



THE CHIMES

May 2019



Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar
Senior Pastor

*“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.”
(Philippians 1:3-5)*

May is a month of celebrations; graduations, Mother’s Day, end-of-school-year programs, recitals, too. As a church we will also celebrate my installation. I thank you all in advance for attending, helping before, during and after it. It will be very special, indeed!

I cannot fully express how over-joyed I am to be installed as your next settled Senior Minister. It is an honor, a privilege, and a call I do not take lightly. The month of May will also “coincidentally” mark 6 months that I will have been serving as your new Pastor. It has been a wild ride already with two major church seasons to prepare for and journey through with you. The staff and lay leaders have made all of that possible, for which I am deeply grateful for, as well.

I am tempted to write about plans and goals I have for the church as we move forward. However, I am instead, going to practice being fully present.

I say this because I am ever so aware of how our culture moves so quickly and tells us we must do the same or we will “miss out” somehow. And yet, that is not the way of Jesus. Instead, Jesus took time to be with His disciples, followers, family, friends. His ministry was done in community, with community and for community. His ministry was based, therefore, on building relationships.

Every minister who has moved from one parish to another will advise other new pastors to take-their-time and REALLY get to know their parishioners. In the busyness of the time in which I was called to begin my ministry among you, I have had to “hit the ground running,” as it were. This has allowed me time to get to know how SOME of you think, work, communicate, etc. Mainly, those have been staff members and some lay leaders. Nevertheless, it has not afforded me the opportunity to get to know most members.

Therefore, in an effort to just “be in the moment” and not be rushing from one thing to the next, I will make the effort to spend time getting to know as many of you as possible.

As such, I will be opening up my home (the church parsonage) to groups of you to come and spend time getting to know me and one another in a relaxed setting. The parsonage you have graciously made available to me (and future ministers) is beautiful, and has much room for gatherings both inside and outside.

My hope and prayer is that in such a relaxed setting, I may hear from all of you what is important to you personally, for your families, and for our congregation what gives you joy and/or what concerns you.

I will be posting a sign-up sheet for 5 people to come together at a time. I will also have key leaders with each group as well. Please stay tuned for how we will go about doing this in an organized, inviting manner. I look forward to enjoy some lemonade, refreshments, laughter and fellowship with you all during the coming months. I thank you for the trust and welcome you who have already shared with me, and I look forward to the many years of shared ministry with you.

God bless you, beloved Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista!

Pastor Liz

SUNDAY LITURGISTS

May 5th Rev. Victoria Freihiet
May 12th Kyle Limbo
May 19th Mike Bishop
May 20th Erika Dennis

SUNDAY USHERS

Nathan Purification
Nate Purification
Ester Banayo
Suzie Persaud



Naomi Gonzales	2nd
Rev. Richard Freeman	6th
Jean Bowlin	7th
Nathan Purificacion	12th
Ruthann Morris	16th
Jonessa Hebreo	20th
Peter Rivera Jr.	20th
Carmen Fountain	21st
Avery Nicole Bowen	24th
Bethsaida Banayo	24th
Joey Hebreo	25th
Ludmila Bernier	26th
Lilyane Cowherd	27th
BJ Reynolds	27th
Shirley Bodie	28th
Laurie Orange	29th
Jezreel Limbo	29th
Ruth Bohling	30th
Jamall Calloway	30th

ATTENTION CONGREGATION

A message from Nathan Purification, the Church Moderator: We voted at our recent congregational meeting to go to one worship service on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. That change will become effective on Sunday, May 12th. I want to thank all who participated in this discernment process. We look forward to more opportunities for shared worship, fellowship and learning to occur. Please make sure to let friends and family know of our change in worship time.

Please let the Church Office know what your birthdate is if you do not see your birthday here.

Also, Pastor Jim would like to send you a birthday card!

Thank you from Marilyn Milligan for all the cards and prayers. They really helped her get through.

*The Community Congregational Church
Of Chula Vista, United Church of Christ*

Is Pleased to

Invite you to the:

Installation Service of our new Senior Minister

The Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar

On Sunday, May 19th 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

A dinner will follow the worship service.

