



THE CHIMES

October 2019



Happy fall season, friends! As I almost approach my one-year anniversary as your Senior Pastor, I find myself reflecting on what are the theological and biblical principles which have guided my ministry in general, and here at this church. As we move forward together, my desire is that we have an opportunity to get to know one another, better. It is in that context I wish to share some of my own guiding, biblical/ theological principles that ground me as a Christian, as a minister, and as a local church pastor.

- We are all made in the image of God (Genesis). God created us in God's image. That means we are all a part of God's good creation. That means we are meant to treat one another as beloved creations of God. Therefore, all of us deserve to be treated with respect, honor, kindness, and dignity, despite our differences in theology, class, politics, gender, and sexuality, race, or ethnicity.
- God is mystery. God is neither male nor female. God does not have a gender. No one can put God in their own "box" in any way. God's ways are not our ways. (Isaiah).
- God is Trinity. God, therefore, communicates and reaches us in a variety of ways. That God would want to be in communication and in relationship with us shows us God's love for us has no limits.
- We are only one part of God's good creation. (Genesis). God gave us the task to be good stewards of God's creation. As such, we must work towards climate control and sustainability so that animals, plants, and future human generations may be able to live and thrive in safe environments.
- As a Christian I believe that salvation comes through Jesus Christ. (The Gospels) God can reveal God's self through other religions. However, if I am going to claim to be a Christian that means the person I serve and believe to be my Savior, is Jesus Christ. That there are millions of other people who do not follow Jesus, does not mean that they are less loved by God.
- The Holy Spirit is God's power and presence in the world and in us. The Holy Spirit is alive and well and still gives us the power, ability/gifts, desire to worship and serve God. (Corinthians, Galatians)
- We are saved through grace and not through works. (Romans) We can't earn salvation by working hard or trying to be perfect in any way. It isn't about what we do. It is about what God did and does for us. We cannot, therefore, save ourselves.
- We are the Body of Christ. As such, we need one another. The body cannot fully function well without each part of the body working well and together. Jesus Christ is the head of the Body, and therefore we serve and worship Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians, Ephesians)
- God calls us to love others as we love God and ourselves. (Matthew; The Great Commandment) "You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and your neighbor as yourself.) If I claim to love God, I must love others and I must love myself.

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- As hard as it is, we must forgive others. (The Gospels, Romans and Ephesians) If God can forgive us (and God does, daily) then we must be willing to forgive others. It is a process and although we may not be able to be friends with someone who has hurt us, we must forgive them. We do so not only for them but for our own sake and well-being.
- There you have it! Please know I am always open to hear what your own guiding principles are that help ground you as a Christian. Or, if you have questions about any of my guiding principles, please feel free to ask me about it. I look forward to see how we, as church, continue to learn from one another and grow as Christian disciples, together!

God bless you,

MIGRANT MISSION UPDATE

Your donations of money and clothing have gone far for the Migrant Shelter, "Pasaje de Salvacion" in Tijuana. Pastor Jose Altamirano recently sent these pictures of their recent construction project to us with a thank you message. As migrants are now virtually stuck in Mexico without the capability to apply for asylum the shelter will be at max capacity for longer periods of time. Please consider giving the following: NEW socks, underwear, hoodies for all genders and sizes, and jeans for thin men. Monetary donations can be made to Community Congregational Church in Chula Vista. In memo please write, "migrant mission project." The shelter is run by members of the church and their pastor. They are doing all of this through donations. Thank you for participating in this important mission project with your prayers and donations!



Rev. Victoria Freiheit, Associate for Senior Ministries

Here are two stories sent to me by friends over the years: 1. **“God's Voice Mail”** We've learned to live with voice mail—we hate it, but it's helpful. What if God installed voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing this:

Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following options:

- . Press 1 for Requests
- . Press 2 for Thanksgiving
- . Press 3 for Complaints
- . Press 4 for All Other Inquiries

What if God used the familiar excuse. . . “I'm sorry, I'm busy helping other sinners right now, however, your prayer is important to me and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.”

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call God in Prayer?

If you would like to speak to: . . . Angel Gabriel, Press 1; Angel Michael, Press 2; For a directory of other angels, Press 3; If you would like King David to sing a psalm while you are holding, press 4; If you would like to find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, enter his or her Social Security number, then press the pound key; For reservations at “My Father's House”, please enter J-O-H-N 316; For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive here; Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow; This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again Monday after 9:30 am. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local pastor. THANK YOU GOD, FOR NOT HAVING VOICE MAIL AND FOR LISTENING WHEN WE PRAY!!!

2. Our Greatest Songs Are Still Unsung: Back in the 1870's there was a Bishop who was in charge of a small denominational college. Annually, he visited the school and stayed in the home of the president of the school.

The Bishop was a narrow thinker with a dim view of the future. He told the school president during one of those visits that everything that could be invented had already been invented.

The administrator disagreed. “In 50 years,” he contested, “people will learn to fly like birds.”

