



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 and Friends –

The month of September is a great time for inspiration. With summer coming to an end, the new school year starting, and many other changes in life, it is important to stay grounded in our faith. The Bible is always relevant because it has so many verses to help guide us no matter what. Just a reminder that we always have current copies of "The Upper Room" on the table in the narthex. This little book gives you a brief thought, scripture and prayer for each day of the week. Consider making "The Upper Room" a part of your day.

We received a lovely note from Deaconess Sharon McCart thanking us for our donation to RISE UP! She included a note from another Deaconess talking about folks who step up and do something when there is a need. It is on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room.

The Children's Corner of our Fellowship Hall looks a bit different. OC Tot Lot was unable to find someone to step into their revolving leadership

position, so after many years, they have gone out of business. We will miss them.

We continue to be blessed by the various clergy answering our call for Pulpit Supply. Join us on the second and fourth Sundays of each month as we worship God together as a church family!

Blessings!

Sue Stewart, Moderator

Special Dates

- Labor Day, *September 5, 2022*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2022*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 11, 2022*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *15–Oct. 15, 2022*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2022*

Fall Season of Worship

For the fall season of worship we are continuing to have our services on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. Our Sunday services this month will be on September 11th, led by Rev. Hilary Wright, and September 25th, led by Rev. Joyce Kirk-Moore. Mark your calendars!



Labor Day Laughs

Take a break and enjoy this work-related humor!

- My first job was in an orange juice factory. I got canned because I couldn't concentrate.
- When I couldn't hack it as a lumberjack, I got the ax.
- I wasn't suited to being a tailor.
- Working in the muffler factory was too exhausting.
- I was a banker ... until I lost interest.
- I realized there was no future in being a historian.
- Any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard at the deli.
- I studied to become a doctor but had no patients.
- My job at the coffee shop was always the same old grind.
- When I worked as a plumber, the tasks were too draining.
- I was hired at a gym but wasn't fit for the job.
- Finally, I got a job at a bakery; I kneaded dough!

TheNewsletternewsletter SEPT2022.

Pursuing Peace

The 2021 book *Love, Loss and Endurance: A 9/11 Story of Resilience and Hope in an Age of Anxiety* explores the dangers of extremism, both religious and political. Author Bill Tammeus, whose nephew died on 9/11, suggests three ways to be peacemakers. First, we can become more religiously literate, because "our human tendency is to fear what we don't know or understand." Second, we can deepen our knowledge of history, because "shock waves" from past events often spark modern-day unrest.

Finally, we can spend time with people who are facing profound grief. "This is the emotional equivalent of walking a mile in someone else's shoes," Tammeus writes. "It can open our eyes to the countless ways that death —

particularly unexpected, violent death — can affect almost every aspect of the lives of survivors. ... At the very least, go to funerals of people whose families you know, even of people who died of old age or of some illness late in life. Be present. Hear their stories.”

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

TheNewsletternewsletter SEPT2022.

A Friend has Passed

With much sadness, we inform you of the passing of our dear friend and lifetime church member Jean Spiel Davis. She passed away on July 15, 2022, due to complications of COVID at the age of 91.

Jean Davis lived here in Santa Ana all her life. She was the wife of Lester Herbert Davis, also former lifetime member of this church who passed away a few years ago. She served God by volunteering in her community at places such as The Children’s Home Society and the Family Service Association of OC. She loved nature, was an excellent homemaker, and had such a shining personality.

The last three years of her life were spent at the Town and Country Manor. She is survived by her daughter Susan (Steve) Semotan, her son Mark Davis, grandsons Scott (Heather) Semotan, Jeff (Kara) Davis, John (Sarrah) Davis, great granddaughters, and her sister Kay Housley.

The Celebration of Life service was held on August 27th at 11:00 am at the Ebell Society Club of Santa Ana, where she was a member for 67 years. She will be remembered for the love for her family, her community, her beautiful flower gardens, and dedication to her faith.

Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, September 26th, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Special Offering: NIN

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on an economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this through a faith lens. One-third of the offering supports [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. (ucc.org)

We will be collecting for this offering at our service on Sunday, October 9th.

Bible Quiz

Besides being known for his proverbs about wise living, King Solomon was knowledgeable in other fields, including which of the following?

- A. zoology, including ornithology and ichthyology
- B. botany
- C. herpetology
- D. songwriting

- E. A and C
- F. B and D
- G. All of the above

TheNewsletternewsletter SEPT2022.

One Word

Author and lay minister Samuel Gordon told of an elderly woman whose memory began to fade. "She had once known much of the Bible by heart. Eventually only one precious bit stayed with her [2 Timothy 1:12, KJV]: 'I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.' By and by, part of that slipped its hold, and she would quietly repeat, 'That which I have committed unto him.'

"At last, as she hovered on the borderline between this and the spirit world, her loved ones noticed her lips moving. They bent down to see if she needed anything. She was repeating over and over again to herself the one word of the text, 'Him, him, him.' She had lost the whole Bible, but one word. But she had the whole Bible in that one word."

TheNewsletternewsletter SEPT2022.

