



## — SEEING WITH GOD’S VISION: 2020 at Epworth—

*by Pastor Kristin and Pastor Brian*

It’s 2020! What a year to begin to see more clearly, with the eyes of Christ—the world as it should be, as it could be! What is our part in bringing this vision into fruition?

As Christians we live in that liminal space between what is and what will be; between the world as it is and the kin-dom of God that we proclaim and work to build. We choose to live together in beloved community and roll up our sleeves to make real the vision cast for us by that first century, rabble-rousing rabbi. As we enter this new and special year, we hope to find renewed enthusiasm for serving with purpose and engagement through Epworth that spreads greater love within and beyond the congregation. Opportunities to connect and collaborate abound as this year opens.

Beginning with the preaching of Dr. Ramona Coates on Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, we’re kicking off six weeks of preaching, teaching, worship and fellowship that will help us claim and proclaim God’s vision. Reflecting on borders and identity through the Winter Bible Institute (February 2-23), we’ll hear from scholars—all persons of color—who will help us consider Biblical texts related to borders and boundaries. Taking place immediately following Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings, this year’s Institute is convened by Dr. Dianne Rush-Woods and Dr. Karla Suomala, and is not to be missed.

Throughout February, we’ll hear the voices of African American preachers as we celebrate Black

History Month. At the same time, we’re relaunching the work of the former “Beloved Community” group as the Racial Justice Task Force. In the past, this team has helped Epworth walk through conversations on topics related to race, racism, and white privilege. Leadership in advocacy and action which goes beyond conversation is part of the essential work of this team as well. As this team is reforming, we hope you will consider not just attending events and participating in actions, but also serving on the Task Force.

On Saturday, February 22 from 10-2, we’ll hold a Ministry Retreat for leaders and members of ministries, task forces and councils, as well as anyone who is seeking a place to serve. We’ll look at all of our ministries in the context of a framework that organizes ministries in three areas:

- Nurture and Education
- Compassion and Justice
- Inviting and Faith-Sharing

Thank you to Pat Bruce Lerrigo, Kelly Trego and Connie Adachi who are conveners of each of these areas, respectively, and helping us live into this new way of being organized for sharing the love of God. Childcare and lunch will be provided.

How easy it is to forget that the one who laid the foundations of our faith was himself a marginalized man—born into poverty, forced to cross international borders; eventually returning to a

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[PASTORS' COLUMN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

homeland to live as an ethnic minority, oppressed by empire; where his religious and political views would lead to his murder at the hands of the powerful.

How easily we forget that Jesus stands before Pilate again in every immigration court room.

Christ dies on the cross again every time a black or brown man dies at the hands of police.

But always and eventually, beloved, Christ is raised from the dead, when God's people remember who we are—returning to the Gospel, and with the power of love, (to borrow from Wesley) “shake the gates of hell and set up the Kin-dom of Heaven upon earth.”

It is our hope that these events will be the springboard for a year of faith in action, propelled by a new sense of purpose and vision. Step in and step up, dear ones. God is doing something in our midst.

— *Pastor Kristin & Pastor Brian*

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Ministry Retreat

Who: All who are seek a place to serve, as well as leaders and members of Epworth ministries, task forces and councils.

We'll look at all of our ministries in the context of a framework that organizes ministries in three areas: Nurture and Education, Compassion and Justice, and Inviting and Faith-Sharing.

When: Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m. - 2 pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

Childcare and lunch provided



## February 2020 A+Older Adult Ministries

### LUNCH BUNCH

**Brown Bag  
Speaker  
Series**

**Thursday,  
February 20  
11:30am – 1pm  
Fellowship Hall**

**“Music is life.  
Music is hope.  
Music is peace.”**



**Biography of Holocaust  
Survivor and Celebrated  
Violinist David Arben**  
*Readings and Live Performance*

### DOCUMENTING HISTORY WITH FILMMAKER FRANCES REID

**January 26, 2-4pm  
In Fellowship Hall**

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY FILM SERIES

**Friday, February 7, 11:30  
Fellowship Hall**

**Searching for Sugarman**

*Documentary by Malik Bendjelloul*

#### EPWORTH COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

**Sunday, February 23, 4pm  
Davis High School Baroque Ensemble  
In the Sanctuary**

## — NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW HOPE FOR PEOPLE CALLED METHODIST —

On January 3, a diverse group of United Methodists leaders and bishops released a proposal called the "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation." The document is the culmination of a months-long negotiation, aided by a renowned professional mediator. It outlines a path to preserve The United Methodist Church while allowing traditionalist-minded congregations to form a new denomination.

Epworth member Dr. Randall Miller participated in the negotiation and shared his reflections on [Facebook here](#) (see excerpt below) and Rev. Kristin Stoneking was part of an advisory group to the progressives. You can read [the full press release here](#) and watch a panel discussion with the developers of the plan on [YouTube here](#).

