

SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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“Never place a period  
Where God has placed a comma”  
[Gracie Allen]  
**God is still speaking,**

May 10, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

### MOTHER’S DAY



#### *For Reflection*

Beloved, let us love one another,  
because love is from God;  
everyone who loves is born of God  
and knows God.  
Whoever does not love  
does not know God, for God is love.  
(1 John 4:7-8)

***Children and Youth are welcome to join our  
Sunday School and Children Worship & Wonder program!***  
*After the children’s time, children aged 3 through those in 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to  
process downstairs to the Wonder Room and those in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to the Green  
Room. Childcare for children under age 4 is available in our nursery today  
with trained and certified childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez.  
When these programs finish, children and youth will be brought up to social time.*

*Please stop by the Sound Booth if you wish to use a sound receiver today.*

*You are invited to watch the screen up front to increase your participation in worship today.*

*\*The asterisk indicates the times when you are invited to stand if the Spirit so moves you.*

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Acolyte: Camille Cribbs

Albert Mendoza and Murray Middleman

### WELCOME

Pastor Art Cribbs

### \*SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT

Congregation

“Halle, Halle, Hallejuah”  
“I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry”

### \*OPENING PRAYER

Bret Naylor

Loving, Divine Parent, you who are God alone, your children are calling to you. You have nursed us and held us close. You have taught and guided us; your ways are revealed to us so we can live according to your Word. Your love touches every aspect of life and your mercy forgives all of our sins. Thank you for loving us. We are capable of loving each other just as you love us. We can forgive each other just as you forgive us. We call your name and sing praises to you. You are God and we are your people. You have given us peace so we can be a peaceful people in your world. You have blessed us abundantly so we can be a blessing to others. Listen now, O God, to the prayers of our hearts. We are listening to your still-speaking voice. Hallelujah! Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

### \*A SONG FOR MOTHER’S DAY

Congregation

“We Are Dancing Sarah’s Circle”

*The congregation may be seated.*

### TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Pastor Art Cribbs

Story: “How Can We Show Love?”  
Our Common Prayer  
Music to Bless the Children

### SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

Bret Naylor



**Important Correction to your May SPIRE newsletter:** As Pastor Art's trip to Mexico, originally scheduled for the last two weeks in May, has been canceled, he will continue to pastor and preach for the rest of the month of May. Rev. Marcia Hoffman had been scheduled to preach while Pastor Art was away, so we thank her for making herself available and apologize for any inconvenience this change may incur to anyone.



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.** As we celebrate this special day dedicated to the mother in every family, we know everyday is an excellent time to remember that woman who gives life and makes a positive difference.

Of course, each of us has a very different understanding of that person who provided nurture and love when we were unable to care for ourselves. Even if our memory is not necessarily pleasant, she was the one who gave us life even at her own risk. The near-death experience of childbirth is not to be taken lightly. It is the only entry available for our life to exist.

When Julia Ward Howe wrote her "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, she was attempting to bring sanity to a country still reeling from the drunken adventure of war. She was convinced women, and specifically, mothers, knew too well the agony of loss suffered because their husbands, brothers, and sons had died on the battlefield. This is not a day for sentimental emotions to elevate motherhood to an illusionary status. Rather, this is a moment for militant response to the carnage that still litters the earth as a result of madness gone global.

Read carefully the fiery cry of Julia Ward Howe:

**Arise, then, women of this day!  
Arise, all women who have hearts,  
Whether our baptism be of water or of tears!**

**Say firmly:**

**"We will not have great questions decided by  
irrelevant agencies,  
Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage,  
for caresses and applause.**



**Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn  
All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and  
patience.**

**We, the women of one country,  
will be too tender of those of another country  
To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."**

**From the bosom of the devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own.  
It says: "Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."  
Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.  
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of  
war,**

**Let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and  
earnest day of counsel.**

**Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.  
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means  
Whereby the great human family can live in peace,  
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,  
But of God.**

**In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask  
That a general congress of women without limit of nationality  
May be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient  
And at the earliest period consistent with its objects,  
To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,  
The amicable settlement of international questions,  
The great and general interests of peace.**

No doubt this "Mother's Day Proclamation" resonates and requires response.

