



THE CHIMES

July 2019



From the Senior Pastor

A favorite poet of mine is the late Mary Oliver. I have often found her poems to be grounding and inviting for further reflection. As we are now into the summer season, I pray we all find time to rest, play, be renewed, have more time for personal devotions and prayer and yes, read some good poetry!

I am grateful that our boards and committees, along with the choir, and some members of our staff team, will take time off for much deserved vacation. Taking breaks to rest and play is important and healthy!

Please do come to worship if you're in town. Attend another worship service if you are travelling and remain connected to your church home through prayer, email, phone calls, or even a visit with me!

I leave you now with this poem, which I hope speaks to you as it has to me on many occasions. It ends with a great question...

The Summer Day

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

—Mary Oliver

(from, New and Selected Poems, Beacon Press, Boston, MA. 1992)

God bless each of you this summer with all that you might need,

Pastor Liz



PASTOR JIM





COME JOIN OUR QUILTERS!!

Quilters meet every Tuesday at 9:00 AM for quilting and fellowship. Even if you don't know how to quilt, they will teach you.

The quilters have a new project making blankets for the non-profit, Gently Hugged. Ask one of them for more information.

*WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
CELEBRATING
OUR LADIES 85 +
YEARS YOUNG*





PASTOR JIM DONAHOO
MINISTER OF VISITATION

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

I made all of this out of nothing. Trust me: I can take care of you! —God.



Our topic for today is bread. I mention this because this coming Thursday, Americans are going to eat a lot of bread — in the form of hot dog and hamburger buns.

We like bread in other forms, too. We love breakfast pastries like croissants and cinnamon rolls. We enjoy a piece of toast for breakfast as well.

The Bible says, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4).

Yet, bread *is* the staple of life. Bread and water are two things we need to live. But we can’t live on bread alone; we need something even more important.

Generations ago, mothers baked bread every week in the family kitchen. And in doing so, they taught us about life. Flour needs to be sifted, and the dough needs to be kneaded. Then the dough must sit patiently before it’s ready for the oven. The dough is then subjected to heat. All these steps are required before anyone can be nourished by bread.

Hundreds of years ago, bread-making was primitive. According to *Ye Olde English Sayings*, visitors to Anne Hathaway’s cottage in England (near Stratford-upon-Avon) were given this explanation while looking at the bread oven beside the fireplace in the kitchen: “The bread was put, as a raw lump of dough, straight into the bread oven. No bread tin, it just sits on the floor of the oven. The oven is heated by the fire and is very hot at the bottom. When the bread is done baking and taken out to cool, the base of the loaf is overcooked, black and also dirty. The top of the loaf is done just right, and still clean. The bottom of the loaf is for the servants to eat, while the upper crust is for the master of the house.”

This is how the common reference to the “upper crust” came into our language. The upper crust of the loaf was the premium and most desired part of the loaf.

The bread that Jesus ate was probably not prepared in the same way. But Jesus described himself as the “bread of life.” In Jesus’ day, bread occupied a more crucial role in one’s everyday life than it does now. Jesus is telling us that he is our nourishment. He is our source of strength. He also described himself as the “living water.”

In other words, even as we require bread and water to stay physically alive, so, too, do we need Jesus, the bread of life and the “living water,” to stay spiritually alive and healthy.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are my nourishment! Thank you! Amen.

JUST A THOUGHT

By Erika Dennis

In the 1980's, my family and I lived in New Mexico, across the river from Albuquerque. One Sunday morning, a stranger walked into the sanctuary of our church: "My name is Don McLargin, I am from Ohio." After the service he shook hands with our pastor: "My wife and I will be living in Rio Rancho for a year, supervising some construction projects in this area. We want to join your church. If there are any repairs needed in your church, I want to help. On Wednesday evening that week, Don met with our Building Repair Fund Committee. That was an awkward title, so we shortened it to BRF committee, but even that didn't roll off the tongue very easily. Finally we called ourselves, very affectionately, the Barf committee. "That's Ok," said one of our members, "as long as you don't serve food." Don asked about our priorities. "Well," said our chairperson, the Trustees have been debating for years how to make the steps to the chancel more comfortable, so that we don't have to go up sideways, but they never did anything about it. "That's easy," said Don. "We'll need oak boards and a hand railing for people who are not too steady on their feet. I'll also need people to help."

