



COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #21
Chula Vista, CA

Return Address Requested

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
published monthly by
Community Congregational Church
276 F Street,
Chula Vista, CA 91910
www.chulavistachurch.com

Senior Minister

Pastor 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 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



THE CHIMES

MARCH 2020



Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar
Senior Minister



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on Wednesday, February 26th, and lasts for 40 days. It is a special time for Christians to set aside and draw closer to God on our spiritual journeys as we approach Holy Week. We will have various opportunities for us to reflect and exercise our spirituality as a congregation and on our own.

Lent is often a time when we feel called to "give up" something. This year I hope to "take on" something, instead. Either way, the point is to make Lent a different and unique time where I am reminded that from "ash I came and to ash I will return" and that I am meant to "be still and know that God is God." And finally, it is an opportunity for me to focus on the fact that all that Christ did and does for me is because of His amazing grace!

Here are scripture readings which you are invited to reflect upon during the season of Lent. Doing extra scripture reading is a powerful way to draw closer to God during this special season.

Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

Nicodemus visits Jesus (John 3:1-17)

The Samaritan Woman and Jesus at the Well (John 4: 5-42)

Jesus Heals a Blind Man and The Pharisees Don't Like It (John 9:1-41)

The Death of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

Palm Sunday; Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11)

The Last Supper and The Crucifixion of Jesus: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (John 13:1-17,31b-36 and John 18:1-19:42)

The Resurrection of Jesus: Easter Sunday (Matthew 28: 1-11)

May we walk toward the cross and the tomb with a spirit of openness and surrender!

God bless you friends in Christ!

News from the Social Responsibility Committee

Earth Day plans have been postponed for April, as the event location has changed from Memorial Park to the Bayfront Marina Park in Chula Vista. We are exploring other events to promote environmental concerns and the Church in the Downtown area this year.

Migrant Mission – support continues for the shelter and donations are welcome – please continue your generous giving of socks, underwear and money to the project.

Cooperative work and support of the Missions Board and CCDC on Homeless concerns and projects in Chula Vista.

Continued exploration of the Open and Affirming process for our Church, and work toward a personal spiritual growth experience during the Lenten period for all church members.

More information on this is coming in a mailing to members.

Lent begins February 26, on Ash Wednesday.



"You are invited to attend the Jazz Worship Service at 5 pm every Sunday at the Christian Fellowship Church at 1601 Kelton Road, in San Diego. We get a taste of it from Earl Vaults' saxophone every 2nd Sunday at our own church. If you like jazz, you'll love this worship service, hearing the sounds as you watch the sun set in the trees just outside the front windows.

Please call Rev. Victoria if you need directions."

Registrations for the 20-21 school year are now available. Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are considering returning next year (and we hope you are!), turn in your registrations ASAP.

Registration is \$80.00 & \$105.00 for a family of 2 or more. Also, if you have friends or family that might be interested in attending CCP, please let them know we are taking registrations now, for the next school year.

OpenHouse/Ice Cream Social!

**Wednesday
March 11, 2020**

From 6:00 -8:00 p.m .
Sundaes are \$1.50 each.
Come visit your child's class room and enjoy ice cream in Bradley Hall.

News From The Preschool

Spring break is March 30th through April 3rd.
School is closed for one week . Return on Monday April 6th

Monday the 3rd
Back to school !!!!

A big thank you to John Bull !!!
(For putting together our new play house)
Also Thank you to the Church Mission Board for the cash donation to help purchase it.!!!

**A big welcome to :
Ms. Natalie, she has becoming a member of our CCP Staff. She worked summer school so some of you may know her. She is wonderful and we are so pleased to have her on our Team!!!**

If you have not turned in your Disaster kit please do so as soon as possible.

Dear Parents,
All the Teachers are doing wonderful projects with the children this year, and they take pictures throughout the school year and put them into a photo album for you to have at the end of your CCP stay. A small donation would be extremely helpful and appreciated!

Please help by picking a heart off the wish tree that is in the office and support your School.

Thank you!!



Classes at Norman Park Senior Center

Would you like help learning how to use a smart phone or tablet? Our neighbors to the East of the church are holding classes taught by tech savvy youths on smart phones, Social Media, arranging for food delivery (3/4/20) and for transportation (3/11/20). All classes are from 9:45 to 11:00 am in the main room at Norman Park Senior Center.

