October 11 is Pastor Appreciation Day. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. This unofficial holiday began in 1992 with the establishment of Clergy Appreciation Month. I am not sure who or where this observation began but it has biblical precedent. In Timothy 1 (5:17), Paul began the concept of clergy appreciation when he stated that the elders of the church are worthy of double honor. He reiterated this idea in Thessalonians 1 (5: 12-13) when he stated that those who work hard among you should be held in the highest regard for their work.

The pandemic has pushed many of our pastors (as it has pushed most of us) to learn new skills and adapt to a constantly changing environment. This year, perhaps more than any other, I know your pastor would appreciate an affectionate word for his/her/their service.

The internet is full of easy ways to say thank you to your pastor and/or their family. A note of thanks, an invitation to dinner, an offer to babysit (if that applies), speak well of your church and publicly thank your pastor are just a few of the many options you could utilize.

I hope you will take a few moments to consider this. As you do, please know how much I appreciate you and the countless ways that you have helped your congregation through these difficult and dark days. I pray the Christ light will soon guide us all to the hope and promise of a brighter future.

Grace and Blessings,
Rev. William P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister

October 17, 2020, 10-12pm:
Planned Giving to Support Mission and Ministry

While a significant wealth transfer occurs (and will occur) in our country as our eldest generation passes, many congregations and ministries remain unprepared to promote planned giving options among their members. Only 5% of people leave a charitable bequest even though nearly a third of people would if asked or invited to consider one. Through this webinar, you will learn key concepts and create an actionable plan for your congregation or ministry.

To register email Patty at PNEC at pattyr@pnec.org

Facilitator, Andrew B. Warner, CFRE, serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer of the national setting of the United Church of Christ. In that role he trains, coaches, and mentors conference and congregational leaders to strengthen the culture of generosity across the UCC. Andrew also serves as Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference. He leads the fundraising efforts of the conference, supports the planned giving and effective philanthropy of congregations, and started a foundation. Andrew connects people’s deepest passions with generative opportunities and initiatives.

Previously, Andrew served for twenty-two years as pastor of Plymouth Church UCC of Milwaukee. He loves to cook and entertain, a practice he calls his “gastro-evangelism.”

Upcoming:
January 20, 2021, 10-12pm: Spirituality of Generosity