

THE CHIMES

MARCH 2019



Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar Senior Minister



It seems like it was just a few weeks ago that we were celebrating Advent and now we are about to enter into the holy season of Lent. Time sure flies by quickly! You might recall that Lent is an opportunity to walk closer with Jesus as we recall the events and His teachings that occurred leading up to His death and resurrection. What a wonderful privilege we have to delve deeper into these sacred scriptures, to reflect on how these important events occurred, and how they speak to us today as modern-day disciples. We will be confronted with questions, challenges, encouragement, and be invited to let this season speak to us again. It is my hope that through worship, Bible study, music, and learning that we will all be able to experience Christ's death and resurrection in a fresh and meaningful way, once again. Lent always reminds me that as I walk through my own periods of betrayal, conflict, darkness, and loss, that God is still with me, calling me to a more healing, whole places - spiritually and emotionally. Fortunately, we journey along toward the Cross, together. I invite you to take advantage of the Lenten offerings we will be providing this year. (Please see page 2 for our schedule of events.) I want to thank in advance the Deacons, the Choir, Lionel Jasmin (our minister of music), our church staff, Rev. Victoria, and Pastor Jim for the extra work they will be doing in order to make this Lent meaningful.

May God bless us as we walk toward the Cross together.



Opportunities to Deepen Your Faith Walk During This Lenten Season Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista

Ash Wednesday Service

A quiet time of prayer and reflection with Taize music and imposition of ashes Main Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 6, 12:00 p.m.

The Sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to pray either alone or with one of our pastors from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Bible Study With Pastor Liz

5 week Lenten & Reflection Study; Sign up in Office with Amber Church Library
Every Saturday (except 3/16); starting on 3/9, ending on 4/13
From 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Worship Service

Join the Procession of Palms, Special Music; Uplifting Palm Sunday Message Sunday, April 14, 2019. One Service, at 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday Worship Service

Come for Communion, Bible Readings, Special Music and Pastor's Message - "It is Finished" Friday, April 19, 4:00 p.m.

EASTER SERVICE AND CHOIR CANTATA

Join in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection!
Our Choir will perform an Easter Cantata called "Calvary's Love"
Pastor Liz's Message is "He Still Rolls Away Stones!"
Sunday, April 21, 2019. One Service, at 10:00 a.m.
Special Fellowship Hour To Follow

Sunday Greeters, Ushers and Readers

Date	8:15 AM Greeters/Ushers	8:15 AM Readers
3/3/2019	Judy & Jerry May	Jerry May
3/10/2019	JoAnn & Bill Roubinek	JoAnn Roubinek
3/17/2019	Judy & Jerry May	Jerry May
3/24/2019	Norma & Frank Brainard	Norma Brainard
3/31/2019	Judy & Jerry May	Jerry May



Loren Limbo	2nd
Lynne Prince	7th
Nancy Holiman	7th
Sylvia Campbell	8th
Lorelei Naegeli	14th
Ruth Jones	14th
Marjory Robb	14th
Joan Corey	20th
Jennie Rindone	20th
Frederika Lucia	25th
Amber Ashford	30th
Joyce VanderMaaten	30th
Michael Chandler	30th
Willie Freiheit	31st
Irene Chandler	31st

10:00 AM

Greeter Erika Dennis

Ushers
Reuben Barrera
Nate Purificacion
Ester Banayo
Susie Persaud

10:00 AM Readers

3/3/2019	Rev. Victoria Freiheit
3/10/2019	Kennan Limbo
3/17/2019	Jeus Limbo
3/24/2019	Beth Banayo
3/31/2019	Erika Dennis

Sunday Morning Schedule

1st Service

7:30AM Fellowship 8:15AM Worship

2nd Service

10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Fellowship

Sunday School

10:00AM

COME TO A MEETING FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

FIBROMYALGIA CHRONIC FATIGUE SUPPORT GROUP

Community Congregational Church Lounge 276 F STREET, CHULA VISTA

Second Tuesday of every month From 11AM to 12:30PM

Learn from each other Feel Connected, Understood and Supported

FOR MORE INFORMATION email Isabel Blanco:

fibromayalgiachulavista55@yahoo.com or call the Church at 619 422-9263



It's time to donate to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering which will be taken March 31. This is one of our 5 for 5 offerings and a very important one because we join with seven other protestant denominations to give aid all over the world to provide aid in disasters, health care, education, shelter, schools, clean water and food.



PASTOR JIM DONAHOO MINISTER OF VISITATION



Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.—Saint Patrick

Today, on St. Patrick's Day, the whole world wants to be Irish! We wear green, we might go to a parade, we listen to the fife-and-drum corps, we hunt for shamrocks, we eat corned beef and cabbage and we might have a glass of green beer.

