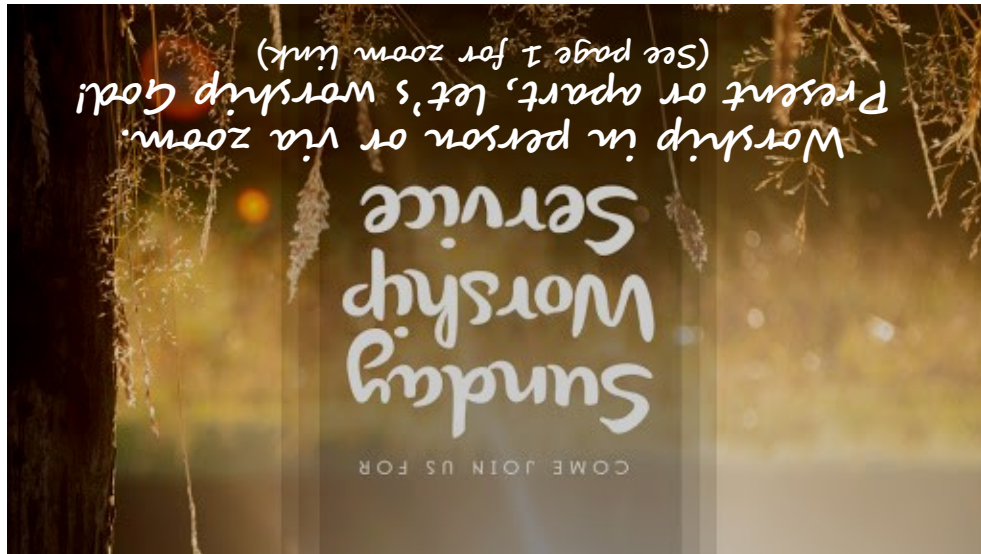


First Congregational Church of Santa Ana
United Church of Christ
2555 N. Santiago Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92706

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THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

JULY 2021



First Congregational Church of Santa Ana
A United Church of Christ

*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

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Most of us can consider ourselves as a garden grower of sorts. We like to plant things and watch them grow. There are some much better than others. We applaud those who can take a plot of soil and make it into an assortment of various herbs or simply a beautiful arrangement of flowers and or green plants. It is a lovely feeling to look at them or sit among them. Some will do well with just a tomato plant or two, or a black berry stalk. If we can get one season of growth of a few tomatoes or a few berries, then that is just wonderful.

Some garden growers will plant seeds of honesty and trust. They are able to build a community of fellowship and faithfulness.

In our reading in Mark 4:26-34, Jesus shares about the seed grower who scatters seeds. Without any

assistance from the seed grower, the seed grows. Soon the harvest is ready. The seed growth is a mystery. He likens it to the Kingdom of God.

What are you growing and how is the state of your garden? Hear the word of the Lord.

Blessings,

Pastor Leo

To access the zoom worship meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/730050095>

Sunday 10:30 am Zoom Worship Service

Meeting ID: 730 050 095

One Tap Mobile

Number: +16699006833

ID: 730050095# US (San Jose)

Moderator's Musings

We have brought back our COVENANT from 2005. As we recite this at the beginning of our Holy Action/Church Council meetings, we remind ourselves that we are all here to serve "the Glory of God!"

We welcome Lori Katayama as our new Administrative Assistant! Lori is in our office on Tuesdays from 1:00pm to 7:00pm, and on Thursdays from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Stop by and say "Hi!"

We have been honored to have our most recent high school graduate, Chloe Castillo as our lay reader this month! We look forward to her sister, Samantha Castillo, as our lay reader for July!

Our Farm celebrated the coming of Ana & Abel's daughter on Saturday (June 19) with about 100 friends and beautiful decorations. Their work helps many low income workers learn and eat better!

We also recognized, honored, and learned more about our LGBTQ brothers and sisters during the PRIDE MONTH of June!

Blessings and hugs to you all!
— Sue

The "Be the Church" sign in front of our church.



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SANTA ANA UCC COVENANT

Formulated on 9/11 and 10/9/2005, this communal covenant reflects behavior expected of the group as a whole. As members of this covenant community, we agree to these principals, we will do our best to live by them, and we will hold each other accountable, correcting and being corrected in turn.

We will be honest with each other.

I will speak the truth in love, and not let politeness keep me from saying frankly what I believe, think or feel.

We will speak for ourselves, stating our own feelings and opinions, using statements starting with "I".

Example:

"I feel _____ when _____" or

"I want _____"

NOT "You make me feel _____" or

"You always/never _____"

We will not interrupt each other.

I will wait until a person is finished speaking before replying or commenting. Everyone will get a chance to speak.

We will listen to understand.

I will repeat back what I heard to verify meaning, ask for clarification if needed, and listen intently without formulating a rebuttal. I recognize that understanding what others say, believe, or feel does not mean I agree in whole or in part with what they have expressed.

We will mind our body language.

I will not roll my eyes, sigh loudly, or otherwise indicate disrespect.

We will answer questions and share information about our church.

All members have the right to know what is going on, without secret keeping or back room discussions.

Continued.....

Layreader Schedule

JULY	Steve Semotan
AUGUST	Samantha Castillo
SEPTEMBER	Mark Davis
OCTOBER	Susan Semotan
NOVEMBER	<i>volunteer needed</i>
DECEMBER	<i>volunteer needed</i>

Our Worship Schedule

and lectionary readings to strengthen your walk with God



Pastor Leo will not be preaching in July. Please extend a warm welcome to our guest preachers.

