

Chiming In

NEWS AND EVENTS OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES

A Diverse and Loving Christian Community Accepting of All
www.churchofthechimes.org—www.facebook.com/ChurchofChimes



January 2024

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



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



Phone: 818-789-7124
Email: office@churchofthechimes.org



14115 Magnolia Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

	<p><i>All are Welcome</i> to Sunday Service 10:30am</p> <p><i>faith</i></p>
--	---

SCAN ME



www.Churchofthechimes.org
818.789.7124

 [ChurchofChimes](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChimes)
 [Cotc_shermanoaks](https://www.instagram.com/Cotc_shermanoaks)



FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Faithfully Yours

It is the poem of the season, at least in other parts of the world if not here. Yet we can imagine the scene easily enough. Some of us have lived in such places, others of us have seen enough weather reports of drifts and winds and cold to picture the man on his horse. It is Robert Frost's poem "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening."

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

As 2023 unfolds, the last stanza might well ring in the New Year, as we imagine what lies ahead, as we make resolutions about how to live better: eat less, exercise more, read our Bible, be kind to others...

I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep...

This is the time to ask what are the promises we are to keep? What are the commitments we have made in our lives, and in our faithful lives that we must keep—strong enough that we won't stop and rest in the lovely safe places. We won't pause on the path that Jesus has set before us. We won't linger just looking at the world, not having the will or the energy or simply the confidence to enter our new world.

What are the promises that we are to keep? What are the vows we have made to one another that slip away between us? What are the oaths we have taken that are no longer tattooed in our minds? What are the promises that we have made to God as we welcome the baby Jesus into our lives and our hearts?

Perhaps this year, this new year, this Leap Year, might be the year when we don't make new resolutions, new promises but rather pay attention to the old promises. For they are the promises which are the foundation of our faith and of our lives.

For we are then returning the promise, the truth we hear from the Gospel of John—the promise that God has made to us: *God so loved the world that He gave us his only son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

In other words, Believe!

With love and faith, Beth

JANUARY 2024 HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ **COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 2ND at 6:30pm in Dreier Hall**
- ⇒ **MAGNOLIA MARKETPLACE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH from 11:30am to 2:30pm on the Hazeltine Lawn**
- ⇒ **BOUQUET CIRCLE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH at 11:30 in Dreier Hall**
All women are welcome to join us for our monthly gathering, which will be extended with the Holiday Preschool Luncheon. If you can join us this month, please RSVP Barbara Downs at barbaradowns1913@gmail.com or call her at 747-355-6077 or 818-762-0187.
- ⇒ **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BOARD: SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH at 10:00am in Dreier Hall:** Anyone interested in participating on this Board may contact Natalie Karp, our Board Chair (nataliefkarp@mac.com).
- ⇒ **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH: Save the Date:** Our Racial Equity Group plans to host our 2nd Annual "A Seat at the Table" event in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. All are welcome to join and if you have any ideas you want to share, please contact Rev. Dr. Beth Bingham, Shawn Burkley or Diane Delaney. Thank you
- ⇒ **TRUSTEE MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 16TH at 6:30pm in Dreier Hall.**
- ⇒ **VESPERS: THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH at 6:30pm:** All women of the church are invited to gather for dinner and conversation at a local eating establishment typically on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Please contact Natalie Karp (nataliefkarp@mac.com) if you would like to join in.
- ⇒ **GETTING TO KNOW US: Sunday, January 21 at 11:45 in Dreier Hall:** Come to join us for a conversation about our Congregational Church of the Chimes! We will talk about the history of the Congregational tradition, as well as the history, organization, and vision of our church. We will also discuss the meaning of membership in the church for those who would like to officially join the fellowship.
- ⇒ **NEW CRAFT CREATIONS: MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 10:00am in Dreier Hall.**
- ⇒ **BROWN BAG BIBLE: MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 12noon in Dreier Hall:** This is 45 minutes of lively discussion of the scripture passage for the coming Sunday. We munch our lunch, get background and context for the lesson, and talk about what it means.
- ⇒ **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 on Wednesday evenings at 7pm—sometimes in person and sometimes via zoom. We are currently studying the book "Twelve More Women of the Bible" by Sherry Harney. For more information please feel free to contact Jane Poole via email at jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net.
- ⇒ **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** The Men's Group is hosting a Bible Study on 2nd and 4th Sunday (January 14th and 28th) in Dreier Hall at 11:45 am. Please feel free to join in anytime for lively and interesting discussions!

