

Pastor's Update 2024 – June

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

176th California-Nevada Annual Conference Session - June 7th – 10th

Safe Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, CA.

Jim Tischer, Jennifer Charles, and I will be attending this year. Harald Tollerup will be our youth delegate to conference. You can read legislation and report documents addressed at this year's conference and watch via live streaming by following the links at this website: <https://www.cnumc.org/eventdetail/18235978>

-- A Circle of Eight --

Starts in July. Make Your Reservation, Today!

American society has been deeply shaped by the dynamics of competition, consumerism, and hyper individualism. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified those social realities and accelerated the impact of our sense of isolation such that we can easily speak of two pandemics – one immunological and the other relational. Both had a devastating impact on families, communities, and the workforce. There were silver linings, to be sure, one of which is that we learned just how much we need one another. But now that the pandemic is over, we're realizing that getting reconnected isn't so automatic.

Growing community requires intentionality. Sure, we see one another in the marketplace or during church fellowship time. But have you sat with the same people for a few weeks simply to share and listen to each other's stories? What about new people looking for connection, a new friend? Beginning in July and continuing for as long as seven others are willing to gather with me, I want to offer you a chance to do just that.

In fact, I'm willing to offer a ZOOM group for those who live out of our area. In that case, we may not be physically together, but we can be present to one another just the same.

What's Involved for "A Circle of Eight"?

1. **You commit to meeting for four consecutive weeks** – same day and time for 90 minutes.
2. **You agree to share your story.**
(I'll send a one page set of guidelines to everyone in the group; you can also contact me ;o).
3. **You sign up with Pastor Brandon** – call, text, email, sign up at worship, send a note, tell me in person.
4. **I will send you a word of confirmation and work with you for a day and time that fits your schedule.**
(If transportation or childcare are a factor for your attendance, we can discuss that, too!)
5. **At our first circle gathering, I and one other person will tell our stories, so you have a chance to settle into the group and see what it's like to share and to listen to another's story.**

If we are willing, we can offer something of our life/faith story in these circles of trust, a generous contribution to weaving a fabric for the greater common good, for mending the world. Over the course of four weeks, our circles of eight will have had a chance to hear one another, our humanity will deepen, and our compassion will expand. I realize sharing our stories will seem a daunting challenge for some of us and a welcome entrée to the church for others. Please include this in your prayer and respond as seems best for you. I trust the Spirit is at work among us! I'm eager to hear your story and to share mine!

In good faith and with a sense of adventure ;o) – **Pastor Brandon**

Worship Services for June

Each worship service is "live streamed" for your participation. Be sure to download the Order of Worship!

SUNDAY 2nd Reconciling Sunday – Communion

Preacher: Rosa Washington-Olson

Pastor Brandon: "What Happened at General Conference?"

Our beloved Rosa Washington-Olson brings a message of her experience at the historical and pivotal United Methodist Church General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina – www.umc.org . We will learn from her witness how we have become a mainline church inclusive of our LGBTQIA+ siblings after decades of excluding our siblings of faith! Also, this is our annual celebration of the year Davis UMC became a reconciling congregation, welcoming and advocating for our LGBTQIA+ siblings! Come celebrate with us!

SUNDAY 9th Music Sunday!

In years past, we held annual "music Sundays" when we'd "pull out the stops" for all things music in worship. This year, we make double use of that annual tradition: we celebrate the gifts of music that we enjoy each Sunday, and we celebrate my re-appointment as your pastor as I begin year 9 as pastor of Davis UMC and my 35th year of pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church. Plan to be present and let us share in the music and celebrate together!

SUNDAY 16th When the Spirit Moves: Growing in the New Creation

First Reading: II Corinthians 5. 6 – 17 (NRSVUE)

Focus Scripture: Mark 4. 26 - 34 (NRSVUE)

Talking to Jesus can be exhausting. You think he is out to confuse you. We keep skipping over those verses where it says he said nothing except in parables. I think we skip them because they make it sound as if Jesus was just messing with us, and we don't like that. But the truth is, he really wants us to see. He really wants us to understand. We just can't do it by thinking the way we usually think.

