



NEWS FROM FIRST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - MEDFORD, MA.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

As Summer comes to an end and Fall arrives, we begin to see the Aster and Morning Glory flowers everywhere. It is nice to learn that the Aster is one of the official flowers for the month of September. "A member of the Daisy family (Asteraceae family), which also includes dahlias, marigolds, and sunflowers, asters provide a pop of color as summer turns to fall." ¹ I learned this year that there is a great deal of meaning and symbolism related to Asters. The Almanac.com tells us the following:

- *They were considered sacred flowers to the Greek and Roman gods. Greek mythology pinpoints the aster's beginning from the tears of the goddess Astraea.*
- *Asters have long been a symbol of love and wisdom, patience and beauty. It has also been associated with faith, friendship, and purity.*
- *Purple asters are considered a royal color and a symbol of wisdom, white asters represent innocence, red is a sign of devotion and passion, and pink symbolizes love and kindness.*

As I prepare for a new school year and a new busy time at church that marks the transition between Summer and Fall, I continue to reflect upon the meaning and symbolism of Aster flowers. May love, wisdom, and patience enfold you this month of September. May you give or receive purple asters as symbol of the wisdom we need at this time of the year. May all of us consider again the advice of Proverbs 4:5-9

5 Get wisdom, get understanding;

do not forget my words or turn away from them.

6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;

love her, and she will watch over you.

7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get[a] wisdom.

Though it cost all you have,[b] get understanding.

8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you;

embrace her, and she will honor you.

9 She will give you a garland to grace your head

and present you with a glorious crown.



Pastor De La Rosa.

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Our Supporters

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SEPTEMBER, 2023

INCLUSIVE AND DISSENTING CHURCHES



From August 1-4, 2023, the First Latin American Meeting of Inclusive and Dissenting Churches took place in Bogota (Colombia), which brought together 14 open and affirming LGBTIQ+ churches and ministries from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Chile.

The meeting was the first time that leaders from these communities met to discuss issues such as religious fundamentalisms in Latin America, the pastoral care of LGBTIQ+ people, the fight against "conversion therapies," the presence of trans people in the Church, among other urgent issues for the role that these communities play in their different contexts.



The Meeting was an ecumenical, prophetic, and intergenerational gathering, which allowed us to appreciate the common objectives of these congregations, such as providing safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ people to live their faith, offering healing for people expelled from their communities of origin and manifesting that God's love does not discriminate.

I had the honor to lead this initiative with Jhon Botia Miranda, the first openly gay pastor of the Latin American Methodist Church, with the support of the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) and the mentorship of its coordinator, Dr. Rev. Cristian De La Rosa, Dean of Students and Community Life at STH.

Claudia Alvarez

To join 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service online:

Via Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc

Non-Facebook Users: 1) Go to www.firstcommunitymedford.org and 2) Click on the box with the Facebook logo.

First Community United Methodist Church, 55 Otis Street, Medford, MA 02155

MUSIC THIS SUMMER | EXPERIENCES FROM OUR INTERN

THE SUMMER OF FAITH

Dear FCUMC,

I am very grateful with you and with God for all the time and experiences we had together this summer. I arrived here in July 4th, and I was expecting to have a great time with the church. I had the pleasure to meet Christophermay Augustine, our new music director, and we made such a great team together. On July 30th we had our first activity as a summer intern: organizing a "Sunday Morning Concert".

With the help of many other friends, such as Ebiye Seimode, Laura Montoya, Pastor Uchenna Awa, Oscar Olmos, Ricardo Franco and Christophermay; the activity was a blessing for all of us. Then, on August 27th we had the opportunity again to have a "Sunday Morning Concert". As the first time, this concert was such a blessing for all of us, but especially for me. God has called me during my time here, and I will return to Mexico with some changes in my life, but the most important thing is that I have strengthened my faith during this summer.

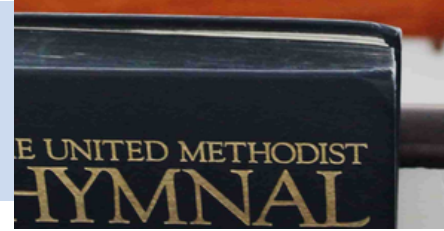
Thank you again, beloved family, I will miss all of you. Thank you, Pastor De La Rosa, for giving me the opportunity of sharing my talents with the church.

Blessings,
Josue I. Suarez Garcia



CHURCH NEWS

Join us in our weekly
CHOIR REHEARSAL
SUNDAYS 9:45 - 10:15 a.m.



October 15th is Communion Sunday.

Plan to bake or purchase your favorite bread and bring it to share at our communion table.

FIRST COMMUNITY APPROACHES ITS BICENTENNIAL

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, October 14, 2023: Catered Anniversary Dinner.

Sunday, October 15, 2023: Anniversary Worship Service

Our next planning meeting will be after our Worship Service on May 7th, 2023. You're all welcome to attend and help us continue with our plans.

200th Anniversary



WELCOME BACK – Christian Education Programs September 10th: Welcome Back Sunday

This Sunday we take the time to recommit to our ministries at church and begin our intentional formation and sharing our knowledge within the Congregation. Invite a friend or a member that might need encouragement to participate.



Bible Study Travel Series by Zoom

Wed. Sept 13th.....Travel experiences this Summer

Wed Sept 20th..... Travel to Colombia – Claudia

Wed Sept 27th..... Travel to Peru – Nataly



FCUMC CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER, 2023

After worship – Trustees meeting

Sunday, Sept 10

SPRC meeting

Tuesday September 12, 7:00
pm

Finance Comm. Meeting

Monday September 18, 7:30
p.m.

Church Leadership Team

Tuesday September 19,
7:30p.m.



**first community
united methodist church**

OF MEDFORD



Welcome Café Graciela!



Our church will be using Café Graciela as a way of supporting ministry in Colombia. We invite you to try it at home. It can also be a great present for others. Visit their site at www.cafegraciela.com



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Saturday - 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
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David Spector George Thurrott