

# Pastor's Update – November 2023

## Expressions of Concern and Encouragement & Returning to Post

First, a word of gratitude for the many cards, texts, and emails expressing your concern for me and for my family. You seemed to know just what to say, along with some sage advice about my age and climbing ladders – truth telling and humor intertwined ;o). Advice noted!

Now, finally, a word about my return! Physicians at Vanderbilt University Hospital have cleared me for air travel but have advised me to return to “normal” routine activities only as my body recovers reliable and dependable functioning and immediately upon returning home to seek assistance from an orthopedic therapist. For now, I cannot comfortably shower, clothe myself, or drive, but I can, with some determination, lift myself from a chair, feed myself, and stand for several minutes without undue fatigue. That said, I expect to remain with family for another week and make an attempt to return to California on Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, I will be piecing together a Sacramento based care plan to scaffold my efforts to return to my pre-injury level of daily functioning.

## All Saints' Service

With our audio-visual capabilities intact (thank you to Dick, Dave, and Luke!), I was able to see the entirety of the All Saints' Worship Service on Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. Recognizing the saints who have gone before us, welcoming the saints' among us and those now a part of our faith community, and the retirement of our sanctuary mortgage were all components worthy of celebration and praise to God. Again, I offer my thanks to the core leadership who organized the service – Jim Tischer, Dori Marshall, Rita Lundin, and Rosa Washington-Olson. Also, my thanks to colleague and your pastor emeritus, Rev. Eileen Lindsay who wove the strands of the past, the scripture reading, and the events of the day into an inspirational reflection appropriate to the day. A blessed day, indeed.

## Stewardship Season – Commitment to Ministry 2024

As our church council prepares for 2024, your giving provides a signal of your capacity and faithfulness to participate in the renewal and formation of our continuing and future ministry options. I am told the pledges committed for 2024 total \$276,000. That allows DUMC to underwrite two-thirds of our current budget total, the remaining funds to balance a similar budget will require something near \$70,000 of whatever reserves remain from our 2023 spending (my best guess, which the Finance Cmte will report more accurately). All of this is to say, please consider your level of giving as 2024 nears and submit your pledge/giving card to our church office at your earliest convenience so our council can plan with confidence for 2024. Finance Committee can provide a report in early December 2023 so that you may also consider options for year-end giving. For those who have given, and many of you very generously, thank you!

## In Concert – Bobby Jo Valentine

Watch This Video Sample: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4ZwtRtO\\_50](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4ZwtRtO_50)

Wednesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM Davis UMC will host the wonderfully talented singer songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine. In the coming Sundays, I will have excerpts of his music played at some point during worship so that you have a sense of his talents. When he is with us, he will interweave his music with the story of his faith journey. His journey is a refreshing story of what it means to be yourself, to love others, and will bolster our sense of welcome for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and friends of faith. While a requested donation was previously suggested, we will instead receive a good will donation offering to underwrite the costs for this event. Please make an effort to attend and have your faith nourished!

## Pastor's Advent/Christmas Letter – Coming Soon!

Toward the end of November, I will send out my annual pastor's advent/Christmas letter. In the letter, you will find a listing of all of the dates and times of our Advent/Christmas services. Unique to our annual worship this year is that Christmas Eve is celebrated on a Sunday and our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Contemplative Service will occur on New Year's Eve!! All of these are wonderfully rich opportunities afforded by the convergence of our Christian and civil calendars. Please invite neighbors, friends, and family to join you for these moments of reflection and hope.

May God restore the whole of us - body, mind, and soul - all beings and earth together!

Pastor Brandon