



# 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 & Friends,

Jim was finally able to get in touch with Sally Schacht's niece. The Los Angeles Coroner's Office has ruled her cause of death as "complications resulting from Parkinson's disease." At this time, there are no specific plans for a memorial or service, and no, none of us were aware that she had Parkinson's.

We were blessed in May with strong messages of faith from Rev. Cisa Payuyo and Rev. Lorraine Bailey. Both ladies have graciously filled our pulpit before, and have volunteered to fill it again.

Celine You continues to share her beautiful piano music with us in her preludes and postludes. She also shares her talent by playing our hymns with little to no practice time. We are grateful for her and her music.

Deaconess Sharon McCart will be returning to our pulpit on Sunday, June 12th. We will be taking a special offering for her RISE UP cause which

aids justice for all in the Philippines. (Our Strengthen the Church offering, part of our 5 for 5 commitments to UCC, will be taken in July.)

"Juneteenth" is the oldest African American celebration of emancipation from slavery. President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, but news of emancipation moved slowly. Texas was the most remote of the slave states, and the Emancipation Proclamation was not enforced there until two and a half years later, after the Civil War had ended. It was until the Union army arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865 announcing that all "slaves" were free in accordance with the Emancipation Proclamation, that the last slave experienced freedom. The name of the observance is a blending of "June" and "nineteenth", the date of its celebration.

In 1968, shortly after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, his Poor People's Campaign held a Juneteenth Solidarity Day, giving the holiday a new prominence in the civil rights movement.

In honor of the Juneteenth holiday: 1 Corinthians 15: 57: "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Blessings to all of God's children!

Sue Stewart, Moderator

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## Special Dates

- Pentecost, *June 5, 2022*
  - Trinity Sunday, *June 12, 2022*
  - Flag Day, *June 14, 2022*
  - Father's Day, *June 19, 2022*
  - First day of summer, *June 21, 2022*
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## **Celebrating the Church's Birthday**

On Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.

Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

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## **Pentecost Season of Worship**

For the season of Pentecost we are continuing to worship on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Our Sunday Service this month will be on Trinity Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be led by Rev. Sharon McCart.

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## **That's Father!**

Now I think of all achievements 'tis the least  
To perpetuate the species; it is done  
By the insect and the serpent, and the beast.  
But the man who keeps his body, and his thought,  
Worth bestowing on an offspring love-begot,  
Then the highest earthly glory he has won,

When in pride a grown-up daughter or a son  
Says "That's Father."

—from "Father," by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

To celebrate the special man in your life, use a quote a day the week before Father's Day, or honor him with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative!

Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate his love and show him yours.

"The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature." —Antoine F. Prévost

"To the world you are a dad. To our family you are the world." —Unknown

"The best fathers have the softest, sweetest hearts. In other words, great dads are real marshmallows." —Richelle E. Goodrich

"Dad: a son's first hero, a daughter's first love." —Unknown

"A good father is one whose only reason for putting down a laughing baby is to pick up a crying one." —Linda Poindexter

"My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do — be there." —Max Lucado

"I love my father as the stars. He's a bright shining example and a happy twinkling in my heart."

—Terri Guillemets

## Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, May 27th, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

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## A Standup Guy

During the pandemic, a Maryland man used “dad jokes” to lift neighbors’ spirits. Tom Schruben jotted down a joke-of-the-day on a curbside whiteboard. Hearing people chuckle and chat eased the isolation.

Schruben and his wife, Ann, became intentional about seeking joy after two of their children died. They vowed to “find happiness again” and share it. For Father’s Day last year, Schruben held a Bad Dad Joke contest, donating entry fees to a local charity. Here are a few of his favorites:

- If two vegans get into an argument, is it still considered a beef?
- I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I’ll let you know.
- What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear.

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June 24<sup>th</sup> - Connie Stewart



June 12<sup>th</sup> – Marianne & Thomas Stewart



## Special Offering: Rise Up!

Rise Up! is a non-profit organization that aids women who have lost husbands and sons to extrajudicial killings and support tireless activists in holding the government to account, while at the same time feed the hungry and serve the poor. Led by two deaconesses, Norma Dollaga and Rubylin Litao, they empower the women to help other women, building capacity as they go. We will be collecting for this special cause at our service on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!

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## 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>.



All Together!

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## Virtual UCC Annual Gathering 2022

Below is the correct information for Southern California's UCC Annual Gathering. Please disregard last month's information.

### *Stepping Forward*

Our Conference has been through a lot in the past couple years with COVID, changes in leadership, events of racial injustice and more. Some refer to these experiences as trauma. As we move toward the search for our settled Conference Minister, the Conference Board of Directors has recognized the importance of and committed to, our Conference developing a strong foundation of antiracism, diversity and inclusion. And we are not alone. The National Leadership of the United Church of Christ has committed to a racial equity audit of our denomination, which some of you may be familiar with.

The Southern California Nevada Conference takes pride in our diversity. Let us step forward to work toward a just world for all. The theme for 2022 is *Stepping Forward*.

### **Save The Date**

June 10-11, 2022

### **Keynote Speaker**

Rev. Dr. Velda Love



Stepping Forward  
SCNC Annual Gathering 2022  
The human mind plans the way  
but God directs the steps Proverbs 16:9

For more information and to register, go to [www.scncucc.org](http://www.scncucc.org)

