

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

March 14, 2019

My dear Friends:

I don't know about you, but I love spring break—and I actually love working during spring break. It reminds me of many moons ago, when I was the archives and special collections librarian at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Then, I loved summer vacation—there weren't any students on campus or in the library. We got a lot of work done, but I also had free range of the stacks: no worries about whether the book or journal I was looking for was there—of course it was! The library was the best when the students weren't there. That's similar to this week. I've gotten a tremendous amount of work done, things that had been hanging over my head for weeks, things that I needed to address going forward into the summer.

It has also been great having my college kids home. I don't know when it happened that these breaks during the school year became so important to us as a family. But with three of my kids potentially being away for at least part of the summer (and Sam will be gone all summer long), it has been a joy having them home: watching movies, playing games, having a full table. It'll be sad to see the older two drive back to Starkville on Sunday, knowing that one of them only has a few more weeks before he heads to Japan and then his senior year, and the other is working on her summer plans that likely will be away from Memphis.

That's part of it all, I know—we've parented now for nearly twenty-two years to help launch these children into God's world to follow God's call. It is exciting to see them grow and change and succeed and fail, to sort out how they will be in this new stage of life. But it is a little more quiet when they aren't around—and next year, it'll just be Ben at home during the school year.

Starting this coming Sunday, when we start to come back from spring break, the rest of the spring will feel like a sprint: a sprint through high school baseball season, a sprint to Easter, a sprint to high school graduation for Drew. Before you know it, we'll have heat and humidity and mosquitos and severe thunderstorms. We'll have camp and summer vacation in western North Carolina. And my kids will be scattered, but we will still have Jesus and our IPC family of faith, the Word, sacraments, and prayer. It'll be enough.

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean".

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Senior Pastor
Independent Presbyterian Church
Memphis, TN