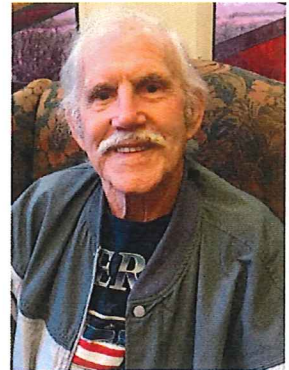


Words of Thanks and Appreciation from Pastor Dave

As I reflect on our life together, I can hardly believe that we are on the threshold of the month of May. There has been much going on in our life together that deserves words of thanks and appreciation. So I want to pause and give thanks and invite you to ponder the people and ministry of our common life for which you are thankful. Experience has shown me that this kind of sacred pause has a way of strengthening my sense of God's presence in our midst. I hope this may be the case for you, as well. If there is a particular individual for whom you are thankful, I encourage you to let them know either by telling them or by writing a note. You will be amazed by the effect your kind word has. Here are some folks who are on my list this month:

Thanks to Charlie Davis...

You have likely noticed as I have that there are people in our lives who do work that goes largely unnoticed, but which fosters a kind of environment that says, "You are welcome here." For over twelve years, one of those people in our midst has been our custodian, Charlie Davis. Often the work of a custodian is best described by what you don't notice – the chairs moved here or there, the floor swept or mopped after a crowd has inhabited the space. What I have noticed over the years is that Charlie hasn't just cared for our physical space, he also has fostered emotional and spiritual space over the years. I have observed Charlie taking time to check in with people as they have entered the building. On many occasions he has stopped what he was doing to offer an extra hand to others or give directions to newcomers seeking to find a meeting in our space. In short, Charlie has been a minister in our midst. On May 13th during the fellowship time and at the 11:15 am service during the prayer time, we will honor Charlie as he retires. I hope you will make a point of expressing your thanks and appreciation. Thank-you Charlie for your grace and service!



Thanks to our Program and Administrative Staff

You have likely noticed that since the beginning of the year we have been in an unusual season of change and transformation. Much of that has been associated with the sanctuary renovation project. As of this writing we are very nearly done with that project. A project of this magnitude requires more time and energy than anyone initially thinks it will take. This has been especially true of members of our program and music staff. I especially want to thank Bruce, Becca, Jackie, Bernie, Carol, Theo, and Janet for their remarkable flexibility, extra hours and commiseration at every phase of this transformation. They have offered extraordinary service in this season of our life. Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

Thanks to All Who Have Volunteered

Additionally, there have been so many who have volunteered to help with the sanctuary renovation in ways that are too many to name. If you have been part of any volunteer team, please know your time, energy, and help is not taken for granted. What a blessing you are! Thanks so very much!

Thanks for Your Patience and Generous spirit

No matter your level of involvement, a project of this type that involves change of this scope can be challenging. I am so thankful for the spirit of generosity and patience that has reflected the love of Christ in our midst. As we live into this newly designed space, may we remember that **our vision is to be a community growing in Christ that invites all and serves all with love and joy!** So in advance, I want to thank you for inviting people to taste the gospel through our shared life. In this way you will again discover a double blessing. And for that I must say, "Thanks be to God"! Shalom, Pastor Dave