

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon
May 6, 2026
“The Crayon Project”

Cleaning out my office last week, I found a drawer full of odds and ends - among them were “orphaned” crayons. You know the ones: snapped in half, paper peeling, yet still vibrant with color.

They reminded me of a small group experiment. We each brought broken crayons to a meeting. We let them represent the jagged edges of our experiences and our unfinished stories.

We discussed that we all carry “fragments.” Perhaps it’s a dream that didn’t quite take shape, a season of life that felt cut short, or a weary spirit worn down by all the busyness. My own go to response is to toss these broken pieces aside.

Jesus, standing in the middle of the leftovers of loaves and fishes gives me pause when he says, “Gather the fragments...so that nothing may be lost.” (John 6:12). In God’s economy of grace, broken doesn’t mean finished.

We placed our scraps in a shared dish and let the heat do its work. What emerged was a multi-colored heart. It was a symbol of hope; a new tool to be used. Because it was made of many colors, it made a unique mark and we decorated a letter we wrote to someone.

Your fragment—no matter how small—is the exact color needed in the mosaic. Soon, we’ll be doing our own “Crayon Project” at St. Paul. I invite you to look around your own junk drawers and toy boxes. Gather the discarded crayons, peel the paper, and bring the pieces. Let’s see what new thing we might make - and how it might be used to be a blessing. More details coming soon.

Grace and Peace,

Darren

