

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,

July 27, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For Reflection

“O burning Mountain, O chosen Sun,
O perfect Moon, O fathomless Well,
O unattainable Height, O Clearness beyond measure,
O Wisdom without end, O Mercy without limit,
O Strength beyond resistance, O Crown beyond all majesty:
The humblest thing you created sings your praise.”
Mechthild of Magdeburg, 13th century Christian mystic

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

Congregation

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Acolyte: Juancho Borja

*A SONG FOR THE SPIRIT

Congregation

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

*OPENING PRAYER

Holly Ann Burns

O Keeper of Faith,
Help us to keep the faith entrusted to us:
Faith in a world worth saving,
Faith in a dream worth sharing,
Help us keep faith in you,
For faith is the substance of our hope,
And hope is the assurance of love.
Praise to you, O Faithful One,
Now and forever. Amen

*A SONG FROM THE HEART

“Here I Am”

Congregation

The congregation may be seated.

OUR COMMON LIFE

A Time to Give

Holly Ann Burns

A Time to Act

Donald Shenk

A Time to Dedicate Ourselves and Our Gifts

Holly Ann Burns

Faithful God, we know that it is not the size of our gifts that counts, but the spirit in which they are given. Accept these gifts we pray, and our complete devotion to you and your kingdom. Amen.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Susan Garet

***Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for today's worship service.
Our summer children's program will resume on August 10 and
Children Worship & Wonder will resume on September 14.
Childcare for children under age 4 is available in our nursery today
with trained childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez***

SUMMER MUSIC

“Patterns on a Quilt”
by Curtis B. Rhodes

Curtis Rhodes, Soloist

SCRIPTURE READING	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Holly Ann Burns
REFLECTIONS	“Thy Kingdom Come”	Rev. Susan Garet
TIME OF PRAYER		
Preparation for Prayer	“God, Fill Me Now”	Congregation
Prayers of the People		Rev. Garet
*SENDING HYMN	“I Love to Tell the Story”	NCH #522
	Congregation – Verses 1 & 2 only	Fischer/Hankey
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Garet
*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT		Holly Ann Burns
*GOING FORTH	“I Love to Tell the Story”	NCH #522
	Congregation – Verses 3 & 4 only	Fischer/Hankey

**welcome the wonderful ministers Pastor Art has lined up to fill our pulpit during this month.
The Soul Food discussion group will be on hiatus for the month of July.**

Everyone is welcome to have some coffee and conversation next door after the service. Thanks to Elsie Stanley 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.

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.

Pastor Art Cribbs is on vacation for the month of July. Please be in prayer for the Cribbs family as they enjoy this time off together and

Next Sunday † August 3, 2008

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Pastor Art Cribbs returns to the sanctuary!

Theme: TABLE OF PLENTY Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

Deacon's Food First Sunday – please bring a donation of food or cash.

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated.

You can still bring in your shoes for the Youth Group's shoe drive, "Soles4Souls". A collection box is in the Narthex or you can take them all the way down to the Youth Room.



Stillspeaking Theatre's production of

FACING EAST

**continues through August 3rd with performances on
Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm**

Please see the announcement on the page 9 for details!

We need YOUR help in getting the word out about our theatre and our production, "FACING EAST." Please take as many promotional cards from the Visitor's Center as you think you can distribute. Please put a small stack wherever you find an opportunity. Grocery stores, movie theatres, etc. often have places where you can post a card or put a stack of cards. Thank you!!



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SACRED CONVERSATION II: Race and Religion in America will take place in the Stillspeaking Theater on Saturday, August 16, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Reserve a seat and lunch. The panel will feature Dr. William "Bill" Grier, psychiatrist and author of the book, *Black Rage*; the Rev. Dr. James Hester Hargett, pastor emeritus of Christian Fellowship UCC; Dr. Gordon Montgomery, ophthalmologist and social activist, and Pastor Art Cribbs. RSVP to Donald in our church office – (626) 292-2080 or donaldshenk@sanmarinoucc.org if you plan to attend.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUNDAY is September 14 during morning worship. Save the date.

60th ANNIVERSARY of SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UCC: Plan to be part of our history and presence in San Marino. We'll be celebrating our anniversary every Sunday in November!

An opportunity for outreach:

Caring for the sick Project C.U.R.E. (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment) is an international organization that delivers medical supplies — and hope — to impoverished people around the world. The group collects wheelchairs, walkers, surgical instruments, medicine, chemicals, masks, oxygen tanks, hospital beds, incubators and so on. Then volunteers pack the supplies into large containers and ship them to medical personnel and local volunteers in poverty-stricken countries.