What if the women of Iraq joined women of Afghanistan joined women of America joined women of Somalia joined women of Ireland joined women of Israel joined women of Palestine joined women of Pakistan joined women of Zimbabwe and proclaimed with one voice, "**Our children will fight no more! We are mothers of one people who dedicate ourselves to protect our children and Mother Earth?**" What if? Only then would Mother's Day live out the meaning of its original purpose in this nation and demonstrate truly how we can all live together abiding in love.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

*"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses, entrust to the faithful who will be able to teach others also"*

2 TIMOTHY 2: 1, 2

## Five Hammers and a Handful of Nails

The fourth and fifth grade boys of Donkoi Primary School in Laos were excited. They were at Mr. Khamvanh's house in the village, using one big hammer and some long nails to repair the school's tables and benches. How wonderful this farmer-carpenter villager is! He took the initiative for this project without anyone asking him. I thought, wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a carpenters' group in the school? The children were asked, "Would you like more hammers?" They all said "Yes", so that was it! The Young Carpenters' Club was born.

Mr. Khamvanh was asked if he would bring some older youths to help him finish repairing the tables and benches while the younger boys played with the hammers, nails, and wood. Mr. Khamvanh bought a 'tuktuk' full of scrap wood (a 'tuktuk' is a small vehicle that carries passengers short distances) and that summer the children of Donkoi Primary School had a wonderful time creating anything they wanted. No more repairs to tables and benches were needed.

That was how Donkoi School's After-School Program began: with five little hammers, lots of nails, and a skilled carpenter with a very good heart.

*Xuyen Dangers is a social worker in Laos/Vietnam serving as a Social Work supervisor of Donkoi Child Center and five other center; and as social work advisor on the faculty of Social Sciences, the National University of Laos; and with Church World Service and Witness (NCCC).*



XUYEN  
DANGERS



You make the difference . . .

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

## From the UCC Calendar of Prayer for today: ABIDING IN LOVE

Seven women from St. Luke's UCC, Burlington, Iowa make up the Peace Fellowship Group. "The women believe that as people of God we can relieve some of the brokenness in the world," said Deloris Blaufuss on behalf of the group. "They also believe in a vision for a world where there can be peace and justice for all people".



Every year the Peace Fellowship Group chooses a mission project to support. Last year they chose the crisis in Sudan/Darfur, and contacted UCC Wider Church Ministries to provide some educational materials. The Sudan/Darfur Crisis has been supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

As part of a fund-raising event, the group set up educational opportunities about the issues emphasizing the importance of the project. The group set a goal of \$2,000. Projects supported in previous years included a Leprosarium in India where a meal was provided each day for one year; a women and children's co-op near Guatemala City, and the "Raising the Roof" project that supported earthquake recovery in Pakistan.

One of the largest fundraising projects that Peace Fellowship has had is an International Gift Fair. They work with fair trade organizations and sell their items at local festive events, sharing their message of "peace and justice for all".

"None of the money is kept by our congregation", Deloris reported. "It is all used to support the projects that we select"..

**Prayer:**

***God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy. Amen.***

[www.globalministries.org/africa/countries/sudan](http://www.globalministries.org/africa/countries/sudan)

## CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator.....Susan Jakubowski-Weiner  
Treasurer ..... Scott Cameron  
Clerk..... Donald Shenk  
Financial Secretary ..... Dick Lashley  
Historian ..... Virginia Lashley  
Past Moderator ..... Connie James-Gililand

## STAFF

Pastor..... Art Cribbs  
Pastoral Assistant, Director of Music/Theatre ..... Donald Shenk  
Preschool Director ..... Connie James-Gililand  
Keyboard.....Albert Mendoza  
Brass..... Murray Middleman  
Section Leaders .....Alexandra Loutsion (Mez); Guylaine Bouchard (alto);  
Ann Simon, (sop); Benjamin Cortez (ten); Adrian Rosales (bass)  
Director of Christian Education ..... Cathy Kotowski  
Childcare Provider ..... Barbara Sanchez  
Ceremony Coordinator..... Donald Shenk  
Sound Technician .....Eric Stimes  
Usher Team ..... Gary Henville & John Stanley  
Webperson..... Holly Ann Burns  
Interim Conference Ministers ..... Rev. Jane Hoffman  
Rev. June Boutwell

**Our Mission:** “In response to God’s all-encompassing presence and unconditional love, we at San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ, a worship-centered community, are spreading the Good News of God’s love to all, working to heal human divisions, and striving for peace and justice.”

**We are an Open and Affirming (“ONA”) church.** We affirm the rich complexity of God’s creation, which includes every person and many forms of family. We welcome into our open communion and community God’s beloved children of all ethnicities, nationalities, ages, genders, sexual orientations, physical or mental limitations, economic and family circumstances, and faith backgrounds. We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships. We commit ourselves to the defense of the spiritual, civic, and human rights of all people, and to the promotion of their well being in our Church and communities.