysburg Association at my home church, Grace UCC, in Hanover. My family still has roots at Grace, and I owe my ministry in part, to the persistence of Bruce and Rita Bouchard who knew before me that I was bound for service in the church. Several years later, through the love and support of Kara and family, I enrolled at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Life was forever changed. Before seminary and after Business School, I began my professional career as a College Administrator at York College of Pennsylvania, where I earned two additional degrees and met my future life partner and love, Kara.

We were students in the same behavioral health class, funny story; perhaps someday I will share it with all of you. I enjoyed 11 years at the college and held three separate positions, including managing the student computer labs. I left there in the fall of 1999 to begin my seminary journey.

Chaplaincy changed and molded me. I still cherish the years I spent as a Chaplain Intern and later Chaplain Resident at York Hospital. The program was busy with day, evening, and on-call shifts, but working with patients and families was incredibly fulfilling. As my residency ended I transitioned to become the Chaplain of the Margaret E. Moul Home of York, where I enjoyed full creative and theological expression in worship and pastoral care and gained a sense of what it means to be an inclusive church surrounded by individuals who lived with a spectrum of neuromuscular impairments.

I have spent the last thirteen years as the Associate Pastor of Youth, Education and Outreach at Christ Church United Church of Christ in Elizabethtown, PA. I am proud of the relationships I've built with youth and children, redesigning church school into Workshop Rotation, developing a Confirmation program, writing curriculum for all ages, and designing several children's worship series. I've led and been a team member on Mission Trips to many areas of our country, as well as participated in local mission work, and a recent trip to Guatemala serving Casa Para Ninos Aleluya. Finding creative ways to explore one's faith, like intergenerational Messy Church and sensory stimulating, contemplative Sunday worship are some of my favorite things. My greatest accomplishment is telling you that I did none of this alone, but was honored to be entrusted as a shepherd, team member, and guide with a group of wonderful people intent on developing as a community of faith and love.

My passions in ministry stem from a deep commitment to outreach and service. I feel most alive when helping another. Whether wielding a hammer or lending an ear, I try to live my life aware of the needs of those around me. I truly believe faith formation is life long, and church is the place where we come to enjoy each other's company and re-energize for the work of Christ in the world.

In my personal life, I enjoy spending time with Kara, our daughter, Emily, and new son-in-law, Ryan. I cherish time around the table, with good food, family and friends, and love lazing around the house with our Labrador retriever, Murphy. Writing is a passion and to date I have about seven unpublished children's books awaiting a rainy day. Kara is also a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary and together we ponder the theological meaning of much of life. In addition, she serves as a strong sounding board and resource for sermons and liturgy. We are extremely excited to be a part of Trinity, UCC and eagerly wait to see what God has in store for all of us.

Many Blessings! Pastor Fred