



# THE CHIMES

## September 2019



FROM PASTOR LIZ

***“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)***

I have a few thoughts that I want to share with you all regarding this Summer season and Fall season. As a nation we have experienced what is probably one of the most stressful summers in recent history. We know this. As a church, we have had the opportunity to take a break from some of our usual activities and responsibilities. Some of you had the opportunity to take much needed vacations. My summer included the opportunity to attend our denomination’s national meeting (General Synod) in Milwaukee, WI, a wedding of a beloved friend in New Orleans, and most recently, my first study week for continuing education, in Minneapolis. Some of my time away included intentional silent meditation, time with a spiritual director, and time to make necessary plans for our church life and worship, together. Here are some new learnings and reminders that the Holy Spirit nudged me about and of which I hope is a blessing to you, as well:

**God is constant even in the midst of great change.**

**Breathing deeply and remaining aware of who we are and to Whom we belong are vital to our well-being and success.**

**The source of our strength is God.**

**We are not victims. We are resilient co-partners with God.**

**We are blessed with more than we realize. Therefore, our decisions and actions cannot be fear-based but gratitude-based.**

God bless you,

**Home-Coming Sunday is September 8<sup>th</sup>!  
What’s It All About?**

**During worship and fellowship hour we will have the opportunity to put our church’s ministry and mission into God’s hands. Won’t you be a part of it? Come to help pray for and with one another. Come to bless our children, youth, and teachers. Come to help bless our Music Ministry. Come to bless our Church Staff and Chair People of boards and committees. Come to celebrate God’s work through and among us! Then, plan to stay afterwards for an ice-cream social provided by our Mission Committee! Let’s kick off another church calendar year in prayer and celebration! Bring a friend and help them discover that “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!” See you then!!**



Rev. Reuben Atuatasi	2nd
Echo Stafford	2nd
Nate Purificacion	3rd
Jeus Limbo	4th
Marge Berry	6th
Romel Limbo	10th
Niel Purificacion	11th
Elizabeth Austin	17th
Lionel Jasmin	18th

Jeramel Limbo	20th
Kay Rouse	20th
John Sweeney	20th
Travell Valentine	20th
Victoria Freiheit	22nd
Krystina Torres	26th
Consuelo DeLeon	28th
Xavier Sanchez	28th
Rick Phillips	29th

## Quilters

Most of you know that there is a group of ladies who meet weekly in our church to do hand quilting. Just what are they up to?

They quilt on Tuesdays from 9am to 1 pm, taking time out for snacks and lunch. More than quilting, they have become a group of best friends who share joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams. In spite of these close bonds, they always welcome new members and have taught our craft to many over the years.

Why should you be interested in this group? Historically, we are one of the longest-lasting groups in our church and one that has contributed substantially over the years, providing over \$30,000 for such items as a new freezer for our kitchen. You could learn a new skill, hand quilting, and research shows that learning new skills helps to maintain a healthy brain. The quilting room is comfortably air conditioned (or heated in winter), providing a respite from difficult weather outdoors. By the way, the snacks are outstanding too. The quilters always have space for newcomers.

Okay, suppose you are not interested in joining this awesome group. You can still be a useful friend while enhancing your own life. You could buy one of the lovely quilts that are for sale when finished. What a perfect gift for a wedding, a christening, a house warming, a going away to college. In other words, even if you don't have the time/energy/interest in quilting, you can enjoy the quilts and help your church at the same time.

If you want more information, contact one of the quilters who attend our church and are among some of their most prized members, Lilyane Cowherd, Patti Osuna, Lynne Prince and Christine Ogden. Yes, others are welcome to join also.

In the meantime, feel free to visit any Tuesday and see for yourself what the Quilters are doing.

Greetings!

First, I would like to greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope this letter finds you and your parents/guardians well, in good health, and good spirits. I am excited about what I am about to share with you. In case you do not remember me, my name is Jamall A. Calloway and I am the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at your home church, Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista, United Church of Christ- which means that I have the privilege and honor of inviting you to Confirmation (!)

I want you to know just how significant this is for your life, your family and your faith. Confirmation is really special. Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, recognizes two sacraments (sacraments are spiritual ceremonies that every believer across the world performs in their own ways). The first sacrament we recognize as a church is Baptism. Baptism is when we pour water on people in the name of the Holy Spirit. And the second sacrament we recognize is Holy Communion. Holy Communion is when we partake of bread and juice on the first Sunday of every month and that symbolizes when Jesus commanded his disciples to perform Passover in remembrance of him.

