



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 –

As we enter into this Holy Season of Lent, let us remember that this is a time to remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and resurrection that brings Eternal Life to us all.

On March 1st, Sally Schacht, our Youth Minister, with the help of our own BSA Troop 28 will be serving a Pancake Dinner in Niedringhaus Hall at 6:00 pm to celebrate SHROVE TUESDAY (the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day or Pancake Tuesday, as it became a traditional custom to eat pancakes as a meal.) We hope to see many of you there! A good time to invite friends and neighbors!

Rev. Dr. Gary Barmore has accepted our request to serve as our worship leader for all of Lent and Easter Sunday. (Which means we will be worshipping weekly during this time ☺.) In his own words: "Rev. Barmore will use "SAILING THROUGH LIFE" as his theme. Designed to bring thoughtful and inspirational meaning to each person's spiritual journey, he

will use aspects of sailing along with Scripture passages to help us evaluate our life, make course correction and celebrate blessings. Old and new music will infuse the worship with spirit." Please join us as often as you can. ALL ARE WELCOME!

As we "count our blessings", we count each and every one of you! We're blessed to have such faithful, talented ministers sharing our pulpit! We're blessed by those of the past who built this amazing space and paid off our mortgage! We're blessed by our Board of Trustees who keeps our property in excellent shape and keeps our budget in the black! We're blessed by the energy and enthusiasm of the many folks who use our facility! And we are blessed by the challenge of rebuilding this community of faith!

Blessings!

Sue Stewart, Moderator

In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories, and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings instead.

- Lisa Heckman

Special Dates

- Ash Wednesday, *March 2, 2022*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 4, 2022*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 13, 2022*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2022*

A Prayer for Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."



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Worship Leaders this Month

Our church will be led by Rev. Gary Barmore throughout the whole season of Lent and Easter! We are very lucky to have him.

Holy Action/Council Meeting

The Holy action/Council meeting will be on Sunday, March 13th, following worship.

Our Stain Remover

From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think

how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering? The good news is that with one "application" (the cross), Jesus makes us "whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!

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Mary's Yes Calls Us to Love

On March 25th, we remember the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her she is to bear the Son of God, and she says yes.

In *Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans writes: "I am a Christian not because of anything I've done but because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes — yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly understand ... yes to a vision for herself and her little boy of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud and gather the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son's. ... And through Mary's example, God invites us to take the risk of love."

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One Great Hour of Sharing 2022

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.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

We will be collecting for this offering during Worship on Sunday, March 27th.

Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, March 28th, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.



March 1st- Marianne Stewart
March 3rd- Collin Stewart
March 21st- Kay Housley & Susan Semotan
March 23rd- Chloe Chavez
March 24th- Sue Stewart



March 27th- Kay & Jim Housley