



The Good Newsletter

First Congregational Church of Santa Ana, UCC

A diverse Christian fellowship open to all and dedicated to singing God's praises, learning God's word, and loving one another on our journey of faith.

A Message from Our Moderator

Dear Church Family –

We have been truly blessed this Lenten Season. Rev. Gary Barmore has used "SAILING THROUGH LIFE" as his theme. He has brought thoughtful and inspirational meaning to each of our Sunday spiritual journeys. Gary has written new words to a song for us – currently on a banner in front of the church. He will be serving communion on Palm Sunday as well as leading us in a short worship service after our Maundy Thursday Soup Supper in the Narthex!

Marti Barmore, Gary's wife, has also been joining us for worship. We have enjoyed her lovely voice and her sharing!

Celine You has made our grand piano fill the sanctuary once again with incredible music! We are honored to have her talent enhance our worship with beautiful music!

Bridgette Aquino, with some assistance from our Youth Minister, Sally, is organizing a drive for the people of the Ukraine. We are collecting hygiene items that will be packaged on Palm Sunday and sent through the Red Cross to aid some of the folks in the Ukraine!

We warmly invite you to join us for any - or all - of the Sundays leading up to and including Easter morning. You are also welcome to join us for a soup dinner in the Narthex on Maundy Thursday.

Blessings of the season!

Sue Stewart, Moderator

Special Dates

- Holy Week, *April 10-17, 2022*
 - Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 10, 2022*
 - Maundy Thursday, *April 14, 2022*-**Supper & Service at 6:00 pm.**
 - Good Friday, *April 15, 2022*
 - Easter Sunday, *April 17, 2022*
 - Administrative Professionals Day, *April 27, 2022*
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Palm Sunday Outreach

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Our Palm Sunday service will be at 10:30 am.

On Palm Sunday our youth ministry will be assembling hygiene kits for Ukraine followed by a luncheon. We invite you to donate toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, socks, feminine hygiene products, combs, shampoo, bandages, granola bars, and first aid kits. You can start bringing your donations in this Sunday. We thank you!

Holy Action/Council Meeting

The Holy action/Council meeting will be on Sunday, April 10th, following worship.

Why Friday Is Good

To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom. This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things — a guillotine, a gallows — but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was “good.” Good Friday.

—Frederick Buechner

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A Love-filled Victory

It's tough to read about Jesus' agony on the cross, where he felt “forsaken” by God (see Matthew 27:46). But as Philip Yancey explains in *Where Is God When It Hurts?* the Father didn't desert Jesus — and doesn't desert us:

“God was not ‘up there’ watching the tragic events conspire ‘down here.’ God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,” he writes. “If Jesus was a mere man, his death would prove God's cruelty; the fact that he was God's Son proves instead that God fully identifies with suffering humanity. On the cross, God himself absorbed the awful pain of this world.

“To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night whispers of defeat,” Yancey continues. “But another sound can be heard: the shout of a God crying out to human beings, ‘I LOVE YOU.’ Love was compressed for all history in that lonely figure on the cross, who said that he could call down

angels at any moment on a rescue mission, but chose not to — because of us.”

He concludes: “Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God’s scheme ultimately leads back to the cross.”

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Maundy Thursday

Join us Thursday, April 14th, at 6:00 pm in the Narthex for our Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, followed by a short service led by Rev. Gary Barmore.

Easter Sunday

Don’t miss the most important service of the year, Resurrection Sunday! Our Easter morning service will be at 10:30 am, followed by an Easter egg hunt!

Easter Season Worship

After Easter we will be returning to our second and fourth Sundays of the month for Worship. Our next Sunday Service will be on Mother’s Day, May 8th. We’ll have something special for all our Mothers!

Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, April 25th, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.



April 1st- James Weuve



April 20th- April & Darvie Aquino

We've Lost a Friend

We are truly saddened by the news of the passing of George H. Jr. Spielman. George H. Jr. passed away peacefully at his home on February 28, 2022, with his beloved wife, Dorothy Spielman, at his side. She joined him four days later on March 4th, 2022, his birthday. They both had extended illnesses and passed away at the ages of 86 and 81, in love to the end.

George H. Jr. grew up in this church. He was Kay Housley's and Jean Davis' older brother. He and his wife are survived by their three children; Lori Bond, Jon Spielman, and Ward Spielman. They also shared 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral Mass in their honor will be at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church; Lapine, Oregon on April 18, 2022 at 10:00 am. We pray for their eternal rest, Amen.

Held in God's Love

We would like to think that once we turn our lives over to Christ, everything will run smoothly. When such is not the case, we might question whether

our faith is strong enough or what we are doing wrong. The fact is, we live in a broken world, and sufferings come upon all people.

In the words of 14th-century mystic Julian of Norwich: "If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love."

We might take comfort in the fact that our struggles are not so different from those experienced seven centuries ago. We are "normal," after all! But the greatest assurance is that no matter what we face in life, Jesus walks with us, the Holy Spirit strengthens us, and "we are always kept in [God's] precious love."

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