



# THE CHIMES

## April 2019



### Half-Way Through

I've been reflecting on how, (as of the date of this article), we are now half-way through our Lenten journey. I've also been reflecting on how I often feel like I am half-way through many things, many periods of life, and many decisions, as well. This has further invited me to honestly acknowledge that when I am only "half-way through" something, I am often left feeling frustrated, impatient, and sometimes, even anxious.

Some of you are "half-way" through many things: medical treatments, important family decisions, stressful financial decisions, and so on. As a church we are "half-way" through Lent, but also through our process of discernment regarding combining worship services, deciding upon what time is best to worship our Lord and Savior. Some committees and boards are "half-way" through their work as they have had to either stop and/or re-group now that they have begun to meet with me and are re-visioning their work and decisions. As citizens of this country we often feel we are half-way through or even have fallen way behind on intrinsic values which were once important to this country. The list goes on...

However, instead of feeling "stuck" or worse, depressed, we are reminded that we are not where we were before and that we are traveling as fellow sojourners, together. We are walking in solidarity with one another, and more importantly, with God at our side.

I find hope in the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians, when he said: *"Do not be anxious about anything but in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7) God is a God of peace, of shalom. God does not want us to be anxious, or feel stuck, or feel overwhelmed.

Another scripture comes to mind as well, (also from Paul): *Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."* (Ephesians 3:20-21)

That scripture grounds me in the fact that indeed God can do "far more than all we can ask or imagine!" God IS at work in our lives individually, as a congregation, as families and as people who care deeply for our country and for the whole world. We are not alone. We have a God who is at work behind the scenes and along with us, using us to do God's work here and in the world. We may be "half-way" through our journey but we are not alone and God is not done doing God's work through us, and for us.

The hope of the cross reminds us that Jesus' work was complete. The hope of the tomb tells us that God is a God of impossibilities, of new hope, and new beginnings!

As we do keep moving toward the cross and the tomb, may we never grow tired of doing what is right, of encouraging one another on the way, of finding our hope and purpose in God as Christ's faithful disciples.

I look forward to celebrating the rest of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter season with you all. May God bless us as we continue our journey together in the hope and love of Christ Jesus our Savior!

**Sunday Greeters, Ushers and Readers**

Date	8:15 AM Greeters/Ushers	8:15 AM Readers
4/7/2019	Judy & Jerry May	Jerry May
4/14/2019	ONE SERVICE 10AM	ONE SERVICE
4/21/2019	ONE SERVICE 10AM	ONE SERVICE
4/28/2019	ONE SERVICE 10AM	ONE SERVICE

**10:00 AM**  
Greeters  
 Erika Dennis

Ushers  
 Reuben Barrera  
 Nate Purificacion  
 Melyn Limbo  
 Abner Limbo

**10:00 AM Readers**

4/7/2019	Lynne Prince
4/14/2019	Mariemel Limbo
4/21/2019	Margie DeLeon
4/28/2019	Erika Dennis

# APRIL

Shirley Thompson	4th
Violeta Estepa	6th
Janet Hand	10th
Jorrell Hebreo	12th
Rosille Vasquez	14th
Sabrina Cruz	21st
Pelito Capistrano	22nd
Melyn Limbo	23rd
Micah Valentine	23rd
Tom Atchison	27th
Dee Alatorre	27th
Erika Dennis	29th





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

**Lenten Bible Study With Pastor Liz**

Lenten & Reflection Study; Sign up in Office with Amber  
Church Library  
Every Saturday 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 and  
Easter Egg Hunt

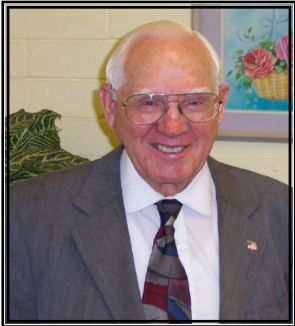


## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

*First and foremost, a huge thank you to Suzanne Keeler for bringing us our February program (Kathy and Gary Pederson) and our March program (Jenny Rodríguez).*

*The April Business Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10th, at 10:30 AM. Following at 11:00 AM is our program. The program will be our own Choir Director Lionel Jasmin. At Noon, a catered lunch (cost \$10.00) will be served. Reservations can be made by calling Kay Rouse at (619)-479-7676, by Friday, April 5th. Cancellations need to be made by Sunday, April 7th.*

PASTOR JIM DONAHOO  
MINISTER OF VISITATION



Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12

*Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ is coming again!*  
—Communion liturgy

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A friend told me about an unusual Easter card available at Walmart, Target or supermarkets. It almost looks like a Christmas card because the upper half of the card features a nativity scene with a baby in a manger, surrounded by adoring shepherds. Mary sits by the manger, gazing upon the child, while Joseph hovers nearby. The wise men are in the distance, approaching the stable. But the shepherds take up most of the space, and it is the shepherds one notices first.

