

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,**

June 8, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RECOGNITION SUNDAY

#### *For Reflection*

*Now the Lord said to Abram,  
“Go from your country and your kindred  
and your father’s house  
To the land that I will show you.  
I will make of you a great nation,  
And I will bless you, and make your name great, so that  
You will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you,  
And the one who curses you I will curse; and in you  
All the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*  
(Genesis 12:1-3)

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

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

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

#### GATHERING MUSIC

Albert Mendoza, Pianist

#### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

“You Are Holy”

Congregation

Acolyte: Camille Cribbs

#### \*A SONG FOR THE SPIRIT

Congregation

“Rain Down”

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

David Crist

Loving and merciful God, Great Creator, we bow before you and call your Holy Name. Thank you for this new day, a new beginning; this is a day you have made and given for us to rejoice and be glad. Today, we are grateful for our Christian educators and those who have dedicated their lives to teaching our children. They impart knowledge and wisdom as the foundation of our children’s futures. Bless these faithful sisters and brothers. Endow them with your Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds to receive their gifts so we can be instruments of your peace. As we are gathered in this place, we are reminded of your people throughout the world. We offer this prayer in solidarity with those who suffer and those who are afraid. Come by here, O God, and inspire us to stand with courage in the struggle for justice and peace. Hallelujah. Shalom. Salaam. **RIGHT ON! Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

#### A SONG FOR THE HEART

Soloist: Carin Gilfry

"Et exultavit spiritus meus" from *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach

#### A TIME FOR RECOGNITION

- Board of Christian Education
- Children Worship & Wonder Storytellers
- Children Worship & Wonder Greeters
- Childcare provider
- Youth Group Advisors
- Graduates

#### TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Story

“What Do You Do With Your Love?”

Pastor Art Cribbs

Our Common Prayer and Music to Bless the Children

Children are invited to process downstairs with Michelle Naylor. Childcare for the youngest among us is available with our Christian Ed. Director, Cathy Kotowski

### A TIME FOR RECOGNITION

- Preschool Staff
- Retiree

### OUR COMMON LIFE

A Time to Give David Crist  
A Time to Act Donald Shenk  
A Time to Dedicate Ourselves and Our Gifts David Crist  
**Thank you, O God, for these gifts brought by your people. Bless them and this offering that they may be used in your service. Bless this congregation and the United Church of Christ. Let the work that we do find favor in your sight as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Soloist: Carin Gilfry  
"Bereite dich, Zion" from the *Weinachts Oratororium* by J.S. Bach

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 David Crist

**REFLECTIONS** "Restoring Love" Pastor Art Cribbs

**TIME OF PRAYER**  
Preparation for Prayer "God, Fill Me Now" Congregation  
Prayers of the People Pastor Cribbs

**\*SENDING HYMN** "Guide My Feet" NCH #497  
Congregation – Verses 1 & 2 only Spiritual, arr. Johnson

**\*BENEDICTION** Pastor Cribbs

**\*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT** David Crist

**\*GOING FORTH** "Guide My Feet" NCH #497  
Congregation – Verses 3 & 4 only Spiritual, arr. Johnson



Everyone is welcome to have some coffee and conversation next door after the service. Thanks to Ross King and Marcia Albrecht for providing our treats today in honor of our educators and graduates!

**We express a warm welcome to all who are here today!**

***This Church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a denomination dedicated to spiritual growth, faith with action and social transformation. If you're visiting today, please stop by our Visitor's Center in the Entryway to sign our Guest Book, fill out a visitor card (with nametag so we can greet you by name) and receive information about everything happening here.***

**Tuesday: 7:00pm - SOUL FOOD will convene in Fireside Room.**  
**Wednesday: 6:45pm – Theatre Advisory Board meets at Van Horsen Ranch**  
**Thursday: 11:30am LUNCH BUNCH hosted by Art and Kana Cribbs will meet in the Fellowship Hall**

**Next Sunday ☩ June 15, 2008**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**  
**Pastor Art's sermon: "Named for a Purpose." Text: 1 John 3:11-22 Li-**  
**turgists: Vivi Oldknow & Jeannette Guluzian**  
**Special FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH follows the service!\***

\* Sizzling hot sausages, a warm frittata, freshly flipped pancakes drizzled with syrup ... sounds delicious, right? We would like to invite you all to a Father's Day Celebration following worship next Sunday. Our youth, along with TOP CHEFS Buddy Wallat and Bret Naylor, will be hosting this special event you won't want to miss. Bring your appetite and a smile, and let the children do the rest!

Have you done your Spring cleaning yet? The first day of summer is quickly approaching so don't put it off another day! Dig into



your closets and drag out all those shoes you never wear. During June, our youth group will be collecting new and slightly used shoes for Soles4Souls, an organization that distributes shoes worldwide to those desperately in need. Just bring your shoes to church with you any Sunday in June, and please feel free to ask family, friends and colleagues for their shoes as well! For more information, please visit [www.soles4souls.org](http://www.soles4souls.org)

**During the month of November, 2008, we will be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC:** Plan to be part of our history and presence in San Marino. Look for more information in the weeks ahead.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITES:** [UCC.ORG](http://UCC.ORG) and [SANMARINOCC.ORG](http://SANMARINOCC.ORG) and keep up with the United Church of Christ and San Marino Congregational UCC



**Have you given your life completely to God?** That may seem like an odd question, but it is an honest one. Have you ever thought seriously about what it means to turn your whole life over to God? Of course, we realize we live only because of God's love. But, what do we do with the life God has given to us?

