

October 2021

## A Pastoral Letter Update

Dear Siblings of Faith,

As we reckon with the COVID pandemic I want to thank you for your generous and continued support of our faith community. I am inspired by the stories you've shared with me about the way you are staying connected and how your faith keeps you grounded despite what Dr. Amy Cuddy calls the "*pandemic flux syndrome*". We're all adapting as we move from the normality of our experiences past to whatever our future will be. Frankly, some of us have thrived with the absence of commuting, and introverted personalities have found comfort in the restricted expectations for interaction. So, there are challenges and "silver linings" for us all. My prayer is that we are learning how to keep faith in God and in one another as we engage the hope and the challenges evident in our daily interactions and in the larger frame of God's vision for the world which God so loves!

### PASTOR'S STEWARDSHIP LETTER for GENEROUS GIVING IN 2022

In the next day or two you will receive a Pastoral Stewardship Letter from me. As you read through it, you will learn that you do not need to submit a "Pledge Commitment Card" to continue giving in 2022 what you gave in 2021. That's right! Unless you expect to adjust your pledge giving up or down, you need only continue giving what you now give. Our Finance Committee will plan our 2022 Church Ministry Budget accordingly. **If you are adjusting your level of giving, please submit your "Pledge Card" to our church office by October 31<sup>st</sup>!**

You will also note that for the first time, you have the option to enter your pledge information "electronically" (Thanks to Brian Williams and Louanne Horsfield ;o). Many prefer to give in this way, and this option will make it easier for you to do so. Otherwise, we're quite grateful to receive your offerings in whatever form is best for you.

## DAVIS UMC - ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM

ZOOM Link for the Conference: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85129646481?pwd=N3Fpajc4TlZ6WjhvSkVpSSswc3lKQT09>

Our nominations committee will soon meet to determine what leadership is needed for our ministries in 2022. So, if you are a chairperson for one of our church committees, please poll your members to determine their level of commitment for continuing with your committee in 2022. Then, send an email to me – [revboffice@gmail.com](mailto:revboffice@gmail.com) with the changes you anticipate so that the Nominations Committee can provide support where needed and where possible.

Also, committees responsible for completing forms for the charge conference will need to begin that process now. You may contact our office manager, Chris, for information about those forms.



The United Methodist Church of Davis, 1620 Anderson Road, Davis, California 95616  
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**WORSHIP:** On Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Church Council determined that our worship services will be offered at the 10:00 AM hour through year's end. We will continue to provide the Facebook and YouTube "live streaming" service many of you appreciate. Our families with younger children will enjoy 11:30 AM in-person/outdoors worship services scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>. All the recent protocols apply - fully vaccinated with masks indoor; masks for outdoor worship – adults fully vaccinated. **See our October "Worship" calendar on next page:**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>: 10:00 AM - **World Communion Sunday**

11:30 AM – Family Worship Service (in person and outdoors)

October 10<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 AM - Guest Preacher: **Rev. Kelly Love**, pastor of Davis UMC (2011 – 2016)

October 17<sup>th</sup>: **Laity Sunday:** lay preachers, **Joyce Smuda** and **Rita Lundin**

October 24<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 AM - **J.J. Warren**, guest preacher (followed by a Question & Response Forum and book signing.). J. J. will be signing copies of his book "*Reclaiming Church*" afterward. Our donations make his visit possible. Please indicate "J.J. Warren" on your gift to underwrite his visit with us. You can see J. J. in action at the February 2019 General Conference of the UMC on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7dMVbmHMpk>

**100<sup>th</sup> Year Birthday: Paul Castelfranco** Paul turns 100 years of age on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and we will celebrate him during worship on **October 24<sup>th</sup>!**

October 31<sup>st</sup>: 10:00 AM Worship – in person and indoor (must be fully vaccinated and masked!)

11:15 AM - California-Nevada UMC Annual Conference Worship Service – **Live Stream ONLY!**

*Preacher: Bishop Minerva Carcano*

**November 6, 2021 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS: set your clocks back one hour as you go to bed tonight!**

November 7<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 AM – **All Saints' Sunday**

**Stephen Ministry Commissioning - Maryanne Ingenthron**

11:30 AM – **Family Worship Service** (in person and outdoors)

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** Sadly, our chancel and children's choirs remain on standby until further notice due to COVID variant concerns. However, under the capable leadership of our interim music director, Tracia Barbieri, we enjoy music from our handbell choir and from individuals and ensembles who offer their voices on behalf of us all during worship services. Tracia provides a rich repertoire of music that serves to gladden our hearts in worship. We are grateful for her leadership, gifts, professionalism, and loving intention!

