

Pastor's Update 2024 – APRIL

Pastor Brandon's E-Mail: RevBOffice@gmail.com

Pastor on Vacation: April 9th – 23rd

While Pastor Brandon is on vacation. Please call/text and/or email the following persons as appropriate.

Congregational Care – weekdays	Contact - Church Office	530-756-2170
	Email: DavisUMC@DavisUMC.org	
Congregational Care -- weekends	Contact - Rosa Washington-Olson	530-400-1472
	Email: Golson7373@aol.com	
Staff Concerns	Contact – Kim Coontz	530-219-8460
	Email: ekcoontz@sbcglobal.net	
	Contact – Jim Tischer	559-260-6148
	Email: jim_tischer@yahoo.com	
Crisis and Pastoral Care	April 9 th - April 23 rd	Contact Pastor Henry Pablo 510-323-5744
		<i>Dixon United Methodist Church</i>
	April 9 th - April 19 th	Contact Rev. Tom Widlund 530-790-9562
		<i>Woodland United Methodist Church</i>

GENERAL CONFERENCE WEBINAR

“The Resurrection of an Inclusive Church: United Methodism’s Upcoming General Conference.”

Bishop Karen Oliveto, Rev. Adam Hamilton & Others

Tuesday, APRIL 9th @ 4:00 PM - PDT

Anyone interested is welcome to sign in and view. You can [register here](#)

Join the United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy & Friends (UMARC) two weeks before General Conference begins in Charlotte North Carolina to learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing delegates from around the world.

Rev. Adam Hamilton of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, **Rev. Israel Alvaran** from the Philippines Annual Conference, **Bishop Karen Oliveto** of Mountain Sky Conference, **Rev. Dr. Lydia Munoz** National Hispanic/Latino Ministry, **Rev. Dr. Mark Holland** of Mainstream UMC, and **Dr. Randall Miller** from the California-Nevada Conference will be among our speakers.

Preparing for a Transition – One More Visit?

Several of you have set a time to meet with me for a possible announcement regarding a pastoral change for DUMC and for myself. So, I'd like to extend an invitation so connect with you at least once more before the transition is complete. I am reserving three opportunities for a visit **each Wednesday through May 29th** :

Lunch Time	(12:00 to 2:00 PM)
The Pastor's Porch	(2:30 to 4:00 PM) – at DUMC
Dinner Time	(5:00 to 6:30 PM)

Options for where to meet for lunch or dinner include your home, at a restaurant or café, a brown bag lunch in a park or on church grounds. Other days and times are available, but Wednesdays offer the most consistent openings in my schedule. And I'm happy simply to visit with you; a meal is optional. Simply speak with me after worship, call, text, or email to reserve a time for our visit.

Worship Services

Each worship service is "live streamed" unless stated otherwise.

SUNDAY 7th Wandering Heart: "Here's My Heart" w/ Communion

Focus Scripture: John 21. 1 – 19

Though Peter's story does not end with the conclusion of the Gospels, we finish our series with Peter's encounter with the risen Christ. In this final week, we come full circle with Peter. He has dropped his nets, walked on water, professed his faith, been rebuked, received foot washing, denied Jesus, and run to the tomb. And now, Jesus once again meets him at the shoreline where Peter is casting his nets. Jesus offers abundant nourishment and also a new command: "Feed my sheep." Then he turns to Peter and asks three times, "Do you love me?" It's as if Jesus says, "Here's my heart," which washes over Peter's three denials like a healing balm. No matter how far we wander, may we entrust our hearts to God. No matter if our faith is strong or weak, what we can give is our love.

SUNDAY 14th Guest Preacher – Rev. Kelly Love

SUNDAY 21st The Message in a Children's Play: "You Are Special" by Max Lucado

Synopsis of the play: In the town of Wemmickville there lives a Wemmick named Punchinello. Each day the residents award stickers—gold stars for the talented, smart, and attractive Wemmicks, and gray dots for those who make mistakes or are just plain ordinary. Punchinello, covered in gray dots, begins to feel worthless. Then one day he visits Eli the woodcarver, his creator, and he learns that his worth comes from a different source.

New Sermon Series: Science & Faith

SUNDAY 28th Science & Faith Sermon Series: Earth Justice (Stewardship)

First Reading: Genesis 1. 26, 28 (NRSVUE)

Second Reading: Isaiah 1. 14 – 17 (The MESSAGE)

Focus Scripture: Luke 4. 1 – 13 (NRSVUE)

The idea that science and faith are at odds with each other is a relatively recent phenomenon, spanning mostly the 20th century. In fact, because it is grounded in the concept that the universe was created by God, Christianity has encouraged scientific observation, exploration, and experimentation so that we may better understand God's creation and our place with it.

In the light of the ways we are hurting the planet, sometimes we are tempted, as Jesus was, to defy the laws or rules of nature. Our temptation is to trust in science and technology to save us from the damage we are doing to God's creation. When we forget who we are – that we are made in God's image and are not God ourselves – we begin to trust in other means such as science and technology to heal and care for the earth and its peoples. – taken from *"A Hopeful Earth: Faith, Science, and the Message of Jesus"* by Sally Dyck

Congregational Care

If you believe the information below to be incorrect or needs updating, please contact Pastor Brandon or our Davis UMC office with the correct/updated information. Let us continually pray, send cards and notes, emails, make calls, and remain in connection with one another.

