

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,**

November 16, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

***Welcome to Quilt Sunday and  
A Service of Worship and Wonder.***

***For Reflection***

“So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.”  
(Psalm 90:12)

***Children and Youth are invited to participate in today’s worship service.  
Childcare for children under age 4 is available in our nursery today  
with trained childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez***

*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.*

*\*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: Arthur Cribbs  
“Morning Has Broken” Congregation

*The congregation may be seated.*

**WELCOME & PURPOSE** Rev. Cathy Kotowski

**\*A SONG FOR OUR 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** Congregation  
“Bridge of Faith”

**\*OPENING PRAYER** Holly Burns

Holy and Merciful God, we bow humbly before you with hearts made glad by your goodness and abundant blessings. We gather in your sanctuary to lift our voices in praise to you. Thank you for making a way out of no way. Thank you for opening doors we could not see. Thank you for this day when our hearts, minds, and souls are renewed and refreshed. Thank you for Jesus who comes as Christ, a precious gift of your love for the world. Come into this place and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Grant us courage to stand boldly and proclaim your Good News. Endow us with love, forgiveness, and extravagant hospitality. Guide us to be a people of compassion who put our total trust in you. Hallelujah. Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

**\*A SONG FROM THE HEART** Congregation  
“Rain Down”

*The congregation may be seated.*

**OUR COMMON LIFE**  
A Time to Give Holly Burns  
A Time to Think about Generosity Charlotte Cunz  
A Time to Act Rev. Cathy Kotowski  
A Time to Dedicate Ourselves and Our Gifts Congregation  
**Thank you, O God, for these gifts brought by your people. Thank you for your many blessings that made this offering possible. Receive this money for the support of your ministries through this congregation and the United Church of Christ. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to your service. Amen.**



- **SUNDAY THE FINAL PERFORMANCE of THE MYSTERY PLAYS at 3pm. Strike and party follows the performance. Everyone is invited!**

**COMING UP:**

- ❖ **NEXT WEEKEND IS THE MYSTERY PLAYS last weekend at STILL SPEAKING THEATRE** – (Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm)  
[www.stillspeakingtheatre.org](http://www.stillspeakingtheatre.org)
- ❖ **NEXT SUNDAY WE WILL RECEIVE YOUR 2009 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS.** This year's theme is, "The World of the Generous Gets Larger and Larger." Please prayerfully consider how you will give to the work of your church in 2009. You should receive your card in the mail early this week. Please bring your pledge cards with you next Sunday. **(Please call the church office if you do not receive one before Wednesday.)**
- ❖ **NEXT SUNDAY** – plan on staying after church to help with the GREENING OF THE SANCTUARY. We'll decorate for Christmas and enjoy a lot of fun together!
- ❖ **SAVE THOSE SUNDAY NEWSPAPER GROCERY AD INSERTS...** Carol Barrett 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 ([pilgrimpines-camp.org](http://pilgrimpines-camp.org))
- ❖ **ADVENT** is coming and this year several local UCC congregations are working together to worship each Wednesday during Advent. We will gather for a common meal at 6:00 P.M. and worship at 7:00 P.M. Locations of each service have been posted in your November Spire. **We at San Marino Congregational UCC have been asked to host the Advent service on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, and prepare and serve dinner. Please save the date.**

**God is still hearing Our Prayers...**

for LIFE TRANSITIONS...

Jacqueline Benton, *successful completion of nursing program*  
 Holly & Daryl Burns, *housing transition*  
 Holly Burns' nephew, Jonathan, *entering military service*  
 Bob Cunz, *adjusting well to new living environment*

Betty & Ken Frank, *Our UCC Missionaries in Turkey*  
 Naylor, *mourning loss of Emma Grace*  
 Alexandra Loutsion, *traveling and auditioning during Nov. & Dec.*  
**UCC leaders (nationally & locally)**

for HEALTH...

Brittnie "Sunny" Aguirre  
 Carol Barrett's brother-in-law, Bob, *dealing with lung cancer*  
 Guylaine Bouchard's sister, Carmen  
 Cathy Burkdoll's friends, Dennis and Sherry, *health concerns*  
 Liz Cameron, *recuperating from surgery and radiation treatments*  
 Sue Cook's stepmother, Dottie  
 Sue Cook's sister-in-law's mother, Margie, *diagnosed with cancer*  
 Pastor Art's friend, Nancy Trask  
 Beryl Crist  
 KD Henderson's mother, Polly, *back in hospital*  
 Gary Henville, *numerous health issues*  
 Ken Hughes, & his caregiver, David  
 Dick Lashley  
 Virginia Lashley's "grandmother", *recovering from broken hip*

Vivi Oldknow's friends, Mattie and Jim  
 Vivi Oldknow, *recovering from shoulder surgery*  
 Gay Parker  
 Raj Samuel's nephew, Pradeep  
 Raj Samuel's friend, Uma, *suffering from brain cancer*  
 Donald Shenk's cousin, Varden Leasa, *undergoing surgery and radiation*  
 Donald Shenk's father, Michael, *undergoing treatments for cancer*  
 Pam Stump's nephew, Joey, *treatments for benign brain tumor*  
 Pam Stump's niece, one-year-old Sayeda, *diagnosed with scoliosis*  
 Kim Van Horsen's neighbor, Kayla, *suffering from seizures*  
 Kim Van Horsen's mother, Gayle, *continued progress*  
 Al & Margaret Williams, *health issues*

for our members not able to attend services, including: Julie Allen, Grace McCallister, Margaret McNeish, Gloria Northern, Shirley Shetler, Margaret & Al Williams & Caroline Zook

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



afraid?

**What are you doing with your money? How are you living your life? Is there anything that may cause you to hold back and be**

In this post 9/11 era, we are inundated with alerts and warnings about potential threats. While we are told to remain vigilant and on guard, for the most part those messages serve merely to increase our fears as they fail to provide comfort or security. Now, we face even greater concerns as the economy dips deeper into crisis. Money put away to provide for retirement is vanishing. Experts who explained the value of investments are back-peddling and admitting their advice was not necessarily accurate or helpful. These are amazing times when old paradigms are giving way to unprecedented opportunities...extravagant opportunities.

The parables in the Matthew Gospel remind us that Jesus' return will come like a "thief." This is not about a timetable as much as it is intended to prod people of faith to live in preparation. Isn't that what we are called to do in this special period of uncertainty and transitions?

The temptation to hoard money and hide our lives indoors can be enticing. Bad news permeating almost every aspect of society can push us away from the exciting centers of robust engagement and slip us into the false security of sheltered life. Along with the repetitive instruction for us not to be afraid, Jesus used stories to encourage his followers to embrace meaningful living. That means using our resources to enrich experiences and share our gifts and talents with others so they can enjoy life more fully.

Jesus does not allow life to be dictated by color-coded alerts that tell us how to move around with caution. Instead, he pushes us to enter the throes of daily engagement with confidence that God controls everything.

Are you willing to step outside without fretting about what might happen next; without becoming paralyzed by worry; without holding back and reserving your talents for a "more opportune time" that fits conveniently within a schedule forced by circumstances?

Within the core of Jesus' parables is a message that frees us to view the world more globally and invites us to place our lives where others strive and share their talents. This is a lesson about stewardship in which we discover the overwhelming joy of generosity and authentic presence. **"Freely we receive; freely give."**

-Pastor Art Cribbs

**NEXT SUNDAY:**  
**"STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY"**  
**Text: Matthew 25:31-46**  
**Sermon: "Reigning Compassion"**  
**Pastor Art Cribbs speaking.**

**ALSO NEXT SUNDAY:**  
**Greening of the Church!**  
*Please plan on staying after church to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!*

## Patterns on a Quilt - Words and Music by Curtis B. Rhodes

I was just a little kid of seven  
when with a snip that cut her thread,  
Grandma slid her glasses down her wrinkled nose  
and told me gently it's time for bed.

I put up a brave but smallish struggle;  
she quickly won her way with guilt.  
Then she wrapped me up in a tight little bundle  
in that giant, worn and faded quilt.

**CHORUS:** She said, "Watch the way the patterns go around,  
Each and every square has its own story,  
Love's the simple thread of life by which we're bound together  
Like patterns on a quilt.

I grew up, began to expand my horizons  
and soon saw things I hadn't known.  
Like the way that some people live their stories  
So very different from my own.

But there's a common bond that we have in each other,  
A core of love down through the soul.  
Think how lost we'd be without one another  
'cause it takes all kinds to make the whole. *Chorus*

Colors flow freely through stitches of time  
Like a bright rainbow promising God's love for us.  
Only diversity creates the design,  
We're patterns in a world so wondrous. *Chorus*

When I look out at all the love and living  
In this world that God has built,  
Though she's gone I still hear the voice of my grandma  
and my mind flashes on that quilt.

Every creature on this breathing planet  
is a part of God's design.  
We are adding on to a quilt from the ages  
You live your square I live mine. *Chorus.*

## UCC Calendar of Prayer for Sunday, November 16, 2008

### Extravagant Opportunity

How will God bring renewal to inner city churches in York? Opening our doors to our neighbors is one way. Partnering with the other York city United Church of Christ congregations is another way. This new cooperative venture, "Team UCC" is a sure sign that the UCC churches in York city are alive and are committed to growth and mission. The term "TEAM" both describes the way the churches plan to function but is also an acronym: "Together Everyone Achieves Miracles." Each church (Faith, Grace, Heidelberg, Trinity and Zion) is represented on a leadership team by pastors and lay representatives.

Decisions are made by consensus, rather than by voting. The leader or facilitator is Rev. David Goode, Zion, York interim pastor. This fall, "Team UCC" is bringing a team of seminarians to York. These four seminarians from Lancaster Theological Seminary will both serve in the churches and will together lead mutual ministries and missions. In September, the seminarians will be introduced as a team at each of the churches. In the coming year, "Team UCC" will develop a mutual youth ministry, seasonal bible studies, common worship experiences, a block party and other ministries and missions. The leaders will meet monthly rotating through the churches. Keep "Team UCC" in your prayers.

### Centering Prayer:

*God of the covenant, even when we fall into sin, your Spirit invites us to remember that you chose us to be your servant people. Awaken us to the power and gifts you pour into us for the good of creation, and grant that we may be trustworthy in all things, producing abundantly as we work to build your realm. Amen.*



## CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator.....Connie James-Gililand  
Treasurer .....Scott 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 Director .....Connie James-Gililand  
Accompanist .....Albert Mendoza  
Guitarists..... Randall Allen & Nathan York  
Section Leaders .....Alexandra 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 Technician .....Eric 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.