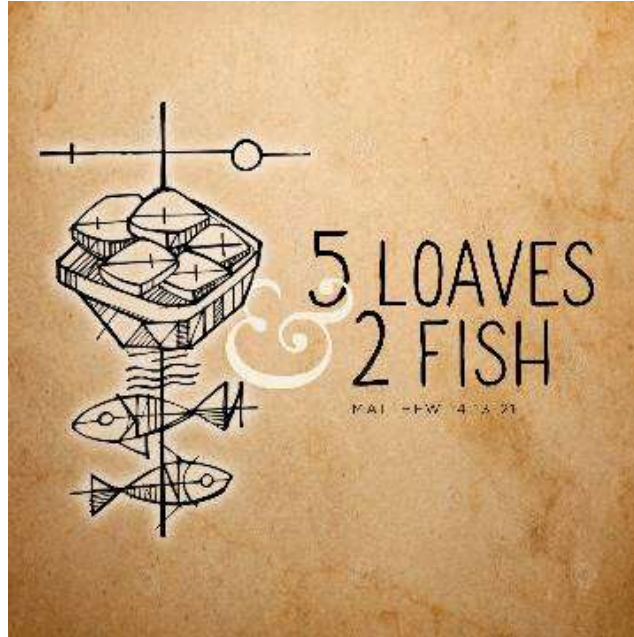


Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP
9TH Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, August 6, 2023



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision
(arr. Nancy Raabe)

Monica Adams

GATHERING MOMENT

Laura Dinges

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our hearts to receive your love.

All: Come now, Lord, and pour your love into our lives once again.

Leader: Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our eyes to see your glory.

All: Come now, Lord, for we are waiting to see your face. Amen

Laura Dinges

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Carol Willson

*OPENING HYMN

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

UMH #129

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

Laura Dinges

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Laura Dinges

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Laura Dinges

(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with You!")

All Sing: *And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Asked The Lord
(by Johnny Lange & Jimmy Duncan)

Rachelle Mimms, Soprano
Monica Adams, Piano

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32:22-31 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 30)

Laura Dinges

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

A Place at the Table

TFWS #3149

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:13-21 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 16)

Laura Dinges

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"What Is Your Name?"

Rev. Sungho Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Laura Dinges

After a concern, the worship leader will say "Let us pray to the Lord," and the congregation will reply, "**Lord, hear our prayer!**"

After a joy, the worship leader will say "Let us pray to the Lord," and the congregation will reply, "**Lord, we give thanks!**"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Sungho Lee

THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

Laura Dinges

OFFERTORY

Grow Closer
(by Doris Akers)

Monica Adams & Rachelle Mimms
Piano Duet

***DOXOLOGY**

What Gift Can We Bring
***What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?***

UMH #87

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Laura Dinges

COMMUNION

UMH #23-24

Laura Dinges

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and a good and joyful thing...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sing: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Sing: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Sing: Amen, amen, amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Sungho Lee

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Come and Let Us Sweetly Join

UMH #699

Take Our Bread

UMH #640

Fill My Cup, Lord

UMH #641

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Sungho Lee

*RESPONSE

Shalom to You

UMH #666

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

*POSTLUDE

*Herr Jesu Christ, var. 5
(Bohm)*

Monica Adams

The flower arrangement on the altar is given by Mya Nisby's family in celebration of her 5th birthday.

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Laura Dinges, Worship Leader
Carol Willson, Children's Moment
Ric Campero, Choir Director
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
Rachelle Mimms, Hymn Leader
David Campero, Livestream
Mark Wharff & Steven Adams, Media
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
Rupert Cooper, Audio

SERMON IN A NUTSHELL: "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?"

What does your name mean?

Throughout the Bible, name changes hold deep symbolic significance, signifying profound shifts in individuals' lives and their destinies. In Genesis 17:5, we witness how God's renaming of Abram to Abraham illustrates the transformative power of a new identity. The alteration from "Abram," meaning a proud father of a son, to "Abraham," symbolizing a father of nations, marks a transition from a personal focus to a broader, more inclusive purpose.

Name can be changed.

In a similar vein, the story of Jacob's name-change in Genesis 32:22-31 reveals another instance of life-altering transformation through divine intervention. Jacob, grappling with an enigmatic man until daybreak, experiences a physical and spiritual struggle that leads to the change of his name to Israel. This new name signifies that Jacob, once a cunning heel-grabber, has now become a man who wrestles with God.