*Please R.S.V.P. at your earliest convenience to the church
office: (619) 422-9263 or email Ms. Amber Ashford,
(Church Administrator) at Amber@ChulaVistaChurch.com*

*Clergy are invited to robe and meet by 2:45 p.m.
in the church lounge*

*If you wish to communicate with Rev. Aguilar directly please
email her at PastorLiz@ChulaVistaChurch.com or call her at
the above phone number*

*Free parking is found behind Banner Bank on F Street,
Or the lot across from the Baptist Church on Church St.*

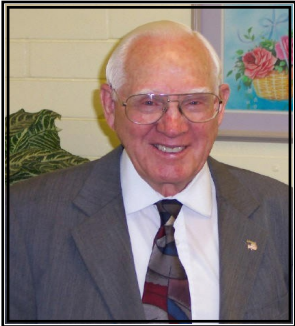




WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Wednesday, May 8, 2019, Meeting of the Women's Fellowship will start at 10:30 AM in Bradley Hall followed by an 11:00 AM Program. Also in Bradley Hall will be a catered lunch, following the program. Reservations for the lunch can be made by calling Kay Rouse at (619) 479-7676 by Friday, May 3, 2019. Cost of each lunch is \$10.00 and any cancellations need to be made by Sunday, May 6th.

PASTOR JIM DONAHOO
MINISTER OF VISITATION



Scripture Reading: Acts 9:36-43

*Kindness in words creates confidence; kindness in thinking creates profoundness;
kindness in giving creates love. —Anon.*

Here's a story of what can happen when your heart and eyes are open to feel and to see the need around you.

When Krista transitioned from a shelter for battered women into her new home, she was so thrilled just to have a safe place for her two children to sleep.

But when she showed off her new home to her friend, Treger Strasberg, there was no furniture or beds. Strasberg was crushed at the sight of Krista's children making nests out of their old coats on the floor to sleep on. She knew her own closets were overflowing and that her garage had furniture she wasn't using.

She also knew that her friends had similar items to donate.

Determined to help her friend, Strasberg rounded up donations of gently used furniture, kitchen utensils and even pictures for the walls. And thus was born Humble Design, a non-profit committed to *turning houses into homes*. Families moving into new houses share their dreams for their new homes, and Humble Design springs to action by assessing the rooms of the house and then pulling items from their large warehouse. While the family is away for the day, a truck loaded with household goods arrives at the location where a crew of volunteers are on hand to make the house a home.

Since that day in Detroit in 2009, over 1,100 families have been served, and Humble Design, a nonprofit organization, has opened in three additional cities: Chicago, Seattle and San Diego. Corporate sponsors like U-Haul have jumped in to help. They have also developed a weekly TV show sharing their vision of empathy with the world.

"Our goal," says Strasberg, "is to give dignity and hope to every family who has suffered homelessness."

This is a wonderful story. And stories like this happen on a smaller scale every day when our hearts are moved by someone's need. The smallest gesture, the softest word, the simplest act of kindness can make a world of difference.

—Melanie Silva

Prayer: Help me to remember, O God, the power of one person with a vision. Amen.

JUST A THOUGHT

A MUST READ!

BY ERIKA DENNIS

They call it “Our Village.” Where is this village? It can be found in any large city, anywhere in the world. It may be a complex of buildings housing up to several hundred senior citizens in small apartments. Often such places are described as Retirement Living. Trees provide shade for the grounds; everywhere, hedges and bands of lawn invite residents to set up a few chairs and small tables for a pleasant hour’s chat with neighbors. Dates are made for shopping trips or doctor’s appointments. There are picnic areas where special days are celebrated with hot dogs, salads, dips and crackers, as well as cakes. Everybody contributes something to make these events very special. These are, indeed, friendly places where neighbors love neighbors.

A large real estate investment corporation, the Wiseguys, has recently acquired another one of these projects. With some improvements and adjustments, it promises to become a very profitable source of income. There will have to be a different type of management. The manager living on-site will be replaced. The corporation has engaged the services of a man with a strong will who is not unduly hampered by kind feelings. His name is Mr. Krass. They have also found an assistant for him, Kid Klooles. At Kid’s first interview he is told that major changes are needed at the new project, to which he answers immediately: “What’s wrong? I know this place, it looks perfectly good to me.” “That’s precisely what’s wrong with it,” is the answer. “With proper training you will be the perfect gopher. Remember, when making a promise to a resident, you must always open your sentence with the same word: eventually. Eventually is the most important word because nobody can accuse you of lying. Eventually, you will have a good job here.”

“Did you see our new manager this morning? He does not look friendly.” The residents are very uneasy; they do not feel like chatting. One after the other leaves; apartment doors close. A thunderstorm is brewing. After the heavy downpour has stopped, the residents see their chairs and tables crushed to bits, nothing but junk to be loaded by ruthless men onto trucks and brought to the dump. Gone with them is their happiness, their community. What will be next? They do not have to wait long. One morning, Maria knocks on her neighbor’s door. She is in tears: “Joe, did you see what they did? Our tomato plants in the containers on the patio, ripped out. And the ripe tomatoes crushed on the ground. They wouldn’t even let us have those!” When Kid hears their complaints, he smiles and says: “Don’t worry, eventually we will set up a plot with beautiful raised beds, so you can do your gardening without bending over.”

