

Chiming In

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES
NEWS AND EVENTS

A Diverse and Loving Christian Community Accepting of All



February 2025

www.churchofthechimes.org | office@churchofthechimes.org | 818-789-7124

11141 Magnolia Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423



Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, Senior Minister
 Rev. Curtis Peek, Associate Minister
 Jennifer Lee, Church Office Manager
 Allvne Baker, Preschool Director
 Joi Staves, Wedding & Events Coordinator
 Lindsay Hill, Facility Manager
 Julia Keiper, Christian Education Director
 Javier De la Torre, Groundskeeper

SERMONS:
February 2: I Corinthians 12: 12-31a All Together
February 9: Luke 5: 1-11 Calling All
February 16: I Corinthians 13: 1-13 Loving and remembering
February 23: Luke 6: 27-38 Life Lessons



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Faithfully Yours
February Holidays

Ground Hog Day: Will spring come early or late this year? Or perhaps we might ask ourselves—are we ready to enjoy the new life that sprouts around us? Are we ready to spend some time letting our faith peek through the moments of fear? Are we ready for any storms that might come our way? Our experience through the wild fires has taught us to grab a go bag and to be safe...are we taking care of ourselves? Are we reaching out to God when shadows fall upon us?

Valentine's Day: Lots of loving here for sure. Hearts and flowers, cards and chocolate...what are the other ways we can be loving? Who needs our prayers—and wouldn't it be an act of love to let one another know that we are holding them in our hearts and in our conversations with God? Who do you know who probably hasn't had a heart card sent to them in years? Wouldn't sending something in the mail bring a glimmer of gladness to one whose beloved is no longer at their side?

President's Day: Can we observe the holiday as more significant than a three day weekend? Can we spend some time remembering presidents past? Honor Washington and Lincoln whose greatness is part of our history. Then offer our thanks for presidents past, most recently Jimmy Carter whose life after his presidency witnessed the depth of faithfulness. And let us also hold President Trump in our prayers that his leadership will bring the wisdom and strength and compassion we value in our leaders. And may we also value each and every day as a gift from God.

Remembering Jane Dong

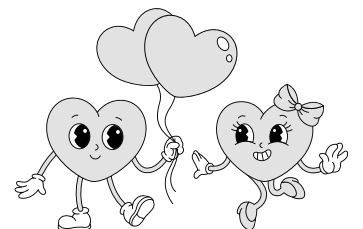
Our beloved Jane Dong joined the church triumphant on November 23, 2024. We are going to remember and honor Jane during our worship service on Sunday, February 16. Stan and her whole family will be here, and they are also hosting a luncheon after church. Be sure and join us to remember someone who brought grace and beauty and her own energy and spark to us all.

FEBRUARY 2025 HAPPENINGS

- **COUNCIL MEETING:** Feb 4th at 6:30pm in Dreier Hall
- **WOMENS ASSOCIATION MEETING:** Feb 8th 10am-11:30am in Dreier Hall
- **BOUQUET CIRCLE:** Feb 12th at 11:00am in Dreier Hall
- **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME CEREMONY:** Feb 16TH 10:30am Sanctuary
- **LA HOMELESS COUNT:** Feb 18th in Bower Hall 7pm-10pm
- **TRUSTEE MEETING:** Feb 19th at 6:30pm, in Dreier Hall and hybrid
- **CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING:** Feb 23 after church
- **CRAFT CREATIONS:** MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 10:00am in Dreier Hall
- **BROWN BAG BIBLE:** TUESDAYS at 12 Noon in Dreier Hall
- **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** MEETS WEDNESDAYS at 7pm via Zoom

All women of any faith are invited to our gathering of caring, sharing and loving women. For more information contact Jane Poole via email at

jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net.



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AT THE CHURCH OF THE CHIMES PRESCHOOL

Our beloved Church of the Chimes Preschool turned 60 years old in September 2024! What an incredible milestone for a program that has nurtured, educated, and inspired generations of children. For six decades, the Church of the Chimes Preschool has been a cornerstone of the community, offering a warm, welcoming, and enriching environment for young learners. Countless students have taken their first steps into the world of education here, guided by dedicated teachers who have instilled a love of learning, creativity, and kindness.

We are so grateful for the continued support of our families, staff, and the entire community, who have made this program what it is today. Your commitment has helped us create a legacy of excellence, rooted in faith, care, and a passion for teaching. Congratulations to the Church of the Chimes Preschool for this incredible achievement! Here's to many more years of building bright futures and cherished memories.

Class of 1964



Voices of the Valley MLK Celebration

RACIAL EQUITY

Diane Delaney

We held an amazing 3rd annual Celebration for MLK Jr and diversity, equity and inclusion with over 60 in attendance! We had a delicious soup lunch provided by Stone Soup Project with rolls, salad and a special birthday cake. The reception was hosted by the Board of Trustees.

Beth kicked off our program with a welcome then we heard from Jane, Julia and our youth, with a wrap up by Shirley then closing thoughts and a prayer by CC. Melodie led us in singing three of MLK's favorite Hymns. We enjoyed art work by Keith, Michele and Luke, and a dance performance.

Our Racial Equity group hopes everyone takes a moment to reflect on MLK Jr in honor of his birthday and think about the importance of his work in our community.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION KIDS CORNER

Julia Keiper

Greetings to our COTC congregation and community. The New Year 2025 has opened with significant challenges for us all. In response to the devastating fires, our church families have risen to the occasion with donations of food, clothing, and other personal necessities. Under the direction of our CE Board Chair, Jan Long, our BE BOLD teens will be creating “no sew” animal blankets and toys to donate to the BOL (Blankets of Love) organization for shelter animals.