Can we learn to look under our noses and off to the horizon at the same time? Can we learn to see the ordinary and the spectacular all together? Can we learn to experience the everyday and the once in a lifetime in the same moment? By learning to see more deeply and to trust more completely, we begin to discern Jesus' lesson for how to value what the world throws away and throw away what the world thinks most valuable.

In short, the kin-dom asks us to turn upside down, to stretch and reach and get outside of ourselves, long enough to really see the wonder of the universe in a tiny seed. And what is the unmistakable sign that we can see the world as Jesus does? Joy! Abundant, extravagant, persistent, courageous, and overflowing. See?

SUNDAY 23rd Open Your Heart: Jesus Clouds

First Reading: II Corinthians 6. 1 - 13 (NRSVUE)

Focus Scripture: Mark 4. 35 - 41 (NRSVUE)

When Jesus tells the storm to calm down, he shouts “Peace! Be Still.” This storm, Mark implies, is demonic, evil, needing the hand of a savior.

We’ve been visited by evil in our world. You name it in your place or see it in the wider world, our nation, at the heart of things. The storm of evil is all too evident. It’s not always easy to name it, to identify it in a messy world, but sometimes it is the responsibility of those who claim the name of Christ to identify evil, whether in a culture and country so foreign to us as to be almost incomprehensible, or one that is all too familiar and even claiming to be the true face of patriotism. Like Christ, we sometimes need to stand in the face of the demonic and tell it to be quiet and get out.

The story isn’t really about the storm. It’s a story about Jesus. And it’s a story about faith. It’s easy to miss. We are distracted when we are afraid; we lose hope. And often one of the first things to go is faith, belief in a loving God, and hope in tomorrow and today.

SUNDAY 30th Contemplative Worship Service

For every month of the year that contains a fifth Sunday, we offer a contemplative worship service instead of our traditionally structured service. Through music, readings, and visuals we engage with God’s Spirit in a form of worship intentionally structured to maximize freedom of the Spirit among us. The message is what we discern in our contemplations as those who seek to live in God’s love as a community of faith. Please arrive on time to fully absorb this generous offering from our team of contemplatives who so prayerfully prepare for our time together. May your soul be nurtured!

“I’ve Been Meaning to Ask You . . .”

A Summer Sermon Series – Begins July 7th

-- Developed by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity of A Sanctified Art

“While the challenges of becoming beloved community to one another are endless, these questions are simple. We recognize that all courageous conversations begin with simple questions and the curiosity to truly listen. Our leading question, *“I’ve been meaning to ask...”* conveys intentionality, warmth, curiosity, and consideration. In essence, this question also implies the following statements: *“I’ve been thinking about you and I’ve been wanting to check in... You’ve been on my mind... I haven’t known how to have this conversation, but I’m getting started with a question.”* The ellipses symbolize the main objective of this series: to cultivate courageous conversations—and to keep having them, even if we need to pause. As you can see, these questions aren’t surface level; they invite us to share our pain and seek ways to care for one another.

May this series help us to behold each other as images of the divine. May it help us strengthen our capacity for empathy and compassion. May it remind us of the power of asking unassuming questions. May it show us that courage is rooted in the heart. Through vulnerability and authenticity, may our courageous conversations lead us to glimpse hope, joy, and beauty—and to become the community God created us to be.”

Christian Nationalism? What’s Happening in our Nation and in Christianity?

As we look to the upcoming presidential elections, you might find this course informative and nourishing. The speakers are first rate and point us to a faithful perspective for the issues posted on social media every day. Attend if you can. <http://www.faithandpolitics.net>

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))

Hospital Care

None

Home Care - see church directory for contact information.

Joe Archer
Jerry Beaman
Dick Dowell
Chuck and Blanche Shannon
Joyce Smuda and Alan
Lauren Jewett – CA House Campus Minister

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.

BOOK - "Caregiving 101" - https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/caregiving-101-cannon?mc_cid=0a2580904b&mc_eid=c5d37d56e9