

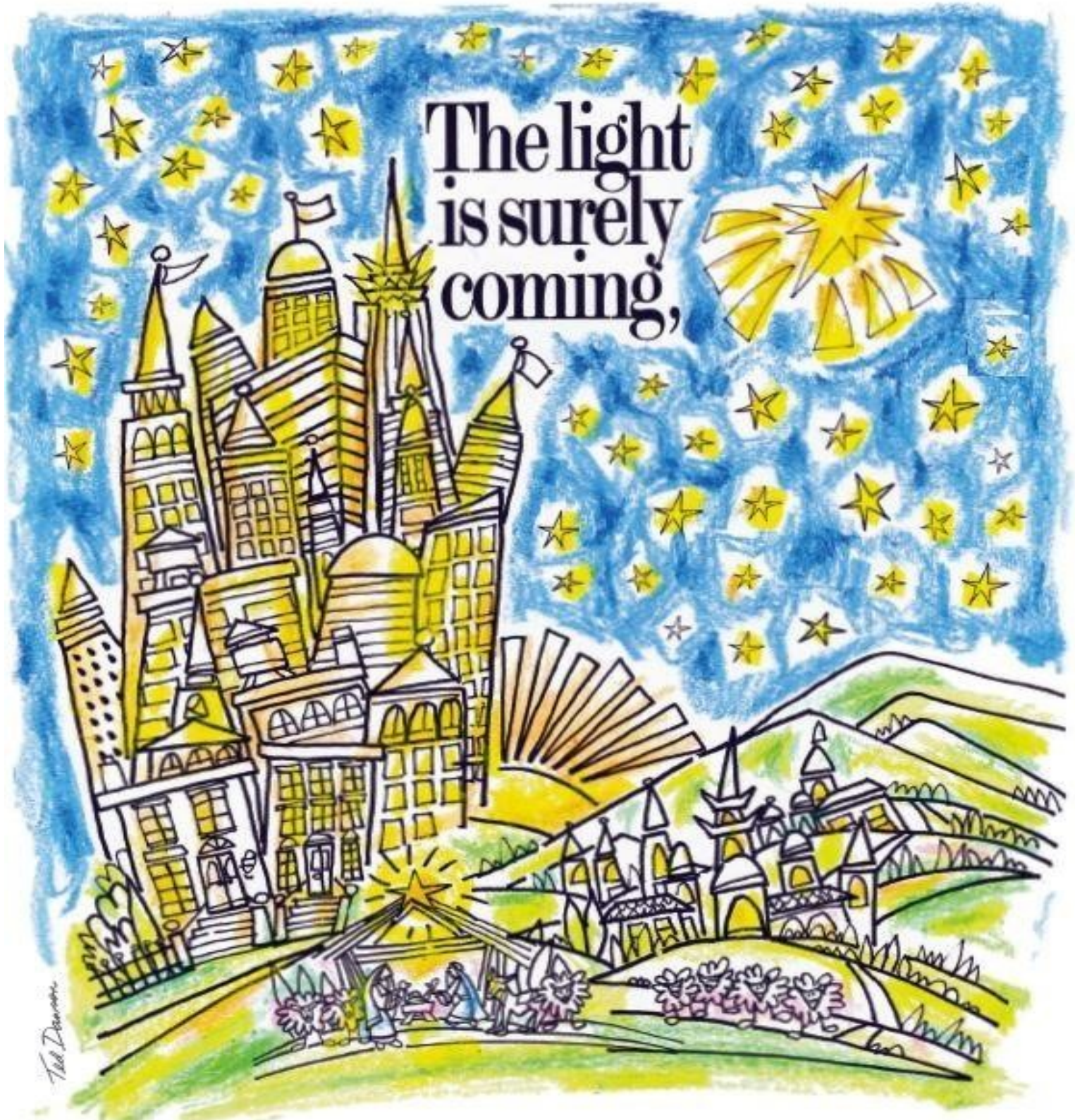


# THE CHIMES

## December 2018



# ADVENT SEASON







## BIRTHDAYS

Jordynn Sanchez	8th
Lynn DeHahn	8th
Donna Purificacion	9th
Dorothy Webb	11th
Ann Spooner	15th
Nancy Lind	17th
Jaybee Limbo	17th
Elizabeth Maderazo	18th
Helgo Rindone	20th
Marilyn Bintz	20th
Margaret Turchen	22nd
Duane Sterner	23rd
Joann Hooper	23rd
Christine Ogden	25th
Jan Bauer	25th
Betty Buck	27th
Dale Lambert	28th

