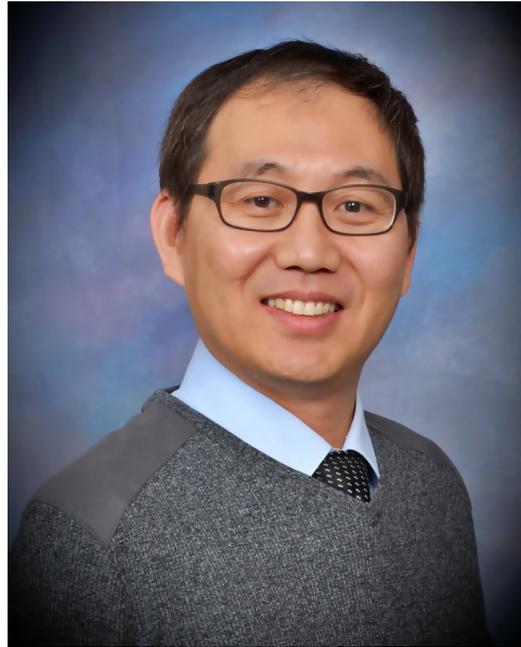




WELCOME  
OUR NEW  
PASTOR



**Pastor Jihoon Lee**

Born in South Korea in 1971, I spent my formative years in a small town where I attended a historic Methodist church founded by an American missionary in 1897. Initially pursuing a career in architecture, my life took an extraordinary turn when I encountered the profound words of Isaiah 50:4. This transformative moment ignited a deep calling within me to dedicate my life to a full-time ministry of comforting and assisting the weary through the power of God's Word.

Following my passion, I completed my theological education at the Methodist Theological Seminary in Korea (M.Div). In 2004, my journey led me to the United States, where I continued to deepen my understanding of theology. Beginning at Drew University in New Jersey, I specialized in American Church History and earned an STM degree. Driven by a thirst for knowledge, I pursued advanced studies and finally attained my Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

Throughout my career, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve various local churches in New York and the Bay Area, enriching my understanding of different congregations and their unique spiritual needs. In 2012, I received ordination as an elder within the Korean Methodist Church in America. In 2018, I embraced a new chapter in Iowa, where I have been privileged to serve as a co-pastor for three churches. This experience has granted me a profound appreciation for the vibrant culture and rich tapestry of life in Iowa. As of June, I became a full member of the Iowa Annual Conference, marking a significant milestone in my journey.

Beside me on this extraordinary pilgrimage is my beloved wife, Esther, with whom I have shared a loving union since 2001. Together, we have been blessed with the joys of parenthood, raising two remarkable sons, Joseph and Justin, who continually inspire us with their light and potential.

*The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary.  
He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.*

*Isaiah 50:4*