In the Old Testament tradition, encountering God's face could result in death. However, the wrestling match at the Jabbok River becomes a metaphorical baptism for Jacob, signifying the death of his old self and the emergence of a new identity. This act of divine renaming represents a profound turning point in Jacob's life, granting him a fresh start and a new purpose.

Jacob's request to know the man's name reflects his desire for blessings solely for himself. Yet, through the transformative struggle, Jacob relinquishes his self-centered aspirations and redirects his focus towards a more significant calling. He symbolically sends his possessions and family across the river, signifying a shift from self-centeredness to a commitment to a greater cause—wrestling with God.

Upon receiving his new name, Israel, Jacob declares that he has seen God face-to-face and that his life has been saved. The renaming process is an affirmation of Jacob's spiritual growth and his newfound devotion to a higher purpose. As he passes Penuel, he limps, a physical reminder of his transformative struggle, signifying the sacrifices made on his path to becoming Israel.

Glittering Success

The meaning behind my name, Sung Ho, "Glittering Success," was initially intended by my father to propel me towards a prosperous career as a lawyer in Korea. However, my life took a profound turn when I confronted a fundamental question, "What is the purpose of my life?" This pivotal moment led me to redefine the concept of success, seeking not worldly achievements but instead aligning my aspirations with a higher purpose, as seen through the eyes of God. I came to realize that genuine success might entail

carrying my cross and making sacrifices, much like Jesus did to fulfill his divine mission. In God's perspective, true glittering success was epitomized by the Cross.

Recently I read a book, "The Road to Character" by David Brooks. Our lay leader, John Bradbury recommended the book to me. It compares a life for a resume with a life for an eulogy. I can apply this comparison to the change of meaning of my name. I lived a life for a resume and now I live a life for an eulogy. It is not about achievement and success but about relationship and meaning.

While my name remained the same, its meaning underwent a significant transformation. Success, to me, is no longer measured by material wealth, power, fame, or popularity akin to what celebrities often pursue. Instead, it is intrinsically tied to the fulfillment of the mission I have been called to undertake.

In the Gospel story of feeding the five thousand, the disciples experienced a similar shift in perspective, albeit without receiving new names. They began with questions rooted in limitation: "When should we send the crowds away so they can find food for themselves?"; "Where can we find the resources to feed them?" Jesus, however, presented them with new questions, broadening their perspective: "How can we give them something to eat?"; "What do we have among us right now?"

By changing their questions, the disciples bore witness to miracles unfolding before their eyes. They learned to recognize the abundance present in their midst, turning five loaves of bread and two fish into a feast for thousands. The act of feeding the hungry multitude not only demonstrated Jesus' compassion but also unveiled the power of shifting one's perspective to unveil hidden opportunities and resources.

Similarly, my journey towards redefining success involved withdrawing from a predetermined path to explore my deeper purpose. Like Jesus retreating to a deserted place, I took time for introspection and contemplation. In doing so, I realized that success, as defined by God, transcends conventional notions and societal expectations. It centers on fulfilling a unique calling and dedicating oneself to a higher cause.

Success, in God's eyes, embraces the ethos of selfless service and compassion. The narrative of the Cross illustrates that true achievement might require sacrifice and a willingness to carry burdens for the greater good. In seeking to embody this divine perspective of success, I strive to contribute to society, uplift others, and make a meaningful impact.

Unlocking Abundance: The Power of Asking the Right Questions

In our journey through life, we often encounter various challenges that seem insurmountable, leading us to pose questions driven by a scarcity mindset. We find ourselves contemplating what we lack—time, money, or talents—instead of embracing the principle of abundance that God desires us to adopt. To discover a transformative path forward, it is crucial to change the questions we ask, shifting our focus from limitations to boundless possibilities.

Consider the example of someone contemplating starting a taxi company, akin to Uber or Lyft. The typical scarcity-based question might be, "How many cars do I need to buy to run a taxi company?" However, through a lens of abundance, the question transforms into, "How can I connect people who have cars with those who need rides?" This shift in perspective opens the door to innovative solutions that may not have been apparent before.

Similarly, envisioning the creation of hotels or lodgings with limited financial resources might seem an impossible endeavor. But by asking, "How can I connect people who have rooms with those in need of a place to stay?"—inspired by the success of platforms like Airbnb—we can unlock a world of possibilities and redefine the approach to lodging services.

Applying this principle of abundance to a church setting, we might face challenges in financing projects like installing solar panels and providing air conditioning in the sanctuary. Instead of fixating on the lack of funds, we can ask, "What other ministries become possible if we have air conditioning in our sanctuary?" By exploring potential benefits and broader impacts, we expand our vision of what is achievable.

