

The First Presbyterian Church of New Haven

Introducing
Jocelyn Corris (J.C.) Cadwallader



The Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to present

the Rev. J.C. Cadwallader

as candidate for Pastor / Head of Staff of the
First Presbyterian Church of New Haven

June 2017

704 Whitney Avenue • New Haven, CT 06511-1308 • (203) 562-5664
www.fpcnh.org • firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Who is the Reverend J.C. Cadwallader?

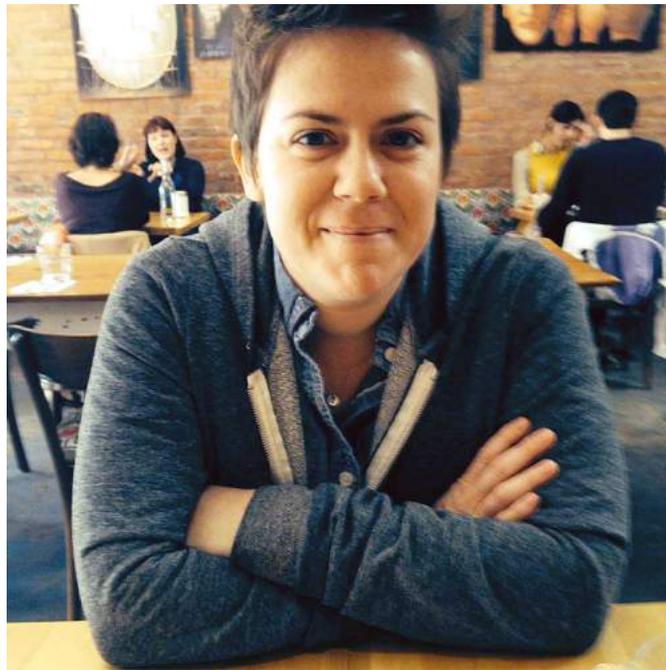
J.C., the daughter of Corrie and Thomas Cadwallader, grew up on the east coast, eventually settling in North Carolina as a high school student. She graduated from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Philosophy/Religion.

J.C. began her journey into ministry via the Young Adult Volunteer Program through the PC(USA), serving in Belfast, Northern Ireland and Nashville, Tennessee.

Following her mission service she decided to further her ministry and went to McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2008. In 2009 J.C. was ordained at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago where she served as a Pastoral Resident.

Following her two-year residency at Fourth Church, J.C. served as the Director

of Masters Level Recruitment and Admissions at McCormick, where she built a strategic plan for recruitment and nurtured relationships with prospective students during their discernment into ministry. She also worked closely with faculty, alumni, area campus ministries, and local congregations in her capacity as Director.



In 2013 she moved to Washington, D.C. and was called to Western Presbyterian Church as the Interim Associate Pastor, where, in addition to preaching and providing pastoral

care, she established youth ministry, campus ministry, mission, and confirmation programs. She served at Western Church for three years.

She is presently serving as an Interim Pastor at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, in Takoma Park, MD – a member congregation of the National Capital Presbytery.

In May 2016, she married Heather Renwick, Legal Director for the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth and graduate of Northwestern School of Law. They love to travel and camp and have a cottage in Sperryville, Virginia, where they have spent countless weekends with family, friends, and their dog, Charlie.



J.C. wants to emphasize how full of hope and energy she is for this calling in New Haven. She and Heather are excited to get to know us as individuals, as a congregation, and as a community - and to join in the adventure of updating the FPCNH manse.



Some Highlights of J.C.'s Career So Far



- She has been a member of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) in the National Capital Presbytery since 2014 and currently serves as the chair. (The CPM oversees the process for pastoral candidates as they move toward ordination.)
- She served as a Commissioner to the 222nd PC(USA) General Assembly in Portland, Oregon on behalf of the National Capital Presbytery.
- As an alumna of the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer program, J.C. served as a facilitator at the Discernment and Transitional Retreats and on the board of the National Capital Presbytery Young Adult Volunteer program.
- She has training in “The Art of Transitional Ministry.”
- She has led mission trips with youth and adults, both in the U.S. and abroad.
- She served as a board member for Agape Ministries Campus Ministry.
- She established a “dinner church” program to minister to members of the community who could not or did not attend traditional Sunday morning services.

