

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD



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Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian, Springfield,

Very shortly, if not already, you will hear that the IPNC has called a “bridge pastor”. That’s me!

Although my first day with you isn’t until June 13th, I’d like to formally introduce myself to and say how much I look forward to meeting you and partnering together in mission and ministry over the next year.

I am already enjoying the relationships that have formed with the IPNC, the Session and Pastor Roberto. They are all amazing and while I haven’t yet met the staff, I understand they are also gifted and have worked very hard to ‘keep the church running’ in the midst of pastoral transitions. This is no easy feat for church staff and for you as members. I truly look forward to helping you create a “future with hope” (Jer 29:11)

Until last Sunday I was the installed head of staff at the 1st Presbyterian Church of Boonton, (Highlands Presbytery). It was a wonderful 16 years. As a seasoned coach and consultant, I am honored to partner with you and help you discern where God is calling you next.

(Attached/included is a more formal bio.)

My first Sunday with you will be June 18th and I look forward to meeting you and starting our partnership together. In the meanwhile, know that you are all, already in my thoughts and prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Rev Jen Van Zandt

PS please feel free to call me ‘Rev Jen’ or ‘Jen’



Jen Van Zandt has been the Head of Staff at the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton since 2007. She is passionate about church vitality through intergenerational relationships, creative worship and meaningful stewardship education especially for generations X, Y and Z. She is a former Chair of the Presbytery Stewardship Committee, was the Presbytery Moderator (2010) and also served as a Presbytery trustee for 6 years. Jen offers training and coaching for churches and Presbyteries on Generational Stewardship Strategies. She is also a seasoned retreat leader for small groups, church-wide and women's retreats. Before her ordained life in ministry, Jen was Pres/CEO of Bullseye Training, Inc., a coaching and training organization. Jen has a BA in Speech Communication and a Minor in voice from Ithaca College and an M Div. from Princeton Seminary.