

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 Website: www.sanmarinoucc.org



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

September 23, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

For Reflection

‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.’
For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.
Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?
O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!
(Jeremiah 8:20-9:1)

Please see page six for Cribbs Notes on the Pastor’s Message

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

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

The Choir & The Band
Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

Guylaine Bouchard

Good morning, Great Creator. You have blessed us with a new day. We lift our voices in praise to you. Thank you for your goodness and mercy. Thank you for every breath of life. Thank you for clean water and fresh air. Come into this place and fill us with Your Spirit. Rain down your love and let your blessings flow through us as a source of surprising joy for your people throughout your world. Hallelujah! Shalom! Salaam! Right on! Amen.

***SONGS OF THE SPIRIT**

Congregation

“Rain Down”

The congregation may be seated.

“I Sing Praises to Your Name”

OUR COMMON LIFE

Donald Shenk, Pastoral Assistant

A Time to Give/A Time to Act

A Time to Dedicate Ourselves and Our Gifts

Everything we have comes from you. All that we give belongs to you. Accept these offerings that are returned to you. Bless the givers of these gifts and multiple what we bring before you so it will be used in service to your people. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to your ministries. Amen.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Story

“Yes, Jesus loves me”

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. Amen.

*Children are welcome to proceed downstairs to their sanctuary at this time
for CHILDREN WORSHIP AND WONDER.
Miss Barbara is available to care for the youngest children.*

Music to Bless the Children

**Children welcome in the name of Jesus, Children welcome in the name of love.
All are welcome in the name of Jesus. All are welcome in the name of love.**

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES *Musica Instrumentalis* The Band

SCRIPTURE READING **I Timothy 2:1-7** Guylaine Bouchard
Greek Testament New Revised Standard Version Pew Bible page 267

REFLECTIONS **“IN JESUS’ NAME”** Pastor Art Cribbs

CHORAL ANTHEM *“Be With Me Lord”* Chancel Choir
Adapted from Psalm 91 by Ken Macek, arranged by Paul A. Tate

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** *“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”* **NCH #282**
Congregation African-American spiritual

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Cribbs

***POSTLUDE/CHANGING OF THE LIGHT** The Band/Guylaine Bouchard

*Everyone is welcome to enjoy the coffee and conversation
in Crist Hall following today’s service.*

**THANKS to Vivi Oldknow and 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 † September 30, 2007
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon: “Generous Spirit” Text: I Timothy 6:6-19
WATER FOR CHILDREN AFRICA collection during the service.
Pastoral Relations Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m.



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.

Thursday: 7:00pm – CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal



Water for Children Africa
Help meet our goal to provide at least five water tanks for children in the neediest villages of Africa. Each 6000 liter tank costs \$700.00. Bring your donation **NEXT SUNDAY** (September 30th).

CRIBBS NOTES

on the Pastor's Message



What are we supposed to do when government leaders don't listen to the electorate? When the voices of the people are not heard and public servants ignore the public? What are we to do when public funds are squandered on wars and human lives are wasted on highfaluting folly? How do we pray in these days when nations turn their backs on God?

In Lafayette Park across the street from the White House, a man and woman have set up an encampment since 1981. This week I met William Thomas, a bearded sage, who decided the only thing that really mattered to him was to convince national leaders to end the arms race by disarming nuclear weapons.

Sitting outside a tattered, sheeted covering that barely sheltered him from the weather and next to photographs of disfigured children, Thomas talked to me about their campaign to draw attention to their cause. His female companion, Concepcion Picciotto, recently turned 71 years old and remains stubbornly committed to their purpose.

"How have you managed to stay here all these years without giving up?" I asked.

"I have no place else to go," Thomas said. "I was forced to come back to the United States against my will. So, this is where I need to be."

Thomas explained he had traveled to Europe and the Middle East before returning to the United States. Earlier in his life, he had been a businessman with his wife in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when he decided to detach himself from money and all material goods. He began a pilgrimage that took him to England. There he said he tossed his passport and his wallet with his social security card in it into a river. He said he never wanted to return to the United States. However, while walking through Dover, he was stopped by police who asked him to produce identification papers. His visa had expired and he was deported to America.

Upon arrival at Kennedy International Airport in New York, Thomas said he refused to walk off the plane. He was forcefully carried off the aircraft by police. Once off the plane and inside the airport, he was told he was free to go. He headed straight to Washington, DC, and set up his protest booth. He's been there ever since.