Phil, one of our members, volunteered. Then he said: "painting the sanctuary is our top priority; we have the money, but we need scaffolding to paint the high walls. We are worried that none of our members can work way up there." Don had a suggestion. He would rent a power sprayer so that all the painting could be done from the floor. "Of course we need some short people to paint around the windows up there." "Don, do you suppose a novice painter could do the job?" "Erika, of course you can do it; just bring a 3-inch brush." Don also knew where we could buy a large batch of paint that had been mixed to order and then canceled. "You can get it for less than half-price, if you like off-white." Yes, even the Trustees liked off-white at that price. Don told us to get a lot of volunteers. "The more, the better." We started painting on a Saturday.

That morning, as I wielded my brush like a Michelangelo, I felt the peaceful atmosphere in the sanctuary. There were no blaring radios. The hissing sound of the paint sprayer was punctuated by good-humored laughter from the men who guided the hoses and moved the paint bucket for the power sprayer. At the far wall, where the ladies took turns steadying ladders and painting around windows, there was giggle therapy in progress. Suddenly, I was reminded of that Biblical carpenter who, the story goes, appeared long ago at the doors of the convent in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to build the miraculous spiral staircase in the chapel that is still an attraction for tourists. Had Joseph also come to our church?

We finished painting the sanctuary around noon. Our group had done the work very efficiently. We were only 13 people, including the pastor. He did a good job. Wherever he painted, he left his mark: off-white droplets on the beige carpeting. As we sat down to eat the lunch prepared by some of our ladies, we enjoyed the good company and the feeling of a job well done. In that mood we decided that as long as the paint brushes were still wet and enough paint was left in the buckets, we might as well do the offices, too. Later, when I was cleaning brushes, Don came to me with a big smile on his face: "Did you see how well the group worked together? I told you, anybody could do it." I nodded in agreement. To myself I thought, "Yes, there is a lot of talent out there just waiting to be tapped. But it takes a very special person to instill confidence in people, turning them into a group that will work in harmony to achieve a common goal."

REV. VICTORIA FREIHEIT
ASSOCIATE FOR SENIOR MINISTRY

To celebrate July 4, Independence Day, here is a short history of the Statue of Liberty. The Giant Statue 'Liberty Enlightening the World' has become a symbol of freedom to oppressed people everywhere. It was a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, commemorating the alliance of the two nations during the Revolutionary War.

Edouard De Laboulaye, a French historian, proposed in 1865 that France present a memorial to the United States on the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He was an abolitionist who celebrated the end of slavery here after the Civil War. He hoped that this gift would inspire his own people to fight for their own liberty against Napoleon III, who had set himself up as emperor. During their Revolution in 1789 their cry had been "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality!"

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi created our Statue and it was dedicated in 1886. It was made with 300 copper shells about the thickness of two pennies. At first it was brown but has changed to pale green. It's supported by an iron framework designed by Gustav Eiffel. It was the height of innovation and allowed shifting in the wind without cracking. Lady Liberty can sway up to three inches in heavy winds. By most estimates, the copper statue has been hit by lightening over 600 times every year since it was built.

In her uplifted right hand she holds a torch lighted by mercury-vapor lamps. Her crown symbolizes the seven seas, the seven continents and the rays of the sun. In her left hand is the tablet of law bearing in roman numerals the date July 4, 1776. Although she is a statue, Lady Liberty is not standing still. Her right leg is in mid-stride, and her right foot is actually leaving the ground. She's marching forward, toward the horizon, forever leading the way and lighting the path to liberty and freedom.

