

**The Rev. Caroline Vickery** recently began her ministry at **Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church**, first serving as temporary supply pastor before officially accepting the permanent call on January 1, 2026. Her commissioning service was a joyful occasion, made especially meaningful by the strong turnout of the congregation. As a symbol of their welcome, the church gifted her a beautiful blue and purple stole — which she looks forward to wearing during Advent and Lent.

Pastor Caroline comes to Faith Immanuel after serving the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro since 2022. Throughout her tenured ministry, she has served congregations in Glens Falls, NY; Columbus and Newark, OH; Lexington, NE; and Delmont, PA. In each place, she has been deeply committed to connecting congregations with the needs of their surrounding communities.

Her passion for community outreach is one of the reasons she fell in love with Faith Immanuel. She was drawn to the congregation's willingness to share its building as a living resource for the neighborhood rather than treating it as a museum. She is especially inspired by the diversity of the Harrisburg community and is eager to help the church root all it does more deeply in Jesus Christ — focusing not simply on staying busy, but on cultivating a deeper connection with God and inviting the Spirit into every ministry opportunity. Whether participating in a Boy Scouts Blue and Gold ceremony hosted at the church or dreaming about new outreach initiatives, she seeks to ensure that faith remains at the center.

One ministry close to her heart is a free laundry night, a program she helped establish in Waynesboro. Partnering with a local laundromat owner, the church hosted a monthly evening — often toward the end of the month when funds were tight for many families — providing free quarters and detergent so neighbors could wash clothes at no cost. The ministry grew so impactful that it eventually partnered with another congregation and was distributing nearly \$500 in quarters at each event. She hopes to bring a similar ministry to Faith Immanuel in the future.

Pastor Caroline's journey to ministry was shaped by a childhood marked by frequent moves for her father's career. She lived in the Philadelphia area, Ann Arbor, MI, New Jersey, and even in two towns in Sweden, where she resided from age one-and-a-half through second grade during the Vietnam War — a time when Americans were not always warmly received. That experience, though challenging, taught her resilience and gave her a lifelong lesson in appreciating each place for what it is rather than comparing it to somewhere else. It also sparked a lasting love of marzipan and black licorice — and she can still speak just a tiny bit of Swedish!

After attending college in Minnesota and living in Chicago, New York City's Upper West Side, and a short time in Boston, Pastor Caroline began to sense a call to ordained ministry.

"I began to suspect I was called to serve God as a pastor," she says, "but I was part of a group who didn't believe women should be ministers. I studied the Bible, and saw how Jesus accepted women. He considered them equals," she shared. "Don't forget; he appeared to Mary Magdalene first after he rose from the tomb. Both genders are in God's image."

That conviction shaped her faithful response to God's call.

When she is not working to strengthen the church's connection with the neighborhood, Pastor Caroline enjoys movies, dining out with friends, attending sporting events, cross-stitching, and serving as the devoted "maid" to her two cats.

Her guiding motto reflects her theology and heart for ministry: "Everyone is a child of God and deserves to be treated that way."