

*First Congregational Church of Santa Ana*  
United Church of Christ  
2555 N. Santiago Avenue  
Santa Ana, CA 92706

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**THE**  **GOOD NEWS LETTER**

OCTOBER 2021

*First Congregational Church of Santa Ana*

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*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.*

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## A Message from Our Moderator

Dear Church Friends and Family,

Our word for this month is:

### *Faithfulness*

Faithfulness is the concept of unflinchingly remaining loyal (in this case) to our beloved First Congregational Church of Santa Ana – UCC. It is putting that loyalty into consistent practice regardless of extenuating circumstances. It is keeping one's promises no matter the prevailing circumstances. Literally it is the state of being full of faith in the sense of steady devotion to our church.

We are coming up – far too quickly – on Thanksgiving,

Advent, Neighbors In Need and Stewardship. And that is just in the life of our church.

I propose that we make our theme for the rest of this calendar year: “Rooted In Love”. Our faithfulness is “rooted in love”. Our devotion to our church and our church family is “rooted in love”. Our sharing of this lovely facility with so many other groups and individuals is “rooted in love.” Let us all work towards a season filled faith and love.

September brought us thoughtful words from Rev. Nancy Brink and we will finish the month off with Rev. Dr. Jeff Utter!

In October we have a very special Sunday coming – October 25 – when Louise and Lenny Anderson will be with us! Rev. Lenny will be preaching and offering communion!

Deaconess Sharon McCord has agreed to stay with us for all of Advent, including Christmas Eve!

We hope you will join us as often as you can!!!

Blessings,

Sue Stewart, Moderator

## Equals at Communion



After saving England from Napoleon's threats in 1815, the Duke of Wellington achieved hero status.

One Sunday as the duke approached the altar for communion, a poor man from London's streets, wearing rags, knelt beside him. The indignant minister whispered for the

vagrant to move away. "Don't you realize this is the great Duke of Wellington?" he asked.

When the duke overhead, he responded, "Leave him alone. We're all the same here. The ground is level at the cross."

That's the spirit in which we celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October. Paul says believers share the Lord's Supper by partaking of the "one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). Everyone at the communion table is equal in God's sight, needing his forgiveness and grace.

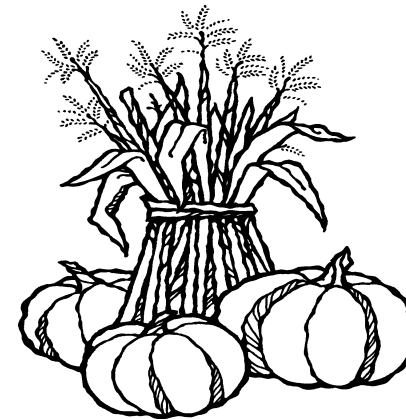
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## Holy Action/Council

Our Holy Action/Council meeting will be on Sunday, October 10th, following Worship.

## Neighbors in Need '21

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the



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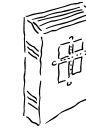
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**Worship services** are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on in our Sanctuary and on Zoom.

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



## A verse a day...

### Scripture Readings:

October 3:	Job 1:1, 2:1-10
<b>World</b>	Ps 26
<b>Communion</b>	Heb 1:1-4, 2:5-12
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mk 10:2-16</b>
October 10:	Job 23:1-9, 16-17
	Ps 22:1-15
	Heb 4:12-16
	<b>Mk 10:17-31</b>
October 17:	Job 38:1-7, 34-41
	Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35c
	Heb 5:1-10
	<b>Mk 10:35-45</b>
October 24:	Jer 31:7-9
	Ps 126
	Heb 7:23-28
	<b>Mk 10:46-52</b>
October 31:	<b>Ruth 1:1-18</b>
	Ps 146
	Deut 6:1-9
	Heb 9:11-14
	Mk 12:28-34

list of the needs I told my friend are met for me through participation in Christian community.

**Shared Reality:** As a community we believe different things, but we share an understanding that there is ‘Something More’ that gives life meaning beyond our individual identities and experiences. We share a commitment to following in the way of Jesus.

**Self-Expression & Contribution:** Church was where my leadership skills were first named, noticed and nurtured and where I was encouraged to claim and use my voice.

**Effectiveness:** Through church I am part of a collective body that has the power, through our actions and advocacy, to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice a little quicker and more effectively than my individual efforts alone.

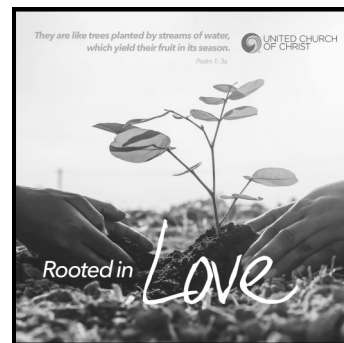
**Challenge:** Church challenges me to align my behavior with my values and beliefs, holding

me lovingly accountable to being my most authentic self.