The Senior Center hosts many interesting activities and classes. Movie Mondays feature classic films at 1:00 pm - and during March, while the Norman Park Senior Center is undergoing renovations, those movies will be shown in our own Bradley Hall. Other activities include art classes, exercise and fitness programs, law and insurance presentations, and the like. Check out Norman Park's website at chulavistaca.gov, or simply walk next door and review the many opportunities available to seniors at the Center.



Loren Limbo	2nd
Lynne Prince	7th
Nancy Holiman	7th
Sylvia Campbell	8th
Lorelei Naegeli	14th
Ruth Jones	14th
Marjory Robb	14th
Joan Corey	20th
Jennie Rindone	20th
Frederika Lucia	25th
Amber Ashford	30th
Joyce VanderMaaten	30th
Willie Freiheit	31st



The Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee at our church is comprised of 5 members and our pastor: Janet Hand, Ester Banayo, Nancy Holiman, Mike Bishop, Betty Jo Reynolds and Pastor Liz. The committee exists to promote a healthy and loving relationship between the members of the congregation and the pastor. We act as an advisory and support group to the pastor and welcome positive input and concerns from members of the congregation recognizing that this relationship is vital to the ministry of the church. We meet quarterly or at the request of the pastor and use these meetings for prayer, reflection and sharing, as well as a variety of subjects relative to the pastor and the church which may include concerns and input from the members of the congregation as well as opportunities for the pastor's professional growth.

Respectfully,
Nancy Holiman
Committee Chair

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Wednesday, March 11th, 2020, Business Meeting of the Women's Fellowship will start at 10:30 AM in Bradley Hall. The 11:00 AM Program is also in Bradley Hall. All are welcome.

The Program Speaker will be Reverend Doctor Marianna Kirwin and the title of her talk is Everything Old Is New Again.

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, March 6th. Cancellations need to be made by Sunday, March 8th.



Here are 20 humorous answers given by children to Bible questions: Submitted by J. DeSaegher

1. What is the FIRST COMMANDMENT in the Bible? When Eve told Adam to eat the fruit.
2. On what famous Mt. did Moses receive the 10 Commandments? On Mt. Cyanide (Sinai)
3. What is the 7th Commandment? Thou shalt not ADMIT adultery.
4. Who was Noah's wife? JOAN OF ARC.
5. What happened to Lot's wife? She became a pillar of salt by day & a ball of fire by night.
6. Joshua led the Israelites in what famous battle? The Battle of GERITOL (Jericho).
7. What is the greatest miracle in the Bible? When Joshua told his SON (sun) to stand still and his son obeyed him.]
8. Who was David? A Hebrew king skilled at playing the LIAR (Lyre).
9. David fought many battles against what nation? The FINKLESTEIN'S (the Phillistines)
10. Who was Solomon? A son of David—had 300 wives & 700 PORCUPINES (concubines).
11. How was Jesus born of Mary? Through an immaculate CONTRAPTION (conception).
12. Who did Jesus choose to follow him? The 12 DECIBELS (disciples).
13. What were the 13 Epistles? The wives of the APOSTLES.
14. What did Mary do when the angel said she would bear the Christ-child? Mary sang the MAGNA CARTA.
15. What was Matthew's occupation when called to follow Jesus? A TAXI MAN (tax collector).
16. Where did Salome do her dance of the 7 veils? In front of HARROD'S. (King Herod)
17. Paul was an Apostle to the Jews and who else? The GENITALS (Gentiles)
18. What is the miracle of Easter? When Jesus arose and managed to get that huge tombstone off the entrance.
19. The term meaning a Christian should have only 1 wife. MONOTONY. (Monogamy)
20. What is the GOLDEN RULE? Do unto others before they can do it to you. (or) Whoever has the gold rules.

From Pastor Liz: Worship News

Worship Schedule for the Season of Lent:

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26th, on Ash Wednesday! Once again, Rev. Victoria and I will be leading a special service with the imposition of ashes at 4 p.m. It is an opportunity for all of us to begin the Lenten season with a time of prayer, confession, and remembering that “from dust we came and to dust we will return.” **Please plan on attending this service if you are able!** **Other special worship services during Lent will happen on Holy Week with Palm Sunday on April 5th** We will then have a **Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 9th, at 6 p.m.**, when we will have a Tenebrae Service and Holy Communion. We will then “walk toward the cross” and on to the “empty tomb” with a festive **Easter Worship service on Sunday, April 12th, at our usual 9:30 a.m. worship time.** Please plan to be here for all of these special worship services. More information to follow as we get closer to Holy Week!

