

Hi! 😊 My name is Kevin Russell Kitto, and my birthday is September 14, 1962. Born and raised in Watertown, NY, and Pillar Point, NY, graduated 1980 from Watertown High School, attended Jefferson Community College from 1980-1985, graduating with 2 associate degrees, attended Alfred State College 1985-1987 graduating with 2 more associate degrees. My wife Marietta Rivers Kitto and I were married in the eyes of God by her brother Pastor David Rivers on January 21, 1989. A lot has changed in our lives, to say the least, which has led me to be currently enrolled in the Methodist Theological School of Ohio.

I am a licensed local pastor and my journey into ministry has been quite a long time in the making.

Before becoming a pastor, I spent 40 years in the floral industry. I owned and ran Sherwood Florist in Watertown, NY while also serving as a supply pastor in various churches in the North Country. I was assigned to Alexandria Bay UMC on January 1, 2019, as their new pastor.

All our lives took an unexpected turn when the COVID pandemic hit our entire planet, not only with death and disease but with fear and anxiety, pain and suffering combined with restrictions and mandates established on ever changing data, so much so that we didn't know who or what to believe. At least that was how it was for myself. During the mandatory shutdown of my nonessential business, I did some serious soul-searching and decided to let go and let God make some big changes in my life because I knew it was only God in whom I truly trusted with my life. I closed down my business for good, "dropped my nets" and attended licensing school, upon graduation accepted an appointment to serve as pastor of the Adams UMC and Sulphur Springs UMC communities. I officially started that appointment on July 1, 2021. Three years later I was reassigned to serve the Lowville and Carthage UMC communities.

In addition to my pastoral duties, I worked part-time as a floral designer and bookkeeper for Hobby Lobby. A job I sadly needed to resign from upon accepting a reappointment to First Gouverneur UMC.

Now, let's talk about my family. I've been happily married to my amazing wife, Marietta, for 37 incredible years. We have three wonderful sons: Kevin Russell Jr. (or "Rusty" as we refer to him), Cedrick, and Braedon. Oh, and we can't forget our adorable 12-year-old grandson, Ethan and our mini golden doodle Finnegan.

Unfortunately as a family, we've experienced a tragic loss. Our oldest son, Rusty, was wedded to the love of his life, Jubilee Olah, on October 7, 2023. But just 19 days later, he passed away in a car accident. It's been devastating for us, but we've also found strength and comfort knowing that we now have a lovely daughter as a result of their union.

Both Marietta and I are musicians, and we love to sing in church and the community. Fun fact: we met in the theater over 40 years ago when we were just teenagers. And guess what? We're still best friends!

We both already feel the love and grace from those we have met during our transition here to Gouverneur and we hope to meet each and every one of you soon!

Many warm blessings and remember, God loves you and I love you too!

Pastor Kevin