The lower half of the card features those same shepherds, 30 years later, standing before Jesus' empty tomb.

I wonder what they were thinking.

Perhaps they were thinking about the love of God.

Thirty years earlier, the birth at Bethlehem demonstrated God's love in a way that was creative, powerful and almost unthinkable! God became a human being! The Bible even makes an explicit link between the birth of Jesus and the vast love of God: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ..." (John 3:16).

But as the shepherds stood before the empty tomb they also got a lesson in the love of God. The Bible very plainly links the Cross to God's love for us: "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Ever wonder which revelation of God was greater news to tell? Was it the birth of God's love, or the triumph of God's love over sin, death and the devil?

It takes childlike trust in God's love and assurance to have faith in these two visions of love incarnate.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Loving God, I praise you today for the empty tomb. Like the manger and the cross, the tomb is a reminder of your love for me. Praise to you and to your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

# JUST A THOUGHT

**By Erika Dennis**

Familiarity breeds contempt. This quote was first attributed to Publilius, a writer living in ancient Rome. One thousand years later, Pope Innocent III used it. You may have read it in one of Geoffrey Chaucer's stories. Or if you preferred Mark Twain, you may have come across his enhanced version: Familiarity breeds contempt - and children. Since then, famous persons all over the world have expressed their own opinions on the subject. However, while many of these statements are very humorous, original and interesting, it seems that their authors were satisfied with first impressions. – Googling the quote will produce a great variety of opinions on the subject. – If we were to assume that the word familiarity does nothing else but breed contempt, then we should strike it from our vocabulary as being entirely useless in its negativity. But first we need to know all the facts about this perfectly nice-sounding word. So, let's ask the question: "Are there other meanings implied by the word familiarity?"

A search through various English dictionaries produced more confusion than enlightenment. The meanings ranged from the very positive to the very negative. Positive were friendship, fellowship, feeling of ease and trust; negative were disrespect, rudeness, contempt. We know that it shares its root, the Latin word familia, with our English word family. How, then, could we accept that familiarity is only breeding contempt? Let's look at the smallest unit of a family consisting of father, mother, and at least one child. Rearing a child means getting to know the individual intimately; very little is hidden from the observant care-giver, and as the infant's brain develops, the child watches Mom and Dad very closely. Love and trust are built by such intimate contact. The siblings in a family may not always exhibit those beautiful traits. They do not hesitate to criticize their brothers' and sisters' shortcomings. "You always pick your nose." "You always dribble the soup down your front." But when the family unit is threatened by outside forces, the ranks are closed; forgotten are all squabbles; the protection of the family and all its members is the only thing of importance. The sincere concern for the safety of the entire group, the family, overrides all minor disagreements.

Looking beyond the single family unit, we find that the forces at work in building love, respect and trust in the family are the same forces needed to transform groups of superficially connected strangers into communities of friends. Whether they are religious congregations, neighbors in communities, or people living on the same floor of a tall apartment building in a metropolitan area, they are all humans who need the feeling of belonging, the comforting assurance of being important to those around them. This sense of being part of a group develops as strangers become acquainted and find common interests. It is this kind of familiarity that creates mutual respect and trust, the glue that bonds groups together for action as a unit. If, on the other hand, many people were to believe that familiarity breeds contempt, life in this world could be unpleasant. Instead of true friendship, there might be only superficial contact between human beings. This kind of self-imposed isolation would be especially harmful in times of illness, of need for emotional support, when only a true friend feels committed to help. There would also be fewer projects done for the common good because of the isolationist's lack of concern for the greater community. How can this be prevented? It seems there is only one way to make life on this earth a good experience for everybody. All believers in the good effect of familiarity, its breeding of respect, friendship and trust, must use their best efforts to foster ever more communities of true friendship and respect until they encompass the entire world.

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

*From Easter Ideals edited by Van B. Hooper we have the history of Easter in Many Lands:*

“Easter is one of the most joyously celebrated religious days of the year. Beyond the deep religious observations, the Spring Festival has taken on many forms in different countries, including different customs over the ages.