Confirmation is connected to both of these because it is almost like part two of your baptism. It is a really big deal because during your baptism, as a very young child, your family prayed over you and accepted Jesus Christ on your behalf. Your family and church lovingly welcomed you into the faith knowing that one day you would be able to do it on your own. And now that you are growing up and can speak for yourself, confirmation is the time for you to study the history and details of your faith and **confirm** the grace that your parents/guardians originally accepted for you. It is your time to develop your own understanding and create your own relationship with your Christian faith and your Christian church. It is your time to study about topics like: why do Christians do the things that they do? What does it mean to be a Christian? How should Christians behave in the world? It is also your time to ask whatever question comes to your mind!

Together we will study history, polity and doctrine. And we will get to know each other and have fun learning what this whole United Church of Christ—Christian thing is all about. Pastor Liz, our Senior Pastor will also be on hand to help teach one of the sessions.

**We will begin on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> after church. The class will be a one-hour class for 4 weeks. After 4 weeks you will be ready for the Confirmation**

## *SUNDAYS TO ADD ON YOUR CALENDAR*

- Sep. 1- Communion Sunday*
- Sep. 2- labor Day- Office Closed*
- Sep. 3- Bible Study on Acts changes to every Tuesday until 11/22 @ 6:15pm.*
- Sep. 8- Home-Coming Sunday and Ice Cream Social*
- Sep. 11- Women's Fellowship*
- Sep. 15- Baptism of Kiyomi-Olivia Banayo Carino Church Council*
- Sep. 22- Confirmation Class- first one*
- Sep. 29- Confirmation Class #2*
- Oct. 6- Confirmation Class #3*
- Oct. 9- Women's Fellowship*
- Oct. 13- Confirmation Class #4*
- Oct. 14- Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day- Office Closed*
- Oct. 20- Last Sunday of Acts Sermon Series  
Confirmation Sunday  
Neighbors in Need Offering*
- Oct. 27- Stewardship Month begins  
New Sermon Series Begins: Jesus' teachings on Money  
Open and Affirming Panel Discussion after worship*

PASTOR JIM DONAHOO  
MINISTER OF VISITATION



## Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-10

*God never abandons anyone on whom he has set his love; nor does Christ, the Good Shepherd, ever lose track of his sheep. —J.I. Packer.*

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The gospel lesson for today is from Luke 15. Here, Jesus tells the story of a woman who loses a coin.

It must have been a special coin, because she searched everywhere for this coin. Perhaps it was the last coin she had! She looked high and low. She tried to think where she saw it last. She thought about what she was doing when she lost it. She retraced her steps. She looked into all the drawers, jars and cubbyholes where the coin might have come to rest.

And then, finally, she found the coin!

She was so excited, that she had to tell all her friends. The coin that was lost was found.

If you're like me, you misplace things frequently. Actually, I am getting better at keeping track of my cell phone, eyeglasses, keys, credit cards, pens and papers and so on. I have a designated place for these items. I try always to keep them in their designated place. But sometimes I forget.

But God doesn't forget. God searches for the lost, Jesus says. It's not as though God loses things. Things tend to lose God. We wander away — like the lamb in the story Jesus told about the shepherd and his flock of 100 sheep. One day, he counted only 99 sheep. So he set off in search of one little lamb that was missing. And he found the lamb.

We do that. We wander away. But God goes after us.

God doesn't lose us; we sometimes lose God.

But God will find us, and if we search for God, we will find God, too.

There's a wonderful verse in Jeremiah about this. "When you search for me, you will find me. If you seek for me with all your heart, I will let you find me" (29:13-14).

So, if you think you've lost contact with God, don't worry. Seek God and God will let you find him!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. Thank you for watching out for me. Help me to stay close to you. Amen.*



## JUST A THOUGHT

By Erika Dennis

As I pick up my daily newspaper delivered to my door, I wonder how many people are still doing the same. With so many social media bombarding us 24/7 with important - and unimportant - news, are there more people like me who still take the time to unfold the pages, looking for what is interesting beyond the front page? The other day, one such article by a frequent contributor caught my eye. It discussed a recent increase in companies started by women. According to statistics, these female entrepreneurs are 30% more successful at developing startups into flourishing companies than their male counterparts. It made me feel good. Three cheers for the ladies! Suddenly the thought came into my mind how much my mother would have loved these modern times.

But I must start at the beginning. My mother was born in Germany, in 1899. She was christened Elisabeth since she was born on the Emperor's birthday. Everybody called her Liesl. The daughter of a well-to-do family, she attended school until she was 14. The proper education for a young lady included cooking, needlework and, of course, French. Boys went on to high school, but girls were told that they didn't need all that higher education since they were going to make a suitable marriage and start their own family. After Liesl graduated from school, her mother took over her continuing education. Besides cooking, the most cherished project was filling the hope chest. It was a very large wooden trunk sitting in Liesl's bedroom, waiting to be filled piece by piece with underwear, nightgowns, decorative cushions and more. There were fine silk slippers trimmed with lace, and so-called modesty half-slips of sturdier cotton material that made it impossible to guess at the female form hidden underneath. All these items had to be sewn either by hand or on a sewing machine powered by a foot treadle. You may wonder about the trunk's name. Hope was what the parents had to see their daughter married to a suitable husband, once the chest was filled.

