

SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2560 HUNTINGTON DRIVE SAN MARINO, CA 91108  
Phone: (626) 292-2080 Facsimile: (626) 292-2083  
Email: [smccucc@sanmarinoucc.org](mailto:smccucc@sanmarinoucc.org) Website: [www.sanmarinoucc.org](http://www.sanmarinoucc.org)



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

August 5, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

### *For Reflection*

“Which is worth more, a crowd of thousands,  
or your own genuine solitude?  
Freedom, or power over an entire nation?  
A little while alone in your room  
will prove more valuable than anything else  
that could ever be given you.”  
(The Essential Rumi)

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

### WE GATHER

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

Dr. Barbara Artinian

*You are invited to read “Cribbs Notes on the Pastor’s Message”  
beginning on page 5 during this time.*

### WELCOME & OUR COMMON LIFE

Holly Ann Burns

### WE WORSHIP GOD

#### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Soloist: Andrew Martinez

Acolyte: Allen King

#### \*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holly Ann Burns

**O God, we come to worship you. We have come to know you. We have come because you are our God and we are your people. You have given us a new day. You have breathed into us new life. Your mercy is everlasting. Your love is without measure. You alone are God. We praise only you. Thank you, O God, for your Great Spirit that is given to comfort us. Let this hour be your time to speak to us so as we leave this place you will speak through us to your world. Amen.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

“Be Now My Vision”

NCH #451

Congregation

Ancient Irish text/Harm. Evans

*The congregation may be seated.*

#### TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story

“God Loves You”

Pastor Art Cribbs

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 their summer session at this time.*

Music to Bless the Children

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Woolston/Root

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.  
Red, brown, yellow, black, and white, They are precious in His sight,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

Call for the Offering

Holly Ann Burns

Offertory

Chip Colvin

\*Congregational Response

**NCH #780**

Ken/Bourgeois

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

\*Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts (unison)

Holly Ann Burns

**We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you, O God. Receive us and what we have brought to support your mission. Multiply these gifts and make them a source of blessing to those in need. Thank you for making these gifts and resources possible. Thank you for all you do and for everyone who gives as generously as we have received. Allow your blessings to flow through this congregation so others can live. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD and CELEBRATE COMMUNION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 12:13-21

Holly Ann Burns

New Testament

*New Revised Standard Version*

Pew Bible p. 90

**REFLECTIONS**

“Loving God Back”

Pastor Cribbs

**SUMMERSONG**

Soloist: Andrew Martinez

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Rev. Art Cribbs

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All are invited to the communion table. We serve by Intinction, and so invite you to take a piece of bread and dip it in the grape juice in remembrance of Jesus.*

*If it is best that you be served in your seat,  
please let an usher know, and a Deacon will serve you.*

**MUSIC FOR COMMUNION**

Chip Colvin

**UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Art Cribbs

**Thank you, loving Creator, for sharing from your bounty. Thank you for this moment in remembrance of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for his courageous and creative gift of new life. Thank you for your mercy and forgiveness of our mistakes. Humbly, we give you praise for liberation and salvation. Now, dear God, we ask that you receive our true expressions of appreciation and gratitude for all that you are to us. Freely we have received, freely we give. Thank you for being with us even beyond our imagination. Thank you, O God. Amen.**

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS**

**A TIME OF PRAYER**

Preparation for Prayer

“God, Fill Me Now”

Congregation

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Pastor Cribbs

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*“More Love to You, O Christ”*  
Congregation

**NCH #456**  
Doane/Prentiss

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Cribbs

**\*POSTLUDE/CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**

Dr. Artinian/Holly Ann Burns

***Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages  
and conversation in Crist Hall following the service.  
Thanks to Lalitha Samuel for providing our refreshments 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!

**Next Sunday \* August 12, 2007**

**10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**

**Sermon: “Faith Is...”** Text: Hebrews 11:1-3; 8-16

Liturgist: Warren Scherffius      Summerson soloist: Guylaine Bouchard



It is a mistake to concentrate only on our love for God. While it is important “to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves,” we must not lose sight of God’s love for us. It is God’s love that makes life and all things possible. That may sound like a nuance or semantic difference; it is much more and requires constant reiteration.