Prayer Chain – (send prayer requests to this email address: (prayerchain@davisumc.org))

Ballard Family	Recent death of mother, Beverly Ballard
Charlotte Cutler	Recent death of daughter, Pam
Ronda	Cancer Treatment, Caroline Chantry's sister

Hospital Care

None

Home Care - see church directory for contact information.

Joe Archer
Jerry Beaman
Dick Dowell
Chuck and Blanche Shannon

Atria Covell Gardens - 1111 Alvarado Avenue, Davis California 95616

Betsy Marchand – *Memory Care*
Melody Moore
Jan Tackett

Calmia Place - 4220 Calmia Place, Davis, California 95618

Kay Singleton – *Memory Care*

Carlton Senior Living - 2726 5th St, Davis, CA 95618

Ted Dill
Carol Holmes

The Farmstead at Dixon - 350 Gateway Dr., Dixon, CA 95620

Philip Kurien

University Retirement Community - 1515 Shasta Dr, Davis, CA 95616

Dotty Dixon
Brian and Louanne Horsfield
Bob Medearis
Jane Smythe
Ken and Diane Wagstaff – *Memory Care* (Diane)

RESOURCES

Stephen's Ministry – contacts: *Caroline Chantry, Mary Ann Ingenthron* (Leaders) or *Pastor Brandon*

CaringBridge - <https://www.caringbridge.org/how-it-works>

A free, easy online tool for sharing health news with family and friends—all in one place.

Yolo Cares - <https://yolocares.org>

Dedicated to improving the quality of, and expanding access to, end-of-life services for persons/families of all backgrounds.

What Is Christian Nationalism? – New Articles!

Each day brings us closer to the November 5, 2024, day of our U.S. Presidential Election. So much hangs in the balance regarding the future of our world as our votes are counted on and after election day. As followers of Jesus in the Christian faith tradition, we would serve the world well if we can be clear on how our faith and our patriotism do and do not intertwine. In recent and in future sermons I will do my best to keep this conversation in play among us and to provide resources [*follow the links below*] where you may find tools that you may wish to apply for your own discernment and that you may wish to share in your conversations and interactions with family, friends, and neighbors. Please contact me if you would like to discuss them further or sort through the issues and interactions you encounter as you continue your discernment for the critical decisions where politics and faith intersect in the days ahead – and they always do! Let us practice loving God, self, and others each day and in every way! Steady on!

Deep peace, bold faith, and good trouble! Now and always, – **Pastor Brandon**

ARTICLES

Timeline of Events Related to the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/key-dates-2024-us-presidential-race-2024-01-30/>

Faith, Fiction, and Christian Nationalism by Russell Moore

How can Wendell Berry's novels help us understand love of country and community without stumbling into idolatry?

https://www.plough.com/en/topics/faith/witness/faith-fiction-and-christian-nationalism?fbclid=IwAR3v7UTtTpgHwCvDY4ZuH_5vXaQNmDmOIQ8p38s8vBGCerxfoStjkfgEkQU

Understanding Christian Nationalism by Diana Butler Bass

These three articles from historian, author, and preacher, Diana Butler Bass, contain some of the best material for making distinctions between Christianity, Nationalism, and living faithfully in the way of Jesus. Please read!

<https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/understanding-christian-nationalism>

<https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/the-christian-nationalist-war>

Letters from an American: Feb. 22, 2024 by Heather Cox Richardson

https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/february-22-2024?r=66kay&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email&open=false

Sojourner's Magazine Article by Noah Berlatsky

<https://sojo.net/articles/stop-debating-whether-christian-nationalism-christian>

Noah Berlatsky examines the Christian privilege at heart in the debates over whether Christian nationalism is a heresy (even by progressive Christians).

PODCASTS

Respecting Religion <https://bjconline.org/respectingreligion/>

What's at stake for faith freedom for all in our world today? BJC Executive Director **Amanda Tyler** and General Counsel **Holly Hollman** discuss religion and the law each week on the Respecting Religion podcast, including recent developments in the way the government relates to religion and the ongoing work of combating Christian nationalism.

FILM

Documentary: God + Country (trailer only) <https://godandcountrythemovie.com>

Produced by Rob and Michele Reiner, "GOD & COUNTRY takes a closer look at the dangerous implications and explores how a base of Christians has radically stoked a movement erasing the line between Church and State." Features Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, Reza Aslan, Andrew Whitehead, and Russell Moore to name a few.

Rustin – Netflix (subscription required)

Bayard Rustin - African-American, community organizer, activist - and a corps of civil rights advocates organized the August 28, 1963 "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom" for approximately 250,000 people in two months' time! This movie tells Rustin's story and the critical compromises and choices that gave expression to the civil rights movement and the march. Please watch this, as it demonstrates the best of civic responsibility in a working democracy and faith in action.

WEBSITES

Christians Against Christian Nationalism

Books, webinars, videos, podcasts, and articles related to understanding and confronting Christian Nationalism.

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/webinars>

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/learn-more>

Center for Action and Contemplation

Franciscan monk and contemplative theologian, Richard Rohr, and various professors of faith provide devotional and theological concepts to guide readers through the often-disheartening clash between the daily news, daily living, and the daily call to follow the way of Jesus. You can sign-up for their daily devotional emails. I do!

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/2024-daily-meditations-theme-radical-resilience/#h-engaging-with-a-world-on-fire>