Through this outreach, Project C.U.R.E. is healing bodies and souls. "I was sick and you took care of me" (Matthew 25:36, NRSV).

Project C.U.R.E. can always use more volunteers. Check www.ProjectCURE.org for warehouse locations.

UCC Calendar of Prayer: Pictures of God's Realm

Pray today to remember that we are a part of a richly diverse melting pot and that there is always room for more among the people and places of which we have been entrusted stewardship. The Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ Stewardship and Mission Committee held a meeting recently at the Center for the Americas in El Paso, Texas, just across the border from Juarez, Mexico. We wanted to explore border issues that affect us all. We heard stories of gracious women who were immigrants themselves. We heard diverse opinions about border realities from local UCC church members. We also visited Iglesias sin Fronteras in Juarez, a UCC new church start, sponsored by both the Conference and the national Leadership Subsidy program. We were deeply moved by the joy and commitment of this growing community. Though resources are quite limited, faith abounds. We also interacted with leaders of the Annunciation House, an impressive ecumenical effort that helps those new here from Mexico begin with food and clothes and to find relatives and friends who can help them get established here. The primary issue of immigration, we were told is "stifling poverty," some of which our country has contributed by our laws and policies. We hope to establish a mission trip to the area to join those who struggle with border issues to become better educated and to make a tangible difference. May we all learn about, understand and act on what it means to be faithful people, welcoming strangers among us to become friends, with integrity and fairness.

P R A Y E R :

Seed-planting, fish-netting, pearl-hunting God, you shape us into living parables. Pray with your Spirit in us so that we may understand our experiences as healing metaphors, and become creative and abundant stewards of the environment you entrusted to our love. Amen.



Mission Moment UCC Hospitality

KEEP OUT.

Two bitter words that cut and sting.

KEEP OUT!

The words send a chill through us, and we hurry along our way.

United Church of Christ congregations tend to emphasize welcome and hospitality.

Here is a sampling of the sayings on some of our churches' signs:

"Jesus Welcomed All...So Do We!"

"Warm Hearts, Open Minds"

"Intentional in Faith, United in Diversity"

"A Family of Faith for EVERYONE"

"God Accepts You as You Are and So Do We"

"Our Door is Opened Extra Wide!"

"Where God Loves, a Church Cares, and People Are Friendly"

"There is a Place Here for You!"

"A Family Church Where All Are Welcome!"

How does your congregation announce that it's ready to welcome everyone?

July 2008

God is still speaking,

Dream Catcher Films, Inc. invites you to the World Premiere of



Finding Our Voices
Stories of American Dissent

Action on Film Festival 

July 29, 8:00 p.m.
Laemmle Theater
One Colorado Blvd
Old Pasadena, CA

Tickets: \$10 at the door or in advance at www.aoffest.com

Unforgettable portraits of eight people whose lives were turned upside down by 9/11 and the Iraq War. Moving and inspiring.

Change is going to come from the bottom up.



Finding Our Voices
Stories of American Dissent

As narrated by Martin Sheen

www.findingourvoices.com

Consult our website for additional screening dates in your area

Dream Catcher Films, Inc.
www.dreamcatcherfilmsinc.com

No dissent, no debate. No debate, no democracy.

UCC Minister featured in Peace Film on July 29th!

Film Synopsis: Dissent is a cornerstone of the American dream, from the declaration of independence to civil rights, from the end of slavery to the enfranchisement of women. Today we are faced by a new tyranny... a war which the US government started in Iraq. Finding Our Voices is a film that tells compelling and inspiring stories of people who proclaim with their lives that 'peace is patriotic,' and dissent the responsibility and birthright of a truly democratic people.

Only two more weekends to see the riveting drama,

FACING EAST!

Fridays & Saturdays @ 8pm
Sundays @ 3pm

FACING EAST
by Carol Lynn Pearson
Directed by Donald Shenk



Where do you turn when your faith is at odds with your heart?

July 12 - August 3, 2008
Preview July 11
★ L.A. Premiere ★

with
Jonathan Edward Brown
Toni Trenton
Neil Miller

ADVANCE TICKETS AT:
www.stillspeakingtheatre.org

Stillspeaking theatre
A professional theatre approved by Actor's Equity.

2560 Huntington Drive
San Marino, CA 91108
(where Del Mar meets Winston)
(626) 292-2081 ext. 7

Tickets \$20 Discounts available

CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator.....Connie James-Gililand
TreasurerScott 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 DirectorConnie James-Gililand
AccompanistAlbert Mendoza
Guitarists..... Randall Allen & Nathan York
Director of Christian Education Cathy Kotowski
Childcare Provider Barbara Sanchez
Ceremony Coordinator..... Donald Shenk
Sound TechnicianEric 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.