



### **Introducing Our New Pastor – Rev. Monica Banks!**

We are excited to announce that we have selected Reverend Monica L. Banks as our new pastor. Her first Sunday with us will be **September 13!** Here is a little bit about her.

Rev. Banks was raised by Baptist grandparents from the age of ten. She was baptized at the age of 12 and grew up attending youth group at First Baptist Church in Fremont, Nebraska. Rev. Banks was also active in church camp and statewide youth events. Before pursuing ministry, she attended business school and pursued a B.S. in Business Leadership and Management. She graduated from College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska in 2002. Rev. Banks spent much of her early career in the hospitality industry, was a corporate trainer and general manager at chef-owned and farm to table restaurants.

In 2012, Rev. Banks followed her calling to ministry and began the discernment process. She began her theological education at Wake Forest School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 2014. During her time at Wake Forest, she traveled on pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine, Tucson/Nogales, and the Patagonia Region of the Southwest working with migrant farmers. In 2017, Rev. Banks was nominated and received the Re:Generate fellowship for young

ministers working in ecology and food insecurity. Rev. Banks continued to have a gospel centered focus of Table/Hospitality, Eucharistic praxis (practice), and focus toward ultimate kinship.

Rev. Banks is the founding Co-Executive Director of New Communion ([www.newcommunion.org](http://www.newcommunion.org)), an interfaith nonprofit focused on Asset Based Community Development and food justice. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the North Carolina Commission on Ministry. Reverend Banks has completed a Chaplain Residency at Moses H. Cone Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. She has served as Second Year Chaplain Resident to Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric Intermediate Unit, and Pediatric Emergency Department. Most recently she was Senior Pastor at New Disciples of Cedar Rapids in Iowa.

Rev. Banks experience in leadership, business, and initiating programs to help the needy and marginalized align with our church's New Beginnings transformation initiative. We hope you will come be part of our new ministry as we continue to expand the work of God's church in support of the community and beyond.