The 152 foot Statue stands on a 150 foot pedestal on which appears the sonnet "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus:

Not like the barren giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of exiles, From her beacon hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twice cities framed.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

This poem reminds us of the Old Testament widow Ruth, who said to her widowed mother-in-law, "I will not leave thee, nor forsake thee. Whither thou goest, I will go. Thy people shall be my people, and thy god my god." So they left Moab and Ruth became an immigrant in Bethlehem. It's a romantic story with a good ending, she became the great-grandmother of King David. Look it up—the last verse of the Book of Ruth. To all you immigrants—Happy July 4th!

July Liturgists

7th Erika Dennis
14th Jerry May
21st Ester Banayo
28th Chris Dunn

July Ushers

Reuben Barrera
Nate Purificacion
Niel Purificacion
Ester Banayo

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW
CHURCH MEMBERS!**

**Sarah Roemer
Tracy Brainard
Ko Tangen
Isabel Blanco**

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

We still need people to sign up for flowers. The flower calendar is on the table in Bradley Hall along with the white sign-up sheets. We have to commit to two bouquets each week from the florist.

The bouquets are \$25.00 each and it is a wonderful way to remember an event or person in your life.

Thank you for making our Altar Beautiful!!

The Diaconate



**Please contact the
church office or
Pastor Liz if you
are interested in
learning more
about the church
or becoming a
member.**



Update on Migrant Mission Project from Social Responsibility Committee

Pastor Jose Antonio Altamirano from Camino de Salvacion Baptist Church and Migrant Shelter recently sent these pictures to Pastor Liz. He wrote these words of thanks and blessings after our latest donation of money and clothing items: “The support you have given to us is invaluable. We could not have begun this construction project without your aid. We continue to give God thanks for your church and your facilitation of other churches to support us. Soon we will have space for 20 more migrants, women, children and families. Thank you!” Donation boxes for socks and underwear both genders, all sizes), plus jeans (men’s small sizes), can still be found at the entrance of our sanctuary and in Bradley Hall. Checks can be made to our church with “migrant mission” written on memo. Your contributions are tax deductible. Pastor Liz recently invited more churches in Southern CA to join in this project at the Annual Gathering Meeting of our Southern California UCC Churches, and she reminds all of us that no amount is too small!



"Church Carillon. Currently, in the daytime, the Church's carillon strikes the clock each hour from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and three times a day plays a hymn. Periodically changes must be made to the programming. For example, change the clock for DST, change the hymns from Lent to Easter tunes, etc. It is programmed in a manner similar to a VCR (only easier) and currently is handled by Dave Hand. Dave is concerned that he may be out of town, ill, or hit by a meteorite when changes are due. If you would like to learn how to make changes, and be available to occasionally fill in, please give Dave a call at (619) 421-3826.



JUNE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Bibles will be given to the children starting 3rd or 4th grade on June 30th. Also during that same Sunday, there will be a special children's activity time (with a 4th of July theme) during fellowship, in Bradley Hall. Children won't want to miss fun relay races and outdoor games on Sundays of July 28th and August 25th, also during fellowship!

Below are the stories we are studying in the month of July.

Summer 2019

Unit 2: Families of the Old Testament

Date	Session	Story	Story Bible Verse
July 7th	6	Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6
July 14th	7	Abraham and Lot	Genesis 13:1-12
July 21st	8	Sarah and Isaac	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7
July 28th	9	Isaac and Rebekah	Genesis 24:1-67

Filipino Independence Day Celebration



Lynn Stafford	1st
JoAnn Roubinek	3rd
Vicki Freeman	5th
Gracelyn Limbo	10th
Aurora Rivera	12th
Pamela Barbarose	16th
Jackie Lancaster	17th
John DeSaegher	25th
Norma Brainard	26th
Maria Elena Berdin	27th
Maryrose Marbella	28th
Carol Black	29th





COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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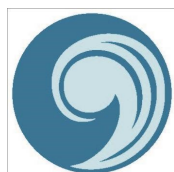
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Community Congregational Church (UCC)

"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



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Pastor James Donahoo

Director of Youth & Young Adult ministries

Jamall Calloway

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