

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,

October 19, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For Reflection

God is ruler; let the peoples tremble!
God sits enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth quake!
God is great in Zion;
God is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is God!
(Psalm 99:1-3)

*Please stop by the Sound Booth if you wish to use a sound receiver today.
You are invited to watch the screen up front to increase your participation in worship today.*

**Children and Youth are welcome to join our
Sunday School and Children Worship & Wonder program!**
After the children’s time with Pastor Art, children aged 3 through those in 5th grade are invited to process downstairs to the Wonder Room and those in 6th through 12th grade to the Green Room. Childcare for children under age 4 is available in our nursery today with trained childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez

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

- GATHERING MUSIC Albert Mendoza, Pianist
- *LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen
“Rain Down” Congregation
- *A SONG FOR THE SPIRIT Congregation
“Let Justice Roll Like a River”
- *OPENING PRAYER Daryl Burns

Good morning, loving God. We pray you are smiling today. We pray you are pleased with your people. You know us so well. We want to make you happy and glad for having created us in Your Image. We are grateful for your mercy. Thank you for your love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and guide our every step. You provide peace beyond understanding. You give comfort in times of distress. We worship you and praise your Holy Name. We have come into this sanctuary to hear your Word. Your still-speaking voice whispers into our ears. Give us courage to obey you and do your will. Let justice roll down like a mighty stream. Come now, O God, and speak to your people. Hallelujah. Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

- *A SONG FROM THE HEART Congregation
“We Are a Gentle, Angry People”

The congregation may be seated and the children may come forward.

- TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Mr. Gary Roberts

Story
Our Common Prayer
Music to Bless the Children

- OUR COMMON LIFE Daryl Burns
A Time to Give Donald Shenk
A Time to Act

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

THIS WEEK:

- **TODAY ALL CHURCH WORK DAY**
- **MONDAY 6:45pm T.A.B meets in Theatre**
- **TUESDAY 7:00pm SOUL FOOD in Fireside Room**
- **THURSDAY Preschool Closed today for Staff In-Service Day
7:00pm United Voices choir rehearsal in sanctuary**
- **FRIDAY SPIRE newsletter deadline**
- **SATURDAY Central Assoc. Fall Mtg. in Long Beach (see below)
All Day Tech Rehearsal for Stillspeaking Theatre**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING will be held Saturday, October 25, at First Congregational Church in Long Beach. Plan to attend this exciting event in the life of the United Church of Christ. Learn about what is happening among youth and young adults in our local churches. We need to have your registration and lunch count. For more information, please call our church office at (626) 292-2080

“THANK YOU!” to everyone who helped with and participated in our Economic Forum on Thursday night! Your assistance and interest was greatly appreciated!

COMING UP:

- ❖ **60th ANNIVERSARY of SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UCC.** We'll be celebrating our anniversary every Sunday in November! Plan to be here especially on Nov. 2 to be part of our traditional big group picture.
- ❖ **THE MYSTERY PLAYS at STILL SPEAKING THEATRE – November 1 – 23** (Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm) www.stillspeakingtheatre.org
- ❖ **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – APPLE PIE DAY at Pilgrim Pines Camp.** Starting at 11am and going until 6pm with Buffet style chili lunch 2-4 p.m. See the

poster in the church office for more scrumptious details.

www.pilgrimpinescamp.org

- ❖ **PUBLIC SERVICE SUNDAY is November 9** during our 10:00 A.M. worship. Elected officials from throughout the West San Gabriel Valley have been invited to be with us. Our guest speaker is Mr. Lamont Ewell, city manager for the City of Santa Monica. Come and bring a friend.
- ❖ **QUILT SUNDAY is November 16** featuring Mr. Curtis Rhodes in our 10:00 A.M. worship service. This special worship is part of our 60th Anniversary Celebration.
- ❖ **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY is November 23.** This is a time for all of us to make a pledge and renew our commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ through our gifts and talents at San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ.
- ❖ **SAVE THOSE SUNDAY NEWSPAPER GROCERY AD INSERTS...** Carol Barret is collecting the grocery ad inserts found in your Sunday newspaper. The ad inserts will be clipped and shared with families served by La Casa in San Gabriel. Bring them in to the church office anytime.
- ❖ **PILGRIM PINES PRESENTS THANKSGIVING CAMP 2008** Thurs. November 27th—Sat. November 29th [Optional 2 additional (Sat. and Sun.) days!!] Check in Thanksgiving Day at 11 am, check out Saturday after Breakfast. More information and registration forms are available in the church office or via email.

CRIBBS NOTES

It is our great joy to welcome Sharon and Gary Roberts. They have dedicated their lives to the ministries of the United Church of Christ through the Southern California Nevada Conference. Sharon volunteers and supports the UCC through their church, our sisters and brothers of Altadena UCC; and various activities and commitments through the Central Association of the Conference. Gary serves on the Conference staff as Associate for Church Development and Renewal. They moved to Southern California from Cleveland, where Gary worked with our National Ministries in church development. Both

are dedicated servants of our Savior Jesus Christ. We are so pleased to have them with us this morning.

