

*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*

*The Kingdom Of God Is Near*

This passage reminds us that we are near, close at hand, to what God desires and expects from each of us. Jesus simply says, 'change your mind and believe the good news.' As we face many challenges across our nation and in our homes, where can we find 'good news'?

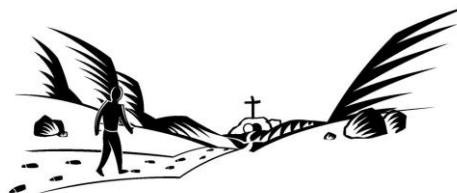
How may we see God differently and believe the good news -the path to God's Kingdom through Jesus, the Christ? You are invited to consider your Lenten sacrifice throughout the next forty days. How may your actions in words and deeds echo the nearness of the Kingdom?

*Be Blessed!*

*Pastor Leo*

**Living Sacrifices**

To search our souls, to meditate,  
will not suffice for Lent.  
To share the cross, to sacrifice;  
these are the things God meant.



—Jane McKay Lanning  
TheNewsletternewsletter MAR2019.

## A Bountiful Life

“Life is given to you like a flat piece of land,” said actress Jeanne Moreau. “I hope that when I’m finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden.”

God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God gives us the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God’s help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God’s provisions and our labor bring the garden — and our lives of stewardship — to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?

TheNewsletternewsletter MAR2021.

## Quote of the Month “

“If we dwell upon the harms that have been wrought on us by humankind, we amputate from our mind the power of dwelling upon God.”

—Macarius of Egypt (4<sup>th</sup> century)

TheNewsletternewsletter MAR2021.

## OGHS Special 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.

Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty” is the hope of God in Isaiah. It is also the hope of this One Great Hour of our Sharing and caring. With the gifts of our hearts, we *Let Love Flow*, like new well-water to a thirsty village; for crops, for cooking, for life! Let our giving be an upwelling of generosity and may the stream of love bring about God's kin-dom. Our gift is prayer in action.

When you share your gifts to OGHS, you *Let Love Flow*. Your generosity ensures

that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of love will continue to change the lives of those who are most vulnerable among us. We will be collecting for this offering during Worship on **March 14th**.

-Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia  
[www.ucc.org/oghs\\_resources](http://www.ucc.org/oghs_resources)

## Spring Forward

Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 14th. Turn the clocks ahead one hour; you don't want to be late for worship!



## Holy Action Meeting

This month's Holy Action/Council meeting will be on Sunday, March 21st, following our service.

## Setting Captives Free



Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God's promises." TheNewsletternewsletter MAR2021.

## Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will on March 22nd at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

## Paying it Back - and Forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief

fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

TheNewsletternewsletter MAR2021.

## **Palm Sunday**



Come in the name of the Lord! Get your palms ready to come celebrate Palm Sunday at our Drive-In service on Sunday, March 28th at 10:30 am. Our service will also be available on Zoom. Linda Eslinger will be providing a yummy snack to enjoy after the service.

## **Maundy Thursday**

Our church will have a zoom service to remember *The Last Supper* on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 pm. We will start with a soup supper. Our dear member Linda Eslinger will be providing us with a soup recipe for you to prepare at home. More details to come.

## **Good Friday**

We will be holding a service on Friday evening via zoom. More details TBA.

## **Easter Sunday**

We will celebrate Easter Sunday with a Drive-In service at 10:30 am. We will continue to follow COVID-19 protocols by wearing a mask and maintaining a 6ft distance. Sue Stewart will be providing goodies following the service. He is risen, Hallelujah!

## **Lay Readers Needed**



Please select a month that best complements your schedule.

**January** - Darvie Aquino

**July**- Steve Semotan

**February** - Jim Wueve

**August**-Samantha Castillo

**March** -Susan Semotan

**April**- Patricia Lynch

**May**- Linda Eslinger

**June**- Chloe Castillo

**September**-Mark Davis

**October**

**November**

**December**



is published monthly by

**First Congregational Church**

**of Santa Ana**

2555 Santiago Avenue

Santa Ana, California 92706

(714) 639-0311

**Firstchurchsa.org**

Minister: Pastor Leo Lynch

Editor and Secretary:

Lori Sanchez

E-mail: [fccsa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccsa@sbcglobal.net)

Content and images are printed with the permission of The Newsletternewsletter.

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












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



### Scripture Readings:

March 7:	Ex 20:1-17 <b>Ps 19</b> 1 Cor 1:8-25 Jn 2:13-22
March 14:	Num 21:4-9 <b>Ps 107:1-3, 17-22</b> Eph 2:1-10 Jn 3:14-21
March 21:	<b>Jer 31:31-34</b> Ps 51:1-12 Heb 5:5-10 Jn 12:20-33
March 28: <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 Mk 11:1-11 Isa 50:4-9a Ps 31:9-16 Phil 2:5-11 <b>Mk 14:1-15:47</b>

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>LENT</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Happy Birthday Marianne Stewart!! </p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Happy Birthday Collin Stewart!! </p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p> World Day of Prayer</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>10:30 am Zoom Worship</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>OGHS Offering</b> 10:30 am Zoom Worship</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p> St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p> FIRST DAY OF SPRING</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>10:30 am Zoom Worship 11:45 am Holy Action Mfg. Happy Birthday Kay Housley &amp; Susan Semotan!! </p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Happy Birthday Chloe Chavez!! </p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Happy Birthday Sue Stewart!! </p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Happy Anniversary Jim &amp; Ray Housley!! </p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 am Drive-In &amp; Zoom Worship</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>			