

SAMUEL MONTE

FAITH JOURNEY

I've never had a "come to Jesus" moment. My whole life was spent in the reality of God's love in grace. In high school, I became very close friends with someone of another denomination. This caused me to question my own beliefs. Why did I believe what I believed? Why did I partake in this type of worship? I began a journey of discovering what it was that I believed. Through this process, I discovered that I was a Presbyterian through and through.

It was also at this time I began questioning if I should enter into ministry. My pastor at the time told me I would have to study Greek and Hebrew and that was a deal breaker for me. That feeling never left. In college it was magnified when I became an elder in my home church.

After graduating from college with a BA in English, it became clear further education was needed. Through talking with a college recruiter, it became apparent that I needed to go to a seminary and I enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. My life would never be the same.

It was there my life would change yet again. It became a time of growth and understanding about who I was and what my calling would be. I began to have a heart for mission and outreach and longed for the day when I would be able work alongside a congregation to spread God's word into the world.

Along the way I have been blessed with a beautiful family. I have gotten to work alongside people caring for God's people. I believe that God calls us to love one another and to serve this hurting world. I see this in Snow Hill. The work that Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church is already doing drew me to them. The work they long to do is full of hope and compassion. It is work that is longing to be done not for any other reason other than to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. It is invigorating and refreshing to see this.

I don't know where the future leads. What I do know is that it leads us to a place of love and service. Our future is one that is shaped and guided by the desire to share the good news to the world. I'm very excited for the future.

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