MAGNOLIA MARKETPLACE

JAN 7TH

FREE JUMPING CASTLE
KIDS CORNER
FOOD TRUCKS

Empowering Local Artisans & Small Business

1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
at Congregational Church of the Chimes

All Are Welcome! 14115 MAGNOLIA BLVD 11:30AM-2:30PM

Community Stage Performances



French violinist & comedian Armando Anto and his students from The Suzuki Academy LIVE at Magnolia Marketplace! 12pm-12:30pm



FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM
LET'S KEEP FOOD OUT OF A LANDFILL AND TURN IT INTO USEFUL COMPOST!



WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.” ~ Matthew 2:11

As we began to ponder with the Lord about the upcoming year, many people will start their annual New Year’s Resolutions.

Be it resolved that God has been giving hints all year long about what 2024 was going to hold for the Body of Christ. He has provided several key points that must become your life message. I believe the Lord is going to cause 2024 to be a year of restructuring how we do life, ministry, family and many other areas. I believe specifically the first 3 months of the year are key in this process to prepare us for a great shift to come in the second and third quarters of the year. I sense that as we begin to embrace these "restructurings" we will begin to see a move of God taking place in the Body of Christ like never before.

You must get ready for this great and powerful move of God. Since time waits on no man, you must redeem every moment to make wise choices. Allow God to speak to you. Because WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM. Offer the Lord the gift of your life as the living sacrifice. Don't wait until the New Year, do it now! **Believe it! Curtis**

Happy New Year!

Revised Reprint from January 2022 Chiming In



SERMON TOPICS FOR JANUARY

January 7 *Gifted and Talented (Matthew 2:1-12)*
 January 14 *Here He Was and Is (I Samuel 3: 1-10)*
 January 21 *Mark My Words (Jonah 3: 1-5, 10, Mark 1: 14-20)*
 January 28 **Guest Preacher: Dr. Louise Goben**

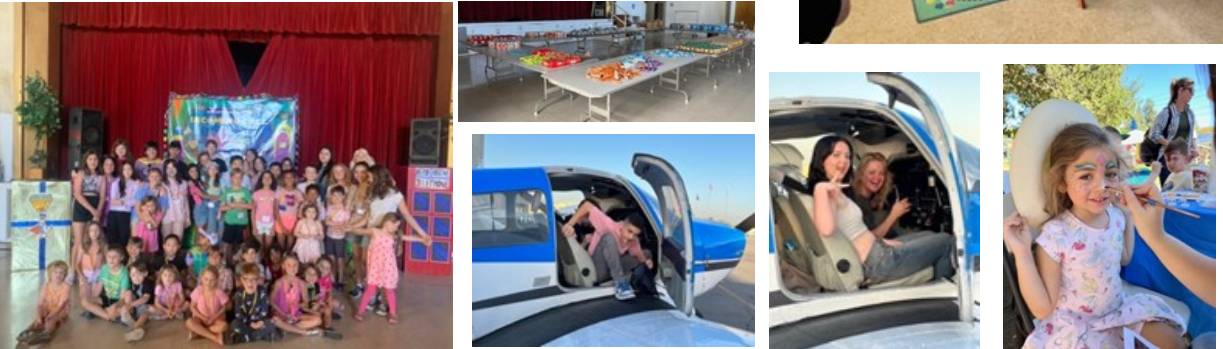
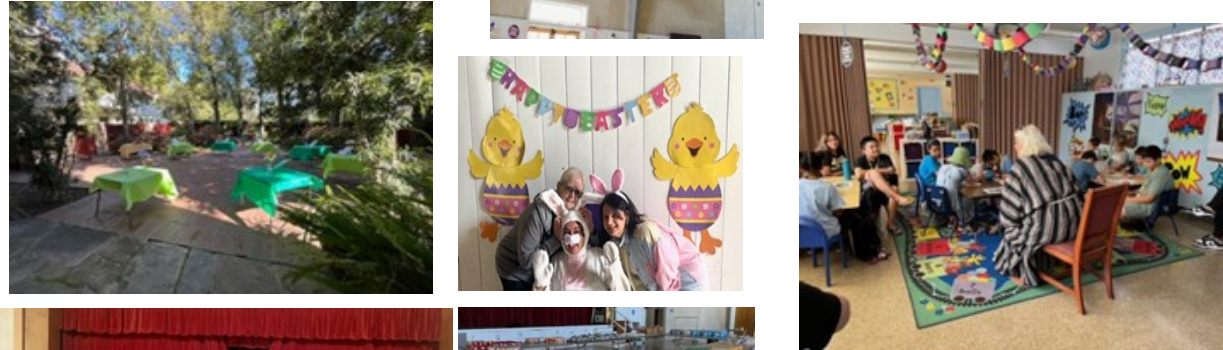
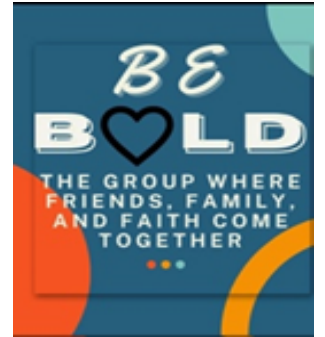
CHRISTIAN ED 2023 PHOTO MEMORIES



