



United Methodist Church
of Danielson

The Cross & Flame
Journal

Mission Statement:
Learning the Three O's -
Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors

Vision Statement:
Repentance, Renewal, Reform

April 2026

April message from Pastor Zach

When I was a kid, I formed an aversion to the English proverb, "April showers bring May flowers." Rain meant that we were inside for recess and wet every morning when we got to school and wet every afternoon or evening when arriving home again.

Most of the time it was only inconvenient, but there were other times when it could be downright dangerous.

Growing up in the Midwest, a chance for rain could quickly transition into a chance for thunderstorms, which could then in turn, mean a chance for tornadoes. It was not uncommon for a fun Friday evening to be quickly dampened by the rolling list of counties and towns in the path across the bottom of the screen, or an hours-long power outage. So, the scanner, the flashlights, and candles were always within reach.

By the time I really understood what all those reports and updates meant, I had already learned how to pray - for my family, my grandma at her house in town, alone. I'd pray for the towns listed on the screen, for my town to stay off that list, for the storm to pass, and the power to come

back on before it was time to go to bed.

For all that, I didn't like the rain. April wasn't my favorite month. However, I've grown to appreciate the rain over the years - the sight, the smell, the sound, sometimes even the feel. I've even grown to appreciate a good thunderstorm, but only with very little wind and zero rotation.

Watching a twister rip through farms and fields, woods and neighborhoods is certainly a sight to see, but the awe quickly gives way to the shock, sadness, and fear attached to witnessing such destruction, to wondering how it could have happened to them and not you, or to that town, yet again.

Without the April rains, May flowers can't grow. But also, without rain, there's less of the water we depend on for daily needs like drinking, washing, watering fields, gardens, lakes, and, of course, those flowers.

Rain is important to basic survival and the natural world, but the fact remains that, as with anything, rain comes with risk. We never know if we'll get enough or too much, accompanied by clapping thunder, lightning bolts, or rotating clouds. We pray for rain, but not for storms. We pray for provision, not destruction.

In a lesson in Matt 5 on loving our neighbors, Jesus says the Father "makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous; suggesting that the sun and rain can be both beneficial and detrimental. It is a reminder that we take the good with the bad in life, that to enjoy the flowers, you also must experience some rain.

The two can't be separated, just like love and grace go together. "If you only love those who love you, what reward do you have?" asks Jesus. "Don't even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete" Matt 5:45-46, CEB.

Love for everyone, not just those you like, is the whole package to a complete life with Christ. Rain and the sun, not just sun, is a healthy creation. Life needs both. We need both. Or, else, we can never hope to be complete. Let us receive the April rains just as willingly as flowers in May.

See you in church,
Pastor Zach



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Welcome to the United Methodist Church of Danielson

We're glad you found us.

Contact Us at ...

Church Office: 860-779-2018

Church Email:

betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org

Pastor's Cell: 217-840-1623

Pastor's Email:

pastor.zach@umcdanielson.org

Media Email:

media@umcdanielson.org

~ **Church Office Hours**~

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.- Noon

~**Pastor's Office Hours**~

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - Noon

Thursday: @ Chubby Dog: 10-12 p.m.,
or any other time by appointment.

Pastor Zach's Sabbath are Fridays.



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Saturday, May 2, 2026,
Noon-4pm at Putnam Rotary
Park.

Anyone interested in being a part of applying temporary tattoos, selling merch, and generally showering our LGBTQ siblings with love and grace at our booth this year, talk to Pastor Zach or Cori.



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Church Happenings:

Sunday:

10:15 a.m. Worship - In Person and Zoom (See link below)

2 p.m. Davis Place - every 1st Sunday

2 - 3 p.m. Al Anon in fellowship hall

Tuesday:

1 p.m. K.B.I.C. every 3rd Tuesday (off for the summer)

Wednesday:

12p.m. Community Kitchens

Friday:

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Diaper Bank, last Friday of the month

6:30 - 8pm: NA in fellowship hall

Saturday:

9 - 10 am: Bible Study in Christian Ed Room and Zoom (See link below)

10:15: Grief Group (2nd and 4th Saturdays)

ZOOM Info:

Sunday Service: **Meeting ID:** 899 8668 2568

Adult Sunday School: **Meeting ID:** 862 3566 5633

Bible study: **Meeting ID:** 707 166 7519

Liturgist schedule:

April 5 - Cyndi Perkins

April 12 - Lee Lambet

April 19 - Arianna Miles

April 26 - Sandy Andrews

Children's Moments:

April 5- Pastor Zach

April 12- Cyndi Perkins

April 19 - Chrissy Pagano

April 26 - Sue Martin

Getting to Know... **Joann**

Caulder

How and why did you come to this church?

Joann moved here in 1966 with her family. She was brought up Methodist.

How long have you been coming to UMCD?

Off and on for 60 years!

What is/was your profession?

Joann worked in the CT Correctional System as an LPN doing HIV clinics for 20 years.

What are your hobbies/interests?
Joann enjoys singing, Red Hat Society
and the theater.

A few words to describe yourself...
My goal in life was originally to attend
The School of Radio, Television and
Theater in Boston to become a
comedian to entertain the troops with
Bob Hope.



Please sign up for Coffee Time and
greeters. Please see Sandy Andrews
with questions or to sign the sign-up
sheets.

There is also a sign-up sheet for
flowers on the back table. If you
want to give flowers in honor or in
memory of a loved one, friend, pet,
special occasion, etc. please sign up!

Leadership group:

Lay Leader: Cyndi Perkins

Office Manager: Betsy Kneeland

Reverend: Zach LeCrone

IT/Media Director: Cori Sharrow



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Please feel free to share any of your
special events: joys & celebrations,
anniversaries, birthdays, special
awards/honors, trips, etc. The
deadline for news items is the 10th of
each month. Send info to
betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org

The church's email will be changing
soon. Please use
betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org.