

**Top Ten Facts
You need to know about me**

10. I love animals. If you need prayer, a visit, a funeral, or anything else for one of God's animal creatures, call me. I have a long Biblical argument for the love and tender care of animals that I will share with you later.
9. I believe in the power of prayer (or more accurately, the power and love of the God to whom we pray). I will pray diligently with you and for you. I need a group in the church committed to praying for me as your pastor daily. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of that group, please let me know.
8. I want to be bothered. Please call, email, text, message and visit me. I will honor the chance to visit with you and get to know you. I know how much Jesus loves you, and if he loves you, I will love you!
7. Because I love you, I will take every second of vacation I have and I will be unavailable during those times. Pastors need breaks to survive. If I take breaks, I can be full of energy, intelligence, imagination, and love when I am with you.
6. I will always tell you the truth, even if it is hard to say or hear. But I will always say it with love.
5. I know there are passionate people in the church on all sides of theological, social and political arguments. I am a passionate person as well. But, I will not be pulled into a political agenda or "us/them" scenario. I am pastor to everyone in the church I serve, regardless of where they stand on a particular issue. I will love you and serve the Lord with you no matter what your current beliefs may be. Our unity in Christ outweighs everything else.
4. If you have a problem with me or something I have done, I expect you to talk to me about it, not everyone else. If it is a communication problem or a simple misunderstanding, we can clear it up. If I have truly done something to offend or harm, I will ask your forgiveness and you will forgive me. I promise to do the same for you.
3. I will always go to Scripture and discernment in prayer for direction in how to proceed as a church. If I am advocating for or against something, feel free to ask me what my Biblical warrant is for my position and how long I and the Session have prayed about it.
2. The one thing I cannot tolerate in the church is unkindness. We may disagree passionately, but we cannot be unkind. If we become mean-spirited, judgmental, intolerant of each other, nothing can help us. We will not survive.
1. I am so excited to be your pastor! I thank God for this opportunity to serve you and serve with you.