

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 15, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!**

***For Reflection***

*“I love the Lord, because God has heard  
my voice and my supplications.  
Because God inclined an ear to me,  
therefore I will call on God as long as I live.”  
(Psalm 116: 1-2)*

*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**

“This Little Light of Mine”

Congregation  
Acolyte: Camille Cribbs

**\*A SONG FOR THE SPIRIT**

“Rain Down”

Congregation

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Vivienne Oldknow

**Good morning, Great Creator. Thank you for awakening us to this new day, a day we have never seen; a day you have given as a sign of your mercy to renew and restore all people unto you. This is a day you have made so we will rejoice and be glad. We praise your Holy Name and shout with joy in celebration of the life you breathe into all living things. Jesus called you Father. In this hour we call you Father, too, because you care for every human being with immeasurable love. We are your children embraced by your divine hands. You provide for us and protect us. Thank you, Wonderful God, for anticipating our needs and responding to our prayers. We glorify you! Hallelujah! Shalom. Salaam. RIGHT ON! Amen.**

**\*A SONG FROM THE HEART**

Congregation

*“I Sing Praises to Your Name”*

*The congregation may be seated.*

**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

Story “What Have You Done for Daddy, Lately?” Pastor Art Cribbs

Our Common Prayer and Music to Bless the Children

*Children are invited to go prepare today’s brunch. Childcare for the youngest among us is available with trained childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez*

**OUR COMMON LIFE**

A Time to Give Vivienne Oldknow  
A Time to Act Donald Shenk  
A Time to Dedicate Ourselves and Our Gifts Vivienne Oldknow  
**Thank you, O God, for this offering brought by your people. Thank you for each one who has given and those who did not have. Bless each one with surprising joy. Receive this money and multiply it for service to your people near and far away. Bless this church and the United Church of Christ as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC Soloist: Rev. William Knight

SCRIPTURE READING I John 3:11-22 Vivienne Oldknow

REFLECTIONS “Named for Purpose” Pastor Art Cribbs

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

SENDING SOLO Rev. William Knight

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Cribbs

\*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT Vivienne Oldknow

\*GOING FORTH “Like a Father Who Has Taught Us” NCH #583  
Please use the words seen on screen. (verses 2-4)



**Everyone is welcome next door for our very special FATHER’S DAY BRUNCH after today’s worship service. Thanks to TOP CHEFS Buddy Wallat and Bret Naylor for leading our youth in this massive undertaking!**

**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.***

**Monday: 6:45pm – Trustees meet in Pastor’s Office**

**Tuesday: 5:15 carpool - SOUL FOOD will travel to concert at Memorial Park Pavilion (concert begins at 6pm) All are invited to attend.**

**Friday: SPIRE newsletter deadline – articles/info. welcome – please send to: [donaldshenk@sanmarinoucc.org](mailto:donaldshenk@sanmarinoucc.org)**

**Friday/  
Saturday: Annual Gathering for UCC Central Association at First Congregational Church in Glendale (2001 Canada Blvd. in Glendale)**

**Next Sunday † June 22, 2008**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**  
**Pastor Art’s sermon: “Daring Discipleship” Text: Matthew 10:24-39**  
**Liturgist: Bret Naylor**

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)



**The Spirit and the Screen Film Club** explores the line that separates Church and State with a screening of the classic, **INHERIT THE WIND** on **Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** in our Stillspeaking Theatre. If you’ve ever been a teacher, a student, a person of faith, a free-thinking individual, an American, or just a human being, there’s something in this remarkable film to touch and challenge you.



**Curtis Rhodes** will present a concert of his original music and arrangements as a benefit for our PIANO FUND on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.



Impregnating someone may make a man a “daddy” but not necessarily a “father.” There is a qualitative difference based on responsibility and relationship. There are a lot of “daddies” out there: men who have children but share in their lives only occasionally and casually. Of course, this limited definition should not be confused with the familiar expression of calling a father “Daddy.” That is altogether different. Also, “Daddy” is not to be taken as a pejorative.

I love to hear my children call me “Daddy.” It has a playful ring to it and conveys their confidence in our relationship that allows them to snuggle up and talk comfortably about things that matter to them. But, “daddy” can also mean a lesser involvement in a child’s life. Thus, the critical term “Dead Beat Dad” is used to describe the absentee parent or one who shirks financial support of his children.

In the animated movie, “Happy Feet,” there was a turn of the phrase “Dead Beat Dad” to insinuate the lost of rhythm or “soul” as in musical tempo. Having lost the ability to appreciate the natural sway of a good song, the “Dead Beat Dad” was no longer a helpful advocate for his child or family. It was a cute play on words. But, there is nothing cute about men who turn their backs on their children. America is littered with families without fathers.