### Sunday Morning Schedule

#### 1st Service

7:30AM Fellowship

8:15AM Worship

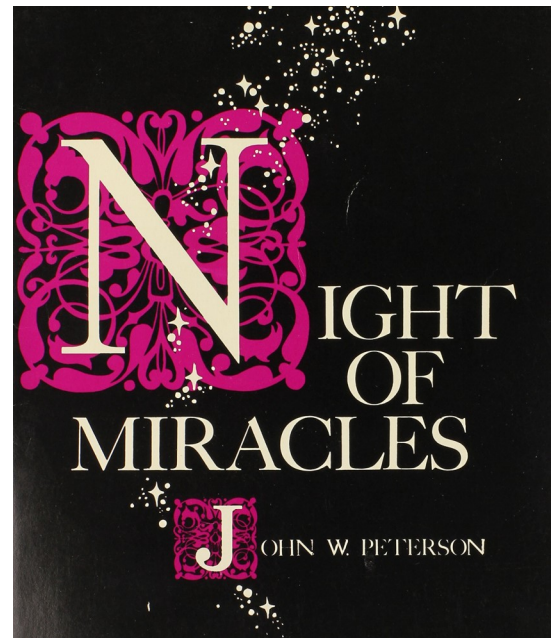
#### 2nd Service

10:00AM Worship

11:00AM Fellowship

#### Sunday School

10:00AM



*The Chancel Choir will be singing the Christmas Cantata, "Night of Miracles", by John W. Peterson, on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM. Please invite your friends to this wonderful event. The Choir will also be singing the Cantata on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the 10:00 AM service.*



### **from Rev. Liz Aguilar**

I have been “on the job” only for two and a half weeks so far and yet, it feels like I have been here much longer, already! Why? Because you all have made me feel very welcome and because so many of you feel like old friends, already! In just this short amount of time, we have managed to have two wonderful Sundays together, four worship services, a successful Stewardship Sunday, a beautiful baptism, a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner, a very informative Women’s Fellowship meeting and program, a productive Church Council Meeting and many individual meetings with staff and board chair persons! Phew!! You are a very busy, vibrant congregation and I am SO thrilled to be your new, settled, Senior Pastor.

Now looking ahead, we have the wonderful opportunity to draw closer to God during this special time of the church year, called Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word, “advenire,” which means, “to come.” During Advent the Christian Church celebrates that Christ will come again someday and of course, Advent leads up to Christmas when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As a way to carry out the celebration of Advent, we will be using the UCC Christmas Fund Theme this year, which is, “Surely The Light Is Coming.” During each individual Sunday we will be focusing on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love and we will reflect how it is that we are called to share those in the world.

You won’t want to miss these special Advent Sundays as you will receive something special as a way to continue to reflect on the theme of the service, throughout the week, at your home or at work. I am grateful for Donna Purificacion’s help in creating the themes and gifts that will be shared with the congregation.

Special music will, of course, be sung and shared, as well as families and/ or individuals who will be lighting our Advent candles...! The sanctuary has been beautifully decorated by Sylvia Campbell and Pelito Capistrano. As you can see, SO much is waiting for us to participate fully in this Advent and Christmas Season!



# PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



Please call the church office and ask for Pastor Jim Donahoo, at 619-422-9263, if you have a prayer request. Our Prayer Chain Ministry is available for you, a friend, an acquaintance, or a loved one.

