



JANUARY 2021



## *First Congregational Church of Santa Ana*

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 Pastor Leo*

You'll Never Walk Alone!

Thankfully! January feels familiar. I accept the unspoken promise of turning over a new leaf.

Have you been waiting with bated breath to see the New Year? *Whew!* You are not alone. The thought of 'January' comes with the promise of many new possibilities and renewing long awaited interests and relationships.

Most can agree that we are eager to put the OLD year far behind us. Those unannounced events took us to places spiritually, emotionally, socially, and yes, politically -we could not have imagined; and we hope we will never come close those grim situations again.

Let us think on the words of one poet, *You will never walk alone*. This month our plan is to support WISEplace. Our goal is to bless fellow travelers, reminding them that no matter how rough the road may seem, God walks before us and with us. The First Congregational Church of Santa Ana has a vision of walking with others who may need our support.

WISEplace -we bless your journey as we seek to protect your feet. With our gift, as you move forward, remember you are not alone. When you do not see other feet standing with you, God walks with you. We travel with you in spirit by keeping their feet dry, safe, and warm. God is with you when your direction is in question as when you know it in your heart, you are on the path of healing and wholeness. Trust God's promise that God will guide your every step.

Hear the words of the Old Testament prophet: *Yea, though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me.* (Psalm 23:4)

Fellow travelers on life's journey, we bless your journey and your feet. May God protect and lead you in the direction of peace. With these feet coverings and our collective prayers, may God lead you safely step by step.

***Be Blessed!***

***Pastor Leo***

*When you walk through a storm  
Hold your head up high  
And don't be afraid of the dark*

*At the end of a storm  
There's a golden sky  
And the sweet silver song of a lark*

*Walk on through the wind  
Walk on through the rain  
Though your dreams be tossed and blown*

*Walk on, walk on  
With hope in your heart  
And you'll never walk alone*

*You'll never walk alone!*

Songwriters: Oscar Hammerstein II / Richard Rodgers

## **A Word for the Year**

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers,

school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

—Janna Firestone

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## **Annual Reports**

All annual reports are due on Friday, January 1st.



## **Trustees Meeting**

The Board of Trustees will have an informal meeting this month to discuss the budget for the annual meeting. The date is to be announced.

## **Next Drive-In Service**

The next Drive-in service will be on Sunday, January 24th, at 10:30 am.  
Drive-in Worship Theme – Requesting themes for drive-in worship; Be creative!

## **Annual Meeting & Luncheon**

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 24th, following the Drive-In service. Lunch will be provided along with NEW 2021 directories! Please mark your schedule and plan to attend. We plan to make it as quick and safe as possible, so bring your masks, gloves and maintain social distancing. If you have any concerns, contact the pastor Leo or the moderator. The meeting will also be available on zoom.

## **The Magi's Story-and Ours**

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our

utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

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## **Hymns requests**

What is your favorite hymn? We are taking requests. Let pastor Leo know what hymn you would like to hear at the next worship service.

## **Office Volunteers**

Volunteers are needed for office hours on Wednesday or Thursday from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. (Remote opportunities TBA) Contact pastor Leo if you're available.

## **Lay Readers Needed**

Please select a month that best complements your schedule.

**January** - Darvie Aquino

**February** - Jim Wueve

**March**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**

## **Scout Sunday**

Scout Sunday is (tentatively) February 7th! The Scouts will present their Honor Guard during our Zoom Worship service at 10:30 am. Let's salute the scouts!

## **Quote of the Month “**

“For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice.” —T.S. Eliot



GOOD  
THE NEWS LETTER

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**Worship services are held virtually** every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

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### Scripture Readings:

January 1:	Eccl 3: 1-13 Ps 8 Rev 21: 1-6a Matt 25: 31-46
January 3:	Jer 31:7-14 Ps 147:12-20 Eph 1: 3-14 <b>Jn 1: 1-18</b>
January 6: <b>Epiphany</b>	Isa 60:1-6 Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14 Eph 3: 1-12 Matt 2: 1-12
January 10: <b>Baptism of Christ</b>	Gen 1:1-5 Ps 29 Acts 19: 1-7 <b>Mk 1: 4-11</b>
January 17:	1 Sam 3: 1-20 <b>Ps 139: 1-6, 13-18</b> 1 Cor 6: 12-20 Jn 1: 43-51
January 24:	Jon 3:1-5, 10 Ps 62:5-12 1 Cor 7: 29-31 <b>Mk 1: 14-20</b>
January 31:	Deut 18:15-20, Ps 111 1 Cor 8:1-13 <b>Mk 1: 21-28</b>



# January 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>3</b> 10:30 am Zoom Worship					<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b> 10:30 am Zoom Worship		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Happy Birthday Samantha Castillo!	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:30 am Zoom Worship <b>The Baptism of Christ</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:30 am Zoom Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Happy Birthday Mark Fullerton!	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:30 am Drive-In Worship <b>11:45 am Annual Mtg. &amp; Luncheon</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  O Come Let us Adore him	<b>29</b>  EPIPHANY OF THE LORD <i>May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!</i>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:30 am Zoom Worship						