



Pastoral Letter from Reverend Dr. Debra Murray to all AAPI FUMCPA members, friends, and communities.

Dear Asian American and Pacific Islander FUMCPA members and friends,

I am writing you to let you know that I am deeply sorry that your community is suffering due to the escalating anti-Asian violence. There has been a lot of coverage regarding the murder of the six women in Atlanta, however, there has not been widespread coverage of the continued and increased hate crimes against AAPI people in the United States since our previous President's hateful alignment of the coronavirus with people of Asian descent.

When I heard that hate rhetoric, my heart sank for your community, and our country. Hate against any of us is hate inflected toward all of us because injustice anywhere is a threat against justice everywhere. (Reverend. Dr. Martin Luther King) This past year has demonstrated that our individual, communal and global fate is inescapably mutually intertwined more than we ever realized and that what affects one of us directly and indirectly affects us all.

As an inclusive, Anti-racist community, FUMCPA is committed to introspection and dialogue as we engage daily in working for justice and equity for all.

We unequivocally condemn this hatred toward Asian American and Pacific Island communities, as well as hatred toward all people based on race, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

We want you to know that First United Methodist Church is recommitting to our efforts to hold ourselves and our officials accountable to dismantle systems of racism, misogyny, and xenophobia, and build a world in which everyone belongs and is able to thrive.

You are not alone. First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto and a vast spiritual community is standing with you surrounding you with prayers, and good energy filled with love and light during this time. We see you. We witness your pain. We seek to be part of the healing through love and solidarity.

Love,

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto

