

Pastor's Update 2025 – March/April

Pastor Brandon's E-Mail: RevBOffice@gmail.com / call or text 530-760-8858

Dear Church,

Please consult the information below as you plan your participation in the faith enhancing services of worship and fellowship during the Christian season of Lent and Easter. In faith, we take our next steps as a faith community in the United Methodist tradition in Davis, California!

May our time together be a blessing! – *Pastor Brandon*

Davis UMC ASSESSMENT CONVERSATION

Rescheduled to Sunday, MARCH 23rd @ 2:00 PM

Grace and Peace,

I write to you on behalf of the Paragraph 213 Committee. We have been busy gathering information about the ministry and work of Davis UMC. It continues to be a pleasure to learn about your history, your ministry, your hopes, and your dreams for the future.

For a variety of reasons, it has become clear to us that we need more time to complete our work. To that end, we would like to postpone the full church gathering, which was initially scheduled for March 4th. In consultation with Pastor Brandon, District Superintendent David Niu, and the Cabinet we have selected Sunday, 3/23 at 2 PM as the alternate date.

We are thankful for your patience and flexibility as we move toward making a well-informed report and recommendation.

With care, *Rev. Elizabeth Brick*

Convener of Par 213 Process at DUMC

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS - Mar. 12, 19, 26; Apr. 2, 9 – 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM

Davis Lutheran Church – 317 E 8th Street, Davis, CA – 530-756-5052

Fellowship Meal @ 6:00 PM – Fellowship Hall

Worship Service @ 6:45 PM – Sanctuary

Reserve Your Soup Bowl Here – Doodle Poll:

Preachers for the Services

March 12 – Rev. Christian Holleck (Davis Lutheran)

March 19 - Rev. Pamela Dolan (St. Martin's Episcopal)

March 26 - Rev. Daniel Smith (Lutheran Church of the Incarnation)

April 2 - Rev. Portia Hopkins (Belfry Campus Ministry – Lutheran/Episcopal)

April 9 - Rev. Brandon Austin (Davis United Methodist)

Each week of Lent we gather for soup and fellowship and a brief service of worship using the “Holden Prayer” (a ritualized sung prayer in the Lutheran tradition - see link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUnaV2cSEsl>) and a small reflection provided by participating Davis clergy. Come for just the soup and fellowship or just for the worship or for both! We pray our gatherings will make a meaningful contribution to your Lenten journey!

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2025

Dear Davis UMC Sojourner,

With this update, I invite you to gather as siblings of Christ and be nurtured by the sacraments, liturgy, and stories of our faith tradition embodied in the 40-day church season we call "Lent," which begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through the days we call Holy Week. Below you will find a calendar of services designed to enhance our faith journey so we may examine our lives in relation to the life of Jesus who, like us, faithfully pursued the way of God for his life and for the sake of the world.

With the gracious assistance of our worship team: musicians, readers, greeters, ushers, audio/visual technicians, office and childcare personnel and others, we are able to offer these worship experiences that give expression to our needs and hopes and that challenge us to integrate the way of Jesus into our lives as we seek God's loving Way for our future.

Plan now for these holy days as we seek to grow in faith and solidarity with our siblings most in need for, we need them, too! This is the way of Jesus in God's kin-dom.

May we come to know and to follow the way of Jesus always! -- *Pastor Brandon*



April 13th PALM SUNDAY 9:45 AM *Procession of the Palms

We gather in the fellowship hall to retrieve our palm branches in preparation for our "march" with Jesus into the sanctuary. Please arrive early to take part.

April 17th MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:00 PM *Holy Thursday

We gather in the sanctuary for communion and the washing of feet/hands as we remember the model of Jesus' servant leadership for us. According to the gospels, Jesus' cabinet of disciples were exposed to his model of leadership, which challenged their mindset of what it means to wield power in the context of the Roman Empire and their religious institutions. Jesus' way of love is counterintuitive, powerful at the level of love, and shapes the world for good and for all. This worship service provides a reminder for how to practice the Way of Jesus.

***April 18th GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 PM - Noon @ St. Martin's Episcopal Church**

Stations of the Cross & Taize Music

640 Hawthorn Lane, Davis, CA (530) 756-0444

Join Revs. Drs. Pamela Dolan and Brandon Austin for a meaningful and reflective worship experience as we encounter Jesus' solidarity with our humanity in all of our suffering in the faith that death does not offer the final word; love does! We will walk and reflect on the Stations of the Cross and walk the labyrinth as a prayer.

April 20th EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATING RESURRECTION

8:00 AM

"Sunrise" Easter Worship (communion - sanctuary)

In the sacrament of communion, we greet the new day inaugurated by God in the resurrection of Jesus with the words: "HE IS RISEN!"

10:00 AM

Traditional Easter Worship

11:15 AM

Our children hunt for Easter eggs – signs of new life among us!



everything
[in] between
Meeting God in the midst of extremes

A New Sermon Series for the Lent/Easter Season

This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” Often, we consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity; dichotomies are false. Might we begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white? How is God present in between? How does this address our times?

Lent I	March 9th	Luke 10. 25 – 37	Stranger & Neighbor
Lent II	March 16th	Luke 10. 38 – 42	Faith & Works
Lent III	March 23rd	Luke 13. 6 - 9	Rest & Growth
Lent IV	March 30th		Contemplative Service
Lent V	April 6th	Luke 19. 1 - 10	Justice & Mercy
Palm Sunday	April 13th	Luke 19. 29 - 40	Shouting & Silence
Holy Thursday	April 17th	Luke 22. 1 – 27	Power & Humility
Good Friday	April 18th	St. Martin’s Episcopal Church – Labyrinth/Stations of the Cross	
Easter Sunday	April 20th	Luke 24. 1 – 12	Grief & Hope

In this Lenten season, I invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, and then, to imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create (or that propaganda creates for us!). This theme of “everything in between” may resonate with anyone who is in discernment or trying to find their way through an undefined space. I pray it speaks to anyone who feels as if they are living in a divided world. It is for those who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it. This Lent, we’re trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between. Let’s travel this path with God together.

Our times, and all times, call us to walk a path with Jesus eerily parallel to the path he walked, when his gospel message and compassionate life challenged every power aligned with values compromised by an allegiance to lesser leaders and idols. Which is to say, Jesus offered a way to embrace the power of love for God and God’s love for all creation in the face of any force or energy aligned with the love of power which treats others, including humans and the earth, as a transactional “it” - a product or object to be exploited, subdued, dominated, used, sold, and consumed for one’s own profit and purposes.

How can Luke’s gospel in the time of Jesus guide us to hear the gospel for our times? Let’s find out together!

With you in “Everything In Between” – **Pastor Brandon**

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 your prayer requests to this email address: (prayerchain@davisumc.org))

In Memory of

Randy Ruan's Father

Cards May Be Sent To

Randy Ruan – 2707 Rondo Place, Davis, CA 95618

In Memory of

Kay Singleton

Memorial Service

Davis UMC – Wednesday, March 26, 2025 @ 2:00 PM – reception follows

Home Care - Out of Our Area

Chuck and Blanche Shannon

Home Care - see church directory for contact information.

Jerry Beaman

Julie & Rich Kuhlman

Evelyn Raski

Dave Woods

Atria Covell Gardens - 1111 Alvarado Avenue, Davis California 95616

Betsy Marchand – *Memory Care*

Melody Moore

Jan Tackett

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

Ted Dills

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

Joe Harper – *Memory Care* (Dotty's friend)

Brian and Louanne Horsfield

Jan Smyth

Ken and Diane Wagstaff – *Memory Care* (Diane)