We cannot measure the depth and extent of God’s love. We are the object of divine affection. Throughout the Scriptures, we are given clues about how much God loves us as human beings. In fact, there are reminders of God’s love for the entire Creation and everything that is part of it. The ancient stories in which the prophets remind the people of faith of their Covenant with God give some insight into God’s faithfulness and love. Even when humanity disappoints and disobeys God, there is an expression of mercy and restoration.

God wants us to experience life fully. God instructs us about being in right relationship with each other so we don’t waste our lives bickering, warring, and threatening each other with reckless acts. God desires for us to enjoy the fleeting moments we are given on earth. When we are busy and forget to pause long enough to inhale fresh air, God reminds us to slow down and stop.

The love of God may include disciplinary measures to call us back to right living. Sometimes we may get sick or break a leg just to get our attention. On a happier note, someone may walk into our life and offer a helping hand just when we thought we were all alone. Divine love is beyond our imagination, yet, small events can focus us to realize we are wrapped in the cloth of sacred devotion.

Why is it so important to be aware of God’s love? It has a humbling effect and provides sufficient space to make room for others to peaceably co-exist. When we think about how much God loves us, we are able to recognize God’s presence in the faces of others. God forgives us when we make mistakes, big and small. By remembering God’s mercy, we are able to forgive others who make mistakes. The thought of God’s love makes it more difficult for us to render harsh judgments.

Truly, there is a wonderful gift found in knowing God loves us for who we are. To the extent we are able to receive God’s love, we become capable of extending our love to others. And that, ultimately, is the point. God loves us just because we are human beings. In turn, God wants us to love each other out of our human experience. Just because we are human beings is enough reason to be an anointed recipient of God’s affection.

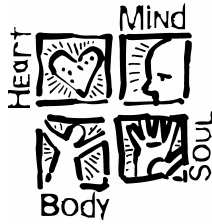
When the sun rises, the moon turns full, or rain sprinkles the earth, we are reminded that God’s love is extended to all of us. It would be a moment for great celebration if everybody felt the spontaneous power of God’s love all at once. It would overwhelm us and transform life as we know it.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

## This Week...

**Today:** The Deacons will meet today in the Green Room after the social time.

**Tuesday:** 7:00pm Come join our new group – SOUL FOOD. We'll meet in the Fireside Parlour. This group is about SO much more than “just” Bible study!



## God is still hearing Our Prayers...

### for LIFE TRANSITIONS...

**Alzheimer caregivers**  
**Co-Conference Ministers Jane Heckles and Dan Romero**, *making significant shifts in their lives*

**Betty & Ken Frank**, Our UCC Missionaries in Turkey  
**Jeannette Guluzian's son**, Dave, and his crew & their families, *military service*

### for HEALTH...

**Brittnie "Sunnie" Aguirre**  
**Marcia Albrecht's son**, Charlie  
**Guylaine Bouchard's sister**, Melina  
**Guylaine Bouchard's friend**, Quan Ha  
**Anne Brown**, *chronic pain*  
**Cathy Burkdoll's friend**, Jeannette  
**Holly Burns' parents**, Rev. Dick and Lee Glatfelter, *health challenges*  
**Bill Caisley**, *back pain*  
**Liz Cameron's friend**, Julia, *life challenges, recovering from accident*  
**Bob and Charlotte Cunz**  
**Beryl Crist**  
**Cathy Dearing and her children**, *Cathy battling cancer*  
**Gary Henville**, *dealing with back pain*  
**Ken Hughes, & his caregiver**, David  
**Cathy Kotowski's dad**, John  
**Virginia Lashley**, *healing*

