

A Message from Denise

I am very excited to be coming to Sanibel Congregational UCC to serve as your Acting Associate Pastor! My visits and phone calls with the members of your search committee have confirmed for me that you are a wonderful group -- committed to each other, to the church, and to reaching out to God's people with love and grace. I am so looking forward to being a part of your church family!

My passions in ministry include meaningful worship and preaching, education, leadership development, mission and service in the community, and working with children and youth. I see vast opportunities for all of these in your midst.

To share a bit of my background with you – I began my working life in the business world, as an Accountant and Management Consultant. I have degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. I worked in that field for 10 years. I returned to school, and earned a Bachelors degree in Theology from the University of Connecticut, and a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School.

Since my ordination in the UCC, I have been blessed to serve in a variety of positions in ministry. I am a Certified Interim Minister, and have served 3 congregations in that capacity. I have also served as an Assistant Pastor, and as a sole Pastor for 3 years. For the past 3 ½ years, I have been working as a consultant with churches in the areas of worship and leadership development

Originally from New England, I have lived in Florida for nine years. In between, I spent some very enjoyable years serving churches in Montana. My husband, Russ and I are celebrating being married five years this month. I have no children, and Russ' children are grown. We recently enjoyed a wonderful afternoon beginning to get to know Dale and Dorie Kent, and I think together we will bring joy, vitality, a hopeful spirit, and a strong commitment to walking beside you on a very successful journey of transition.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, athletics, quilting, cake decorating, and vacationing on cruise ships to far-off places. Russ and I will be fresh off an Alaskan cruise vacation when we meet you all the first of October. We are eager to join you on the next leg of our journey in ministry!

With a joyful heart,
Denise