Ten years ago my life made a major shift. It was like I turned a corner and discovered a world I had never known. It was not the first time I found myself in a strange place. Yet, it was unlike any previous experience. While stopped at a red light in Cleveland, a phrase started forming in my mind. Before the signal changed, I heard the words flowing from my mouth, "No matter what happens today, I am going to practice gratitude and joy because God is the Source of my life."

There was no 'burning bush' or 'thunder from the sky'. I did not see any bright light or hear voices. In the time it took to roll to a stop, wait, and drive on, a new mantra became my 'daily word'. I realized I did not own my life. God is in

complete charge of everything. My only responsibility was to submit myself wholly and completely to God. Life is an 'act of faith'.

The best part of the story continues to unfold. Since that moment at the intersection, God has revealed a range of events, ideas, and experiences that define who I am.

All of us are God's children. We are cradled in God's loving hands and guided through the uncertainties of life. Our unanswerable questions are taken seriously and handed back to us to ponder with a deep faith of assurance that their meaning will be made known.

While pursuing a career in broadcast news, I took great pride in planning my moves and creating strategies for promotions. I actually believed I could control my destiny. I thought if I worked hard, stayed positive, and did not give up, doors of opportunity would swing wide open. As a person of faith and religious conviction, I prayed and trusted God; but, my priorities were out of sync. God was there to answer my call. I was not available to answer God's call. I was too busy building a very successful career in media.

**It is quite strange how we can turn things around. Sometimes we think the most important thing in the world is what we are currently doing. We believe there is nothing else for us to do. We order our lives in a way that blocks out new possibilities. We compartmentalize and structure every aspect of life to the extent that God is squeezed to the corner. We can become so busy doing 'our thing' that we leave very little room for us to notice God.**

What a relief it was when I got out of the way and invited God to take over. Actually, I became aware that God is always available to guide us in the right direction. The bonus gift was learning there is no sacrifice or loss associated with giving my life fully to God.

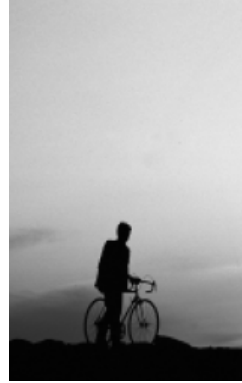
There have been many changes: new cities, new homes, new friends, new jobs, new family members, and new life. There have been disappointments, rejections, depression, and discouragement. But, at no time has there been despair. The gift of "practicing gratitude and joy" has allowed me to face numerous and diverse situations with the confidence that God is still in charge, "the Source of my life."

God's 'amazing grace' is given freely to everyone. We all benefit from it when we dedicate ourselves completely to God. Then, we realize the joy and breadth of God's love, the fountain that renews, revives, and restores life.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

## UCC Calendar of Prayer: Restoring Love

Everyone who participated in the 2006 UCC Bicycle Adventure admits that this was much more than just a bicycle trip. From July 15th to July 22nd, 13 cyclists and 3 support staff traveled 375 miles down the California Pacific Coast from Palo Alto to Santa Barbara. The family unit that formed within the group, the welcomes received by the host churches, and the love shared by the group with each other and with total strangers along the way transformed the 2006 UCC Bicycle Adventure into as much of a spiritual journey as it was a physical journey.



In fact, the cyclists began expressing their love to others before the trip even began by raising pledges for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). In total, the riders raised over \$3,000. This is money that will help our church both support itself and reach out to others with justice ministries, global mission, ministerial pensions and ministries to local churches. For many of the participants, the UCC Bicycle Adventure became a model of true Christianity. As one rider expressed, "The trip was a great representation of how I think our church should act: with compassion and generosity, with determination and physical exertion, and as a loving family."

The UCC Bicycle Adventure is an annual event sponsored by First Congregational, Palo Alto. The trips are open to UCC and non-UCC youth and adults entering high school or older. For more information visit <http://www.fccpa.org/biketrip>.

## A story from your Global Ministries

JUNE  
2008

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me"*

MATTHEW 25:40

## The Least of These

**M**uch has changed in Indonesia over the last 25 years, and many people's lives have improved. But the shift from a traditional to a "modern" way of life is a constant source of social conflict. The hidden constant in this conflict is the role of personal relationships and social status: you are who you know, and who knows you. If you don't know anybody, you are nobody.



JOHN CAMPBELL-  
NELSON

That realization has been haunting me lately, in the form of a dead baby.

Her name was Rita Norlina Selan. Her mother died when Rita was a few weeks old. Her father is a farm laborer who had no money. Unable to buy milk, he fed her rice water and sugared tea. Rita starved to death.

This sort of thing happens in the hills of Timor all too often. But in Rita's case, it happened less than a mile from our house. The milk she needed was sitting on a shelf in our pantry. The car that could have taken her to the hospital (or her mother before her) was parked in our garage. So why didn't she get the help she needed? Because her father didn't know us, and we didn't know him. When asked why he didn't come to us for help, he said he was malu (translate that as a combination of shy, ashamed, and afraid). He knew who we were and where we lived, but he did not feel socially important enough to make requests of the "Big White People."

Rita reminds me that social analyses of the causes of poverty and training on nutrition and public health, while important, are secondary. What is of primary importance is building the kind of community where no one is nobody. That's the kind of community that Jesus worked to create, and it's the kind of community we have yet to become.

John Campbell-Nelson is a missionary serving with the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor.

## 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.

**GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

## CHURCH OFFICERS

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

## STAFF

Pastor.....Art Cribbs  
Pastoral Assistant, Director of Music/Theatre..... Donald Shenk  
Preschool Director .....Connie James-Gililand  
Accompanist .....Albert Mendoza  
Guitarists..... Randall Allen & Nathan York  
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 Botwell

**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.