The list goes on: compassion, celebration, belonging, beauty, inspiration, connection . . .

There is no community that will meet all my needs all the time. But during this season of stewardship as I reflect on what value the church has in my life, I am grateful for how many of my needs are met consistently through my engagement with the United Church of Christ. And, equally important, how investing my time, talent and treasure in this community of faith provides the opportunity to contribute to meeting the needs of others.

- ♦ **Stewardship Sunday** is November 14th.



Bauman, St. John's UCC, Wisconsin Conference

Recently I was asked “why church?” by someone who had grown up without organized religion and wanted to understand why someone would invest their time, talent and treasure within a faith community. My reflexive answer, borrowed from St. Augustine, was “because our hearts are restless until they rest in God.” Raising an eyebrow my friend replied, “Even if that was self-evidently true, it still does not answer the question. Clearly it is possible to encounter the Divine Presence outside of church.”

In struggling to explain, I found myself using the needs-based language I’ve learned through the practice of Non-Violent Communication (NVC). NVC posits that all behavior is an attempt to meet universal human needs. Explicitly naming the needs we are seeking to meet through our actions creates greater understanding between us. So, here is an (abbreviated)

United Church of Christ that supports Ministries of Justice and Compassion in the United States.

The 2021 Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

FCC will be collecting for this special offering on Sunday, October 10th.

## Stewardship 2021



*Rooted in Love* is the theme of this year’s Stewardship campaign.

**Why Church?** By Rev. Rachel



# OCTOBER

**Mark your calendar** 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>October Anniversaries:</i> Oct. 5th- Mary & Jim Weuve 	<i>October Birthdays:</i> Oct. 11th - Mary Weuve Oct. 18th- Piper Aquino 	Oct. 24th- Lori Sanchez			<b>1</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm Tot Lot 6:30-9:00 pm Ministerios Youth	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 am NH Worship NO FCC Worship 12:30 pm Ministerios	<b>4</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:00-9:00 pm Ministerios Choir	<b>5</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:30 pm BSA	<b>6</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot	<b>7</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-8:30 pm Copy Cats Mtg. 7-9:00 pm 777 Men's Mtg.	<b>8</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:00 pm Ministerios Youth	<b>9</b> 10:00 am-4:00 pm CRECE (Farm)
<b>10</b> 9:00 am NH Worship 10:30 am FCC Worship 11:45 am Holy Action 12:30 pm Ministerios	<b>11</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:00-9:00 pm Ministerios Choir	<b>12</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:30 pm BSA	<b>13</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot	<b>14</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30 pm Tot Lot Mtg 6:30-8:30 pm Copy Cats Mtg. 7-9:00 pm 777 Men's	<b>15</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:00 pm Ministerios Youth	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 am NH Worship NO FCC Worship 12:30 pm Ministerios	<b>18</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:00-9:00 pm Ministerios Choir	<b>19</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:30 pm BSA	<b>20</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot	<b>21</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-8:30 pm Copy Cats Mtg. 7-9:00 pm 777 Men's Mtg.	<b>22</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:00 pm Ministerios Youth	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 am NH Worship 10:30 am FCC Worship 12:30 pm Ministerios	<b>25</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6-8:30 pm Cub Pack 6:00-9:00 pm Ministerios Choir 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	<b>26</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:30 pm BSA	<b>27</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot	<b>28</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-8:30 pm Copy Cats Mtg. 7-9:00 pm 777 Men's Mtg.	<b>29</b> 8:00 am-12:30 pm OC Tot Lot 6:30-9:00 pm Ministerios Youth	<b>30</b> 
<b>31</b> 9:00 am NH Worship NO FCC Worship 12:30 pm Ministerios						

## November

- 1** All Saints Day
- 7** Daylight Savings Time Ends-Fall back
- 14** **Stewardship Sunday/** Holy Action/Council Mtg.
- 21** **Reign of Christ/ Thanksgiving Sunday**
- 22** Trustees Meeting
- 27** **Hanging of the Greens**
- 28** **First Sunday of Advent**

## December

- 19** **Christmas Fund Offering**
- 24** **Christmas Eve Service/ Christmas Fund**
- 26** **NO Worship**
- 27** Trustees Meeting

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Do you have a life event that you would like to share with your church family? If so, please contact the church office at (714) 639-0311, or [office@firstchurchsa.org](mailto:office@firstchurchsa.org)