

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 –

A scripture for February:

Isaiah 41:10

¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

We have just finished our Annual Meeting. We know that God is with us and will strengthen us and help us!

Sally Schacht has accepted the position of Sunday School teacher! She brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm! She and Piper are already making plans for great things to happen, including growth!

Bridgette Aquino has accepted the position of Church Clerk! She is doing a terrific job of keeping minutes of our meetings!

In effect, we are starting out this year from “scratch”, we are a small group seriously praying and hoping to be able to share our faith with others, and grow our church! Our Board of Trustees included a personal note with all of our facility contracts in January, warmly inviting them to attend our services and support our church. We need to remember to ask the folks we know as well.

Sunday, February 13th, our next Sunday together, our worship will be led by Rev. Lorraine Bailey. It is also Scout Sunday. Our Troop 28 will be serving a pancake breakfast at 8:00 am. It’s a great way to start your morning and a great time to invite friends.

Our future is bright!

Sue Stewart, Moderator

Special Dates

- African-American History Month
 - **Scout Sunday & Pancake Breakfast**, February 13, 2022
 - Valentine’s Day, *February 14, 2022*
 - Presidents Day, *February 21, 2022*
 - Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 27, 2022*
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Dick Rubidoux-February 7th

Kaia Stewart-February 14th

Faith's Role in Love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."

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Worship Leaders this Month

Our church will be led by Rev. Lorraine Bailey on Sunday, February 13th. We will be led by Rev. Nancy Brink from Chapman University on February 27th.

Holy Action/Council Meeting

The Holy action/Council meeting will be on Sunday, February 13th, following worship.

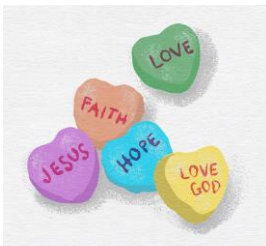
Scout Sunday

Come salute the scouts on Sunday, February 13th! The scouts will start by hosting a pancake breakfast in our Fellowship Hall at 8:00 am. All are welcome to come enjoy a short stack with a hot cup of Joe! The scouts will then join us in the Sanctuary for our Worship service at 10:30 am, where they will present their flags. Scouts honor!



Beyond Candy, Hearts and Roses

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”



Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.

Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, February 28th, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Meet Our New Sunday School Teacher

We warmly welcome Sally Schacht, our new Sunday School teacher! Ms. Schacht has been a Children and Youth Minister for 23 years. She presently works for Churchworks as a consultant where she has assisted more than twenty churches with methods to improve membership and attendance. For 7 years she was the Director of Youth and Senior Ministries at St. Matthias Episcopal Church. There she designed a Sunday School curriculum that followed the lectionary and used art and music to spark creativity and discussion. She also developed a Youth Group that engaged the kids in the community with activities like volunteering at the local food bank, feeding the homeless, and assembling hygiene kits for the Women's and Children's Shelter, but also involved them in adventures such as French cooking, rock climbing, Taiko drumming, and woodblock printing.

We are super excited to have her and see our Sunday School program bloom!



Biblical Love Notes

The following compliments from the Song of Solomon may not go over well on Valentine's Day: "I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots" (1:9). "Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead" (4:1). "Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing" (4:2). "Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses" (4:4). "[Your] eyes are like doves beside springs of water,

bathed in milk, fitly set" (5:12). "Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat" (7:2).

On the other hand, how about this one: "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you" (4:7).

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One Great Hour of Sharing 2022

Love Responds is the theme of this year's OGHS offering. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

We will be collecting for this offering during Worship on Sunday, March 27th.

