

**SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2560 HUNTINGTON DRIVE
SAN MARINO, CA 91108**

(626) 292-2080

www.sanmarinoucc.org

**"Never place a period where God has placed a comma,
God is STILL SPEAKING!"**



July 11, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Let your light shine before people, that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven."
-(Matthew 5:16)-*

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 today's service of worship.

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

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Music by Albert Mendoza

WELCOME

Donald Shenk, Pastoral Assistant

*SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT

"Rain Down" and "God of the Bible"

*OPENING PRAYER

Charlotte Cunz

LITURGIST: We enter Your House, O God, in reverence to you. We praise Your Holy Name.

PEOPLE: This is the day God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

LITURGIST: We call to you because you are our God and we are your people.

PEOPLE: We are listening for your Still-Speaking Voice.

LITURGIST: Thank you for your love and mercy. Thank you for life.

PEOPLE: Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Teach us your Way.

LITURGIST: Open our eyes so we can see your presence with us. Open our ears so we can hear the cries and voices of your people.

PEOPLE: Create in us a clean heart so we may serve you.

LITURGIST: Walk with us as we walk humbly with you.

ALL: Give us courage to be a peaceful people, so we can truly be called the 'people of God'. Hallelujah.
Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

*A SONG FOR THE HEART

"We are a Gentle, Angry People"

Congregation

The Congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Jake Pomeroy

MUSIC TO BLESS THE CHILDREN

"Jesus Loves Me"

Congregation

*At this time, Children and Youth are welcome to join our Summer Sunday program!
Childcare for children under age 4 is available in our nursery today with trained and certified childcare provider,
Mrs. Barbara Sanchez. Afterwards everyone will be brought up to the social time.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:29-37

Charlotte Cunz

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

"Grace Alone"

Soloist: Donald Shenk

By Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson

Pianist: Albert Mendoza

REFLECTIONS	<i>"The Company of Strangers"</i>	Rev. Jake Pomeroy
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"</i> New Century Hymnal #539, verses 1, 2, 3 & 6	Congregation
A TIME TO GIVE		Charlotte Cunz
A TIME TO ACT		Donald Shenk
A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS		Charlotte Cunz
O God, thank you for this offering brought to your altar. Receive and bless it so it will be used to support the ministries of this congregation and the United Church of Christ. We are grateful for all you provide. Help us in this hour to remember those who are without and others whose lives have been changed because of economic challenges and injustice. Be with us, O God, as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.		
TIME FOR PRAYER	<i>"God Fill Me Now"</i>	Prayer time led by Rev. Pomeroy
SENDING MUSIC	<i>"I Must Tell Jesus" (#486), verses 1 & 2</i>	Congregation
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Pomeroy
*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT		Charlotte Cunz
*GOING FORTH		Albert Mendoza

Everyone is welcome next door for Social Time.

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 name-tag so we can greet you by name) and receive information about everything happening here.



We welcome the Reverend Dr. Jake Pomeroy to the pulpit today. Jake and his wife, Marlene, are co-pastors of First Congregational United Church of Christ

in Pasadena. Jake serves the wider United Church of Christ in several capacities, including as staff of the Cornerstone Foundation, an agency that assists local churches with capital campaigns. Also, he teaches as adjunct faculty at the Claremont School of Theology. He has a passion for justice and a commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. We are pleased he is joining us to bring God's Word to God's people. Jake and Marlene have two teen-aged children.

This is an incredibly amazing moment in history. We are facing some of the most heart-wrenching events humankind has ever had to deal with. The global economic meltdown; BP oil crisis in the Gulf of Mexico; wars in Iraq; Afghanistan; Sudan and Somalia; high unemployment; soaring tuition for public higher education; home foreclosures; sky-rocketing gasoline prices; increased medical care costs; and the polarized political spectrum are only a few of the mega-activities that drain our personal, communal, and national resources. We are in a mess without a map to recover anytime soon.

In Cuba, this may be described as a "Special Period." Our neighbors on that Caribbean island know too well the challenges, hardships, and suffering associated with economic uncertainties and downturns. They know

what it means to struggle, sacrifice, and try to save in the midst of financial disaster. Their lessons are available to help us get through this time.