July 4

Independence Day

Guest Speaker

Sue Stewart

NT Mark 6:1-13, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
OT Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123

July 11

Guest Speaker

Rev. Nancy Brink

NT Mark 6:14-29, Ephesians 1:3-14
OT Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85: 8-13

July 18

Guest Speaker

Rev. Paul Tellstrom

NT Mark 6:30-34, 53-56, Ephesians 2:11-22
OT Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23

July 25

Guest Speaker

Rev. Marcia Hoffman

NT John 6:1-21, Ephesians 3:14-21
OT 2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 145:10-18

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

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**First Congregational Church
of Santa Ana**

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Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom and in person. See the link on page 1

Deadline for copy: The 15th day of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Family News

A very warm thank you to the entire Castillo Family for our yummy and delicious Father's Day luncheon following worship! April, Paco, Chloe, Samantha and Zachary set tables, provided sandwiches, salads, and a very good chocolate cake – as well as all the cleanup - to make this day special for us all!

We also celebrate with the Castillo family Chloe's graduation from high school and Sami's promotion from Jr. High. Congratulations! (see photos right and below)



News from Old Friends

We received greetings from Lenny and Louise Anderson in Gig Harbor, WA. (see photo at right). Thanks be to God for our continued relationship over many miles.

29 May 2021
Greetings,
Dear Church family,
from Gig Harbor, WA.
We've been in the Regal Second Area for a little over 4 months and couldn't be happier to have made the move to the Hebron's Key campus. Our apartment is spacious and we've met many neighbors already. The boat is about 45 minutes away, and we've been able to cruise again. We haven't yet decided on a church to attend regularly. However, you all are always our "home" church. Many hugs and blessings to you all.
Louise + Lenny

We will respect and have regard for the whole church community.

I will not put anyone down, be sarcastic, or belittle another person. I will not assume that everyone shares my personal opinion, nor attempt to impose my own position on the group.

We will forgive each other.

I will not hold a grudge for past slights or insults.

In the Office....

By now I've already been in the office a month but still haven't had the opportunity to meet everyone here at FCCSA. Allow me to introduce myself so that when we do meet we can feel like old friends.

First of all, my name –Lori Katayama – may seem difficult but phonetically it's all short "a"s in between the consonants. It has a beautiful meaning, "mountainside." But please, just call me "Lori."

I grew up in Whittier, CA with my older brother, sister (both still live locally) and parents who have since passed away. I graduated from UCSB with a degree in Spanish and minored in Linguistics and Japanese. After college, I worked 12 years for the airlines and fed my hunger for travel. Then after working several years at an Orange County golf course, I finally ended up as the Admin. Assistant and Youth Ministries Director at Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church, the church in which I grew up. In December 2019 I retired to take care of my mother who was in hospice at home.

I am blessed with a busy and

supportive husband, a daughter who with her husband is currently living in San Antonio TX, and a son who lives here at home. This September I'll welcome a grandson into our family but I'll have to go to Texas to see him. I forgot to mention our new puppy, Stella (see photo), who at 6 months is already 55 pounds of raw energy.

I hope to meet you all soon!



Lori K and Stella

Sunday School News

By Sue Stewart

I have had the honor of teaching Sunday School since we came back into our Sanctuary on April 18! Our children are the future of our church!

Although Mark 9:37 calls them "little children", our Sunday School is made up of "growing children"! Piper will be in 3rd grade. Zachary will be in middle school. Bridgette and Samantha will be in high school. And they would love to have more company in our class!

We have a weekly opportunity to study the scripture of the week and see how it applies to us. Many of our craft projects now decorate our bulletin board in the Fireside Room.

July 2021

So teach us to number our days,
That we may present to You a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3 Jean Davis
- 5 Jim Stewart
- 10 Steve Semotan
- 17 Mark Davis



Mark your calendar

August 29th

Blessing of the Animals

A Blessing of the Animals will be a part of our worship service at 10:30am in our church yard. Spread the word to your neighbors and friends! Rev. Leo will bless all of God's creatures. If you can't bring your pet, bring a photo. The service will also be available on zoom.



September 13th Grandparents Day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The FCCSA Facebook page will be up soon! We'll keep you posted.</p> <p>Events marked with an asterisk (*) are not FCCSA events. Please contact the organizers directly for more info.</p>				<p><i>1</i></p> <p>*6:30-8:30pm Copycats *7-10pm Men's AA</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>
<p><i>4</i> Independence Day *9am NH Worship 10:30 am FCCSA Worship (In person & Zoom) *12:30pm Ministerios Worship *5pm NH Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>*6:30-9:30pm BSA</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>*6:30-8:30pm Copycats *7-10pm Men's AA</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>*10am-4pm CRECE 2pm-9pm MJR Wedding</p>
<p><i>11</i> *9am NH Worship 10:30 am FCCSA Worship (In person & Zoom) *12:30pm Ministerios Worship *5pm NH Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>*6:30-9:30pm BSA</p>	<p><i>14</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>*6:30-8:30pm Copycats *7-10pm Men's AA</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>UCC General Synod (through July 20)</p>	<p><i>17</i></p>
<p><i>18</i> *9am NH Worship 10:30 am FCCSA Worship (In person & Zoom) Holy Action Meeting *12:30pm Ministerios Worship *5pm NH Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>UCC General Synod (July 16 - July 20)</p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>*6:30-9:30pm BSA</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>*6:30-8:30pm Copycats *7-10pm Men's AA</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>12pm-5pm Bulldogs</p>
<p><i>25</i> *9am NH Worship 10:30 am FCCSA Worship (In person & Zoom) *12:30pm Ministerios Worship *5pm NH Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees Meeting</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>*6:30-9:30pm BSA</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>*6:30-8:30pm Copycats *7-10pm Men's AA</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>12pm-10pm WSWR Annual Anniversary Dinner</p>