

**COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF CHULA VISTA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**WORSHIP SERVICE  
9:30AM**

**Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista  
United Church of Christ**

**July 5, 2026**

**Independence Sunday & Communion Sunday**

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

*276 F St. Chula Vista, Ca 91910*

***Welcome! Mabuhay! Bienvenidos!***

We welcome you in the name of the still speaking God!  
We invite all *guests* to please **PRINT** their name and contact info  
on the ***“Information Card”*** in the pew rack and place the card  
in the offering plate. Anyone with a prayer request,  
please put it on the ***“Information Card”***  
and place it in the offering plate.  
***If you need assistance***, please ask our Greeters.

**Church Staff and Contact List**  
**(619) 422-9263**

[www.chulavistachurch.com](http://www.chulavistachurch.com)

Email: [churchsecretary@chulavistachurch.com](mailto:churchsecretary@chulavistachurch.com)

Rev. Victoria Freiheit- Senior Minister

Lionel Jasmin- Minister of Music

Kim Appleget- Pre-school Director

Erika Dennis- Prayer Chain Coordinator

Sylvia Campbell- Event Coordinator

Corinne McCall- Financial Secretary

Rod Nickels- Custodian

Louise Lopez- Office Secretary

Audio Visual Team- Kevin Hewitt, Ko Tangen, Jerry May

Donna Purificacion - Director of Christian Education

Jerry May- Moderator

Belen Hebreo- Vice Moderator

Chris Dunn- Coffee Hour

Reuben Barrera- Head Usher

**Greeters:** Marilynn Calderon & Erika Dennis

**Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista  
United Church of Christ**

**July 5, 2026**

**Independence Sunday & Communion Sunday**

**Thought Before Worship: “Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it  
not for themselves.” Abraham Lincoln**

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**Prelude:** Guest Organist Margaret Gaillard

**Candle Lighting:**

**Welcome and Announcements:** Rev. Victoria Freiheit

**Liturgist:** Chris Dunn

**\*Gathering Music:**

1. National Anthem
2. This Land is your Land
3. It's A Great Day

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Victoria

**Our Motto:** “No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!”

**Call to Worship: (Responsively)** Chris Dunn

One: Rejoice, O Christians, for you are captives no more!

**All: Hallelujah, we are freed from sin!**

One: Praise God, whose spirit makes us debtors no longer!

**All: Thanks be for the Christ,  
through whom we are made children of God!**

**\*Hymn:** God of the Ages NCH p. 592 All verses

**Prayer of Invocation:** Chris Dunn

**Oh God, you create all things. You bear all things. Make plain your hidden plan, your  
mysterious purpose for our lives. We await your presence. Amen.**

**Choir Anthem:** Choir presentation celebrating 250th year of Independence

**I Can Hear America Singing**

**1. The Battle Hymn of The Republic**

**2. Shenandoah**

**3. I Can Hear America Singing**

**4. God bless America, narration by Chris Dunn**

**Children's Time:**

Rev. Victoria

**Scripture: Matt. 5:44 & 28:19-20; James 2:8 & I Thessalonians 5:17**

**Included in the Sermon**

**Sermon: Our Declaration of Independence**

Rev. Victoria

**Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

All Singing

**Hymn: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies NCH p. 594 All Verses**

**Prayer of Confession: (Unison)**

Chris Dunn

**We confess, O God, that we are accustomed to having our own way. Our abundance has tricked us into believing we are independent, self-sustaining creatures. We need your love and forgiveness in order to live with ourselves, and with one another. Help us, O God! Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Chris Dunn

Almighty God has forgiven us all our sins and has promised to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

**COMMUNION**

Rev. Victoria

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our loving creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.

**We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior.**

We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP Come down the center aisle to receive Communion by Intinction, then return to your seat by the outer aisles. If you prefer to remain seated, we will bring communion to you.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We give thanks Almighty God that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Call to Offering: Unison**

Chris Dunn

“Having received new life through the generosity of God and the hope Christ brings, let us give thankfully and abundantly that we may be called God’s generous people.”  
Amen.

