



### **Fred Higgins – Personal Profile**

Born in 1954, I am a life-long resident of the Akron, Ohio area. Raised in the faith, my entire family attended North Springfield Presbyterian Church where I participated in weekly worship, Sunday school, many church gatherings, summertime vacation bible school, church camp, youth group, and confirmation class.

I attended Kent State University 1973-77 where I studied fine art, art history, and graphic technology/design. While at KSU I became involved with the University Health Service as a volunteer in the student operated Emergency Medical Service, caring for campus residents, and transporting emergency cases to local hospitals. For several years afterward, I worked part-time as an Emergency Medical Technician for Physicians & Surgeons Ambulance Service in Akron, Ohio.

Since 1979, my full-time professional career has centered in the Graphic Arts Industry. I have worked for advertising agencies as both designer and art-director, gradually moving into art production, I worked for printing companies in various positions, including sales. I operated my own company for five years offering graphic communication consulting and sales. For the last twenty years, I have been employed by Davis Graphic Communication Solutions in Barberton, Ohio as a database analyst. With a total of over forty years in graphic arts, I will retire in 2020.

My wife Susan is from the New York Metropolitan area. We met while attending Kent State and were married in 1977. We have two children. Our daughter Evelyn who is an investment associate with Huntington Bank, lives in Solon, Ohio with husband J.J. and 14-month old son, Miles. Our son James who is a design engineer with East Manufacturing, lives in Akron, Ohio with Catie.

I have been a licensed United Methodist Local Pastor since 2015, serving Lakeview UMC in Barberton, Ohio. Even though Barberton is a suburb of the larger city of Akron, it is an urban area and so, Lakeview's ministry consists mostly of mission oriented programs that serve a wide

variety of community needs such as, our weekly meal program, a clothing and household goods free-store, a food pantry, as well as hosting Girl Scouts, and an NA/AA chapter.

The talents and gifts I feel I have to offer are:

**Inspired Preaching** – Any opportunity to impart God’s love for the world as shown through Jesus Christ is of utmost importance. To that end, I am a lectionary preacher focused on biblical truths. But even more importantly, I believe preaching the bible should be done in a manner that supports our daily living. Much of what the bible offers us is of historical significance, and therein lies a timeless treasure trove of knowledge we can use in all stages of life.

**A Worshipful Experience** – Every time we gather for worship, be it in person or by other means, we need to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. As a worship leader, I strive to develop communal worship that truly keeps us in touch with God. The worship experience forms the foundation upon which our life away from church rests. And so, I encourage all to participate fully in prayer, praise, witnessing, and sharing of spiritual gifts in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

**Pastoral Care** – Every person is in need of some degree of pastoral care. I strive to know each person well enough to be aware of those needs by being accessible to the whole church. Through all the various means of communication, I strive to build an authentic relationship with each one so that all feel they are truly part of the Body of Christ.

**Music** – For me, praising God through music is an integral part of worship. I seek out those who have the spiritual gifts of musical talent to enrichen the life of the worshipping community in ways that motivate and inspire us to draw close to God.

**Mission** – In recent years, my work as pastor has brought me face to face with poverty, addiction and injustice. My experience has given me a heightened sense of just how big the needs of the world really are. The message that I spread is simply this; Jesus calls us to love God first, but then to love our neighbor as ourselves. To accomplish this; we do no harm, by living responsibly; we do good by giving of our time, talents, gifts, service, and prayers; we love ourselves by staying in love with God.