*The name Easter derives from Eostre, an ancient Teutonic Goddess of Spring. In other countries, like France, Easter is called 'Paques' derived from 'pasch,' meaning literally 'he passes over,' and alludes to the Jewish Passover.*

As Christmas has been identified with the winter solstice during the early developing years of the early church—so Easter was celebrated in the spring in recognition of re-birth of nature.

*The Council of Christian Churches in 325 decided that Easter should be on the first Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon. The pilgrims making their way to the yearly Easter festival needed the light of the full moon to aid in their travels—which was the principal reason for so establishing the date of Easter.*

The identifying of the egg with Easter has been observed in many countries throughout the world since ancient times.

*Symbolically, the egg has been used in ancient Easter rites to represent the Spring season. Just when this originated is unknown—but the egg represents the revival of the fertility of the earth and is a symbol of the secret of life—and was so considered a fitting emblem for the spring season.*

It is explained that the longing for the colorful flowers of spring following the long cold winter was the motivating force behind the custom of coloring Easter eggs in beautiful gay colors.

*The symbolic Easter egg has been utilized in many ways—from egg racing (Switzerland)—egg 'nicking' (The Netherlands) an Easter Parade (France), an exploding Judas filled with 30 pieces of silver (Mexico), and many others.*

The most elaborate custom involving the Easter egg was developed in Russia. For many years exquisitely decorated eggs were given by them as presents. In the late nineteenth century this practice changed from real eggs to delicately made eggs of great value—many were made of pure gold with precious jewels and enamels decorating them.

*The beloved Easter Bunny is of German origin. His association with Easter stems from the fact that he is a symbol of prolific reproduction of life—and not that he is supposed to lay eggs.*

There are many customs in many lands—but whatever the custom and whatever the date—the one time meaning of Easter is the Risen Christ. Its deep religious significance transcends eggs, rabbits, flowers, fashions and customs, even as the sun transcends the little incidentals of our man-made ways.”

My favorite Easter custom is the Easter-egg hunt, and our family has always encouraged the adults and children to decide if they want to be “hunters” or “hidiers.” The Easter egg hunt began with Martin Luther who equated the egg hunt with the women hunting for Jesus, after His Resurrection.

# April 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mar 31 - Apr 6	<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Apr 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
		6:30pm 9:30pm Cub/Boyscouts (Basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm Laubach ESL (Small dining room) 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)	9:00am 12:00pm Quilt Class (Lounge) 11:00am 12:00pm Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 2:00pm 4:00pm Mission Board Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00pm 9:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel)
Apr 7 - 13	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
	8:15am 9:15am Worship (Sanctuary) 8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (Jewel Chapel) 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:30am 4:00pm Ber nett/Flores Wedding (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Room 5) 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)	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)	9:00am 12:00pm Quilt Class (Lounge) 10:30am 1:00pm Women's Fellowship (Bradley Hall) 5:30pm 8:30pm Quilt Guild 6:00pm 9:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel)
Apr 14 - 20	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
	8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (Jewel Chapel) 10:00am 12:00pm Palm Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Bradley Hall) 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am 12:00pm Church Boards Meet (Various Locations) 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Room 5) 2:00pm 4:00pm FOV Youth (Community)	<b>Tax Day (United States)</b> 6:30pm 9:30pm Cub/Boyscouts (Basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm Laubach ESL (Small dining room) 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)	9:00am 12:00pm Quilt Class (Lounge) 11:00am 12:00pm Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 11:30am 1:30pm CCDC Meeting (Small Dining Room) 6:00pm 9:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel)
Apr 21 - 27	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
	<b>Easter Day (United States)</b> 8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (Jewel Chapel) 10:00am 11:00am Easter Choir Cantata (Sanctuary) 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Room 5) 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)	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)	<b>Administrative Professionals Day (United States)</b> 9:00am 12:00pm Quilt Class (Lounge) 6:00pm 9:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel)
Apr 28 - May 4	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b>
	8:30am 12:00pm Renewing Life Church (Jewel Chapel) 10:00am 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:15am 12:15pm All Church Congregational Vote (Bradley hall) 1:00pm 5:00pm FOV (Jewel Chapel & Room 5) 2:00pm 4:00pm FOV Youth (Community Room & Nursery)	6:30pm 9:30pm Cub/Boyscouts (Basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm Laubach ESL (Small dining room) 6:30pm 8:00pm Girl Scouts (Lounge)	9:00am 1:00pm Quilter's (Quilter's Room) 4:45pm 8:15pm American Youth (Bradley Hall) 5:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 7:00pm 9:00pm AA - Top of the Hill (Lounge)	



