



2016

Community Connection

San Dimas Community Church United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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the Rev. Matthew Redrich, Pastor

Tim Young, Church Moderator

Reflections from the Rev. Matthew Redrich...

Greetings from sunny – and very humid – Atlanta! I am here to attend the National Church Leadership Institute: a conference for pastors and church leaders put on by the Center for Progressive Renewal. I have been thoroughly enjoying the Preaching, Planning, and Prayer skill track where we have been working with facilitator Doug Pagitt on how to make our sermons more meaningful to our congregations. I look forward to integrating these ideas into my sermon preparations; you'll be hearing more about that later as I share about it all.

On the next page, you'll find the statement from our council which was read in worship this past Sunday. I want to share that I, too, am very thankful for the work of our Missions Ministry to help us live into our public covenant and designation by the UCC as an Open & Affirming Congregation. I am also thankful for those who have been honest about how they feel. It is important for healthy congregations to be a safe space for us to share our concerns in community. Strengthening our community has been the point of my sermon series this summer.

The remaining Sundays this month will bring us our hymn sing Sunday on August 14 and then the conclusion of our summer sermon series, Together, on August 21 and 28. These last two weeks, we will look to the book of Acts and the Gospel of Matthew to finish out this conversation about finding courage together as a community.

I look forward to seeing everyone in worship when I return from my vacation and as all of you return from your various trips. Grace and peace to you in the name of God, our parent; Jesus, the Son; and the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Matthew

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Two weeks ago a rainbow flag was posted in the front of our church by our Missions Ministry. This was done in response to the recent tragedy in Orlando, to show support for the LGBT Community and as the first step of a larger Missions effort to reach out to the community so that those outside our walls will know that our church is an open and affirming congregation, which specifically means we welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Although we voted to become an Open and Affirming Congregation four years ago, we have done very little outreach or ministry in this area.

After the flag was put up, several members have raised questions and expressed concerns to the Moderator and others on the Church Council about the flag. A common concern seems to be that the congregation was not included in the discussion before the flag was put up. We would like to assure everyone that the proper processes were followed. No actions were taken in an attempt to exclude the congregation.

After meeting with our Pastor, Moderator, and Conference Minister, the Church Council has decided to take the rainbow flag down while we facilitate conversations in our church about who we are and how we will move forward as a congregation and live into our Open and Affirming covenant.

The council would like to thank the members of the Missions Ministry for having the courage to take bold action to outreach not only to the LGBTQ community, but to straight people who have LGBTQ friends, and families who have LGBTQ family members and let them know that they are welcome at San Dimas Community Church United Church of Christ.

Likewise, the council would like to thank the members who shared their concerns. The council was elected by the congregation and we take the concerns of our members very seriously.

Moving forward over the next several months, we will be scheduling meetings where we will discuss our future and a vision for our congregation reflective of our values. These meetings will be a safe space where all members are encouraged to attend and participate, to share opinions and listen and respect the opinions of those who may have a different point of view.

Ministry Meetings

Worship: Mon. 8/1, 6:30 pm

Pastoral Relations: Tues. 8/23, 6:30 pm

Mission: Tues. 8/9, 6:30 pm

August Birthdays

Nora Lynn Cantor – Monday, 8/1

Manuel Ortega – Tuesday, 8/2

Cecilia Stephens – Sunday, 8/7

David Mann – Tuesday, 8/9

Jerry Garber – Wednesday, 8/10

Sally Olsen – Thursday, 8/11

R.J. Karls – Friday, 8/12

Steve Weyrick – Sunday, 8/14

Vince Vincent – Monday, 8/15

Sue Gallagher – Tuesday, 8/16

Tim Young – Saturday, 8/20

Bill Seibel – Saturday, 8/20

Debra Monell – Thursday, 8/25

Bruce Jones – Sunday, 8/28

Dave Manwarren – Tuesday, 8/30

Lilia Enriquez – Tuesday, 8/30

August Anniversaries

Becky & Ryan Cantor – Saturday, 8/20

John & Sally Olsen – Wednesday, 8/24

Bill & Deborah Seibel – Thursday, 8/25

Ellen Gadegaard & Mary Jane Sawyer – Tuesday, 8/30

Robert Lewis & John Lewallen – Wednesday, 8/31

Youth Calendar

★ **August 14th** - We will be meeting for our final VBS of the summer. This program is targeted to elementary aged children, but all children and youth are welcome. We will meet following the service. Lunch will be provided.

★ **August 21st** - All children entering 6th to 12th grade are invited on a summer youth group outing- we will be going to lunch followed by mini golf. Please bring \$10 for golf. Please RSVP to Christina by August 14th to ensure there are enough drivers.

Save the Date - October 7th to the 9th will be Pilgrim Pines Fall Fun for All weekend (formerly, Family Camp). All are welcome for only Apple Pie Day or stay the entire weekend. More details to come...

Vacation Bible School

Don't miss out! We still have one Vacation Bible School session this summer. It will be following the worship service August 14th. All children and youth are welcome to attend, however the curriculum is geared toward elementary school aged kids. Lunch will be provided.

