

SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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**WE WORSHIP GOD**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

“Rain Down” by Jaime Cortez (based on Psalm 33)

Congregation, please join in on the refrain:

**Rain down, rain down,  
 Rain down your love on your people.  
 Rain down, rain down,  
 Rain down your love, God of life.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

Bret Naylor

**Great Creator, you have designed this day and made it sacred for us to worship you. All praises to you, O Lord. Your name is magnificent. Your ways are mysterious. You give peace beyond our understanding. Your breath is in every living thing. Thank you for this time when we think only of you and listen for your Word to guide us. Your love is extended without measure. Your mercy endures forever. Come now and fill us with your Spirit. Come by here, O Lord, your people are listening. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**“Now in the Days of Youth”  
 Congregation**

**NCH #350  
 Elvey/Mathams/Dunstan**

*The congregation may be seated.*



**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

Offering (the children’s plate is passed to collect their offerings)

Story “It Takes A Child To Make A Dad” Pastor Art Cribbs

We honor Graduates  
 Breanna Sanchez and Eric Stimes Pastor Cribbs  
 Blessing Chukwueke Deacon Tanya Samuels  
 Warren Logan Deacon Warren Scherffius

We honor our Director of Christian Education Moderator Connie James Gililland



**“Never place a period  
 Where God has placed a comma”**  
 [Gracie Allen]  
**God is still speaking,**

June 17, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. Adult & High School EDUCATION SUNDAY

*For Reflection*



Happy Father's Day

“I looked at that kid for a long time, I felt something impossible for me to explain in words. Then when they took [Natalie] away, it hit me. I got scared all over again and began to feel Giddy. Then it came to me. I was a father.”

(Unforgettable: The Mystique of Nat “King” Cole, 1950)

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.

**WE GATHER**

PIANO PRELUDE Chip Colvin

WELCOME & OUR COMMON LIFE Bret Naylor

Our Common Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All children are invited to process to Children Worship & Wonder.  
Rev. Cathy Kotowski is today's storyteller and the theme is, "Baptism".  
Barbara Sanchez is available to care for the youngest children.*

Music to Bless the Children

*"Children Welcome"*  
Edwards, arr. Fitch

*Refrain:* **Children welcome in the name of Jesus.  
Children welcome in the name of love.  
All are welcome in the name of Jesus.  
All are welcome in the name of love.**

**Children offer us gifts for living, with hearts opened wide, clear eyes to see,  
Minds full of wonder, hands full of helping, joy as we follow where they lead.**

**WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 7:36 - 8:3

New Revised Standard Version

Bret Naylor  
Pew Bible page 81

**CHORAL MUSIC**

*"Recollection of Joy"*

by Donna J. Butler, based on Philippians 1

Chancel Choir

**REFLECTIONS**

*"Radical Hospitality"*

Pastor Cribbs

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS, OUR LIVES**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Call for the Offering

Bret Naylor

Choral Offertory

*"The Road Not Taken"*

Text by Robert Frost, Music by Randall Thompson

Chancel Choir

\*Congregational Response

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen**

**NCH #779**

Hatton/Ken

\*Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts (unison)

**Receive these gifts, Oh Lord. We give back what is yours. Bless the ministries for which this offering is intended. May this money be used for the uplift of your people in many places, and may those who serve you be inspired to do your will. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Thank you for all we have received and now return to you. Amen.**

Bret Naylor

*The congregation may be seated.*

**A TIME OF PRAYER**

Preparation for Prayer

*"God, Fill Me Now"*

**God, fill me now, fill me with your Holy Spirit.  
You give me life, and you draw me to your presence.  
Here before you now; see, my hands are empty.  
God, fill me now with you.**

Congregation

Prayers of the People

Pastor Cribbs

**SENDING ANTHEM**

*"Blessing and Benediction"*

Words from *Sarum Primer*, Music by Ruth Elaine Schram  
Also includes words and music by Peter Lutkin

Chancel Choir

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Cribbs

**CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**

Bret Naylor

**PIANO POSTLUDE**

Chip Colvin

*Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages  
and conversation in Crist Hall following the service.  
Thanks to Jeannette Guluzian and Vivi Oldknow for providing our treats today!*

We express a **warm welcome** to all who have joined us this morning. This Church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a denomination dedicated to spiritual growth, faith with action and social transformation.

**VISITORS:** 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 the exciting things happening here!



There are contradictions that leave many of us stunned. In an era of medical wonders and tremendous communication technologies, disease and illnesses are rampant and we know so little about global events. We experience information overload but don't have sufficient knowledge to foster better human relations. There are religious explosions in almost every nation, spreading radical Islam, fundamentalist Christianity, Zionist Judaism, and extreme Buddhism, just to name a few. Yet, war and violence escalate out of control around the world.