It's a bit odd that we do this on St. Patrick's Day in honor of a man who wasn't even Irish! Patrick's story, however, is a story of a young man who didn't hold a grudge, and was able to turn a bad situation into a stunning victory for the gospel!

As a youth, Patrick was kidnapped and taken to Ireland. There, he worked as a slave for more than six years. He learned the language and in time came to appreciate his captors. The Irish then were considered barbarians who lived beyond the borders of civilization.

When Patrick was able to return to Britain, he went to Rome, was consecrated as a priest, and eventually returned to the very land where he'd been a captive. Not only did Patrick spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus through his preaching, but through his life as well. He practiced what he preached. That's a good reminder for all of us.

- If we preach forgiveness, we should live forgiveness.
- If we preach love for one another, we should love one another.
- If we preach patience, we should live patience.
- If we preach humility, we should live humility.

Let's thank God for Patrick of Ireland and the great work he did in his lifetime. And let's remember to follow his selfless example of letting go of grudges, injuries and complaints.

-Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, thank you for godly men and women who have shown us throughout history how to live selflessly and with humility. Thank you for Patrick and his great work, and the lessons he taught us. May I show in my life a willingness to forgive and to move on from injury to blessing! In Jesus' name. Amen.

JUSTATHOUGHT

By Erika Dennis

This year, weather conditions promise a spectacular bloom of millions of wildflowers in the Anza-Borrego desert in the early weeks of March. Beginning with very heavy thunderstorms on New Year's Eve, and continuing the following weeks, the weather pattern delivered a close to normal rainfall in Southern California. Although this year's expected display may not be as grand as the so-called Super Bloom in March of 2017, it will attract many thousands of visitors to the small town of Borrego Springs. According to the calendar, March 20th is the first day of Spring. But most Southern Californians do not consider this wildflower extravaganza a sign of Spring. It seems that in the warmer parts of the United States with mild winters, Spring is just a word on the calendar. There are always colorful flower displays in people's yards, and trees are blooming year-round. Spring is a non-event.

Friends who know that I grew up in a colder climate with plenty of snow in Southwestern Germany, will sometimes ask me: "What did you do on those long, dark winter evenings? Life must have been boring." I tell them that especially women could always think of something to do, knitting, sewing, or relaxing with a good book. We never felt bored. During those long daylight hours in the summer there was always more work to do, but in the winter, life could be lived more leisurely. At times I suspect that my friends are trying to prod me into admitting that their life style is preferable. It is true that after about six weeks of snow on the ground, the world loses some of its pristine beauty. The sun begins to melt the snow during the day, and the gray slush that has not drained away freezes again during the night. Songs about the coming of Spring can be heard on the radio. People are ready for a change.

Then, by the middle of January, there is the first sign of hope, snowdrops peeking through the last patches of snow, close to the stone foundation of my parents' home. Nine small white bells are suspended from four-inch-long slender green twigs. These snowdrops are the first flowers appearing long before the official beginning of Spring, lifting the spirits with the promise of bright, warmer days. They also grow wild in glens nestled in the Black Forest and other wooded areas. In early February, sweet-scented, white maybells and crocuses bloom in protected forest meadows. The wild crocuses are the earliest brightly colored flowers, looking like yellow or purple Easter eggs in the grass. In March, much brighter colors are introduced with the many varieties of tulips. Daffodils and jonquils add white and yellow to the palette. Yellow forsythias and white and purple lilacs are the earliest blooming bushes. The checkered fritillary bells appear in April. Their small color blocks in different shades of purple produce a checkerboard effect. White, pink and bright-red tree peonies begin to bloom in May. The appearance of rose buds in June announces the end of Spring, and the beginning of Summer.

People living in the cooler zones of the world will admit that their Spring flora cannot compete with the riotous, overwhelming colors seen in the subtropical and tropical zones. However, the beauty in nature that is found only by actively searching for it, once discovered, will excite the senses exactly because we have to make a serious effort to find it. We know that things which can be had just for the taking may not be as highly valued as things that can be obtained only by some effort on our part. If we are willing to observe God's beautiful creation with receptive senses, we will be richly rewarded no matter where we live on this earth.

REV. VICTORIA FREIHEIT ASSOCIATE FOR SENIOR MINISTRY

From Celtic Parables by Robert Van De Weyer we have the story of St. Patrick told in the first person:

"I, Patrick, am the most unlearned and the lowest of all the faithful. My father was a deacon, and my grandfather a priest. At the age of sixteen I was taken captive and shipped to Ireland, along with thousands of others.

When I arrived in Ireland, I was sent to tend sheep. I used to pray many times a day; and as I prayed, I felt God's love fill my heart and strengthen my faith. I had to stay all night in a hut on the mountain, looking after the sheep, and each day I would wake to pray before dawn in all weathers—snow, frost, and rain. I remained as a slave in Ireland for six years.