J.C. In Her Own Words:

Preaching

“Preaching is not only a craft to hone but a sacred experience that I, as a pastor, take to heart. It offers the opportunity to deepen faith, to stretch knowledge, to be challenged to love the world, and I take seriously the responsibility to bring others along this journey with me. The Bible is not a weapon with which to spread fear, but it is an instrument of peace, a well of grace, a story of God’s love for the world.”

Leadership

“I seek to serve a church that is committed to Christ’s call in Matthew 22: to love all people well. A faithful community committed to this powerful law of love lives boldly, creatively, and with a passion to serve all God’s children. I am called to a church that does not fear failure but instead strives to live as beloved children of God, with grace for both success and failure, as it seeks to meet the needs of its body and the community.

My understanding of church is informed by tradition but not constrained by it, and a gift I am called to share is my ability to engage in and encourage innovative thinking. My experiences in reconciliation ministries, which inherently require creative, patient, and prayerful leadership, have helped me to recognize and foster these unique gifts as a cornerstone of my vocation as pastor. I possess gifts to build meaningful relationships as a church moves forward in its ministry and mission, and I seek to empower the church members to engage in the work the community is called to.”

Social Justice and Change:

“Change for the sake of change holds little value. However, when change empowers individuals to engage in God’s love for the world, change is necessary.”

“You cannot have worship without mission, or mission without worship.”

From a Previous Parishioner:

“J.C. astonished me from the beginning of her time at [our church] because of three aspects of her ministry abilities: 1) outstanding preaching; 2) uncanny “groundedness” and wisdom for someone her age; and 3) progressivism and creativity rooted in her concept of God’s calling.”

Why We Chose J.C.

We were looking for a minister who could grow with us as a congregation, infusing us with hope while asking hard questions about the road ahead. We were looking for exceptional preaching and teaching. We wanted someone who could support both the youth and the young at heart as we grow spiritually. We wanted a welcoming and compassionate shepherd. We wanted passion for social justice. We wanted a leader and a listener. We hope for a transformational future built on the bedrock of our unique community. We found J.C.

In conversation and in her preaching, the PNC was struck by J.C.'s knowledge of scripture and of humanity. As one of her parishioners put it, "J.C. preaches in a way that is personal, yet universally calls for contemplation and willingness to see new insights and challenges about how we should act as Christians in the world. She gave a sermon shortly after leading a group of Western members on a service project in Appalachia that I consider the best sermon I have ever heard." Two members of the PNC were able to travel to see her preach in her current church and the entire committee had the opportunity to see her lead a service at a neutral pulpit. We were impressed by her exegesis of the Tower of Babel story and its metaphorical implications for issues of identity and unity.

J.C. has demonstrated a passion for social justice that she can bring down from the mountain and make practical in its application. From her experience with local and international mission work, she tells us that there cannot be worship without mission and vice versa. She believes mission is an intergenerational endeavor. She is eager to know both our church family and the greater New Haven community.

J.C.'s leadership style was described by one colleague as follows: "J.C. is one of the most gifted relational pastors I have seen. She has incredible ability to connect with people, to value their stories, to listen deeply to them, and to incorporate them into the life of faith. Her level of spiritual maturity is high and that is evident in the depth of her prayer and worship leadership. She leads with great intentionality and purpose, keeping in healthy tension the needs of the congregation and the needs of the individual."

For all these reasons, we believe God has called J.C. Cadwallader to lead the next chapter in the life of First Presbyterian Church, New Haven.

FPCNH Pastor Nominating Committee

Beth Aura Miller

Bonnie Sherman

Bruce Peabody

Brian Gray

Scott Funston

Jennifer Ballew

Sarah Wallman

Jane Hindenlang