**Bea and Quent Neufeld**, *Quent dealing with Huntington's disease*  
**Curtis Rhodes' friend**, Brad  
**Raj Samuel's nephew**, Pradeep  
**Raj Samuel's friend**, Uma, *suffering from brain cancer*  
**Donald Shenk's dad**, Michael, *diagnosed with lymphoma*  
**Donald Shenk's aunt**, Emily  
**Donald Shenk's friend Robin's mom**, *diagnosed with tumor*  
**Pam Stump**, *continued good health*  
**Kim Van Horsen's parents**, Charlie and Gayle McGrew, *stamina during stroke recovery*  
**Susan Jakubowski Weiner's family**  
**Al and Margaret Williams**  
**Caroline Zook**

**for our members not able to attend services anymore, including:**

Julie Allen, Ella Blozan, Grace McCallister,  
Margaret McNeish, Gloria Northern & Shirley Shetler

**for those with whom we are in covenant in ministry:**

Revs. David Harder (Kaiser Permanente Hospice) and Jeff Utter (Bixby Knolls DOC);  
Pilgrim Pines Camp; Kit Ripley, missionary in Thailand

**We are also mindful of...**

the men and women deployed to various theatres of war. We pray for their safety. We pray for the children and elders, families and individuals who are trapped in war-torn regions of the world. And we pray for national and governmental leaders who make decisions that affect numerous lives. We ask God's mercy as we pray for wisdom and divine guidance.

Let us continue to pray with and for one another. Let us pray for our congregation and the many programs that take place on our campus. We thank God for every opportunity to stand up and speak out for justice and peace.

## ” **Mission Moment:** **Generosity: Best Practices**

**A** “practice” is often something you do every day—getting better and better at it. Is it possible to become a more generous person by “practicing”? Of course! In fact, there’s really no other way...

Generous giving goes along with generous living.

If you’re interested in exploring generous living, consider ordering “The Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church,” a 30-day devotional with reflections, prayers, and quotes. (Order from UCC Resources by calling 800/537-3394; cost is \$3).

Written especially for church members, you’ll find “The Big Secret of Giving,” by William C. Green, UCC Executive for Faith and Giving, original and thought-provoking. And . . . it will help you “practice”!



## Loving God Back

**O**n an August afternoon in 1806, five Williams College students met in a field to talk, to pray and, like so many young people, to dream of a better world. When a sudden thunderstorm interrupted, they sought shelter under a haystack—and there resolved to offer their lives to carry their faith into service into “all the world.” This gathering came to be called the Haystack Prayer Meeting, launching the modern mission movement.

By 1810, America’s first foreign mission society, the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, was formed by Congregationalists in Massachusetts. In 1812 it sent its first five missionaries to India. By the end of the century missionaries had been sent to the Near East, including Turkey and Palestine, the Sandwich Islands, China, and Africa. What did these missionaries do? They

**Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23**  
**Search out wisdom**  
**Psalms 49:1-12**  
**The folly of trust in riches**  
**Colossians 3:1-11**  
**Clothed in Christ**  
**Luke 12:13-21**  
**Be rich toward God, your treasure**

translated the Bible into difficult and often previously unwritten languages. They built educational systems in their lands of ministry and were often called upon to advise foreign governments. They established schools and hospitals in all the mission fields. They trained native leaders to continue the work of the ministry.

After 150 years, the American Board had sent out nearly 5,000 missionaries to 34 different fields, and it all began with five young men praying under a haystack.

To find out more about our mission heritage visit [www.globalministries.org/index.php](http://www.globalministries.org/index.php).

Did you know that your congregation’s giving to Our Church’s Wider Mission fully supports seventy missionaries, putting their faith into service throughout the world?

### **PRAYER:**

**Generous God, in abundance you give us things both spiritual and physical. Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly the lasting things of your kingdom, so that what we are and do and say may be our gifts to you through Christ, who beckons all to seek the things above, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator.....Connie James-Gililand  
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.....Art Cribbs  
Pastoral Assistant, Office/Facility Management  
and Director of Music and Theatre..... Donald Shenk  
Preschool Director ..... Connie James-Gililand  
Accompanist ..... Chip Colvin  
Director of Christian Education ..... 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:** “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.