Thomas and Concepcion have small voices. Their photographs are ghastly but poignant. The devastating assault of radiation exposure on human beings is graphically displayed along with scribbled signs calling for an end to war and nuclear weapons.

Who is listening to Thomas and Concepcion?

Our conversation was brief, perhaps five minutes. Thomas was clear, calm, and focused as he outlined his reasons for continuing his vigil in sight of the United States President's residence.

1981. 26 years later he considers himself a "man without a country," trapped in a nation where he disagrees with its policies and priorities. Thomas and Concepcion have determined to offer themselves as a living presence and public witnesses for an alternative to violence and global conflagration.

In his letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul urged his young student to first pray for rulers and people in high positions so the faithful could live in peace. In these days, we are encouraged to pray for our political leaders.

We pray that their hearts, minds, eyes, and ears will be opened to the small voices like Thomas and Concepcion. We pray in the name of Jesus for an end to notions of perpetual war and the escalation of weapons, both nuclear and conventional. In the name of Jesus we pray for a nation in need of compassion and humility. And, I pray for Concepcion and Thomas; that one day soon they will be able to pack up their tent, tear down their photographs, and celebrate a new era free of nuclear arms and contesting countries. We pray to become a people of peace, justice, and goodwill in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Art with Thomas

-Pastor Art Cribbs

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
Guyline Bouchard's sister, Melina
Guyline 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, *recovering from surgery*
Virginia Lashley, *healing*
Andrew Martinez's grandmother, Mary Jo, *healing of broken foot*

Bea and Quent Neufeld, *Quent dealing with Huntington's disease*
Vivi Oldknow's art students and their families
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 boyfriend, Gregory, *healing from surgery*
Donald Shenk's cousin, Miriam, *healing after serious auto accident*
Pam Stump, *continued good health*
Kim Van Horsen's parents, Charlie and Gayle McGrew, *stamina during stroke recovery*
Susan Jakubowski Weiner's family
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.

Upcoming Events...

- Saturday, Oct. 20 – The Central Association of the Southern California/Nevada Conference of the UCC meets here at our church. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! We will provide breakfast and lunch to the participants. Come and experience creative, musical and dramatic presentations. Be surprised by the many, many gifts in our conference!

- Sunday, Oct. 21 – A Blessing of the Animals – a special time to honor the relationship we have with our animals; a community wide event to be held in our parking lot after worship.



- Saturday, October 27 – “A Place for Me in the UCC” – Member orientations for new members, present members and those considering membership! 10am to 2pm with lunch provided.
- Sunday, October 28 – Outgoing conference minister, Rev. Daniel Romero will preach and we'll celebrate Pastor Art's birthday!



- Saturday, Nov. 3 @ 8pm and Sunday, Nov. 4 @ 3pm – A visiting production of “Awaiting Judgment” by Art Cribbs will be presented by the Common Ground Theatre in our new Stillspeaking Theatre.

"I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

MATTHEW 5:44

The Challenge of Living Together

On April 18th, three Christians – two converts and a German missionary – were brutally murdered in the eastern city of Malatya, Turkey. They were in a small Christian publishing office in Malatya when they were killed. The murders may have been fueled by statements made by some politicians and journalists concerning the “threat” Christian missionary activity poses to the stability of the Turkish nation, and its perceived insult to Islam.



Most Turks are very tolerant and caring people who have been shocked by these murders. Most Turkish Muslims I meet are not negative to those of a different ethnic background or of a different faith. What can we as Christians do for Turkey? We can pray for the people of this country, be aware of what is happening and express our concern. We can encourage those Turks who are asking questions such as “How can these types of murders be happening in this country?” and “What factors are causing an element of our youth to hate so much?” In terms of human rights abuses, we can encourage the appropriate legal processes and practice what we preach. We can work to be as objective as possible and refrain from labeling and stereotyping.

Pray for those who mourn and pray also for those who are so filled with rage and hatred. Pray for those who work for change within this land that is fighting for its very soul.

Alison Stendahl serves through Global Ministries with the Near East Mission in Istanbul, Turkey. She is the Academic Dean of Uskudar American Academy and teaches math.

You make the difference . . .



The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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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, Director of Music and Theatre	Donald Shenk
Preschool Director	Connie James-Gililand
Accompanist	Chip Colvin
Section Leaders	Sarah Parnicky (Sop); Alexandra Loutsion (Mez) Guylaine Bouchard (alto); Andrew Martinez (ten)
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.