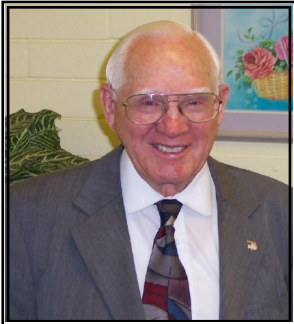
## Blessings from your Church Family



*Meeting is at 10:30 AM on December 12th in Bradley Hall. Reminder: Thank Boxes; and 2019 Dues ( \$15.00).*

*The Program, a Presentation of Christmas songs by our cute Preschool children, will be at 11:00 AM, also in Bradley Hall. A catered lunch Cost (\$10.00) will be served at 12 Noon. Make reservations by calling Kay Rouse at 619-479-7676 by Friday, the 7th, and cancellations need to be made by Sunday, the 9th.*

PASTOR JIM DONAHOO  
MINISTER OF VISITATION



**Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*THOUGHT: Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.* — Neal A. Maxwell

**R**ecently, I had lunch with a friend, and she asked me, “What is Advent again? I get it mixed up with Lent.”

“Advent is the four weeks before Christmas,” I replied.

“Oh yeah, that’s right,” she said. “It’s that time when you wait, expecting something great and you are hopeful.”

That’s it in a nutshell, isn’t it? Waiting, expecting, hoping. A perfect description of Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, who were both waiting, expecting and hopeful.

Sounds easy enough: Expectant, hopeful waiting.

Sounds easy, but I find it the hardest part of Advent. Cards and letters to write, gifts to purchase and wrap ... and the waiting turns into activity. Doing something is much easier than waiting expectantly.

Perhaps confusing Advent and Lent isn’t such a bad idea. What if I gave up something for Advent just as I do for Lent? And what if I gave up “activity” and substituted “waiting”? A quiet waiting. A hopeful waiting. An expectant waiting.

Come to think of it: Why limit the attitude of waiting to Advent? Wouldn’t this be the best way for me to greet every day? In stillness? In hope? And always expectant?

Each day could be a day in which I expect wonderful things will happen.

I will also expect the best from the people who come my way.

Expecting with hope. That’s Advent.

It’s also the way I want to live every day!

—Melanie Silva

*Prayer: Let this Advent season be different for me, O God. Grant me the grace to wait in expectant stillness, full of hope for what is to come. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

# JUST A THOUGHT

**By Erika Dennis**

With the beginning of this Advent season, there may be heard a sigh of relief and a prayer of thanks for again having a permanent pastor. Three years ago, our former pastor retired. An interim period started with his departure, and the search for a new pastor began. The word interim implies a time of searching and uncertainty. We humans yearn for permanence, which promises stability and security. However, we are grateful that our interim time was well spent. To be honest, during that period our interim minister, Dr. Sharon Graff, opened our eyes to many new experiences. Without them, we would not be what we are today. She coached and coaxed us to pick up our roots, move into the here and now, and begin to plan our future. After the Search Committee had found our new settled pastor, we said farewell to our interim minister. For the few weeks that followed, it seemed to many of us that time had stood still. But our assistant pastors, the well-trained office staff, as well as various boards and committees kept the church running at the normal pace.

Now that we have explored the congregation's unusual problems, let's take a look at the complex situation a pastor faces. Whereas we have to get acquainted with just one stranger, Pastor Liz has the task of getting to know almost 200 different personalities. Everybody is eager to make personal contact with a few friendly words. This may not be so daunting in a denomination with exacting rules, but in the friendly UCC we invite everybody to join, wherever you are on your life's journey. While all member churches observe the same basic rules of the UCC, each congregation decides many issues independently. Consequently, each church has its own highly individual character that must be studied and understood to guarantee good communication and warm interaction with all members, whatever their needs may be.

