

## FCUMC October Newsletter:

### A New Chapter Begins

Dear FCUMC Family,

Grace and peace to you all! As we usher in another month filled with love, reflection, and growth, this edition of our newsletter will guide you through a series of inspiring messages and updates.

**Pastor's Message:** We commence with a heartfelt note from our beloved Pastor, who has been our guiding star. Drawing from scripture and personal insights, the Pastor shares thoughts on embracing change, fostering unity, and nourishing our spiritual journey together.

**\*Celebrating 200 Years of Medford's Methodist History:** It is with immense pride and gratitude that we mark the 200th Anniversary of Medford's Methodist History right here in our local church. Join us in celebrating a monumental occasion in Methodist history in Medford! Our special Sunday service starts **October 15th at 10 a.m., followed by a community banquet at 12 p.m.** Spread the word, invite friends and family, and let's commemorate this journey together. This is a wonderful opportunity to break bread together, share stories, and strengthen stronger bonds. We urge you to extend this invitation to friends, neighbors, and family. Let's come together to celebrate our shared history and look forward to the promising path God has set before us. We hope to see you all there!

**A Journey of Faith with Ebiye Seimode:** We are overjoyed to introduce our new student pastor, Ebiye Seimode. Dive into Ebiye's call story to discover the divine whispers and life events that led her to our congregation. Her testimony is a testament to God's marvelous ways, reminding us of the boundless paths through which God calls their children.

**Calendar /Upcoming Events:** We are brimming with activities this month! Whether it's Bible studies, community service, or special worship services, there's something for everyone. Make sure you mark your calendars, as we hope to see each one of you participating, celebrating, and spreading God's love.

Thank you for being a beacon of faith and hope. Let us walk together in this journey, welcoming new beginnings and cherishing every moment of fellowship.

In Christ's love,  
Andres De Arco

FCUMC Church Administrator  
Office Hours ( Mon-Thurs 9a.m-1p.m)



## FCUMC October Quote

"There is always light. If we're brave enough to see it, if we're brave enough to be it." --Amanda Gorman







## A Message From Our Pastor



Greetings on this much-expected month of October 2023. We have been planning for more than a year and expecting this month of Celebration when we give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve as a congregation for 200 years!! As I look at pictures, program booklets from previous celebrations, and listen to the stories of longtime members of our church, I smile with gratitude for the the faithfulness of those who made sure this church space continued through so many changes and complex historical events in our social processes. Indeed, First Community UMC has been a place and space for so many faithful that shared resources, engaged in mission, transformed lives, and witness the Love and Grace of God through 200 years of history!



I can only imagine the challenges faced through all this time as our world changed and became more complex with so many changes in social structures, shifts in demographics, and development of technology. This celebration is a milestone in history, a long journey to who we are today, and I hope we can smile and know that God did bring us this far for a particular purpose and mission as we encounter our current circumstances. The context of this congregation is so different from 200 years ago.

However, the need for life, renewal, transformation, and Love in the doing of justice is still here with us calling us to encounter our own challenges and answer to our particular calling in this time of History. I can only say that for such a time as this God did bring us together to this place and space – to this global family known as First Community UMC in Medford. Let us celebrate and be thankful. Let us renew our strength and continue to serve God and God's people.

---Pastor De La Rosa





# 200th Anniversary of Methodists in Medford



A banquet will be held to celebrate the 200th anniversary and to dedicate the renovated Gloria Griffin Hospitality Room

Come Join Us!

Sunday, October 15th, 2023

Location: First Community United Methodist Church

55 Otis St, Medford, MA 02155

Service: 10:30 a.m (FCUMC Chapel)

Banquet: 12 Noon ( Fellowship Hall)

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

and

Consider Sponsoring Through a Financial Contribution

Give through Zelle at:

[treasurer@firstcommunitymedford.org](mailto:treasurer@firstcommunitymedford.org)







# Call Story | Ebiye Seimode

My name is Ebiye Tamaraebiemi Seimode. I was born and raised in Nigeria in a conservative Christian household. My parents are both deacons at our small Pentecostal church back home. My siblings and I were taught the traditions and values of the Christian faith. Although it was a Christian household, I did not know what being a Christian meant. My Christianity was just a routine, go to church, go home, and stay away from sin.

After graduating high school at the age of seventeen, I was fortunate to get a full scholarship to study in the United States for my bachelor's degree, that alone was a testament to God's faithfulness at a time when my family was struggling financially, and none of us could have ever dreamt of leaving the country. I left my parents and six siblings at the age of seventeen to navigate life on my own. Adjusting to this new life in a new country was hard, but I was grateful for the opportunity.



I had the freedom I always thought I needed, but I still felt like something was missing. I did not deviate from my faith or lose my Christian values, but my life was just mundane. I loved my school, friends, and my church community, but it all felt like a routine again. In college, I had an identity crisis, questions like: who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose in life? circled through my mind daily. I knew there was something more I needed to do with my life but I did not know what it was. It was like a burning desire inside me that shaped the conversations I had with my family, friends, and even strangers.

Like every college student, I had big aspirations for my life after graduation. I wanted to find my dream job, get married and help my family financially, but God had other plans for me that were contrary to mine. I couldn't get an engineering job after graduation. I had rescinded two offers when they found out I was an international student (immigrant). As a result, I worked many menial jobs I could find to survive and take care of myself. I got to a point where I was frustrated with life, but God kept me going by leading people to encourage me along the way. I decided to go back to school for a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering. I had sent out applications, but something didn't feel right; there it was again, that familiar feeling of being lost. Little did I

know that in the coming months, God was about to alter the trajectory of my life.