There has been a series of disasters that blanketed the news this past week. Fires ravaged several areas across the Greater Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. It happens every year about this time as the weather turns dry and windy. The drought continues to reduce natural resources that could buffer some of the threats. Some very disturbed people take advantage of the adverse conditions and ignite fires that too often turn deadly. At the same time, the delicate balance of the national economy keeps tilting toward recession or perhaps depression. When the front pages of newspapers are split between devastating blazes raging across the Southland and the economy going into the tank, there is every indication we are living through a very special period. What are we supposed to do?

As people of faith, this is a perfect moment to demonstrate what Jesus taught his disciples. This is a time to re-form community and inject ourselves in the lives of our neighbors. We are called to be a Pentecost People who concern ourselves with the welfare of the defenseless and most vulnerable. We mix the macroscopic events with our personal concerns.

At the intersection of Headlines News and Inconsequential Events we discover our peace and security are intertwined with whatever is happening around us. We are all connected in the global human reality. Bottom line: we are connected to each other.

This is one of the most exciting times I can remember. There are challenges of every magnitude presented to us. Each one of us has something to contribute to help move us forward. Within our congregation, we have the best resources to increase our growth and enhance our ministerial presence. This is our time.

My most fervent prayer is that we will harness our gifts and talents, direct them toward a common need, and expose God's intent. We begin with prayer for one another and expand to see ourselves working toward improving life for others. Based on God's love and Christ's compassion, we can go beyond the obstacles that tend to slow us down and we can forge a path that brings people closer together. Let us imagine the possibilities of the Realm of God being realized in our time. Let us do what we can where we are as the people of God.

Pray. Imagine. Plan. Act.

We can do it with God's grace and guidance.

-Pastor Art Cribbs



**UCC Calendar of Prayer:
For Sunday,
October 19, 2008**

Living Messages

Every day in the United States children struggle at the margins of society. A boy in my second grade class used to come to school two hours late every day. I learned that his trip included four transfers from multiple buses. Sometimes he fell asleep; many days he looked like he needed clean clothes. Some mornings I sent him to the cafeteria for a late breakfast.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of this student. In one of our "heart" talks he said calmly, "Mrs. Lee, you don't know how it feels to be black." So I told him the story of John Howard Griffin who wrote, *Black Like Me*, and suggested his father borrow the book from the public library for him.

It is heartbreaking to know that children carry problems of this magnitude in their young lives. Marian Wright Edelman created the Children's Defense Fund and the Children's Sabbath (October 21) to answer this cry of children. And your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission go to programs that help these children as we follow Christ's call to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Thank you for your gifts.

CENTERING PRAYER :

You know each one of us by name, O God, and in your sight we have found favor, yet our minds cannot comprehend the vision of your glory or the vastness of your love. Grant that as we glimpse your greatness, reflected in your many gifts, we may always return to you the praise that is yours alone. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"

ROMANS 12:5

Partners in Christ's Service

Last year, Gede Suarna was one of about 30 community leaders from Asia and Africa who participated in a 10 month program in organic agriculture and community organizing through the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Japan. Since graduating, Gede has returned to his home in far west Bali, Indonesia. He works with his wife at Maha Boga Marga (MBM), the outreach arm of The Protestant Christian Church in Bali (GKPB). MBM helps to put into action Jesus' commandments to feed the poor, heal the sick, and take care of the needy.



The MBM office houses a bank that makes small loans, most under \$100, to family businesses. A small loan may be granted for something as simple as a sewing machine so that a mother may begin a small business from her own home. MBM gives group training and helps monitor the success of each person. Currently some 1,000 are being served this way, regardless of their faith.

Gede is also a Veterinarian, and after MBM office hours he grabs his bag of tools and makes visits to the patients who need him. At one village farm he treated a sick cow. At the same time, he showed the farmer how to produce organic fertilizer by mixing the cow manure with coconut shells and rice husks, sharing some of the agricultural practices he learned at the Asian Rural Institute.

Gede is also leading a group of farmers on a project to build a pit for pig manure. Many kitchens use kerosene or propane for cooking. However, the world demand for oil has caused these fuels to become much more expensive. Pig manure is a practical alternative, close under foot, and a simple answer for the family's cooking needs.

As workers and farmers face new challenges, the church must also change and respond. Partnerships between churches and other organizations equip people like Gede Suarna for ministry, and remind us that we do not engage in ministry alone, but as one Body of Christ that reaches around the world.

The Protestant Christian Church in Bali (GKPB) and the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Japan are just two of the many partners of Global Ministries.

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.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG



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
Section LeadersAlexandra Loutsion (Mez); Guylaine Bouchard (alto);
..... Ann Simon, (sop); Benjamin Cortez (ten); Adrian Rosales (bass)
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.