

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,

September 2, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

For Reflection

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;
The heart has withdrawn from its Maker.
For the beginning of pride is sin,
And the one who clings to it pours out abominations.
Pride was not created for human beings,
Or violent anger for those born of women.
(Sirach 10:12-13, 18)

**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

Elsie Stanley

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Music by Chip Colvin

Acolyte: Allen King

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Elsie Stanley

Good morning, Great Creator! We stand together as your people before you in reverence, honor and praise. We are awed by your magnificence. We are humbled by your love and grace. O God, we come into your sanctuary with our hearts, minds, and souls turned toward you. We pray our lives today will bring you joy and laughter. We know we have not always done our best or what you desire. But in this hour, we ask you to forgive our mistakes, make us whole, and give us courage in the struggle for justice and peace. Bless your people in all places and heal their lands. Hallelujah! Shalom! Salaam! Right on! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead On Eternal Sovereign”
Congregation

NCH #573
Smart/Shurtleff

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story

“Who Are 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.

This is our Common Sunday. Children are invited to stay in adult worship, although Barbara Sanchez is available to care for the youngest among us.

Music to Bless the Children

“This Little Light of Mine”
Congregation

1. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
2. Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

Call for the Offering

Elsie Stanley

Offertory

Chip Colvin

*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 #780
Ken/Bourgeois

*Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts (unison)

Elsie Stanley

Thank you, Great Spirit, for the gifts from your bounty. We return a mere portion of what is yours. Receive this offering and bless each one who is in this place. We dedicate ourselves as your people and these gifts to be used in service to your people in many places. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD and CELEBRATE COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16

Elsie Stanley

New Testament

New Revised Standard Version

Pew Bible p. 291

REFLECTIONS

“Let’s Be the Church!”

Pastor Cribbs

SUMMERSONG

Donald Shenk and Chip Colvin

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

More is required beyond confessions of faith. The Church is called to be a sanctuary to shelter strangers, immigrants, and sojourners. It is a voice that proclaims God's love for every living soul. The Church offers new hope to the weary and liberation to captives. There is a qualitative clarity about the nature of the Church. Jesus Christ is its head and presents a model of being human that sets the Church apart from popular culture.

Nobody is conscripted into the Church. It is a voluntary commitment to serve God and stand as a witness to the human potential to do good works. Wherever there is a need for companionship, advocacy, or a healing touch, members of the Church are called. These days such a call is made continually.

During our Soul Food Bible Study this past Tuesday night, we explored the significance of discipleship. Although multitudes heard Jesus preach and observed his ministry of miracles, only a few of his listeners dedicated their lives to discipleship. Today, church doors are open across America and around the world. People pass through the pews and participate in worship, but they stop short of becoming disciples.

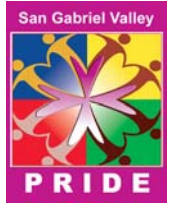
Given the dire straits in which so many lives exist, now is a critical moment in which we can assess our commitment to the Church. Jesus calls us to be disciples. Christ wants us to be the Church. We must be more than a place, a building, or an organization. As the Church, we must present a daily practice of caring for others and being the embodiment of Christ's love in the world.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

Upcoming Events...

- Sunday, Sept. 9 – KICK-OFF Sunday, Choir returns to worship
 - Forum on Water for Children Africa after worship (in Fireside Rm.)
 - 1:00 p.m. Peace Rally at Neighborhood Church in Pasadena
We will join with our Unitarian Universalist sisters and brothers in a call for Peace, partly in response to their Marriage Equality banner being slashed for the third time.

- Sunday, Sept. 16 – Gay “Eco-Pride” event
85 East Holly Street in Pasadena, Noon-6:00pm. We will be staffing a table at the event and will be handing out information about our church. Volunteers needed! See Holly or Tanya if you would like to participate.
- Saturday, Sept. 22 – Call and Vocation event
A conversation with Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. More information on this fascinating event can be found on our bulletin board. The event will take place at 1st Congregational Church of Long Beach, 241 Cedar Avenue. More information available by calling the church at (562) 436-2256, ext. 221 or at www.firstchurchlb.org



God is still hearing Our Prayers...

for LIFE TRANSITIONS...

Marcia Albrecht's children, Charlie & Betsy
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*
KD Henderson's cousin, Dana Kincer, *diagnosed with cancer*
Gary Henville, *dealing with back pain*

**Ken Hughes, & his caregiver, David
Cathy Kotowski's dad, John,**
recovering from surgery
Virginia Lashley, healing
Andrew Martinez's grandmother,
Mary Jo, healing for broken foot
Bea and Quent Neufeld, Quent dealing
with Huntington's disease
Vivi Oldknow's art students and their
families, specifically Julie Goodus
and her family.
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 and Margaret & Al Williams

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.



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.