

The Divine Comedy:

Notes from Pastor Darryl

April 2018

By the time you open this DIVINE COMEDY, Jesus will have Risen! We will have sang our *HALLELUJAHs* and broken our Lenten Fasts. Opening Day will have occurred bringing hope that springs eternal! And I will have begun my Sabbatical.

I am very excited about my Sabbatical and the experiences and opportunities it brings. From the differing retreats (silent and art), to my Spanish immersion classes, to the fact that I'll be at my Godson's high school graduation, I am looking forward to it very much. I have a stack of books as tall as a small child that I am excited to plow into and I have tickets for the Mets when they visit the Padres at the end of April. Throw in a sensory deprivation tank, some guitar lessons, and just taking hikes with my pups, and I feel like I have planned it out well.

Each month in the CHIMES newsletters, I will have a brief update and maybe a picture or two to keep you abreast of my comings and goings.

I have all the faith in the world that my Sabbatical time will be a wonderful experience not only for me but the for congregation as well. We are blessed with incredibly gifted leaders, are on solid footing financially, and the staff is phenomenal across the board. We ought to have no anxiety about this time. In fact, I believe that it will be as recharging and reinvigorating for the congregation as it is for me.

Plus, you're going to fall in love with Rev. Dr. David Pitt. I am so glad that God sent him our way. I leave him in good hands, as I know you will welcome him and partner with him to do fun and fruitful ministry and mission while I am on my Sabbatical leave.

Finally, let us hold each other in our hearts and lift each other in prayer during this season of renewal. I believe that “something” happens when we pray. It changes us as well as puts out intentions for the Spirit to employ. It will warm my heart knowing as I am lighting a candle for you at the Abby of Gethsemani that you have lifted my name in worship on Sunday.

I pray all of you will be in good health, have grateful hearts that are aware of God’s blessings, that you work diligently for the poor and the downtrodden, and that you love one another as Christ has so dearly loved us.

I know this to be very true from previous churches that I have served: it is one thing to put a sabbatical time in a Minister’s Call Agreement, it is another thing entirely to honor that Call Agreement and allow a minister to take a Sabbatical leave. So let me say from the bottom of my heart:



Peace. Love. Understanding.

Pastor Darryl