

Dear Members of Lakewood Presbyterian Church,

It's hard to believe that my maternity leave is finally here! I will miss you all during my maternity leave but am looking forward to this season of adjusting to life as a family of five. I am so grateful to live in Washington State where parents can take sufficient parental leave time to bond with their babies and soak up this fleeting season of life. I know you will be in good hands with Pastor Addie and I am glad that I can get to take my "pastor hat" off for a few months.

I wanted to communicate a few things about boundaries and communication while I'm away, so you know what to expect. This is my first time taking maternity leave (and your first time having a pastor on maternity leave!) so I know we'll all be learning as we go.

We will send out an all-church announcement when the babies are born! If you are Facebook friends with me, I'll certainly be posting about them there as well. If you're not friends with me, feel free to add me! We will also schedule a "Meet the Babies" day at the church sometime in the spring so that we can introduce the twins to their church family. We'll let you know that date when we schedule it. Otherwise, we do not plan on attending Sunday worship while I am on leave.

We will have a meal train once the babies arrive, so if you'd like to drop off a meal, we'd be so grateful! We can't promise we'll have time or energy for a visit (especially at the beginning!) but we will certainly need help for more than just those first few weeks, so it's fine to reach out to see when a good time would be when we would have time to say hi. We will send the meal train link out with the birth announcement.

Cards or meals:

1737 S Cushman Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98405

Cell Numbers:

Laura: 503-877-4794
David: 253-389-3354

Pastor Duties: I will not be doing any of my regular pastor duties while I'm away, including checking my email or responding to all texts and phone calls. It's not because I don't love being your pastor—it's because I can't be the mom that I need to be in these first few months while also being available to be your pastor. If you send a text that I don't reply to, know that I am grateful for the well-wishes but unable to reply. If you have pastoral care needs, Pastor Addie and your Deacons will be available.

I plan on returning to work at the end of July, in time for the annual church picnic, and look forward to putting back on my full-time "pastor hat" then. Until then, we are grateful for the love and support of this congregation. It's an honor to be your pastor and a delight to raise our children in your midst. Thank you for all the love and support you've shown us already. We are so grateful.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Laura (and David, Jack, and the babies)