In the realm of education and outreach, finding ways to engage youth and children might seem daunting. However, shifting from "Where can we find youth and children to bring to our church?" to "What activities do children and youth love, and how can we incorporate those into our ministry?" empowers us to connect authentically with younger generations and cultivate a vibrant community.

Fundraising for mission projects is another area where a scarcity mindset can hinder progress. Transforming the question from "Where can we find money to support mission?" to "What mission projects do people want to support?" enables a more focused approach to fundraising and aligns with the passions and interests of potential donors.

Throughout the Bible, we find stories of miracles that result from asking the right questions, demonstrating the profound impact of embracing abundance thinking. The right questions not only open doors to creative solutions but can also lead to a newfound sense of purpose, prompting a shift in one's identity or perception of their name.

Embracing an abundance mindset and asking the right questions can unlock new visions and possibilities in our lives. By redirecting our focus from limitations to opportunities, we can navigate challenges with renewed determination and find transformative solutions. Let us heed the call to change our questions and explore the depths of abundance that the God of miracles has in store for each of us. So, I ask you once more: What is your name? What questions do you ask to live up to your name?



MID YEAR LEADERSHIP SUMMITT

In September (**September 10 after 11 AM service**), we will have the Mid-Year leadership summit to review our goals that we have set at the beginning of this year and to follow up.

Each committee chair needs to prepare to present the following:

1. What were the goals of the committee?
2. What have you achieved and what you have not? Why?
3. What is your plan for next year?

Finance Committee will present Budget Process:

Sep 15, Expense Budget Due Date. Plan your committee's activities and budget now with your members.

Oct 15, Pledge Drive Ends. Right after we have the expense budget, we will start a pledge drive. The Finance Committee will work on the budget for 2024.

Nov-Dec. Church Conference. The date will be given to us by the District Superintendent in September.

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT CENTRAL WILL BE LIKE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?

Join the members of the Isaiah Partnership for a light lunch Sunday, August 13, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will work together to establish some priorities and values for our church. We're going to use a process with a fancy name – The Dotification Process.

Back in January, we gathered around tables and shared Central's strengths, challenges, and opportunities. The co-facilitators of the Isaiah Partnership were able to narrow the rich feedback to three areas of focus- education, music and the church being a community center.

The members of the Isaiah Partnership need to hear from you again. Each person who attends the event on August 13 will receive five dots, and the attendees will have the opportunity to place their dots under the values that they believe are best for our church community moving forward as a way to share God's love in the community.

We can't do this by ourselves, so please plan on joining us for the Dotification meeting following the church service.

Rev. Sungho Lee and Alan Cook, co-facilitators of the Isaiah Partnership.

The Isaiah Partnership is built upon the passage from Isaiah 43:18-19a: *"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

It includes a process of innovation and change in and alongside our congregation.

A SUMMER MISSION PROJECT

Central has been invited to participate in Pacific's Day of Service scheduled for August 26 during new student orientation. We have been asked to provide the items for care packages for the unhoused women of our community. Until August 20 you are invited to shop for the following items:

- Wet wipes
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Socks
- Single serving snacks
- Feminine hygiene products
- Bandages
- Comb/brush
- Pocket Packs facial tissues
- Lip balm
- Nail clippers
- Small bottles of Shampoo

Bring your donations on Sundays and place them in the red tubs located in the Knoles Building and in the Atrium. On August 26 a group of incoming Pacific students will put them together. Please consider inviting your friends and co-workers to join you in donating. If you are unable to shop and would like to donate money to help cover the cost of the purchase, be sure to include the words Day of Service on the memo line of your check.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Lee's Summer Bible Study Small Group during August on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00am worship service (except for the Sundays when Book Club meets, and Annual

Conference happens). The study is open to everyone. Come to the Fellowship Hall and learn about the leadership of Samuel, King Saul, and King David in the Bible.

THE OFFICE

The office area is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. If you need to make copies or need to be in the office area, please come by during the week. It is best to make an appointment as we are short-staffed and may be in a meeting, on lunch or running errands.

Also, regarding the buildings. The buildings are kept locked during the week for the safety of the staff, nursery schoolteachers and children, and groups that use the facilities during the week. The office and the buildings are closed on Saturdays. On Sunday, only buildings that are being used are unlocked – usually the Knoles Building and the Sanctuary. Again, the other buildings are kept locked for the safety of staff and others on campus. We have had several unpleasant encounters with some of the homeless on our campus and we need to be sure that everyone feels safe while on our facility. Thank you for understanding. If you have any questions, please contact Susie Wanden at swanden@cumcstockton.org.