

## PASTOR'S NICKEL

### Pastoral Care Ministry Team



*Pastor's Nickel*

In his book *In the Name of Jesus*, author and Pastor Henri Nouwen writes, "...I am deeply convinced that the Christian leader of the future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing to offer but his or her own vulnerable self...the great message that we have to carry, as ministers of God's Word and followers of Jesus, is that God loves us not because of what we do or accomplish, but because God has created and redeemed us in love and has chosen us to proclaim that love as the source of all human life." This, to me, is the essence of pastoral care: giving and receiving Christ-like love. This is the essence of pastoral care because this is all that we have to give. I have been a part of the Covenant family for just over two years, and God has given me a deep love for Covenant, a love that is growing deeper with every pastoral visit. Pastoral care is one of the greatest privileges of ministry, because I get to enter into vulnerability with people and share the love of Christ. But Pastoral care is carried out by more than just us as Pastors. At Covenant, Pastoral care is Congregational care, because we all have the privilege and the responsibility to care for each other. This is why we have Pastorates and Pastorate leaders, and caregivers. It is our responsibility as the Covenant family to proclaim the love of God to each other as the source of all human life. That is my nickel.

Pastor Kevin VanderVeen