Hello Church!

I am in my fourth week of ministry here at First United Methodist, and boy has it been great! Although I still have a lot of boxes, I am feeling pretty settled into the parsonage. Thank you so much to all of you who helped to prepare the house for my family. We really appreciate the hard work.

I’ll be honest – it’s been a long time since I have written an article for a church newsletter. But I see this as a space for me to share thoughts and information with you all. So here are my four thoughts for the month:

1. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know people and learning about the church. I am still working on names (wearing your name tags on Sundays has been a great help), but I feel more and more familiar with our church family. For those of you I haven’t met yet, I look forward to meeting you and visiting with you soon.
2. Our listening groups thus far have been a great way for me to meet people in a more casual setting. The goal of our listening groups is for me to hear from you about the church. God speaks to all of us about the mission of the church. The listening groups give me an opportunity to hear what God has placed on your heart. I ask everyone some simple questions:  
   + What is one thing that I, as your pastor, need to know about this congregation?  
   + What is one way we can reach new people in our community?  
   + What is your dream for our church?  
   + How can the church help you grow in your faith?

If you haven’t already done so, I strongly encourage you to sign up and attend a group (more information is further in the newsletter).

1. My door is always open. If you have thoughts or concerns, I hope you will come and share them with me. I promise I will listen. I believe face to face communication is the best way to be heard and understood. Drop by the office, email me at paigelroberts@gmail.com or call me at 217-254-1860 if you would like to get together to talk.
2. Please pray for me! Pray for me daily! And pray for our church. I truly believe God has brought us together in ministry. I am so excited to see what God has in store for us. I want to be the best pastoral leader I can be. I want our church to grow and to glorify God in all we do. But being the church isn’t easy. We will have struggles. But I believe that if we always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God will lead us where God wants us to go.

I look forward to being in ministry with all of you as we bring Jesus to Altamont and the world.

Yours in Christ,