



August 4, 2022

Beloved St. John's members and friends,

It is with deep, deep sadness that I write to you to let you know of the passing of our beloved Rev. Sue Bertollette. Early this morning, surrounded by loved ones and covered by the prayers of many, she entered into eternal rest and fullness of life, held, body and soul, in the loving hands of the one who created her.

Though we, as a community, have been journeying with Sue throughout her long cancer journey and throughout her time on Hospice, the loss is still great and the sadness profound. Rev. Sue held you, the members and friends of St. John's, close to her heart, and it felt important to share this critical information with you promptly, clearly, and with great care.

I urge you, my friends, to hold and share this information with that same tender care. As a church family, please reach out to one another to offer your comfort, support, and love as you grieve the loss of a beloved pastor, teacher, leader, and friend.

The family has found great strength in the outpouring of love and support that all of you have offered during this critical time. Your prayers have made all the difference over the years, but especially over the past few weeks. As we know, prayer strengthened Sue throughout her ministry and her long and difficult cancer journey. I know she felt you surrounding her in her final days, and now, I am counting on your prayers of comfort and peace to continue for her family as they navigate this tremendous loss. As you continue to hold them and be the warm, loving community of St. John's, please call, text, email, and message the family with great mindfulness and discretion.

Information about a service to celebrate Sue's life will be shared with you very soon, once the family has made plans and attended to details. Please check your email, pay attention to our St. John's Facebook page and website, or contact the church office for updates with regards to further plans. A hard copy of this same announcement will be mailed with service details included for those who may not be connected with us electronically. An announcement will also be made on Sunday morning.

My friends, hope in God's promises is what sustained Rev. Sue until the end and what she gracefully and faithfully stepped into as her body left us this morning. It is that same hope and those same promises that we cling to now, knowing that we do not do so alone and, as Rev. Sue always said, "trusting that God has hands large enough and strong enough to hold each one of us." May it be so as we grieve and remember.

With love,
Rev. Addie