



# 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 and Friends –

*"Blessed is the nation whose GOD is the LORD!"*

*-Psalms 33:12*

We are truly blessed to be a part of this great nation! As we gather with family and friends to celebrate our 246 anniversary, let's take a moment to rise up our thanks to our Lord!

We continue to be blessed with amazing ministers who bring such faith, experience and sharing to us! Deaconess Sharon McCart returned for a Sunday in June and we were able to send \$220 to her RISE UP! charity in the Philippines.

Celine You has faithfully continued to provide amazing music for our services. When she was unable to come one Sunday, she sent a "substitute" pianist who was also good! It is wonderful to have live music in our Sanctuary again!

We will be accepting offerings for *Strengthen the Church* on July 10<sup>th</sup>. This is one of our "5 for 5" offerings for UCC.

Our faith, our future, and our budget are strong, but we'd sure like to have more folks worshipping with us on our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday services. Bring a friend, or invite someone to join us!

Blessings!

Sue Stewart, Moderator



---

## Special Dates

- Canada Day, *July 1, 2022*
- U.S. Independence Day, *July 4, 2022*
- Strengthen the Church Special Offering, *July 10, 2022*

---

## Freedom

Each one of us is born most free  
And we alone can choose  
To do what God would have us do,  
To use what God would use.

Or we are also free to seek  
The proud and selfish way —  
A life where other gods come first  
To reign and hold full sway.

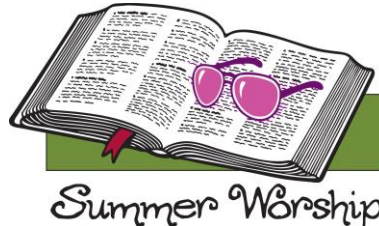
But when we follow where Christ leads,  
We find that freedom's place  
Is really in God's will for us,  
And we have chosen GRACE!

TheNewsletternewsletter JULY2022.



## Summer Season of Worship

For the summer season of worship we are continuing to have our services on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. Our Sunday services this month will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>, led by Rev. Judy Chatfield, and July 24<sup>th</sup>, led by Rev. Rene Joseph Martin. Join us!



---

## Dual Citizenship

For Christianity and democracy to work, both need responsible citizens. Consider what happens to a republic when its citizens won't run for public office, won't vote, won't work for the common good, duck paying taxes and mistreat others. Now consider what happens when Christians won't volunteer at the church, won't give, won't practice their faith, won't love their neighbors. Both our country and our faith need sincere practitioners. Nationally, we need a citizenry committed to making the ideals of liberty the practices of life in America. Christianity needs followers of Jesus committed to making the ideals of God's kingdom the practices of daily life.

This is not an either-or situation. Christians everywhere are citizens of two countries, one on earth and one in eternity. The kingdom of God is not yet fully come, but it's already in effect. Our two citizenships can neither be fully united nor fully separated. We cannot withdraw from the world and pretend we are somehow dwelling only in the kingdom of God now; nor can we simply embrace the world and assume earthly governments fulfill God's will. Those are extremes, and they are unbiblical.

—from a sermon by Stan Purdum

## Strengthen the Church Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive the STC offering on **Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**.



---

## Trustees Meeting

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

---

July 3<sup>rd</sup>- Jean Davis  
July 5<sup>th</sup>- Jim Stewart  
July 10<sup>th</sup>- Steve Semotan  
July 17<sup>th</sup>- Mark Davis



## Bible Quiz

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin



---

## Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support

The United Church of Christ is the church the world needs today.

The world needs a church that proclaims, "No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." The world needs a church bold enough to say, God is still speaking. We believe the UCC is such a church. In Christ we are invited to be transformed and to work with God to make a more peaceful, just, and loving world. Our Still-Speaking God invites us to be bold, to think creatively, and to be innovative in our ministries.

Our covenant with one another in the United Church of Christ means learning to be United even when we disagree, Church together even when we worship in different ways, and to see Christ revealed in beloved community. As over 5,000 local congregations across the country, together with the wider movement of UCC agencies and international partners, we strive to be a faith-forming, multi-racial and multicultural, open and affirming, globally minded movement to transform ourselves and our world.

In isolation, no single UCC congregation can be the church the world needs today. To be that world-changing church, we work together through *Our Church's Wider Mission* to support and inspire each other. *Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support* funds all the ways we strive together to be the church the world needs. We will be collecting for OCWM on **Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Together we are stronger, our reach is wider, and our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is deeper. (ucc.org)

