



MEET REV. DONALD BROWN

New Solo Pastor/Head of Staff
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MORRIS PLAINS



*Dear Members and Friends of the
Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains,*

I am truly excited about being called as the next Solo Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains!

While I must admit I have difficulty writing about myself, I would like to provide some introduction. I grew up in Paramus, NJ until leaving to attend college in Massachusetts. Upon graduating, I pursued work in the corporate finance field in Boston and Fort Lauderdale.

But life takes its turns, and in answering a strong calling to ministry, I entered Seminary in 2002 and graduated in 2004. My first call was to West Caldwell Presbyterian Church, and I later took on the role of Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell when the two churches merged as one.

I now look forward to serving in a new role, and taking on new challenges - exploring the opportunities of meeting and being pastor to the members of the PCMP church family, which I've been learning so much about over the recent months.

I look forward to working with the Session and the Congregation to find new ways of sharing Jesus' love in Morris Plains and the surrounding communities.

I am inspired by your desire to build deeper relationships with friends at Joyful Noise Nursery School.

My prayer is that through our faithful service, an ever increasing number of people would feel and experience the love and grace that Jesus Christ has given each of us, as we begin a new chapter in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains.

**Many blessings to all,
Don**

EDUCATION

Gordon College, Wenham, MA; Bachelor of Arts, Accounting/Business Administration

Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL; Master of Divinity

WORK EXPERIENCE

First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell, Caldwell, NJ – Associate Pastor
6/12 to Present (800 members), Presbytery of Newark

Presbyterian Church of West Caldwell, West Caldwell, NJ – Solo Pastor
1/05-6/12 (80 members)

Atlantic Home Care and Hospice, Millburn, NJ – Hospice Chaplain
3/07-12/14

Spherion Corporation, Fort Lauderdale, FL – Sr. Manager, Treasury
7/98-5/02

ABOUT DON

Reverend Donald Brown was ordained in 2006 at the Presbyterian Church of West Caldwell. He remained there until that small church's congregation united with the larger First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell in 2012, where he has been serving as Associate Pastor. Don has two adult daughters, Emily and Peri and he now lives in Bedminster, NJ. His favorite leisure time activities are exploring new restaurants, traveling and watching sports.

On Sunday, March 15th, 2020, the Pastor Nominating (PNC) introduced Don Brown to our congregation as their recommended candidate to serve as the new Solo Pastor/Head of Staff here at PCMP. After exploring resumes from over 275 candidates, the Committee was particularly drawn to Don's gifts in the areas of pastoral care and preaching, as well as his experiences in leadership and transition, all with a background in finance operations and a familiarity with, and a desire to live and work in this region of New Jersey.

The PNC found Don to be a caring listener, a warm and compassionate person, one who is understanding of the range of theological thought and diverse social viewpoints that are present in the PCMP family. Don recognizes and shares our desire to grow in spirituality and in membership, as well as to expand our presence and discipleship with Joyful Noise and into the greater community. Don has a proven willingness to engage and partner with various groups and organizations in the surrounding community and to explore any unmet needs with which the church can be of assistance. (He also brings the gift of a keen sense of humor!)

DON'S FAMILY

Don's older daughter, Emily, age 20, lives at home with him and is a supervisor at Kings Food Market in Bedminster. She is also the loving "dog mom" to Tabby – her poodle/shih tzu rescue mutt.

His younger daughter, Peri, is 18 and attends the University of Pittsburgh where she is a freshman, studying Rehabilitative Sciences. Her goal is to become an Occupational Therapist. While in high school, she volunteered during the summers at Intensive Therapeutics - a pediatric OT program in West Caldwell.

Don, Emily and Peri have enjoyed doing mission work together for the Pittsburgh Project, which is an organization that provides home repairs for elderly and economically disadvantaged homeowners in the Pittsburgh area.

Don would also like us to get to know his fiancé, Catherine (Mitzi) Cudala. Mitzi is a Human Resource Officer for the United Nations, based in New York City. She has set up local peace keeping operations staff in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, Africa. She is important in Don's life, and hopes to participate in the life of our church along with Don and his two girls.

*The Congregation has voted to confirm Don's Call. He will begin his work here at PCMP in May. **Please join us in welcoming Rev. Donald Brown and his family to our Church!***