While headlines from major media outlets imply otherwise, it's important to note that the United Methodist Church has not agreed to split. The protocol would still need to be received and approved by the General Conference to be held May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN.



Dr. Randall Miller

Epworth has and will continue to welcome all people to the love of God, including people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We stand with our LGBTQI clergy, members and siblings and strive to be a loving, healing, inclusive and justice-seeking community of faith that affirms and uplifts the sacred worth of all God's children.

Stay tuned to This Week at Epworth for opportunities to learn more in the coming weeks.

"For those who don't know, I served on the "progressive team" in the Mediation Group, and I fully support the proposed plan of separation that came out of the process. I went into the mediation, viewing it as a last-ditch effort to create a just pathway for LGBTQ folk like me who claim the UMC as home but have been outraged and driven to the edge by the actions of the 2019 Special General Conference and the almost 47 years leading up to it.

You can read the specific terms for yourself. But here are the provisions of the Plan of Separation that I would highlight from a progressive standpoint:

1. It calls for separation (schism) between the current UMC and other newly created denominations...
2. It ties the removal of anti-LGBTQ language from the General Book of Discipline and the repeal of the

Traditionalist Plan at GC2020 to a restructuring of the UMC into four different geographical regions (Africa, Europe, the Philippines, the U.S.)...

3. It addresses concerns raised by many people about the UMC's commitment to racial justice by earmarking a total of \$39M [over an 8 year period] for ministries by and for ethnic/racial communities in the U.S. and to maintain support for Africa University. Since the General Church budget is anticipated to shrink rather than grow, this is an essential and substantial commitment....
4. It proposes relaxing the Trust Clause for a specific period so that congregations of all stripes, who feel they need to leave the UMC for the sake of their own integrity, can do so—with their property and other assets..." [Continue Reading on our website.](#)

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**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kristin Stoneking [kristin.epworth@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.epworth@gmail.com)

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Brian Adkins [brian.adkins@cnumc.org](mailto:brian.adkins@cnumc.org)

**Minister of Music:** Rev. Jerry Asheim [jerrycharles454@gmail.com](mailto:jerrycharles454@gmail.com)

**Lay Leaders:** Dianne Rush Woods, Rebecca Wheat, & Judy Cayot

**Pastoral Interns:** Akesa Fakava & Jacob Wilbur

**Director of Children, Family and Older Adult Ministries:**

Susan Jarden [susanejardin@gmail.com](mailto:susanejardin@gmail.com)

**Director of Communications and Building Operations:**

Merrie Bunt [merrie.epworth@gmail.com](mailto:merrie.epworth@gmail.com)



# — CELEBRATING NEW SPACES FOR NEW GRACES —

## Epworth's 3 Year Capital Campaign Wraps Up

*By Judy Cayot, Capital Campaign Coordinator*

Our three-year Capital Campaign, New Spaces for New Graces is wrapping up. The Capital Campaign teams (comprised of about 40 people) did a tremendous job of engaging folks in prayer, providing on-going communication, and creating celebrations along the way. **As a church community, we will have an opportunity to thank everyone involved and celebrate the conclusion of the campaign in worship on Sunday, Feb. 2.**

If you were at Epworth when this work began, you may remember that we had a hefty Fellowship Hall fund already in hand before the Capital Campaign thanks to generous Epworth members who made donations in 2007-8 when we first anticipated the renovation. Those funds were safeguarded until the time was right! A few years ago, Epworth also received a \$204,530 bequest from the estate of Carolyn Raab (whose family were members at Epworth where she and her sister grew up) specifically for maintenance of the building. The Fellowship Hall fund and portions of the bequest, together with the \$530,348 raised through our 3-year campaign (over 100% of the pledge amount!), and a \$300,000 loan allowed us to:

- Replace outdated electrical wiring, pipes, lighting, doors, and floors
- Seismically retrofit the lower floor of the building
- Enhance the look and accessibility of the Hopkins Street entry, office, and Fellowship Hall
- Restore the Kitchenette for use by our youth and other groups
- Bring new technology to Fellowship Hall and Adult Study
- Create a permanent labyrinth which adds both beauty and promise to our spaces.

With our combined resources, we have taken care of some much-needed deferred maintenance and provided a renewed facility that can serve community groups as well as programs and ministries of Epworth well into the future. As we move into 2020, our Nominations Committee, with Charge Conference approval, established a New Graces team that will be looking closely at what future mission and ministry might be possible in our renovated building.

When I agreed to co-chair the Building Committee several years ago, and then to be Coordinator of the Capital Campaign, I had no idea how much joy I would get from both. Yes, it was work, but what a great community of folk to work with!



