

CRIBB<S>NOTE

Public Safety is everybody's concern. Watching cars line up outside our school campuses every weekday morning is a reminder of how important it is to observe speed limits and travel safely through our neighborhoods.

Whenever an emergency siren sounds as public safety vehicles make their way to an urgent call, we are reminded of the importance to be courteous and yield to allow their passage.

We don't have to wait for a critical occurrence to practice good citizenship. Public Safety begins with each of us and can be demonstrated with conscientiousness daily. Of course, we slip and make mistakes. Sometimes it takes a citation or warning to remind us how we can do better to keep our society safe.

Everyday, men and women serve our communities with fire prevention and protection and law enforcement. They are sentinels who stand guard against threats of harm and danger. They face the unpleasant and undesirable elements and characters in our midst.

Today, we express our gratitude and appreciation to those brave souls who are police officers and firefighters. We are thankful for Public Safety personnel who protect and serve businesses, residences, families, individuals, children, strangers and visitors who traverse our streets.

Too often we take for granted their presence. We challenge them when they make mistakes. We complain when things go very badly. We place unfair and undue burdens on them with the high expectations they will meet our demands and address our needs. We want them to do the societal dirty work and put their lives on the line. We don't always tell them thank you for the jobs they do well.

It is our very special joy to welcome members of local fire and police departments. Public Safety Sunday is an occasion on which we celebrate and honor their dedication and commitment to the welfare of our cities. They are our neighbors; fellow citizens who have seen their comrades make the ultimate sacrifice.

To help us better understand and appreciate the precious relationship between Public Safety personnel and every member of our civil society, we welcome Tom and Eileen Anderson. They formed the Justice Training Institute and worked with the California Department of Justice to educate, inform, and prepare public safety executives and frontline personnel to perform their duties at the highest level of professional standards.

We are grateful to receive our special guests. We pray our time together will be a source of encouragement, collaboration, and appreciation. On this special day, we simply say, "Thank you, firefighters and police officers, for your personal decision to do what others will not do and go where others refuse to go." This is your day, Public Safety Sunday, at San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ. Welcome!