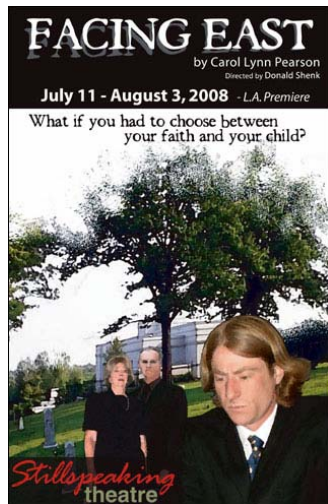
When Jesus referred to God as “his Father,” he had a very clear image of the ways in which the Divine Parent treated human beings as “Children of God.” First, God loves all people and extends love, mercy and compassion without qualification or condition. Aware of our every need and desire, God provides our essentials and opens doors for our pleasures. Unconditional love is given generously and freely. Jesus understands his relationship with God as so closely intertwined it could not be denied.

Second, Jesus models how to talk with God. It is respectful, reverent, and prayerful. Such intimate conversations with the Creator honors God with the highest esteem yet indulges a comfortable assurance that our every word is

received, listened to, and given full consideration as only a loving Father can give. There is discipline associated with the loving Parent, but it is for the purpose of strengthening our human potential so we can live up to our full human capacity. Jesus wants us to know the endless affection reserved for every person: how precious we are in God's sight. God loves us just as we are without exception.

There is redemption for every "dead-beat dad" who has lost his way. "Daddies" can become "fathers." Fathers can transfer the weight of parental responsibility to a light-hearted, fun-filled, playful role as "daddy." This is the joy of parenthood. It really is a shame to have so many "dads" missing the sacred, short moments of fleeting childhood and losing out on the opportunities to be "fathers." Maybe they just need encouragement from a child, mother, or friend to find their way back home into the hearts and lives of the children who inherited their genes and traits. That would give a powerful new meaning to "Father's Day."

-Pastor Art Cribbs



**It's not too early to get your tickets for Stillspeaking Theatre's next production:**

## **FACING EAST!**

**Please log on to:**

**[www.stillspeakingtheatre.org](http://www.stillspeakingtheatre.org)**

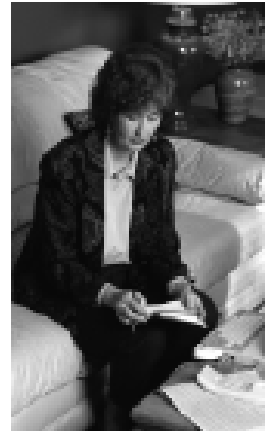
**Fridays/Saturdays @ 8pm**

**Sundays @ 3pm**

**July 11 through August 3**

## **UCC Calendar of Prayer: Named for Purpose**

What does home mean to most of us? Is it a secure place? Is it a place to keep our personal things? Is it a place where people care about us? Is it the place where we find comfort? Or is a home all those feelings we value? For women living with mental illness, home may be elusive. Cedars HOPE offers home and community to women, who because of their illness find themselves without permanent housing. Cedars HOPE is a model of an "intentional community" that is unique to the Fort Wayne area and throughout Indiana.



For more than 15 years, Plymouth UCC in Ft. Wayne, IN has played a major supporting role for Cedars HOPE. Members of Plymouth have always served on the Board of Directors; others in the congregation donate time, energy, and take part in recreational opportunities with the residents. We have consistently provided financial support for the Cedars Hope women and intend to continue giving support and housing to our sisters as they begin rebuilding their lives and regain their independence.



## **PRAY FOR SOUTH AFRICA**

*from our Global Ministries website*

*God of love and compassion, we ask you to bless the rich diversity of South Africa—a land rich in resources, land, and people. Yet we lament that in the midst of this beautiful country it is also riddled with crime, rape, violence, poverty, unemployment, an AIDS pandemic, and recently, xenophobia. There is much to be done to heal the nation. Call forth new labourers, O God. Commission new compassionate leaders who will cure the sick, raise-up those dead in poverty, cleanse those with HIV and AIDS, and cast out the demons of hatred towards one another. We pray for our refugee neighbours from Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo who fear they will be the next victims of xenophobia. We pray for the AIDS orphans who are deprived of their most basic needs and will never know what it means to have parents. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

(Prayer by Susan Valiquette and Scott Couper)

## **Mission Moment: UCC I LOVE U!**

**God is still speaking,**

**How do I love you, United Church of Christ?**

**As the poet said, let me count the ways:**

- \* You are not only a united, but also a uniting church.**
- \* You welcome me, and all newcomers, into fellowship.**
- \* You not only accept me just as I am, you affirm who I am, no matter what society says.**
- \* You let me think for myself, and speak for myself, because you impose no tests of belief.**
- \* You share the Good News without hesitation, but also without compulsion.**
- \* You welcome me, and everyone else who believes in Jesus, to the Lord's Table.**
- \* You encourage me, and every member, to participate in the business of our congregation.**
- \* You bind me gently in covenantal relationships with my congregation, Association, and Conference.**
- \* You honor both the ministry of the laity and the calling of the clergy.**
- \* You open the church doors to all the hurts and joys of the surrounding neighborhood.**
- \* You join with other communities of faith in witness and service to the community and nation.**
- \* You initiate and maintain partnerships with Christian churches around the world.**
- \* Your compassion for those who suffer is only exceeded by your passion for justice and peace.**
- \* You will never wither or weaken because you are always attentive to the Stillspeaking God.**

## 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.