

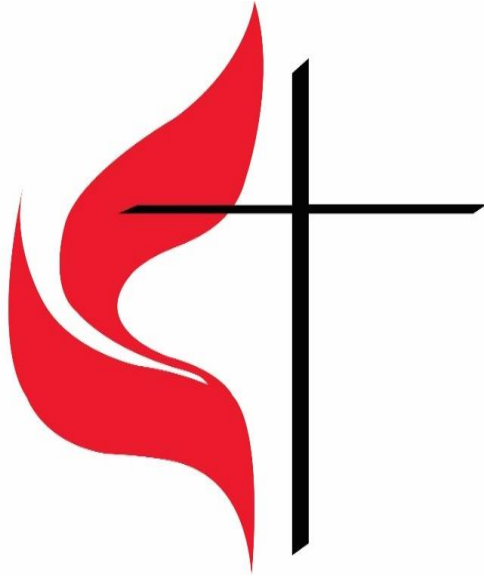


March 2026

March message from Pastor Zach:

The last late Monday afternoon of February [yesterday at the time of writing this article] saw me and the rest of the neighborhood clearing our walks and drives of what "The Bizzard of '26" left us. Many thanks to Bob and John, and Corrie and his brother for clearing the church and parsonage drives must be offered here.

Part of the responsibility I happily claim for myself is clearing the sidewalks from the doors to the street for the mail carrier and making paths for for fuel and propane delivery. As I was making my way up the walk that leads around to the side of the house, I heard a tapping and looked up to find Joie waving at me front kitchen window, I waved and went back to shoveling. As I came up to the sidesteps, I heard another tapping, this time at the dining room window, once again finding Joie waving and watching my progress, which, I have to say, was impressive for a guy who's dealt with back problems most of his adult life.



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

As most of you are aware, Joie was recently in PT for her own back-related issues, which originally were addressed with an assigned series of stretches that were challenging for her to always do voluntarily and by herself. So, Jess and I did them with her. And it's something we've been doing with her pretty much every day, twice a day since December.

And I can tell you, if I hadn't been doing them all that time, I'm not sure I would have kept going after clearing the first walk. Even though I'm sore today, I'm still able to do it and have no issue going back out today to do more. I credit this to doing those stretches with Jo.

As long as we're living, we're physically moving. And how well we move is often influenced by *how* we move. If we aren't using certain muscles, after a while, they won't want to be used when we need them. If we don't regularly move certain ways, eventually the ability may be lost to us.

I'm see this as a good faith analogy. I'm not the first to consider this. Others, more physically conscious than I have already said and written plenty on the connection. But the fact

remains: If we don't exercise the muscles of faith (and body), then we're less likely to have the ability to use them when we need them.

Lent is one of those times baked into the church calendar every year to be more intentional in exercising our faith. Last year, in addition to whatever else you have been doing to observe Lent, I challenged you to read through the gospels repeatedly throughout the season.

As Lent gets underway (we're only about a week in), I challenge you to flex those faith muscles in intentional ways again. This could be reading through the Gospels again, but it could also be doing something that expresses faith in other ways - getting groceries for someone snowed in (if you're not), helping clear snow (If you're physically able), or simply calling someone, sending a text, or card, offering time for a check in. Whatever it is, the letter to the Colossians tells us that we are "God's choice/chosen, holy and loved" so "put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (3:12, CEB). It's hard to *be* compassionate, kind, or patient when we don't *practice* being compassionate, kind, or patient. Let

love multiply among you and your neighbors, flex the muscles of faith as you watch Jesus pick up his cross, and do likewise.

See you in Church,
Pastor Zach



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: By appointment.

Pastor Zach's Sabbath are Fridays.

Things to put on your
calendar:



3/7/26

KBIC presents:
World Day of Prayer
"I Will Give You Rest:
Come"

Nigerian Luncheon, 12:00 p.m. at the
United Methodist Church of

Danielson. Followed by a service written by Nigerian women that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

For further information, please call the church at 860 779-2018.

Church Happenings:

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

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

Wednesday:

12p.m. Community Kitchens

6:30 - 8 pm AWOL (A Way Of Life) meeting

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) in Christian Ed Room and ZOOM (See link below)

ZOOM Info: Sunday Service:

Meeting ID: 899 8668 2568

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

Bible study and Grief Group:

Meeting ID: 707 166 7519

Liturgist schedule:

March 1 - Joann Caulder

March 8 - Scott Richards

March 15 - Mark Hoyt

March 22 - Chrissy Pagano

March 29 - Sue Martin

Children's Moments:

March 1 - Pastor Zach

March 8 - Cyndi Perkins

March 15 - Chrissy Pagano

March 22 - Sue Martin

March 29 - Betsy Kneeland



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Easter flowers can be ordered!
Order forms on the back table.



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!



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3/8 Connie Viveiros

3/21 Chad Miles

Project Haven: Warming Kits:

For the last few months, I and a few others from our church have been involved in what came out of the

Town Hall meeting about homelessness in our community at Westfield back in October. From that conversation came more intentional planning that has grown into a multi-faceted grassroots organization calling ourselves "Project Haven." Among the many resources we are currently putting together for our unhoused or car bound neighbors are warming kits. Below you will find a link to items you can purchase off the list that has been compiled for the backpacks. Some of the items include hats, gloves, and thermal socks.

Space in the warming shelters are often limited and more of our neighbors are finding themselves losing access to a stable roof over their heads and the need for basic items continues to grow. If you have a little extra to share in this way, check out the list. Our church is both a collection site for the items and a pickup site for the completed kits, which are now available.

We know this won't fix the bigger issues behind homelessness that are brought on by both socio-economic realities that are systemic in nature and individual choice. What we do know is that we are responsibly following the way of Jesus who said, "Give to those who ask, and don't

refuse those who wish to borrow from you" (Matthew 5:42).

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NWUCQS2H967L?ref=wl_share

[e](#)

Getting to Know...Chrissy Pagano

How and why did you come to this church? My brother, Kevin, was a member of the church. He LOVED it here. I started to attend periodically after he passed away. I felt so supported by folks here when my grief was raw. Now I come regularly. One of the sweet things about being at DUMC is that I feel Kevin's presence here. Y'all call me Chrissy because that is how Kevin introduced me. No one else still calls me that. I love it!

How long have you been coming to UMCD? Kevin passed away in October 2022. I have been coming more regularly since his memorial service.

What is/was or was your profession?

I am a certified teacher. I have worked almost exclusively in inner city schools and have taught every grade pre-K through eighth grade.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I enjoy yardwork three out of four seasons. Sometimes you will see

me sewing by hand during church events. I am learning to use a sewing machine but have always enjoyed hand sewing. I enjoy reading non-fiction including memoirs and autobiographies. When I'm on vacation, I pull out word searches. I love to hike around what used to be called the res, now it's called Quinnebaug Pond. Kevin and I used to go after church with the dog. We'd take turns: one would watch the dog, the other would pick up litter.

A few words about yourself...

Chrissy didn't answer this question so I will for her. Chrissy is fun, she is a born teacher, she cares deeply for her family and friends. She has a loving relationship with her God. I truly believe that Kevin brought Chrissy to this church because she needed us and we needed her. She is a gift to everyone she meets.



LENT

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Leadership group:

Lay Leader: Cyndi Perkins

Office Manager: Betsy Kneeland

Reverend: Zach LeCrone

IT/Media Director: Cori Sharrow

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

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The church's email has changed.

Please use

betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org

going forward.