One night when I was asleep, I heard a voice speaking to me. It told me that a ship was waiting to take me home. I awoke, and immediately ran down the mountain, and hurried to the coast. I found a ship about to set sail; and although the captain did not want to take me, one of the old sailors smuggled me aboard.

I was overjoyed to see my family again, and at first thought I should never leave them again. But one night I had another dream in which a voice spoke to me. The voice implored me to return to Ireland, and preach the Gospel. When I awoke I felt as if I were a slave again—but now God was my master."

You all know the rest of the story—how he brought the Gospel to every kingdom and every district of Ireland—until Christianity became Ireland's main religion.

There were more Celtic Christian leaders to follow in St. Patrick's footsteps. To name a few: Brigid-who founded a monastery and hospital; Brendan-who sailed to Newfoundland and an island in the Azores to preach the Gospel; Columba-who founded a monastery on the island of Iona; Aidan, who was gifted with the Island of Lindisfarne to build a monastery; and Cuthbert who was the successor to Aidan on Lindisfarne. You can find out more from Van De Weyer's book.

From the cover of Celtic prayers by Van De Weyer: "The Celtic Christians found God's presence in every aspect of existence: in the sea and the sky, in earth and in heaven. As we search for a higher level of spirituality in our own lives, the prayers of the Celts help us to look at our world anew and thank God for its miraculous beauties every day of our lives." This prayer is called God's Will:

"Anyone who rejects God's will

Is like a leaking ship on a stormy sea,

Is like an eagle caught in a trap,

Is like an apple tree which never blossoms.

Anyone who obeys God's will

Is like the golden rays of the summer sun,

Is like a silver chalice overflowing with wine,

Is like a beautiful bride ready for love."

Migrant Mission Project Update

Pastor Jose Altamirano and his wife Adriana, and their daughters recently picked up more donations from our congregation - both monetary and goods (socks and underclothes.)

Pastor Jose has sent us recent pictures of some of the migrants receiving our donations. (Please see below.) He tells us that their church, which houses a shelter for Central American Migrants and Haitian Migrants is now at full capacity with 61 migrants. On one recent day, they received 16 more migrants in just one day.

Besides members of our own congregation, many individuals from around the country, plus other UCC Congregations from our Conference (and from other states) have all made these generous donations possible. In the two months that we have begun to collect donations we have been able to give to them \$1710.00.

As the weather has remained cold and rainy, Pastor Jose states that the socks have come in most handy. The financial donations continue to help them purchase food and pay for their utility bills as well. The shelter continues to operate only by donations from other organizations and churches and from their own congregation.

Our member and Social Responsibility representative, Laurie Orange asked Pastor Jose and his family what other donations were needed. They stated that jeans for men (smaller sizes) along with pullovers (hoodies, sweat-shirts) and light jackets would also be appreciated.

If you want to contribute to this shelter financially, we remind you to please make checks out to Community Congregational Church and put in the memo "migrant mission project."



Spring is almost here, time for cleaning out closets, rooms and garages of items not being used, forgotten, miscellaneous. Our sale will be on Sat. May 4th, in Bradley Hall. Items can be brought to the church beginning April 21st (Easter Sunday). Please price items ahead of time to help us save time. Volunteers are needed to assist with moving items, sorting them, and pricing them. Please no clothing or shoes. If you have furniture and other large or heavy items, let us know so we can pick them up. This is our big fund raiser, thanks for your support.

Mission Board Chairperson, Echo Stafford





The Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2019-2020 school year. There is a non - refundable \$75 fee to guarantee a spot, or \$100.00 for a family of 2 or more.

Our morning core programs are from 9:00AM to 12:00PM, with an optional

lunch - hour from 12:00pm to 1:00PM. We also have afternoon classes available from 12:00PM to 4:00PM or 1:00PM to 4:00PM. We do offer early drop - off at 7:30AM or 8:00AM. After - school - care is also available until 5:00pm for an additional fee.

Full - time hours are 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Extended full - time hours are 7:00AM to 5:00PM.

We are open Monday through Friday, and offer a 2day, 3 day, 4 day or 5 day program.

We will be having our annual Ice Cream Social and Open House on March 6th, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Sundaes are \$1.50 and are available in Bradley Hall. Please join us for the ice cream, and then take a tour of your Preschool!

Please feel free to see me in the Preschool Office for more information about our Preschool Program.

March 2019

19	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday			
J	Feb 24	25	26	27			
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COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ 276 F Street Chula Vista, CA 91910 Phone: 619-422-9263 www.chulavistachurch.com 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

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Senior Minister

Pastor Elizabeth A

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 &

Young Adult Ministries

Jamall Calloway

Director of Music

Lionel Jasmin

Parish Nurse

Luz Barrera

Event Coordinator

Sylvia Campbell

Custodian

Pelito Capistrano

Preschool Director

Kim Appleget