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, LuAnne Higgs, who was with us for two Sundays in August, will provide piano accompaniment for our worship music; Tracia is away for the day.



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**CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUP MINISTRIES:** In September, Pastor Brandon purchased the book and curriculum for “Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints” by Daneen Akers. Even if children are not yet ready to read at the level intended, they may receive the book in the hope that, when they are ready, they will benefit from reading it. Please contact Louanne Horsfield and pick up the book for each of your children!

Our **families with younger children** will enjoy 11:30 AM in person and outdoors worship services scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our **youth group** will meet next on November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 AM. Youth should bring their lunch and plan to stay until 1:00 PM.

Meanwhile, I will be holding monthly **ZOOM conversations** with parents of youth and children until COVID data allows for more in-person gatherings. Please look to your emails for notice of the links for the ZOOM sessions.

## LAUNCHING NEW “SMALL GROUPS”

### Coming to You - JANUARY 2022

Informational Q & A Sessions: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Our church council has agreed to fund my work with a small group coach to develop that part of our church’s Pathways DNA initiative to generate new small groups. Why small groups? In fact, small groups are the most stable and resilient social unit that allows for the trust needed for close bonds to form allowing us to share our deeper self. When we can share at that level, we may experience the grace to transform – living from the person we were and into the person (by God’s grace) we are called to become! Central to small groups is the willingness of some of us to train as facilitators. Might that be you? Here are some of the essentials:

1. Be willing to attend two 90 minutes training sessions with Pastor Brandon to learn the “nuts and bolts” of facilitating a small group.
2. Those trained commit to facilitate a small group for four to eight weeks at a time – 90 minutes each.
3. Two facilitators are supplied for each small group.
4. Small groups are of limited size – 8 to 12 persons (including the two facilitators).
5. Small groups may meet on ZOOM or in person at their location of choice - with protocols ;o)
6. Small group content will include a structured guide for discussing the content of choice, which may be linked to Pastor Brandon’s Sunday sermon series or to a book or topic of interest.
7. Facilitators will meet with Pastor Brandon each month for updates and fine-tuning the process.
8. **To Learn More:** attend one of these 45-to-60 minute “**Small Group Informational Sessions**”.

Oct. 2 Saturday @10:00 AM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87323105698?pwd=b1o1cjNIQS96VklQRFIWUUpvSkdHQT09>

Oct. 2 Saturday @ 7:00 PM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83020401870?pwd=Ykl6VU9QMDJaVDBhdExmeXJvdW14Zz09>

Oct. 21 Thursday @ 7:00 PM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84653350179?pwd=QkZ6d3I2YzQzL3ZZY1NkTDdzTkFpUT09>

Oct. 23 Saturday @10:00 AM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86173869537?pwd=ZEkyTjRFR0MERaeVQzMEovczVuZz09>

Oct. 23 Saturday @ 7:00 PM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89928890523?pwd=ZGwrMlRoeG1qM01UemttT3lIUgtPdZ09>



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**PASTOR ON VACATION – Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

I will be visiting with my family in Tennessee for the first time in two years! Please keep us in your prayer. I have made provision with church members, area colleagues, and conference staff for a protocol to address any congregational care matter or crisis during this time. Please call the following as appropriate to the need:

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|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1. Non-Acute Congregational Care – during office hours:</b> | <b>Contact Church Office –</b>  | <b>530-756-2170</b> |
| <b>2. Non-Acute Congregational Care - weekends:</b>            | <b>Contact Susie O’Bryant –</b> | <b>530-400-1472</b> |
| <b>3. Staff Concerns</b>                                       | <b>Contact Dori Marshall –</b>  | <b>530-219-5221</b> |
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| <b>4. Crisis and Pastoral Care</b> | <b>October 3 thru 9th: Contact</b>   | <b>Rev. Dan Smith:</b>            | <b>530-219-3735</b> |
|                                    | <b>October 3 thru 19th: Contact</b>  | <b>Rev. Cathy Morris:</b>         | <b>707-479-4634</b> |
|                                    | <b>October 10 thru 19th: Contact</b> | <b>Rev. Chris Neufeld-Ehrman:</b> | <b>530-650-2114</b> |

May the blessing, grace, joy, and strength of the Spirit be yours! – *Pastor Brandon*



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