

Pastor Brian Fertig was raised in the small town of Saegertown, in northwest Pennsylvania, and went on to attend Edinboro University where he received his Bachelors of Arts. Upon graduation, he responded to God's call and went on to seminary at North American Baptist Seminary (now Sioux Falls Seminary) in Sioux Falls, SD. While attending school he served as a student pastor in churches in South Dakota and Iowa. He also served as a chaplain at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. He was ordained in the United Church of Christ while pastoring the Congregational United Church of Christ Church in Rock Rapids, Iowa. After serving in parish and hospital chaplaincy for about five years, he decided to pursue institutional chaplaincy full time. He served a one year internship at New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY as a hospital chaplain and went on to serve in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) as a prison chaplain for the next twenty years serving in various prisons across the nation. Upon completing twenty years of service in BOP, he served for a short time at Altamonte Chapel (UCC) in Altamonte Springs, FL before being called to serve the Community Congregational Church of Citrus Springs. It truly is a blessing for him to find a place to minister that is close to his home in Inverness, FL.

Pastor Brian places a lot of emphasis on the word's of Christ found in His response to the Sadducees in Mark 12:24, "are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?" It is so easy to lose some of our passion for God and the Word of God in the bustle of life. Thankfully, we have a place where we can have fellowship and grow together in our relation to each other and to God. It is Pastor Brian focus to always encourage the church to grow in these ways.

When it comes to hobbies, he enjoys photography, camping, hiking or just spending time at the beach. What he lacks in culinary skills, he makes up for in consuming others endeavors in the art of cooking food. He enjoys a good book or a night out at the theater. Nothing better than a noir, mystery or political thriller.

And so, as we go forward together, let us be encouraged by the words found in Isaiah 43:19, *see I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*