April 2019

May 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
10:00am 11:00am Adult Bible Class (Small Dining Room) 6:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 6:00pm 7:30pm Project Keep 7:00pm 9:00pm Choir Practice (Music Room)	6:00pm 8:00pm Youth/Young Adults (Lounge)	Earth Day (Memorial Park, Chula Vista) 10:00am 11:00am Pastor Liz Bible Study (Library) 12:00pm 3:00pm FCV (Jewel Chapel)
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
10:00am 11:00am Adult Bible Class (Small Dining Room) 6:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 6:00pm 7:30pm Project Keep 7:00pm 9:00pm Choir Practice (Music Room)	6:00pm 8:00pm Youth/Young Adults (Lounge)	10:00am 11:00am Pastor Liz Bible Study (Library) 12:00pm 3:00pm FCV (Jewel Chapel) 12:00pm 5:00pm Women's Group FOV (B-I and Jewel Chapel)
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
10:00am 11:00am Adult Bible Class (Small Dining Room) 2:00pm 3:00pm Memorial Committee Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 6:00pm 7:30pm Project Keep 7:00pm 9:00pm Choir Practice (Music Room)	4:00pm 5:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary) 6:00pm 8:00pm Youth/Young Adults (Lounge)	9:00am 12:00pm Healing Touch (Lounge) 12:00pm 3:00pm FCV (Jewel Chapel)
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
10:00am 11:00am Adult Bible Class (Small Dining Room) 6:00pm 9:30pm FOV (Jewel Chapel) 6:00pm 7:30pm Project Keep 7:00pm 9:00pm Choir Practice (Music Room)	6:00pm 8:00pm Youth/Young Adults (Lounge)	12:00pm 3:00pm FCV (Jewel Chapel)
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

**Rev. Jamall Calloway**  
**Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries**

Greetings!

The Youth & Young Adult Ministry here at church is so far enjoying the new year and getting used to the upcoming transitions that will take place after May and June. We have a couple of birthdays coming up, some high school graduations and even a promotion at work. The lives of the young adults are really taking shape and we have a lot to be proud of.

Through our own Bible study, we have been having a good time reading passages of the Bible together and thinking of ways to apply said passages to our lives. Last week we read about Daniel and the lion's den and it was a very rich conversation. We meet every Thursday evening around 6pm and every Sunday around 11:15am, so if you would like to spend time with us or support some of our upcoming trips and outings, just let us know. We would love to have you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jamall



### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Our Sunday School attendance has been increasing over the last month. We were very excited to have nine children the first Sunday in March. Below are the stories we studied this last month.

#### **Unit 1: Observing Lent with Your Family Mark 1:15**

##### **Date, Session, Story, Bible Verse**

March 3rd	1 The Stories of the Lost	Luke 15:3-10
March 10th	2 The Forgiving Father	Luke 15:11-32
March 17th	3 The Two Debtors	Luke 7:36-47
March 24th	4 The Last Supper	Matthew 26:17-30
March 31st	5 In the Garden	Matthew 26:31-58



### **Social Responsibility Committee Update**

**In keeping with the social justice values of the United Church of Christ and our Mission – the SRC committee is committed to advocate for justice and equality for all peoples. To that end we will continue our efforts to present programs and activities to inform and move our Congregation to action and help promote what we believe to be the Christian message of love, acceptance and justice for all peoples and the environment. Please join us in some upcoming events.**

**Sunday March 31 – SRC Committee Meeting to consult on Open and Affirming with guest UCC minister.**

**Saturday April 6 Chula Vista Earth Day 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Downtown Memorial Park**

**Visit or help work at our booth. Interactive things for kids, Pre-school and Church outreach and fun for all -*Climate Change and Environment Sustainability***

**Migrant Ministry – Ongoing Support of Shelter in Tijuana run by Pastor Jose Altamirano**

**Collect cash donations and clothing items for migrants  
New Jackets, sweaters and smaller size young men jeans/pants, and all size and gender socks and underwear. *“Love and help for those suffering and in great need”.***

**Thank you to all members and friends for your support of our work and mission to serve others!**



## COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ  
276 F Street  
Chula Vista, CA 91910  
Phone: 619-422-9263  
communitycong@sbcglobal.net

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## 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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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 Music

Lionel Jasmin

#### Parish Nurse

Luz Barrera

#### Event Coordinator

Sylvia Campbell

#### Custodian

Pelito Capistrano

#### Preschool Director

Kim Applegat