That kind of talk greatly disturbed the bishop. “Flight is reserved for birds and angels,” he said emphatically, “and you sir, are guilty of blasphemy!”

The name of the bishop was Milton Wright. That name may not have much meaning to you, but something else will. You see, back at home this clergyman had two enthusiastic sons—Orville and Wilbur—who believed that our greatest songs were still unsung! The rest of the story is one of an enthusiastic belief in tomorrow. You know how it ends.

In September, we celebrated Homecoming here at Community Congregational Church—a time to invite our friends and neighbors to church, and to thank God for another church year about to begin. Let us enter this new church year with the confident assurance that our greatest songs are still unsung. Supported by one another and undergirded by faith, we, too, can share an enthusiastic belief in tomorrow.

Yours in the New Church Year,

Rev. Victoria Freiheit

REPORT FROM DIACONATE

We wish to thank all of you who so faithfully contribute to the Diaconate Fund each month. It is wonderful to have your support to be able to help church families.

Thank you to all of you that have been supporting the flower calendar this year. We still have a few places left that we need filled to finish out the year. The flower calendar is on the table in Bradley Hall and the arrangements are still \$25.00.

We have two jobs we would like some help with on Sundays after the church service.

1. Only on communion Sundays, once a month. We need help with clean-up after communion. This involves cleaning and putting away communion trays.
2. Next is help with straightening the pew racks, putting in new envelopes. This needs to be done weekly before our Sunday service. This could be done earlier before the Sunday service or during the week.

Please see Sylvia Campbell, if this sounds like something you would like to do.

Sylvia Campbell
Diaconate Chair

Mission Board

What is the Holiday Market?

It is another way to say a "Rummage Sale" with holidays as the theme. So, as the holidays are around the corner, and you are checking out your decorations, any extras or don't need items, can be donated to the holiday market for gifts for others. No clothes or shoes, please.

We will also have jewelry, baked goods and ornaments. Please bring your items to the church by the end of October. The money will go towards the Tower Party and other groups that our church supports.

Thank you ahead of time.

Echo Stafford Chairperson, Mission Board.

In the space of the book nook we have put up 2 bulletin boards for information for Mission and Social Responsibility. Please contact Echo Stafford if you have any questions regarding the removal of the books.

PASTOR JIM DONAHOO
MINISTER OF VISITATION



Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Make the world a better place one person at a time. Start with yourself.
—Linda Poindexter

Many years have passed since my friend Deb was an English teacher at a local high school. About a year ago, she learned that one of her previous students was speaking at the library about her recent book. Deb went to the event and after the presentation re-introduced herself to her student.

The young woman looked at her former teacher, and recognizing her, became visibly emotional. Tears moistened her eyes. She picked up her old high school annual laying on a nearby table and showed her what Deb had written so many years ago: “Sylvia! I want a signed copy of your first book.”

It was some months later that Deb was invited to Sylvia’s home for the launching of her second book. She was greeted at the door by an older couple who asked, “How do you know our daughter?”

Deb replied, “From high school.”

“You were in her class?”

“Well ... no ...” Deb said. “I was one of her teachers.”

Sylvia’s mother gave Deb a warm hug and said, “You are *the* teacher! You were the first person outside the family to believe in her talents as a writer. She owes her career to you.”

Words written in a high school annual changed a life. This story always makes me wonder: How many times have I failed to say an encouraging word?

I like to remember the words of Robby Novak. He’s the talented boy who created the Kid President character, appearing on TV in that role. Novak, born in 2004, has a bone disease. At school, this has made him a victim of bullying. He began his Kid President character because he realized that — because of his condition — he probably would not reach the minimum age to run for the highest office of the land. So he is working hard to make the world a better place in the time he has.

My friend Deb reminds me of what Novak once said: “Be somebody who makes everybody feel like somebody.”

—Melanie Silva

Prayer: Help me, O God, to be attuned to others. Grant me the grace to listen with my heart and always offer the encouraging word. Amen.

JUST A THOUGHT

By Erika Dennis

Yes, Liesl's parents, Herr and Frau Stadelmeyer, were convinced that they had found the most suitable husband for their daughter. Hans, the son of Herr and Frau Hellwig, was the best match any parents could wish for their daughter. He had returned from military service in WWI to help his father run the family business. Times looked very bleak after Germany had lost the war. Gone forever were the days of excellent, steady income from dealing with customers such as the Russian tsar, and the Indian maharajas who ordered gem-adorned trappings for their elephants. This changed situation called for a critical assessment of the few possibilities left. Hans and his father took a bold step. Manufacturing wedding rings might bring a steady income since young people were always getting married. After equipping their manufacturing place with the new machinery, they made a promising start.