Liesl was more fortunate than most of her contemporaries whose days were spent cooking and sewing. Her father recognized her talent for keeping the household accounts, another wifely duty. He sent her to a secretarial school to learn bookkeeping, and then introduced her to the office work in his own company, where he and several employees designed and produced garnet jewelry. My mother loved her job and was eventually able to run the office by herself. The only letdown came when she returned home after a day's work. Her mother would greet her: "Liesl, here are some jobs I kept for you since you have been sitting in the office all day." But that was only a minor annoyance since she knew that the next morning she would again be part of the bigger, exciting world, a man's world. While Liesl was happy with her good fortune, Europe had been plunged into a war that was later called WWI. One year before the end of the war, her father was drafted into the Emperor's army. It was decided that Liesl, together with the most experienced and trusted employee, would continue to run the business. This was the chance to prove to herself that she could do what, at that time, was considered a man's job.

Then, in 1918, Germany lost the war. Liesl's father was discharged from the military service and took over his company again. During the following years the hope chest was filled and Liesl's parents decided that the time had come to look around for a suitable son-in-law. There were several candidates, but many details had to be considered, such as owner of the right kind of business, or in line to take over his father's company, moral rectitude, spotless character, matching religion, proper age etc. Then they contacted their choice's parents. Finally they told Liesl that they had found the ideal husband for her.

To be continued...

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

Lately people have been telling me to “slow down.” Even Pastor Jim Donahoo as I walk quickly past his desk, “You are going to get a speeding ticket.” Does this happen to you? Are you one of those who LIKE TO GET THINGS DONE? In C. Vinson's “Finding Rest” August 9 we are asked if we suffer from FOMO: Fear of Missing Out. To ensure we don't miss out, we say “yes” to more than we should and sometimes we become burned out.

It is hard to say “no.” But we can—not unkindly, but with gentleness. Saying “no” will open more space in our lives to say “yes” to the things that matter to us such as time with the Lord. Learn to say no without FOMO, and ask God to show you what is truly important.

A true story by Frank Aspuria, is called “Life in the Fast Lane.” A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street a little too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the car's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown.

The angry driver jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, “What was that all about! And who are you? And what the heck are you doing? That brick is going to cost me a lot of money—why did you do it?”

The young boy was apologetic. “Please, mister. . . please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do” he pleaded. “I threw the brick because no one else would stop. . .” With tears running down his face, he pointed to a spot just around the parked car. “It's my brother,” he said, “he rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up.” Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, “Would you please help me get him back in his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me.”

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. “Thank you and may God bless you,” the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long slow walk back to the Jaguar.

The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message, “Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!” God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

Yours on the “slow down once in awhile” journey,

Rev. Victoria

## SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

For the last month there has been one to three students for Sunday School each week. There will be a children's activity on August 25th. We are looking forward to Welcome Back Sunday, vacations ending and the children coming back to Sunday School. Below are the stories we are studying in the month of September. This year's theme is **Loving God, Loving Neighbor**.

Fall 2019

### Unit 1: Communities Welcome

Date	Session	Story	Story Bible Verse
September 1st	1	We Are One	1 Corinthians 12:12-31
September 8th	2	Communities Accept	John 4:1-42
September 15th	3	Welcoming Others	Mark 10:46-52
September 22nd	4	Communities Forgive	Luke 19:1-10
September 29th	5	Children Contribute	John 6:1-15

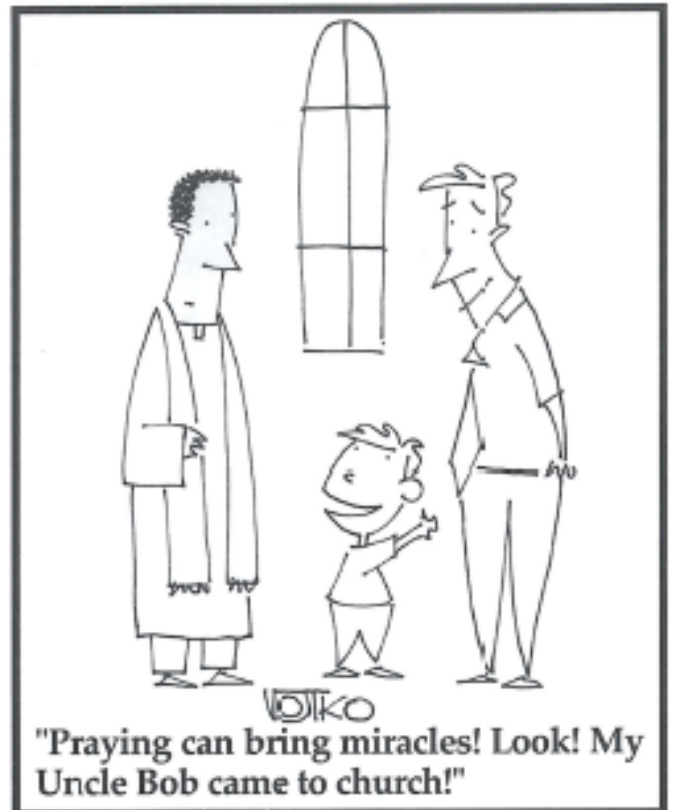
### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