For all the misinformation, lies, and distorted perspectives about Cuba so broadly disseminated across the United States, it is nearly impossible to dismiss, ignore, or contradict the survival skills readily evident in nearly every sector of that society. The people of Cuba have lived with economic boycotts and sanctions for nearly five decades. They experienced the loss of viable, international partners with the fall of the former Soviet Union. Yet, they persevered and provided medical and educational services and opportunities to other countries that have far less than they. There are lessons for us from Cuba, if we are willing to learn.

Our special period provides opportunities for us to re-think what is taking place around us and in our name. Instead of attacking President Barack Obama's every effort to correct the course we have been on for the past 30 years that has brought us to the brink of despair, we need to muster support to unify our nation and establish a new set of priorities that put people first.

In order to begin an effective turnaround across America, God must become central in our lives. Realizing we are a pluralistic country with many faith traditions, it is important to honor, respect, and allow all religious practices that affirm the dignity, quality, and value of nature and human life. The answer to our problems is found within the tenets and sacred texts of our faiths. That is one of the essential reasons the people of Cuba have endured despite unrelenting assaults.

At the very core of their efforts to address major challenges is a commitment to compassion and understanding of the human condition. That is sorely lacking in much of what we are witnessing in the United States.

Profits and power overshadow our view of placing priority on people. In the language of faith, we suffer from idolatry that leads to isolation and alienation. We become fearful and suspicious rather than faithful and hospitable. Greed and selfishness demand our full attention and misguide our steps to recovery.

Critics may say Cuba is a poor example to demonstrate faith-driven strategies to alleviate societal disorder. However, the social experiments in that country are derived from a fundamental value placed on the welfare of children, elders, and the most vulnerable. The influence of religion has resulted in a deep desire to assure housing, health, education, and food are available to every person. How does that compare to our priorities? What measures are we taking to meet the needs of all people who have lost their jobs, homes, and hope?

This amazing moment is our opportunity to change and create new ways to address the problems in front of us. We cannot succeed by supplying services to some and leaving others to fend for themselves.

"A nation divided cannot stand." Failure to re-order our values and apply the principles of our faiths to deal with the myriad social challenges can only result in a deterioration of the quality of life in America. We can do better. If we don't know where to start, it may be worth looking to our neighbors to see what they have done. We may be surprised by what we discover.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

What's Happening...

TUES.: 7pm - SOUL FOOD BIBLE STUDY in the Green Room.

SUNDAY: Pastor Art returns to the pulpit.

New Member Orientation will take place after worship in the pastor's office. If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, please attend.

Please Note: Donald Shenk will be attending the ONA Conference in San Diego this week. Please contact Pastor Art at (626) 292-2080, extension 2, if you need assistance during this time.

VOLLEYBALL, EVERYONE! We have been invited and challenged to play students at the Southwestern Academy in a round of volleyball on **Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 6:30 P.M.** A delicious barbeque dinner will be served. If you would like to play on our volleyball team, please see Scott Cameron or Pastor Art. This Monday is our first practice (see above), and then we will practice again on **Monday, July 19th at 6pm** at the Gilliland's.

TRAVEL TO ARVIN on **Saturday, July 24, 2010**, to learn about the connection between food and water and bridging the divides between rural and urban communities. We will be hosted by members of the Arvin Union Congregational United Church of Christ. This is open to everyone. The trip is planned for Saturday, July 24, 2010, from 8:30 A.M. till 7:30 P.M. We will depart from San Marino Congregational Church. The Arvin Union Congregational Church has planned a day of activities that will expose us to agriculture, challenges associated with a church in a transitional community, issues of unemployment, and the water crisis in that area. Please contact Pastor Art at (626) 292-2080 [extension 2] for more information and to sign up.

ELIZABETH ROSE CAMERON FOOD FIRST EVERY SUNDAY is a giving opportunity available to support families and individuals who are hungry and need help. Remember to bring canned, non-perishable foods to church every Sunday along with your extra change and place them in the basket and glass teddy bear at the back of the sanctuary.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.sanmarinoucc.org and keep up with all that's happening!