On this Father's Day, we are reminded of the number of children living without a significant or meaningful, healthy relationship with their dads. Consider the following facts from the 2000 U.S. Census and the National Survey of America's Families:

- Single parents account for 27 percent of households with children under 18.
- One in two children will live in a single-parent family at some point in childhood.
- One in three children is born to unmarried parents.
- Between 1978 and 1996, the number of babies born to unmarried women per year quadrupled from 500,000 to more than two million.

- The number of single mothers increased from 3 million to 10 million between the years 1970 and 2000.
- One child out of 25 lives with neither parent.

Statistics don't tell the whole story, but they provide a snapshot into the conditions too many children are born into and remain. The absence of fathers caused by divorce, over-extended obligations, or a lack of involvement in their children's lives too often leads to a cycle of broken spirits and underdeveloped personalities. This points towards another contradiction: rapid population growth without positive relationships to assure strong, confident children.

We can do better and we must. It is not helpful to linger in a perpetual state of rehearsed missteps or wallow in self pity. There is great opportunity to make amends and heal the wounded hearts of children. This can only happen with a commitment to face ourselves with honesty and integrity. It is not unusual to make mistakes. It is not unique to place our priorities out of order. It happens. The real question is what are we doing to correct our past? Our children cannot afford for us to give up and let them go on without us.

Fatherhood is about "keeping it real." It is making sure our children and their well being are at the top of our list of things to do. Giving them time to experience our joy and share our dreams is what they crave most. Fatherhood means loving our children's mother(s) so much that it drips out of our pores. It is in that relationship our children gain a sense of security and wholeness. Even if divorced or separated, the primary human tie for children is based on their parents' interaction.

Another contradiction that confuses us is to experience verbal expressions of love, peace, and care but witness behaviors that demonstrate a gaping void of those qualities. Children call such practices hypocritical and fake. They say anyone who says one thing but does the opposite is a phony. They lose respect for such a person. Too often that is what they see among adults. Children want honest relationships that are consistent, considerate, and caring. They want confidence in the most important people in their lives.

The axiom, "Charity begins at home and spreads abroad," properly informs and describes what is needed and required to reverse the numbers presented above. We must love and provide for our children based on our commitment to them. Use the past as a guide of lessons learned, confessions of what we have done, and inspiration to repent; never to return to flawed attitudes and behaviors. Pick up the telephone and make the most difficult call of your life. Apologize, if necessary, and take charge over your new decision to be on the best possible terms

with the children who call you “Father.” That would be the first and most important step toward extending radical hospitality.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

**Next Sunday \* June 24, 2007**  
**10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**  
**Guest Speaker: Mr. Clive Hoffman,**  
President of Clive Hoffman Associates, Inc.  
**Sermon: “Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice.**  
**Moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue.”**  
Liturgist: Connie James-Gililland      *Summersong* Series begins

**San Marino Congregational UCC is 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.

Attendance at Morning Worship Service, June 10, 2007: 74 Adults, 30 children  
**Thanks to everyone who helped make Preschool Sunday possible!**

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

Moderator..... Connie James-Gililland  
Vice Moderator..... Kimberly Van Horsen  
Treasurer..... Scott Cameron  
Clerk..... Charlotte Cunz  
Financial Secretary..... Dick Lashley  
Historian ..... Virginia Lashley  
Christian Ed. (Chair)..... Kim Van Horsen  
Deacons (Co-Chairs)..... Holly Burns & Tanya Samuel  
Trustee (Chair) .....David Crist

**STAFF**

Pastor.....Rev. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.  
Pastoral Assistant, Office/Facility Management  
and Director of Music and Theatre ..... Donald B. Shenk  
Preschool Director..... Connie James-Gililland  
Accompanist.....Chip Colvin  
Choral Section Leaders  
    Gabrielle DeMers (Sop)      Sarah Parnicky (Sop)  
    Guylaine Bouchard (Alt)      Andrew Martinez (Ten)  
   Dylan Gentile (Bass)  
Director of Christian Education..... Rev. Cathy Kotowski  
Childcare Provider..... Barbara Sanchez  
Ceremony Coordinator .....Donald Shenk  
Sound Technician ..... Eric Stimes  
Usher Coordinator ..... John Stanley  
Webperson..... Holly Ann Burns  
Conference Ministers .... Revs. Jane Heckles & Daniel Romero

**Our Mission Statement**

“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.”