Another morning dawns in the village. Slowly, a door opens. “Oh, how beautiful! Thank you, Lord.” Another door creaks open, “What is it, Jenny?” “Look at the sunrise, Ruth; those beautiful colors. I could cry.” More neighbors step outside; it is the same crowd that used to be so happy together. Eyes make contact, looking deeply into the souls of old friends: “Why did we hide behind locked doors? Why did we let this happen? How could we allow strangers to destroy our community?” An unspoken vow is made right then and there: “No matter what it may take, we will again build the loving community of concerned friends we once enjoyed. We will stand up and proclaim that love and respect for all living beings are still practiced in this world. We will invite all people to join with us to make this earth a better place once more.” Maria tries a little smile: “Friends, let’s keep this promise in our hearts: We will be happy again some day.”

REV. VICTORIA FREIHEIT
ASSOCIATE FOR SENIOR MINISTRY

MOTHER'S DAY IS COMING: Devotions for Moms by *Ellen Banks Elwell*

“Be strong and courageous! Don't be afraid of the King of Assyria or his mighty army, for there is a power far greater on our side! *2 Chronicles 32:7*”

1)Ellen says: When my son Chad was about five or six, his nighttime slumber was sometimes interrupted by bad dreams. On those nights, I'd wake up to hear him crying for me or my husband. I'd shuffle through the hallway to Chad's room and sit on the edge of his bed.

First, I would listen to his fears, and then I told him I had fears myself. “When I'm afraid,” I said, “I talk to God. God sees everything, knows everything, and can do anything. God is strong and God can help us.”

After we talked for awhile, I encouraged Chad to memorize the beginning of Philippians 4:6-7 --”Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.” We also talked about Moses (crossing the Red Sea) and David (fighting Goliath); they had fears too, but God was faithful to give them help and courage.

Whenever our children have fearful experiences of any kind, it's important for them to know that we care about them, are willing to help them, and will always point them to God. Then they have opportunities to grow in faith and courage too.

2)Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil. *Psalms 119:133*

A young man who hoped to be chosen as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River was nearing the end of his job interview. The interviewer, curious to discover if the young man was aware of the dangers of the river, asked if he knew where all the rocks were. The young man wisely responded, “No sir, I do not know where all the rocks are, but I know where they *aren't*. He got the job.

As Moms, we need help navigating the river of motherhood. Although, each of our routes is slightly different, wisdom to know where the rocks aren't is available to us all. It's available in the form of words—God's words. “For the Lord grants wisdom, His every word is a treasure of knowledge and understanding.” (*Proverbs 2:6, TLB*) God's words give us discernment for what is true, right and lasting. God's words are more valuable than gold or silver. We need to hear God's words every day of our motherhood—even after our kids have left home!

Just as we need a recipe to bake a cake or instructions to locate the correct soccer field for a child's game, we need the words of the Bible for all the situations that motherhood brings our way. We need them to help us to avoid rocks like jealousy, selfish ambition, and angry outbursts. And most of all, we need the words that point us to Christ, who is the source of all wisdom.

*A Prayer: Faithful Guide, Thanks for the courage you give us, and thanks for the gift of your Word. We would be lost without it. Amen. **Happy Mother's Day!***



MISSION BOARD RUMMAGE SALE

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. June 1st, in Bradley Hall.

Items can be brought to the church. Volunteers are needed
to assist with moving items, sorting them, and pricing them.

Please no clothing or shoes.

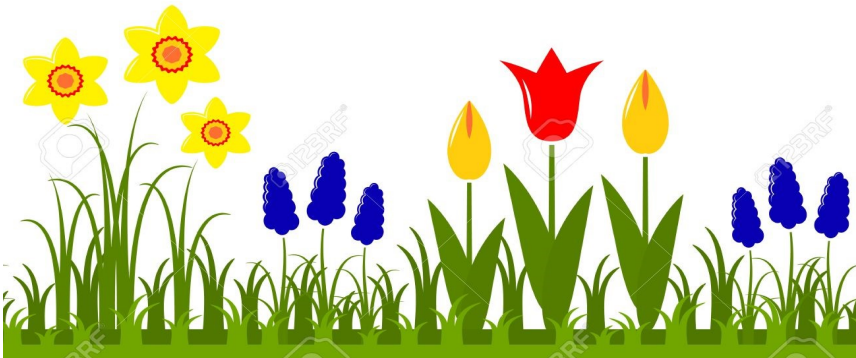
If you have furniture and other large or heavy items, let us know
so we can pick them up.