There is so much more. We haven't even touched the "normal" pastoral duties. For example, there are baptisms, weddings, funerals, Sunday services with sermons, counseling members with problems, hospital visits, special ceremonies for holy days, Association and other meetings. The list goes on and on. Maybe even singing in the choir? It seems impossible that all these jobs can be done working 50 hours a week. Then there is much to learn about the day-by-day administration of a church. Even with a well-run organization, many situations occur that require a pastor's knowledgeable input. It is easy to see that a pastor's work can be very stressful. Just reading about some of the details of Pastor Liz's work can make us feel overwhelmed. I am certain all of us want to do our part to make our new pastor's settling in as pleasant as possible. With God's help we can accomplish that job by being the friendly congregation that we have always been.



**REV. VICTORIA FREIHEIT**  
**ASSOCIATE FOR SENIOR MINISTRY**

This will be my last Christmas Meditation—until 2019—it is from a 2009 email:

**Letter from Jesus about Christmas**

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year, and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered any time.

How I feel about this celebration can be understood by those of you who have been blessed with children. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Does it bother you that the town where you live doesn't allow a Nativity Scene in the town square? Just put one on your own front yard. If all My followers did that, there would be no need for one on the town square.

Don't worry if people call the tree a holiday tree instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees—remember Me any time you see a tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in explaining who I am in relation to you, and what each of our tasks were. In case you have forgotten, look up John 15:1-8.

If you'd like to give Me a present to remember My Birth, here is My wish list—choose one:

Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My Birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

Visit someone in a nursing home. They need to know someone cares about them.

Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

Pick someone who has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

Someone in your town will attempt to commit suicide this season because they feel so alone and hopeless. Since you don't know who that is, give everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make a difference.

There are families and individuals in your town who not only will not have a Christmas tree, they won't have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

If you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget: I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember.

**I LOVE YOU,**

**JESUS**



# Community Congregational Preschool



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM is on December 21st in Bradley Hall at 9:30 am. Pot luck refreshments will follow the program.**

**Please feel free to come enjoy the show as the children perform Christmas songs!**

**We will then be on our winter break for two weeks. Returning to school on Monday, January 7th, 2019!!!**

**We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

**The CCP staff**

*With Love,*

*Kim Applegill  
Brittany Hooper  
Christina Braud  
Nissi Santizo  
Jessema  
Velma Avalon  
Madison Braud  
Linda Payne  
North Taz*



## Sunday Greeters, Ushers and Readers

Date	8:15 AM Greeters/Ushers	8:15 AM Readers
12/2/2018	Judy & Jerry May	Jerry May
12/9/2018	JoAnn & Bill Roubinek	JoAnn Roubinek
12/16/2018	Norma & Frank Brainard	Norma Brainard
12/23/2018	Judy & Jerry May	Judy May
12/30/201	Joanne & Chris Dunn	Chris Dunn

### 10:00 AM

#### Greeter

**Jim Donahoo**

#### Ushers

**Reuben Barrera  
Nate Purificacion  
Meylin Limbo  
Abner Limbo**

### 10:00 AM Readers

**12/2/2018**

**Ruth Jones**

**12/9/2018**

**Kennan Limbo**

**12/16/2018**

**Mike Bishop**

**12/23/2019**

**Pat Doege**

**12/30/2019**

**Ester Banayo**

*The Mission Board is responding by sending to the devastating fires up north \$500.00 to the northern Cal UCC conference office. They will send the money to the agencies up there. If you would also like to contribute to the fund, we will be taking special offerings on Dec. 9th & 18th. Put it in the envelope and mark it "Fire Fund". Thank you for caring.*