*Before... During... and After Renovations*

Thanks to those who served on the Building Committee for 5-plus years through the visioning, planning, and execution of the renovation: co-chair, Paul Nasman, Dianne Rush Woods, Katie Johnson, Jeanne Olson, Navarre Oaks, Christina and Clark Kellogg, reps of the Trustees including Janelia Thurman, Chris Baetge, and Travis Pratt, and others who helped with color choices, etc.

Thanks to Sanford Coon, our fundraising consultant from Horizons Stewardship, who guided us through the Capital Campaign process.

Special thanks to our architect, Greg VanMechelen, whose creative visioning process helped us focus our intentions, and to Wick Pancoast and Pancoast Construction whose integrity, care, and commitment to excellence paved the way for the spaces we have today.

Thank you to all who gave gifts of presence, dollars, and prayers to this large undertaking. **Come celebrate with us! Sunday, Feb. 2 during and after worship.**

# — EXPRESSIONS OF RADICAL HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY —

## Community Concerts at Epworth presents: Davis High School Baroque Ensemble

*by Caroline Lee, Artistic Director*



*Davis High School Baroque Ensemble, under the*

**Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 4 p.m.**

Epworth UMC Sanctuary

CCE welcomes Davis High School Baroque Ensemble in our first Young Performers Concert. Under the leadership of founder and director Angelo Moreno, DHSBE has the distinction of being the first public high school ensemble with an emphasis on historically informed performance practice, using period instruments reflecting the style of Baroque music. This concert will be a special benefit concert as the group prepares for their third European tour in the summer of 2020. All donations will support their upcoming tour. <https://dhs-holmes-orchestras.org/dhs/>

### Sanctuary Action: Epworth continues accompaniment work with Immigrant Families *by Christina Kellogg*

Epworth's Sanctuary Action team met on Sunday, January 5, to discuss the three families we are in the process of accompanying:

- Carletta Aston (astoncar@aol.com) will head up the team aiding mother Reina and her 17 year-old-daughter, Kimberly; they are presently living in Oakland.
- The second family is from Nicaragua and is made up of a mother Indira, father Martin, a 7 year-old- daughter and a newborn baby. The family is living in Pinole. The team is led by Lloyd Elliot (lloydel@lloydel.net).
- The third family includes Sandra and her three children, and have been accompanied by Epworth for the last couple of years; the work is headed up by Jerry Asheim.

Please continue to hold these families and the accompaniment teams in your prayers. For further information contact one of the specific leaders or Christina Kellogg ([Christina@christinakellogg.tv](mailto:Christina@christinakellogg.tv))



### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Peace Arts Camps

Epworth Peace Arts Camps for kids in Grades K-5 will take place Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10 from 9am-3pm with optional aftercare until 5pm.

Camp for Middle Schoolers, Date TBD (pencil in July 13-17).

Contact Susan Jardin for more info: [susanejardin@gmail.com](mailto:susanejardin@gmail.com); 510.499.2841

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

1/2 Annette Cayot  
1/3 Harriet Howell  
1/5 Christina Kellogg  
1/5 Mary Pratt  
1/8 Mike McVey  
1/14 Graham Adachi-Kriege  
1/16 Cory Woods  
1/17 Tony Travlos

1/17 Barbara Vaughan  
1/21 Leila Ismail  
1/22 Gus Schafer  
1/23 Ramona Coates  
1/27 Sophie Schafer  
1/28 Georgia Wood  
2/1 Caroline Lee  
2/3 Connie Adachi  
2/3 Anna Pelegrino

2/4 Ann Clements  
2/13 Soren Handahlson  
2/13 Alina McVey  
2/14 Shan McSpadden  
2/18 Leo Pelegrino  
2/19 Jamuel Starkey  
2/20 Linnea Nasman  
2/24 Ruby Childs  
2/24 Charles Lynch

2/24 Jim Shultz  
2/27 Derek Coates  
2/27 Laura Jokela  
2/27 Rev. Boyung Lee  
2/28 Jimmy Olney

Epworth United Methodist Church  
1953 Hopkins Street  
Berkeley, CA 94707

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## BORDERS & IDENTITY

How do the borders we cross and the boundaries we transgress shape our identities? Whether we are crossing national borders, or boundaries of gender, race or religion, we are changed in the process. And we, in turn, change the conversation.

Join the Epworth Community in February to consider where borders and identity intersect with our sacred texts and traditions.

Winter Bible Institute 2020 | Sundays in February at 11:45 a.m.

*We welcome all people on their journey of faith regardless of age, physical condition, race, gender, power, privilege, sexual orientation, class or culture, and support each other in our ministries to one another, the community and the world.*

*- Epworth has been a reconciling congregation since 1995. -*