

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,

August 12, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

For Reflection

Our soul waits for God;
who is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in God,
because we trust
in God's holy name.
Let your steadfast love,
O God, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.
(Psalm 33:20-22)

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

WE GATHER

PIANO PRELUDE

Chip Colvin

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

WELCOME & OUR COMMON LIFE

Warren Scherffius

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Soloist: Guylaine Bouchard

Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Warren Scherffius

Thank you, loving Creator, for awaking us and setting aside this time to worship you. Thank you for calling us back to you so we can experience your love. We don’t always know where we are going, but we trust you to lead us. We don’t always know what we are doing, but we place our faith in you. Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us and refresh our souls. Open our hearts, minds, and ears to receive your Word. Give us courage in the struggle for justice and peace. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “*There Are Some Things I May Not Know*”
Congregation

NCH #405
Morris

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story “*There Are Many Things We Do Not Know*” 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

Warren Scherffius

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)

Warren Scherffius

We give to you, O God, what has come from your bounty. No matter how much we bring back to you, we can never equal your loving generosity. So, we devote ourselves to you and dedicate our gifts to your ministry. Take what we have brought and use it to your glory. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3; 8-16

Warren Scherffius

New Revised Standard Version

Pew Bible page 288

REFLECTIONS

“Faith is...”

Pastor Cribbs

SUMMERSONG

Soloist: Guylaine Bouchard

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

“Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls”

NCH #383

Congregation

Gläser/Tarrant

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Cribbs

*POSTLUDE/CHANGING OF THE LIGHT

Chip Colvin/Warren Scherffius

***Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages
and conversation in Crist Hall following the service.
Thanks to Virginia and Dick Lashley 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 19, 2007
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon: “Faith Witness” Text: Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Summersong soloist: Donald Shenk

CRIBBS NOTES

on the Pastor's Message



There is so much going on all around us everyday that it is impossible to keep up. Even with the tools of technology at our fingertips, the rapid advancements of science and medicine excel at a pace we are not able to capture at once. Mass communication reduces the scope of the world to instant messages almost everywhere; mass transportation now offers civilian trips to Outer Space. Facts and information speed at us in stacks that stuff both our mailboxes and e-mail addresses with useful notices and useless spam. What's next? Where are we heading?

The other day while driving to school, I could not help but notice the numerous billboards along the freeway. For the most part, they seem to litter the skyline. Promotions for gambling dens, adult entertainment centers, and booze dominated the high-priced advertising spaces. Mixed among them were seducements to take out loans and borrow on credit. A casual observation of all the signs along the roadway could lead to fascinating conclusions about American society.

Where are we heading? Or, as the kids in the back seat often ask, "Are we there yet?"

Memory is an important, powerful influence as we navigate our way into the future. It provides a sense of knowing past outcomes that could help us determine our decisions now. The past gives us sets of lessons that can be instructive if we take time to remember, analyze, and adjust our awareness of today's circumstances to apply the wise counsel of another era. Memory offers us stories and experiences that can help us avoid making the same mistakes. We should not rush to forget where we and others have been as we dash toward unknown and uncertain destinations. Where are we heading?

Abraham answered God's call to leave home and explore new territory. His was an act of faith. I often say, "The hardest part about doing anything new, different, or challenging is thinking about it." We can spend a great deal of time fretting about possible outcomes without ever making an effort to act. Abraham

may have thought about his response to God's call, but more importantly he acted faithfully and obediently. Did he know where he was heading? I think not. He just went and, presumably, followed the Spirit.

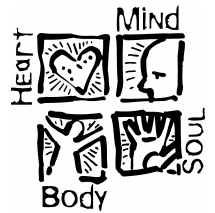
At our very best with all available information, we can never be fully certain about what is coming next. As people of faith, we believe God is leading our lives. Our actions are based on faith. To the uninitiated this doesn't make any sense. To them, it is reckless and irresponsible. Let us not argue about this matter. People of faith place our lives in God's hands with an intentional consciousness that we have no choice. Our very identity is based on our faith and relationship with God.

Where are we heading? If our lives are devoted to God, then does it really matter? It may be God has a plan to turn us in a direction we had never considered. There, we might find our way to the place where we are supposed to be. That is the power and purpose of faith.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

This Week...

- Today:** The Deacons will meet today in the Green Room after the social time.
- Tuesday:** 7pm - Everyone is invited to an evening of "SOUL FOOD," a time to share, reflect, and discuss the integration of faith and daily experiences. Join the conversation in the Fireside Room.
- Saturday:** 7:30pm - A night of film under the stars! The Spirit and the Screen Film Club will view the movie, "The Day the Earth Stood Still," in the backyard of the parsonage. This is an event for the whole family. Bring your favorite dish to share, a lawn chair, a friend, and an attitude to have lots of fun.



The parsonage is located next door to the east of the church at 2620 Huntington Drive. Please park on the street out front or in the church parking lot.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH OF PASADENA DECLARES ITS PROPERTY A HATE-FREE ZONE AT A RALLY FOLLOWING THE THIRD SLASHING OF ITS MARRIAGE EQUALITY BANNER

Our church will join Neighborhood Church of Pasadena in a peace rally on Sunday, September 9 at 1pm to officially designate the historic property as a "Hate-Free Zone" following the third slashing of the church's Marriage Equality Banner.

Neighborhood Church invites the community to join members and staff as they wrap the sanctuary and entire adjoining campus in a hate-free ribbon in a show of unwavering solidarity and dedication to equality for all marriages and families, and to reinforce the church's "Stand on the Side of Love" covenant.

"This is so much more than just a banner," said Alyssa Bellew, director of administration for Neighborhood Church. "Besides having love and tolerance in our hearts and minds, our faith demands that we proclaim it and take action against injustices wherever they might be. The world needs to see that people of faith, clergy, and religious institutions stand on the side of love and justice."

The church's Marriage Equality banner was slashed sometime before services on Sunday, July 29, marking the third time the banner has been vandalized in just over two years. Church staff and members will resurrect the banner following the rally.

Neighborhood Church is located at: 301 North Orange Grove Blvd. in Pasadena.

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.