New Sermon Series During Worship and Bible Study:

During worship services I will be preaching about how to be a modern-day disciple for 10 weeks. For that sermon series, I will be leaning heavily on a transformative book called “Power Surge: The Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church.” It is a book that helped my last church to understand what our purpose was as individual followers of Jesus and as a church. As I did with the Acts Sermon Series, **we will also have a Bible Study group** that will have an opportunity to study and discuss the book further. **It will happen on Tuesday nights at 6 p.m., in the Conference Room. We will end no later than 7:15 p.m.** It is NOT TOO LATE to sign up for the study group. **If you are interested, please do so by calling the church office (619) 422 – 9263!** No previous Bible study knowledge or participation is required to join this group!!

New Children’s Choir!

Every Last Sunday of the following months, (March, May, and August) the children of our congregation will participate during worship by singing together, under the fun and fine leadership of our Minister of Music, Lionel Jasmin! He will teach the children new songs by meeting with them toward the end of Sunday School in their classroom, every Sunday. Parents of Sunday School students please speak with Lionel if you have any questions!

PASTOR JIM DONAHOO MINISTER OF VISITATION



Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:17–4:1

*Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me. —Saint Patrick*

Today, on St. Patrick’s Day, the whole world wants to be Irish! We wear green, we might go to a parade, we listen to the fife-and-drum corps, we hunt for shamrocks, we eat corned beef and cabbage and we might have a glass of green beer.

It’s a bit odd that we do this on St. Patrick’s Day in honor of a man who wasn’t even Irish!

Patrick’s story, however, is a story of a young man who didn’t hold a grudge, and was able to turn a bad situation into a stunning victory for the gospel!

As a youth, Patrick was kidnapped and taken to Ireland. There, he worked as a slave for more than six years. He learned the language and in time came to appreciate his captors. The Irish then were considered barbarians who lived beyond the borders of civilization.

When Patrick was able to return to Britain, he went to Rome, was consecrated as a priest, and eventually returned to the very land where he’d been a captive. Not only did Patrick spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus through his preaching, but through his life as well. He practiced what he preached. That’s a good reminder for all of us.

- If we preach forgiveness, we should live forgiveness.
- If we preach love for one another, we should love one another.
- If we preach patience, we should live patience.
- If we preach humility, we should live humility.

Let’s thank God for Patrick of Ireland and the great work he did in his lifetime. And let’s remember to follow his selfless example of letting go of grudges, injuries and complaints.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, thank you for godly men and women who have shown us throughout history how to live selflessly and with humility. Thank you for Patrick and his great work, and the lessons he taught us. May I show in my life a willingness to forgive and to move on from injury to blessing! In Jesus’ name. Amen.

JUST A THOUGHT

Erika Dennis

Since the Storchenstrasse, the Stork Route, extends for several hundred miles from south to north Germany, tourists may wonder how to find the best place to observe the white storks. The name may bring to mind the Autobahn with cars and trucks whizzing by at high speed. But the Stork Route is quite different. After all, storks would not choose to settle amid noise, commotion and polluted air to raise their beautiful white chicks. The Route is a network of what used to be old country roads, narrow lanes and foot paths, connecting farmers' homes to fields, meadows, marshlands and rivers. This idyllic setting was the perfect mating place for the big birds. But change is inevitable. As the farmers began to use motorized equipment, the roads had to be rebuilt for the heavier vehicles. The lanes, too, may now have a smoother surface, but many of the foot paths leading down to brooks and rivers have survived to this day. Through all these changes, the white storks have continued to return to their nests each year.

Much greater changes occurred after WWII. With the assistance of the United States and the Marshall Plan, the European economy began to recover. This meant that more land was needed to build factories, and homes for the expanding population. The future looked bright. But this welcome prosperity also had a downside. Cities encroached on agricultural land. Farms were sold. Wetlands were laid dry. Voices were heard: "What will happen to our storks and their habitat?" Concerned citizens and governments began to make plans. In Germany, the UNESCO cooperated with the federal government to establish the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Elbe River Landscape. This reserve protects the northern part of the Stork Route. It includes land on both sides of the Elbe river valley and extends for 286 miles through six federal states. The unique scenic route runs through more than 100 historic towns and villages. Bus tours provide many opportunities for observing the storks.