**Offertory:**

Guest Organist Margaret Gaillard

**\*Doxology:**     *Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.*

**Prayer of Dedication: Unison**

Chris Dunn

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn:**     **My Country Tis of Thee** Red p. 695 All Verses

**\*Benediction:**

Rev. Victoria

*Form a circle*           **Let There Be Peace on Earth**  
Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Maker, All one Family.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment and live each moment.  
With peace eternally, let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

**Postlude:**

Guest Organist Margaret Gaillard

**Announcements**

*Thank you for joining us this morning at Community Congregational Church, as we praise God for blessings and love. We look forward to seeing you again. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in Bradley Hall for food, friendship and fellowship. Please sign the information card and let us know if you need prayers.*

**Friendly reminder: Women's Fellowship will not meet in July or August.**

**SCHEDULE FOR July 5<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday and 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday**

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

**MONDAY July 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 PM Buddhist meditation in Bradley Hall

**TUESDAY July 7<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM American Youth - Bradley Hall

7:00 PM AA Top of the Hill – Lounge

**FRIDAY July 10<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM Bible Study meets at the home of Chris Dunn

7:30 PM Friday Night Happy Hour AA Group

**SUNDAY July 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 AM Worship Service

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

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## Nuestra Declaración de Independencia

La Declaración de Independencia es más que una sola frase; consta de muchas páginas y comienza así: «La Declaración unánime de los trece Estados Unidos de América: Cuando en el curso de los acontecimientos humanos se hace necesario para un pueblo disolver los vínculos políticos que lo han unido a otro, y asumir entre las potencias de la tierra el puesto separado e igual al que las leyes de la naturaleza y del Dios de la naturaleza le dan derecho, un respeto decente a las opiniones de la humanidad exige que declaren las causas que los impulsan a la separación».

«Sostenemos como evidentes estas verdades: que todos los hombres son creados iguales; que son dotados por su Creador de ciertos derechos inalienables; que entre estos están la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad». La Declaración continúa con otras dos páginas y media en las que se enumeran los problemas que enfrentaron con el rey Jorge III: leyes inaceptables sobre inmigración, tropas armadas, juicios simulados, interferencia en el comercio, impuestos sin representación... la lista sigue y sigue; y termina con las 56 firmas de representantes de todos los estados. Honramos a aquellos firmantes por estar dispuestos a entregar sus vidas para liberarse de un gobierno opresivo.

Hoy, pensemos en nuestra propia declaración de independencia: no respecto a un país, sino respecto al mundo. Declaremos nuestra independencia de todo aquello que nos impida llevar una vida plena en Jesús. Jesús dijo, según se cita en Romanos 13:9: «Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo».

Si tienes problemas para aceptar a los demás, declara tu independencia de la falta de amor hacia todos, incluidos tus enemigos. En Mateo 5:44, Jesús nos mandó amar a nuestros enemigos y orar por quienes nos persiguen. Eso incluye a quienes hablan mal de ti a tus espaldas. La versión King James decía: «Orad por aquellos que os maltratan».

1 Tesalonicenses 5:17 dice: «Orad sin cesar». Es nuestra declaración de independencia frente a la preocupación. Preocuparse es una pérdida de tiempo que ocupa la mente sin dejar espacio para resolver problemas. Nuestro grupo de Oración de Centramiento comenzará a reunirse el primer lunes de agosto, día 3, a las 12 del mediodía. Es el lugar perfecto para iniciar el hábito de una oración silenciosa y de escucha: simplemente estar con Dios. Aquí hay un desafío: ¿Te cuesta hablar de tu fe ante los demás? Recuerda la Gran Comisión de Jesús, en Mateo 28:19-20: «Por tanto, id y haced discípulos a todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, enseñándoles a guardar todo lo que os he mandado; y he aquí, yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo».

Declaremos nuestra independencia de aquello que nos impide compartir nuestra fe. Quizás no lo hacemos porque tememos que los demás nos vean como «fanáticos religiosos». O tal vez evitamos hacerlo porque sabemos que querrán discutir al respecto. Quizás pensamos en la libertad religiosa consagrada en nuestra Constitución.

En una reunión reciente de grupos de oración contemplativa, un participante me aconsejó que prestara atención a las personas cuando compartieran algo personal que indicara su necesidad de una relación íntima con nuestro Señor y Salvador, Jesucristo. Nos sorprendería ver con qué frecuencia sucede esto.

Es posible que haya otras cosas en tu vida de las que desees declarar tu independencia. Sigue orando y leyendo la Biblia en busca de guía. Haz de ello un hábito, tal como lo haces con el ejercicio: «Oh, es hora de mi ejercicio diario. Oh, es hora de mi lectura bíblica diaria. Oh, es hora de mi tiempo diario de oración». Demos gracias a Dios por la Declaración de Independencia de los Estados Unidos y demos gracias a Dios por nuestras propias declaraciones individuales de independencia. Amén.