

# A Word from Pastor Sharei

Dear friends,

The passage of time continues to surprise me. It is hard to believe we are approaching six months together in ministry. In many ways, it still feels new, and yet I also feel the deep gift of beginning to know you more fully, your stories, your care for one another, and the spirit of this community.

Just recently, we celebrated Pentecost, that moment when the Spirit moved in unexpected and powerful ways and invited the church into something new. Pentecost reminds us that the church is always becoming, always being called to dream, imagine, and vision cast together about who God is calling us to be next.

And now, as we enter this season after Pentecost, we arrive at Pride Month, a time to celebrate the dignity, belovedness, and full humanity of LGBTQIA+ people, while also recognizing the ongoing work of justice, safety, and belonging that still lies before us.

This month, we will center the theme of "Belonging." What does it mean to come as you are? What does it mean to create a community where people are not merely welcomed, but genuinely seen, valued, and loved? In a world that so often demands performance, perfection, or sameness, the gospel offers something different. Jesus consistently made room at the table for people to show up fully as themselves.

My prayer is that United in Faith continues to grow into that kind of community. A place where people can breathe deeply, ask honest questions, bring their whole selves, and encounter the expansive love of God through one another. I am grateful for these first months together, and I look forward to continuing the journey alongside you.

With grace and hope,  
Pastor Sharei