# THE OASIS



## Call Story Continued

After dwelling in my frustration for a couple of months, I started seeking God fervently and cultivated a personal relationship with Him. My walk with God grew stronger, and I was able to hear God speak to me, and He revealed to me what my calling was. I believe I am called by God into Ministry. Unlike the saints in the Bible, I did not hear an audible voice or see a bush burning, but that does not make my experience any less special. The Lord spoke to me during my quiet time on April 29, 2019, saying, "I have called you to reach many with my Word. I will equip and strengthen you for the task. Do not be afraid my child." Along with scriptural references like Isaiah 41:9-10 & Isaiah 41:15-16 as well as different confirmations from people around me.

This call to me felt vague, but I never doubted it. Instead, I continued to serve God and the church community I was a part of at the time. On March 21, 2020, while journaling during my quiet time, I wrote, "I want you to go to ministry school, I will provide." Like before, I had multiple confirmations and felt like this was what I needed to do. Although my family was opposed to my decision to get a Master of divinity degree and would rather have me do a master's in engineering. I believe I made the right decision, and I am exactly where I need to be in this season of my life. In Seminary, I have been blessed with a great community and mentors. I am grateful for the love, care, and support I have received since joining the United Methodist Church and I will continue to serve the church with the gifts God has given me.



As I get to the end of my seminary degree, I reflect on life after and discern what kind of ministry work my calling entails. I feel ordination is the next step for me in ministry. When asked by a friend what I enjoy about Seminary, I realized my passion lies in homiletics - the art of preaching. I find it intriguing to dissect passages of scripture, translate them, and discover new understandings. I love the process of reimagining scripture and presenting it to others. And also listening to others preach. Despite being an introvert, I feel confident and comfortable when preaching. In fact, preaching feels like a natural extension of myself. This was evident when I had the opportunity to preach at Boston University's Marsh Chapel - it became clear that this is something that should be part of my life.

Additionally, I deeply love the church, caring for people, and working with children and youths. I believe that pastoral work in these areas is where I belong, and ordination is the next step in my ministry journey. These passions of mine align with the responsibilities and duties of Elders in the United Methodist Church, which are preaching and teaching the Word, administering the sacraments, providing pastoral care and counsel, and ordering the church's life for mission and ministry. After careful discernment, my decision to be an Elder is rooted in a deep sense of calling from God. I feel called to use my gifts of preaching and teaching to help others grow in their faith and understanding of God. Also, I have a desire to help others navigate the challenges of life.

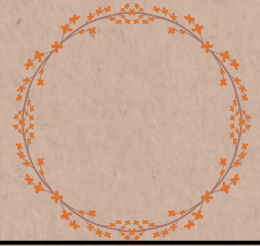
I choose to be ordained in the UMC because this congregation has been a home for me during my seminary journey. And I feel aligned to this church because of its strong emphasis on social justice issues, including poverty, hunger, sexuality and inequality. It is very important for me to be part of an organization of faith that positively impacts the world.





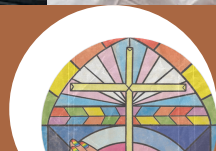
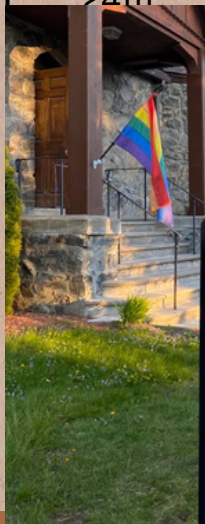


## FCUMC | Calendar



### October 2023

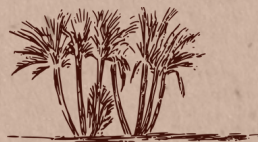
October 1st.	<b>World Communion Sunday</b>
October 8th	Trustees (after Church in person)
October 14th	Indigenous Peoples' Day Workday at Church for Anniversary Preparation (9am – 3p.m.)
<b>October 15th</b>	<b><u>200 Anniversary</u></b> 10:30 a.m   Worship Celebration 12 noon   Dinner Banquet
October 22nd	SPRC meeting (7:00p.m Zoom)
October 24th	7:30p.m. Leadership Team meeting (Zoom)







# THE OASIS



## FCUMC | Future Events

### November 2023

### December 2023

Nov. 1st	All Saints Day
Nov. 5th	Trustees (after Church in person)
Nov. 7th	SPRC meeting (Zoom)
Nov. 12th	Visit from the Bishop
Nov. 13th	Finance Comm. (Zoom)
Nov. 14th	Leadership Team meeting (Zoom)
Nov. 19th	Thanksgiving Worship Service Advent Bible Study

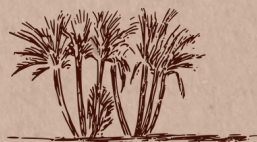
Dec 2nd	(in person -preparation of the Sanctuary for Christmas)
Dec 3rd	Trustee (after church in person )
Dec 12th	7:00p.m.SPRC meeting (Zoom)
Dec 19th	Church Leadership Team(Zoom)
Dec 24th	10:30 a.m. Christmas Service
Dec 24th	11p.m.Christmas Eve service (candlelight service)







# THE OASIS



## FCUMC | Events

### **Workday at Church - All invited!** **October 14th 1-5p.m.**

We need to decorate and prepare for the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

You are welcome to join in any time. We will need to do some gardening in the front, prepare tables and chairs, get flower arrangements for table, and just make the church look nicer.



### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY** **Wed. 7-8p.m. by Zoom.**

A special bible study during the month of December to help us engage this advent time and prepare for Christmas and the new year.

More information next month. Plan to join every

### **CALL TO SERVE!**

You are invited to answer (sign up!)

Please note that you are called to serve within our familia every Sunday. We hope you can sign up as liturgist (direct worship service), as one to offer special music (offertory music), for coffee hr.

CALLED TO PRAISE WITH YOUR VOICE