The parents decided that now would be the right time for Hans and Liesl to become acquainted. Their meetings were all properly supervised. Soon, wedding plans would be started. The hope chest was ready for the bride. There were the "unmentionables" prettily finished with Belgian lace. On top of the necessities were two "parade cushions" with wide lace ruffles. As the name indicates, they were just for show and were placed on the bed every morning to make it look pretty for the day. But the wedding plans were interrupted by the unexpected death of Herr Hellwig. Two of his sons took over the business for their mother. Hans was in charge of the actual production, and Walter took care of the office. No doubt, the wedding plans would have to be put on hold until some later time. But Frau Hellwig told her son: Hans, you are 30 years old, it's time you got married and got out of my house."

The marriage placed Liesl into her traditional role of wife and mother, and she was determined to make the best job of it. She bought herself a cookbook to learn the more modern ways of preparing meals and fancy pastries. Soon she became the perfect hostess for family gatherings. All family members were very happy to celebrate the holidays at Hans and Liesl's home. After a few years, the first child, Herbert, was born. I followed four years later. The future looked good. There was only one thing that Liesl, my mother, missed. She would have welcomed it if her husband had discussed business with her, but my father was the old-fashioned type who believed that the wife's place was in the kitchen and in the nursery. He never imagined that there was an empty spot in my mother's heart, aching to be filled with words such as: "I love you; you are a good wife and mother; I am glad I met you." However, such very personal concerns would soon be overshadowed by the start of WWII in 1939.

Adolf Hitler, the chancellor of Germany, was determined to expand his country's borders into the surrounding European states. In his book "Mein Kampf," he insisted that the German people were entitled to more land for living space, the so-called Lebensraum. The targeted countries' resistance led to the war, and after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States of America decided to enter the fight on the side of the Allies. Also in 1941, my brother, Herbert, was drafted into the army at age 18. Straight out of basic training, his unit was sent into Stalingrad. My parents never received any official notification of his fate. On February 23, 1945, 90% of our hometown was destroyed by a blanket bombing lasting 22 minutes. Our home had survived. But looking out over the firestorm that had been our city we could not imagine that we would ever have a life again.

To be continued....



If you would like prayers for yourself or your family and you would like their names in the Sunday Bulletin or in the Chimes Newsletter, please call Rev. Victoria at the church (619) 422-9263.

Please pray for Mitch Baker

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"We hafta hold hands while we say grace so nobody gets a head start eating. Right, Mommy?"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Wednesday, October 9, 2019 Business Meeting will start at 10:30 AM in Bradley Hall.

The Program at 11:00 AM (also in Bradley Hall) will be presented by Echo Stafford. Echo will talk about her and her husband's recent journey through Peru, as she shares their many photos.

A catered lunch follows the program at Noon. Reservations for the lunch (cost \$10.00) can be made by calling Kay Rouse at (619) 479-7676 by Friday October 4th. Cancellations need to be made by Sunday, the 6th. All are welcome and if you prefer you can bring your own lunch.

Sunday Liturgists

Oct. 6th Ester Banayo

Oct. 13th Chris Dunn

Oct. 20th Eygiel Limbo

Oct. 27th Erika Dennis

Sunday Ushers

Niel Purificacion

Nate Purificacion

Abner Limbo

Melyn Limbo

Sunday School Lessons

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Unit 2: Community Foundations

Date	Session	Story	Story Bible Verse
October 6th	5	Call to Freedom	Exodus 2:11-3:22; 5:2-13:9
October 13th	6	The Exodus	Exodus 13:17-14:31; 15:1-21
October 20th	7	Community in the Wilderness	Exodus 15:22-17:7
October 27th	8	Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:1-20:21

Judy May	1st
Tya Valentine	1st
Marjorie Wright	1st
Delores Lambert	3rd
Tracy Brainard	3rd
Vina Marie Jacob	8th
Nancy Reynolds	8th
Joanne Marugg	11th
Leonor Romero	12th
Luz Barrera	16th
Chris Dunn	20th
Steven Sterner	21st
Martin Marugg	22nd
Brandon Vasquez	27th
Pattie Osuna	30th



www.chelettesdecorandmore.com

SUNDAYS COMING UP

- Nov. 2 Communion Sunday
- Nov. 17- Stewardship Sunday
- Nov. 24- Thanksgiving Sunday – joint service with other congregations and Joint luncheon
- Dec. 1- First Sunday in Advent; Communion Sunday; O and A Forum after Worship
- Dec. 8- Second Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 15- Third Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 22- Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve**
- Dec. 29th - Service of Lessons and Carols



THANK YOU FROM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our August Fun and Games Gathering was great fun and brought in over \$600 for the Women's Fellowship community outreach. A very big THANK YOU to Nancy Holiman and Dot Webb who worked diligently to make the occasion successful and to all the ladies who worked in serving wherever they were needed; serving food, working at the welcome table and setting everything up on the games day. A big THANK YOU to all the attendees. We appreciate your support.



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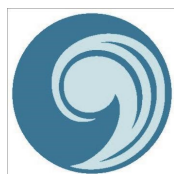
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Community Congregational Church (UCC)

"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 Donahoe

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 Applegat