"God's not planning on retiring anytime soon, is He?"

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"Praying can bring miracles! Look! My Uncle Bob came to church!"

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17th Annual

# South County Intergenerational Games

Wednesday, September 4, 2019: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monteville Community Center, 840 Duncan Ranch Rd, Chula Vista, CA

At the **South County Intergenerational Games**, active older adults (age 50+) are teamed up with 3rd grade students from the Chula Vista Elementary School District for a half-day of fun educational and physical activities. The mission of the Games is to increase mutual understanding and respect between generations and to promote healthy, active, life-long behaviors.



For more information or to register, contact: Pam Plimpton at (858) 495-5769

[Pam.Plimpton@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Pam.Plimpton@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Or register on-line at: [www.2019SouthCountyIGGames.eventbrite.com](http://www.2019SouthCountyIGGames.eventbrite.com)



## MISSION BOARD

September 18th, the Mission Board will announce its new Church-Wide Program

What is Community Congregational Church's Mission?

The Mission Board along with Rev. Liz are redefining what the Mission of our church can be, expanding it and involving all the members of the Church at whatever level that is comfortable to each person.

Over the next few months we will be developing strategies and opportunities to participate in local, state, national, or international events through the following:

1. Take action by participating in rallies, educating the public, handing out flyers
2. Volunteer at soup kitchens, shelters, Earth Day
3. Donating items of need or collecting them
4. Giving monetary gifts

Tentatively the Mission Board will have a "Holiday Market" at the end of November or First of December. Please donate any items that would be "Holidayish" for the market.

Thank you,

The Mission Board



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## Social Responsibility Committee

Your Social Responsibility Committee is excited about our upcoming plans to help the Church become Open and Affirming. On October 27, 2019, at 11:00 am, a Forum will take place in Bradley Hall. Parents of gay, lesbian or transgender persons will share their experiences helping their children deal with the discrimination and prejudice they suffer from an often misguided world. On December 1, 2019, we will host a Forum to hear members of the LGBTQ community speak about the rejection and pain they endure living their lives in the manner they were made to live. Speakers will be members of this Church as well as persons from local LGBTQ organizations. Additional Forums will feature gay, lesbian or transgender pastors as they seek to navigate the bigotry and intolerance they face even in other churches. Being welcoming to all people is a fundamental tenet of the UCC faith, and we look forward to the day when this Church is certified as Open and Affirming.

A different type of Forum will occur on January 5, 2020, when we will present speakers from the San Diego County Registrar of Voters. Some may not know that 2020 will bring many changes to the election process. The speakers will inform us about regional election centers, our early primary election, universal mail in ballots and other changes. In addition the Registrar representatives can assist anyone who needs to register or modify their current voter registration.

One issue that is no doubt on everyone's mind is the need to halt gun violence. The UCC has issued a call to action to all churches, asking that we seek to make gun control a central issue in the upcoming elections, and to support background checks for gun and ammunition sales. Closer to home, Chula Vista passed a resolution on August 13, 2019, urging action on Gun Safety Legislation. To learn more about the UCC's gun violence prevention actions, go to [www.ucc.org/news](http://www.ucc.org/news).

Finally, we continue to seek donations to the Migrant Ministry Shelter Camino de Salvacion in Tijuana, including new jeans, jackets, pullovers for young thin men and socks and underwear for all sizes and gender. Of course cash is always welcome.

The Social Responsibility Committee meets monthly and welcomes anyone who wishes to promote Justice and equality for all. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

## September Ushers & Liturgists

Ushers: Reuben Barrera, Niel Pruificacion, Nate Pruificacion,  
Suzie Persaud, Ester Banayo

Liturgist: Sept. 1st Ester Banayo  
Sept. 8th Chris Dunn  
Sept. 15th Eygiel Limbo  
Sept. 22nd Kennan Limbo  
Sept. 29 Erika Dennis





## 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



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**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