The vast expanse of mountain ranges, hills, valleys, wildflower meadows and rivers is not only a reserve for the white storks whose habitat includes marshes, swamps, grasslands, and riverbanks, where they find frogs, lizards, snakes and insects. The reserve is used as well for earth science and animal studies. It is an ideal combination of natural habitats and federal protection.

Interaction between humans and animals is solely peripheral, the limits determined by the animals. This is also the setting for gaining more insights into the habits of the European white stork. Besides scientific data, it reveals a more personal side of the birds. As the story goes, a male stork, arriving first in Europe for the mating season, finds the nest which he and his mate had used the previous year. While waiting for his partner, a strange female approaches and tries to claim him and his nest. He is willing to make a change. But his true mate, arriving later, has a different idea. It seems that so-called nest fidelity is stronger than the bond with a mate.

The European white storks are much easier to observe than most other animals. Their size alone would make it difficult to hide in open country. They are not afraid of living close to human settlements. For hundreds of years farmers have relied on them to keep frogs, lizards, snakes and insects under control on their land. This relationship allowed man to form a special bond with the storks. From that experience we could learn that most animals are in many respects similar to us. They have brains which they use for survival. With fine-tuned senses they assess other creatures' attitudes and feelings. They know the advantages of team work and community. In spite of their different shapes and sizes, they are God's creation just as we are, and they deserve our respect.

REV. VICTORIA FREIHEIT ASSOCIATE FOR SENIOR MINISTRY

LENT: 40 days when we prepare for the sacred observances of Christ's death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter. Many thanks to Mark Zimmerman for these notes on Lent. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. We don't count Sundays as part of the 40 days because Sundays are like "little Easters" even during this solemn season. We focus on the cross of Christ, confess our sins, read scripture--Matthew 26 & 27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, and John 18-19. That seems like a lot, but doable in six weeks.

Lent is derived from the Germanic root for "long" because Lent occurs in Spring as the days lengthen. The three disciplines we follow in Lent are Almsgiving, Abstinence and Fasting.

ALMSGIVING: Giving somethin extra to our church, to the poor, to charities, is a way to remember that Christ gave up everything to save us from sin and death, to free us to live a new life in him.

ABSTINENCE: Removing a particular bad habit, sinful indulgence or guilty pleasure from our daily routine frees us to engage in activities that please God and reflect in a small way the self-sacrifice that Christ endured for us.

FASTING: Skipping a meal once a week or refraining from eating certain foods affords us the opportunity to spend more time feeding on the Word of God and being spiritually nourished through prayer and meditation.

Usually I give up candy or cookies, my two temptations. More on temptations from Fred Steiner in a children's sermon for Lent based on Matthew 4:1-2: "Good morning boys and girls. Do you now what temptation is? Imagine you have finished dinner, but you haven't had dessert yet. Your parents offer you a piece of fruit. (Hold up a piece of fruit and a candy bar.) You are tempted to have the candy, but the fruit is better for you. This candy temptation reminds me of Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days. He was tempted to turn away from God and worship Satan, but he did not do it. We have temptations too, don't we? Like—have you ever broken something at home and were tempted to not admit that you were the one who did it? Have you ever been tempted not to share your toys with a friend?

Have you ever been tempted to say something bad about someone just to get attention? Have you ever been tempted to play video games longer than you said you would? Temptations will always be with us. When we are tempted, think about Jesus. Think about doing what you know is the right thing, even if it is hard, even if you don't want to. It may be telling the truth when you don't want to. It may be helping pick up your toys when you'd rather keep playing. This week, and during Lent, think about things that tempt you.

Remember Jesus' temptation. Try to make the correct decision."

Mother Teresa offered a way to help us make the right decision: "Joy is one of the best safeguards against temptation. A joyful heart protects us from giving in because Jesus is there in our joy—He takes full possession of our soul when we surrender to him joyfully." and "Resist anything that leads to moodiness. Our prayer each day should be, 'Let the joy of the Lord be my strength.'" and "Joy comes to those who in a sense forget themselves and become totally aware of the other."

And "Joy is infectious. We will never know just how much good a simple smile can do. Be faithful in little things. Smile at one another." and "Let us keep the joy of loving Jesus in our hearts. And let us share that joy with everyone we meet. Passing on joy is natural. We have no reason for not being joyful, since Christ is with us. Christ is in our hearts. Christ is in all we meet. He is in the smile we give to others, and he is in the smile we receive from others."

Yours in the Lenten Journey, Rev. Victoria Freiheit