# December 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	<b>Nov 25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Nov 25 - Dec 1				
	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Dec 2 - 8	8:15am 9:15am Worship (Sanctuary) 8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (Jewel Chapel) 9:00am 10:00am Adult Bible Study (Conf) 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Ro 2:00pm 4:00pm FOV Youth (Community	6:30pm 9:30pm Cub/Boyscouts (Basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm Laubach ESL (Small dining room) 6:30pm 8:00pm Girl Scouts (Lounge) 7:00pm 9:00pm FOV Youth Night (Bradley Hall)	9:00am 1:00pm Quilter's Christmas Lunch (Quilter's Room) 4:45pm 8:15pm American Youth (Bradley Hall) 6:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 7:00pm 9:00pm AA - Top of the Hill (Lounge)	10:00am 3:00pm M for Tower Party 6:00pm 9:00pm FO
	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Dec 9 - 15	8:15am 9:15am Worship (Sanctuary) 8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (J 9:00am 10:00am Adult Bible Study (Conf 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:30am 12:30pm Church Boards Meet 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Ro 2:00pm 4:00pm FOV Youth (Community	6:30pm 9:30pm Cub/Boyscouts (Basement) 6:30pm 8:00pm Girl Scouts (Lounge) 7:00pm 9:00pm FOV Youth Night (Bradley Hall)	9:00am 1:00pm Quilter's (Quilter's Room) 4:45pm 8:15pm American Youth (Bradley Hall) 6:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 7:00pm 9:00pm AA - Top of the Hill (Lounge)	10:30am 1:00pm W (Bradley Hall) 5:30pm 8:30pm Qu 6:00pm 9:00pm FO
	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Dec 16 - 22	8:15am 9:15am Worship (Sanctuary) 8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (J 9:00am 10:00am Adult Bible Study (Conf 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:30am 12:30pm Church Council Meet 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Ro 2:00pm 4:00pm FOV Youth (Community	5:30pm 9:00pm Scouts Christmas Dinner (Bradley Hall) 6:30pm 9:30pm Cub/Boyscouts (Basement) 6:30pm 8:00pm Girl Scouts (Lounge)	9:00am 1:00pm Quilter's (Quilter's Room) 4:45pm 8:15pm American Youth (Bradley Hall) 6:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 7:00pm 9:00pm AA - Top of the Hill (Lounge)	5:00pm 10:00pm FO (Bradley Hall & K 6:00pm 9:00pm FO
	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Dec 23 - 29	8:15am 9:15am Worship (Sanctuary) 8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (Jewel Chapel) 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Room 5) 2:00pm 4:00pm FOV Youth (Community	Christmas Eve (United States)	Christmas Day (United States)	6:00pm 9:00pm FO
	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Jan 1, 19</b>	<b>2</b>
Dec 30 - Jan 5	8:15am 9:15am Worship (Sanctuary) 8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (Jewel Chapel) 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Room 5) 2:00pm 4:00pm FOV Youth (Community	New Year's Eve (United States) 9:00pm 12:00am FOV (Jewel Chapel)		





## COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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communitycong@sbcglobal.net

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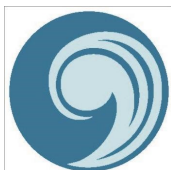
**Return Address Requested**

## Community Congregational Church (UCC)

***"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey... you are welcome here!"***

### Mission Statement

- We strive to be a multi-generational, culturally diverse family of people dedicated to the principles of Christ, and the service of God in the world and local communities.
- Based on our open, loving relationship with God, we invite, through action and service, others throughout our changing community to join in faith and fellowship of our church.
- We strive to be a church where members are empowered to bring beliefs, skills, and passions. We strive to embrace change consistent with our sense of selves and our community.
- We seek to present our diversity of worship and program experiences based on interests, needs and concerns.
- We are a member of the United Church of Christ



### **CHIMES Newsletter**

published monthly by  
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276 F Street,  
Chula Vista, CA 91910  
[www.chulavistachurch.com](http://www.chulavistachurch.com)

### Senior Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar

### Associate for Senior Ministry

Rev. Victoria Freiheit

### Minister of Visitation

Pastor James Donahoo

### Parish Visitor

Erika Dennis

### Director of Administrative Ministries

Amber Ashford

### Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Jamall Calloway

### Interim Leader for Sunday School, Youth and Young Adults

Kennan Limbo

### Church Musician

Lionel Jasmin

### Healing Touch Practitioner

Val Jean Zieber

### Parish Nurse

Luz Barrera

### Event Coordinator

Sylvia Campbell

### Custodian

Pelito Capistrano

### Preschool Director

Kim Appleget