**Rev. Sarah Fanning’s Acrostic Introduction to Herself**:

Psalm 119 is the longest passage in the Bible. However, what many people don’t realize is that in Hebrew, the original language of the Old Testament, Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem, meaning that each section starts with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

And so, borrowing the style of Psalm 119, I thought I would share an acrostic style reflection to help you get to know a little bit about me:

Artistic - I have a number of hobbies but also love to use words, poems, films, and art to reflect about God, the Bible, and how to live out my faith.

Bibles - I own at least 15 different translations of the Bible. I use my *NRSV* the most often, followed by *the Message*. I also really enjoy James Taylor’s book called *Everyday Psalms* where he has paraphrased the psalms using modern imagery.

Cats, coffee and chocolate - We are owned by three cats, Georgia, Comet and Nova. I enjoy sharing a cup of coffee and a chat with people, and I almost always have chocolates stashed away in my desk!

Degrees - I have three - a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Ottawa, a Master of Religious Education from McMaster University, and a Master of Divinity from Emmanuel College.

Efficient - This was my family’s contribution, as I try to be well-organized and make good use of my time.

Fluently bilingual - I speak, read, and write both English and French.

Geek - from Star Wars, to Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, and Dr. Who, I enjoy reading and watching science fiction and fantasy.

Home. I have had homes in four provinces and twelve cities. Having lived in a number of houses, I have come to realize that home is more about the people I share it with than the actual dwelling.

Ian - my son. He will be 7 on August 21 and I’m biased but I think he’s adorable.

John - my spouse and life partner. John is also a United Church minister, serving the congregation of Trinity United Church in Nanaimo. We’ve been married since 2003.

Knitting - I learned to knit when I was about 7, but didn’t really make anything until I was in university. Currently, I’m knitting a pair of mitts, a lace shawl, as well as crocheting blanket squares.

Lego - We enjoy building things together as a family project, and typically do a big, streetscape style building every year. A miniature version of our streetscape is one of the pieces that lives in my church office.

Megan - my daughter. She will be 16 in December and is quite an accomplished artist. She’s also nerdy like her parents!

Non-judgemental and accepting - attitudes I try to bring to all of life. Every person I meet, I try to treat in the way I’d like to be treated - with kindness, with respect, and with love.

Ordained - I was ordained by Hamilton Conference in 2001 and have served in four calls, and 3 transitional/intentional interim appointments prior to coming to CRUC.

Preaching - one of my passions when it comes to ministry. I love to share with others how I see God’s story connecting with our own, and I hope inspiring people to live out their own faith in the world.

Quilting - another one of my hobbies.

Reflection - specifically theological. I love to watch films, and to reflect about how God is seen within them.

Stories and singing. I really enjoy telling stories, listening to stories, and using stories as part of my ministry. I also like to sing, and quite often will use the words of a hymn as the basis of a reflection.

Tattoos - I have two - one is of my children’s fingerprints, the other is a square Celtic cross with gemstones that represents my faith, my family, and my heritage. I plan to get another one of a semi-colon as an advocate for mental health, as well as a reminder that God is not done with me yet!

Umbrella - Having grown up in the Vancouver area, I’m never without a decent umbrella.

Visits - I hope to visit with and get to know a good number of the people in the congregation.

Worship- I love leading worship, and finding prayers and hymns that help reflect the overall theme of the service.

EXcited to be joining you - I cheated a bit to come up with an ‘x’ word, but the sentiment behind this is very true - I’m delighted to be coming back to my roots in BC, and to the opportunity to work in ministry with the folks at CRUC.

WhY- another sneaky one! My mother claims that my first real word was ‘why?’ as I always liked knowing the reason for things. I still enjoy asking a lot of questions, as I find it is a great way to learn, as well as get to know people.

Zany - I have a bit of an off-the-wall sense of humour and can be rather cheeky at times.

Thank you for this opportunity to share a bit of myself with you. In the words of James Taylor’s paraphrase of Psalm 119, I pray that God will help each and every one of us follow God faithfully, and to know that God walks with us wherever we go. Amen. Sarah