Guided by the Racial Equity Group leaders, our Sunday School youth participated in the “Voices of the Valley” Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration. Our young people danced, created a display of their art, and shared a portion of the famous “ I Have a Dream” speech.

We are now set up to provide two Sunday School opportunities. The upstairs classroom is hosting a class for Grades 1 – 8 students. The lower classroom has a space for our toddlers to learn and play and a safe, clean space for mothers of infants to provide care and watch the Sunday service live-streamed on a large screen.

Beth and Julie lead a monthly preschool chapel service, which is always enjoyable and a highlight of our calendar. We are happy to continue building a strong bond with our preschool staff and children. On the last Sunday of each month with five weeks, you will see our youth serving to collect the offering during the service. They take this responsibility very seriously and continue to learn this job. Thank you in advance for your patience with their growth.

As spring approaches, with the Easter season and all the events of our 75th-anniversary celebration, there is so much to look forward to. Please do not hesitate to share your special interests and talents with our congregation as a Sunday School teacher or by joining us as a member of the CE Board.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas and always strive to present our congregation with the best educational programs. Please offer your service to plan the 75th Anniversary and participate in all the upcoming Easter activities. Thank you in advance for your kind words and support of the Christian Education board and the director's services. It is a faith-filled journey, and your love continues to strengthen us.

Julia Keiper, Director of Christian Education / Jan Long, Chair

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CONGREGATIONAL

Beth Bingham

Please join us on February 2 to learn about our Congregational traditions and the history and organization of our own church! This is for any of you interested in learning more and/or those who are considering becoming a member of the church. Everyone is always invited to all of our events. Those who join the church have a voice and vote at all congregational meetings and can serve on our Boards or become an officer of the church.

We will receive new members into our fellowship during worship on Sunday, February 16, in advance of the congregational meeting to approve the budget for 2025 on Sunday, February 23 after worship.

TRUSTEES

Tony Bliss

Our CotC 2025 Stewardship Program is underway! This years theme: Stepping Up to Faith, Fellowship and Freedom will be held the next three Sundays 1/26, 2/2 & 2/9. With Consecration Sunday on February 9th.

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING: FEBRUARY 26

There will be a Congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, February 26 to pass the Board of Trustees' proposed budget for 2025. This is an important time for the members of the church decide how our resources will be used. All are welcome to come to the meeting and members can vote.

GETTING TO KNOW JULIA KEIPER

by Michelle Marot

I am a retired High School math teacher now working for LAUSD as a substitute teacher in all grade levels. Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, I am a graduate of Pequea Valley High School, Kutztown State University (BA), California State University (MA), and UCLA (CLAD certificate, secondary ,math certification. I began my teaching career in 1975 and



have continued to work in education, first as an elementary teacher, then middle school, and ended my job as a full-time educator with 17 years as a secondary math instructor for LAUSD, retiring in 2018. I had hoped for a huge family but was blessed with just one son, and he and my daughter-in-law have filled my heart with joy by adding my three granddaughters to our family.

My many hobbies include reading, journaling, crafting, travel, outdoor activities, Girl Scouts, and adventures with my granddaughters. My life is enriched by the many people who surround me with love, share my interests, and provide many opportunities for laughter and joy.

At heaven's gate, I suspect I will ask God if I have shared his love with the people surrounding me. I can be a very independent individual with strong opinions, and I will ask if I have put aside my agenda and added joy and peace to those who have crossed my path. I begin each day with a prayer that I will be a blessing to those that I meet along the way.

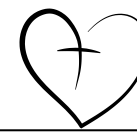
COLORING PAGE

This Valentine's season, we are reminded that no love is greater than the love Jesus has for us! His love is unconditional, everlasting, and stronger than anything we can imagine. As you color this page, let it be a reminder that Jesus loves you more than words can say—today and always!





February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						<u>1</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>2</u> 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 11:30am Congregational Class 7:30pm AI Anon ~ Dreier	<u>3</u> 9:00 am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>4</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ CE 10:0am Craft Creations ~ DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE 4:00pm Drumming	<u>5</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>6</u> 9:00am Preschool 4:00pm Drumming 7:00pm Jumpin' Fleas MR	<u>7</u> 9:00 Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 9:45 Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 6:00pm BE BOLD 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>8</u> WOMENS ASSOCIATION MEETING 10- 11:30 DH 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>9</u> CONSECRATION SUNDAY 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm AI Anon ~ DH	<u>10</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>11</u> COUNCIL MEETING DH 6:30PM 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ CE 10:0am Craft Creations ~ DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics 4:00pm Drumming	<u>12</u> BOUQUET CIRCLE 11:00am 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>13</u> 9:00am Preschool 4:00pm Drumming	<u>14</u> VALENTINES DAY 8:00am Preschool Valentine Breakfast 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>15</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>16</u> NEW MEMBERS CEREMONY 10:30am Sanctuary 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 2pm Confirmation 7:30pm AI Anon ~ DH	<u>17</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>18</u> LA HOMELESS COUNT BH 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ CE 10:00am Craft Creations DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible DH 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming 7pm-10pm LA Homeless Count	<u>19</u> TRUSTEE MEETING 6:30pm 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>20</u> 9:00am Preschool 4:00pm Drumming	<u>21</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45 Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 6:00pm BE BOLD 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>22</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>23</u> CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 11:30 Budget Meeting -Sanctuary 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm AI Anon ~ DH	<u>24</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>25</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ CE 10:0am Craft Creations ~ Dreier 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming	<u>26</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>27</u> 9:00am Preschool 4:00pm Drumming	<u>28</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	