This is our big fund raiser, thanks for your support.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

*Please see Sylvia Campbell if you wish
to purchase flowers for the altar. They
are \$25.00 and you can pick what Sun-
day you would like to purchase them.*

**A BIG thank you to
the Young Adults &
Youth for putting
together a very
successful egg hunt
for the church
children!**



Greetings, Community!

The young adults are busy and doing well! Please keep Nate in your prayers as he prepares to take his medical exam. And please keep Jesselle in your prayers as she embarks upon a new journey in the form of a promotion! So many great things happening and coming up. Also, keep me in your prayers as I prepare to present research in Morocco next month.

There will be a meeting of the young adults and youth at the parsonage on Friday, May 3rd.

Jamall Calloway



Below are the stories we studied
In April and will be studying in May.

Unit 2: Observing Lent with Your Family in April John 20:18

Date	Session	Story	Bible Verse
April 7th	5	In the Garden	Matthew 26:31-58
April 14th	7	Jesus Enters Jerusalem	Matthew 21:1-11
April 21st	8	Jesus Lives	John 20:1-18
April 28th	9	Feed My Sheep	John 21:1-19

Unit 3: Family Friends Proverbs 17:17

Date	Session	Story	Bible Verse
May 5th	10	Best Friends` 1	Samuel 18:1-5; 20:1-42
May 12th	11	Courageous Friends	Daniel 3:1-3 0
May 19th	12	The Four Friends	Mark 2:1-12
May 26th	13	Prayerful Friends	Acts 9:36-43

Social Responsibility Committee Community Congregational Church Chula Vista

Thank you to all who supported and shared in our Chula Vista Earth Day celebration.

The committee and Mission Board will continue to provide information and encourage measures for our congregation to help our Earth. We want to be a **“Green Justice Congregation”** and seek to become **environmentally sensitive**. Whenever possible we will use biodegradable products and to recycle.

Please help us to encourage all members and friends to work toward this end and discontinue the use of nonrenewable resources such as Styrofoam. We are establishing a green giving fund to help offset and support the additional costs of compostable products.

The SRC team met with Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelker and assessed our committee and congregation and the **Open and Affirming Process** that we hope to follow. The team needs additional members to help in a comprehensive program of education and building relationships within our church family.

We hope to approach the **process of welcoming** to help us to better understand and accept persons of all differences within the church, which includes racial, economic, LGBTQI and disabled. Informational forum and materials will soon be available. Please consider joining our welcoming team and help us to move forward.

Our support to Central American and Haitian Migrants in Tijuana continues as more and more migrants arrive there, daily. Our partnership with the Baptist church, “Pasaje de Salvacion,” (which houses the shelter) is now under construction, as they make more space available for additional migrants. Our financial donations are being put to great use, as you can see from the pictures, below. To date, our congregation plus other congregations around the country have donated \$4878.00. Please consider giving for the first time or again, as the need for support indeed continues. Checks can be made to our church. Donations of jeans (for thin men), light jackets, sweaters, socks and underclothes for both genders/all sizes are also appreciated by them. (Please drop off donations either in the boxes provided in Bradley Hall, the Narthex or the church office.) Receipts are available upon request.

We seek to live the **Easter Message** of new life and renewed faith to act together as stewards of God’s world. Community Congregational Church is our vehicle **to serve others and share love and hope and peace for all in a more just world. Blessings to all**



ARTISANS CRAFTERS MAKERS

The Chula Vista Quilters Guild proudly presents the

Chula Vista Quilt Show

May 3 & 4, 2019

10am to 4pm

chulavistaquiltersguild.weebly.com

Community Congregational Church Meeting Room

276 "F" St

Chula Vista, CA 91910

Enter back near intersection Church Ave and Center St, look for signs for show parking
Only a \$5 donation!



- ❖ Over 150 traditional and contemporary quilts, wall hangings, and wearables made by local artists
 - ❖ Special Exhibit CVQG Youth Group
 - ❖ Hoffman Challenge Traveling exhibit "SHINE-ON"
 - ❖ Specialty Vendors
- ❖ Guild Member's Handmade Boutique with reasonable prices
 - ❖ Sew & Craft Booth
 - ❖ Raffle Baskets
 - ❖ Door prizes awarded every half hour
 - ❖ Food truck and lunch area on site
- ❖ Chances available for our beautiful, hand-quilted Opportunity Quilt – you don't have to be present to win! Raffle tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5



COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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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,
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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 Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Jamall Calloway
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