



## *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*

#### 10 - 4 Good Buddy

By the time you read this, the President and Vice-President and several elected hopefuls will have already been in place, barring a few minor details that will work themselves out with the passage of time. You may be ecstatic about the election results, or you may be bracing yourself for the next four years. Or, you may not have any opinion or great concern one way or the other. As we move forward for this month, how may you and I best serve our God and the people God loves?

Jesus taught the greatest commandment is to Love God, and equal to that is to love one's neighbor and one's self. As we work through our soul's salvation this month, how may we plan to serve God in the months to come? The Apostle Paul challenges us to forget those things that are behind and press forward to a higher calling, which is in Christ Jesus. The New Living Translation sheds a slightly different light:

***No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. Suppose you disagree on some points, I believe God will make it plain to you. (Philippians 3:13-15)*** When we are in disagreement with a fellow believer, what may we do together that will make God's will plain?

Roger that! Over and out,

***Pastor Leo***

## Daylight Savings Time



Fall back! Turn your clocks back an hour on Sunday November 1st.

## Quote of the Month

*Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.*

-St. Therese of Lisieux

## Growing Through Gratitude

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



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## Youth Ministry Outreach

Our Youth’s Ministry Food Drive has begun! Share your blessings with others in need. We are in need of non-perishables for those families in need. All donations are going to the Santa Ana’s Community Center, an organization that has been dedicated to serving disadvantaged individuals for 46 years. Looking around at what the year 2020 has brought, they can use our help more than ever! Please open your hearts and bring what you can. Our drive will continue until November 15th, Thank you!



## Stewardship 2020

Our Stewardship campaign will kick-off on November 8th. Leaders/members of our congregation will share stories of the ways our congregation and our wider movement live out **Three Great Loves**.

The 2020 Stewardship theme is “**Three Great Loves**”- a shared initiative of United Church of Christ congregations, conferences, and the national setting, engages all of us in faith-inspired work for a more just world. This initiative reflects the deep purpose, mission, and vision of our Christian movement.

Our purpose arises from Jesus’ greatest commandment: *we will love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves.*

Our mission as the United Church of Christ points towards a shared vision: a just world for all. We make our commitment real by embracing **Three Great Loves**:

The love of **Neighbor**  
The love of **Children**  
The love of **Creation**



If you would like to sign-up to speak for one of these loves, please contact Rev. Leo. **Stewardship Sunday** is November 29th. Please bring your pledge cards to the Drive-In service, or mail them to the church if you cannot attend. Our Stewardship Sunday Drive-In service will also be available on Zoom.

## Beyond Heroism

At a recent anti-racism protest, Black participant Patrick Hutchinson saw a white counter-protester fall. Fearing for the injured man’s life, Hutchinson hoisted him over his shoulder and carried him through the crowd to seek help. Hutchinson was called a hero but says he just wanted to do the right thing.

According to Jesus, the right thing is to “love your enemies [and] do good to those who hate you” (Luke 6:27). It’s easy to love and be kind to our friends and people with similar beliefs. But when someone shows kindness to a member of an opposing group, we witness more than a hero; we see Jesus’ love in action.

## A Meaningful Month

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can “block out the cries of the denied ones ... so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God.”

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus’ coming? It’s a good time to ponder what hurts God’s heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can invite them to Thanksgiving dinner. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.

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## Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, November 23rd, at 7:00 pm.

## Hanging of the Greens!

Calling Santa’s helpers! We will be preparing for the season of Advent on Saturday, November 28th, at 10:00 am-safely. Wear your masks and maintain a distance! (Note: This event may be canceled due to COVID-19.)



## Light Up Advent!

O come, O come Emmanuel! We are looking for families who would like to virtually and presently light the Advent wreath candles. The first candle will be lit at our Drive-In service on Sunday, November 29th. We will need a family to be present at the service. The next two candles will be lit virtually on December 6th and December 13th. This will be done via our Zoom services. We ask that the families have a candle or wreath available to light up from home. The last Advent candle will be lit at our Christmas Concert Drive-In service on December 20th.

The Christmas candle will be lit on December 24th at our Candlelight evening service on Zoom. Sign up to light up by contacting Pastor Leo or the church office. Let’s light up the best season of the year! More details to come, o come.

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

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## Scripture Readings:

- November 1: Josh 3:7-17  
**All Saints Day** Ps 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thess 2:9-13  
**Matt 23:1-12**
- November 8: Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Ps 78:1-7  
1 Thess 4:13-18  
**Matt 25:1-13**
- November 15: Judg 4:1-7  
Ps 123  
1 Thess 5:1-11  
**Matt 25:14-30**
- November 22: Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24  
**Reign of Christ** Ps 100  
Eph 1:15-23  
**Matt 25:31-46**
- November 26: Deut 8:7-18 & Ps 65  
**Thanksgiving Sunday** 2 Cor 9:6-15  
Luke 17:11-19
- November 29: Isa 64:1-9  
**First Sunday of Advent** Ps 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Cor 1:3-9  
Mk 13:24-37