CHRISTIAN ED 2023 PHOTO MEMORIES cont.



CE Ministries in 2023 was blessed with many many awesome times. From blessing bags to Easter events, VBS, youth gatherings, a bingo fundraiser to our Christmas Pageant, we are so grateful for the youth and the church's support!



Love, Jane P.S. Remember to spend quiet time with God

TRUSTEE NEWS

Diane Delaney, Chair

Happy New Year! We are replacing the three flat roofs of Bower Hall due to many leaks and then we will begin repairs of water damage to the stage and kitchen areas.

Big thanks to the Women's Association who graciously made a donation to pay for new Chapel doors! The doors have been ordered and will be installed in a few weeks.

More thanks to the six church families who have registered the Church of the Chimes to be the recipient of the Ralphs Community Program where we receive about \$200 annually. Contact the church office for more information on how to participate with this program.

The Trustees and Council have agreed upon a banner/sign policy for facility users as well as our own church program promotions which will begin on 2/1/24. We believe this will improve the overall appearance of our campus and provide clearer signage for the many uses and events held on our church campus.

In addition, we have updated our Facility Use Rate sheet after nine years to account for inflation and increased utilities and maintenance costs. Stay tuned for our Annual Stewardship Program which will be launching soon as well as our Annual Budget Meeting for approval of our 2024 budget. The January after church receptions will be hosted by the Board of Trustees! Thank you, Diane

GETTING TO KNOW US:

Sunday, January 21 at 11:45am in Dreier Hall

Come join us for a conversation about Congregational Church of the Chimes! We will talk about the history of the Congregational tradition, as well as the history, organization, and vision of our church. We will Also discuss the meaning of membership in the church for those who would like to officially join our fellowship.

"The sun is a daily reminder that we too can rise again from the darkness, that we too can shine our own light." S. Ajna

DEACON NEWS

Greg Abbott, Chair

The Deacons have completed the LA Christmas Families Program. Jeri Christiansen got the ball rolling with her contact with the Childrens Bureau. As you know, we weren't buying for individual families this year, but providing gifts for the Bureau to place in a store where the families could "shop". This was a big change from the past. What didn't change was COTC's generosity. From the Preschool, to the Boards, to the Congregation at large, the volume of gifts was thrilling. Then there were the hundreds and hundreds of dollars of gift cards. On Friday December 8, I was told that there was another big box of gifts in the Narthex from Restoring Point Church who participated even though they were never asked. A special thank you to Cindy Olson and Judy Kemecei who helped me sort the box. Thank you all for your generosity. You make me proud to be a part of this Christmas community. Greg

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

Please remember that the preschool still has openings, so if you know anyone looking for an amazing preschool, please have them contact Ally Baker, our Preschool Director, at preschool@churchofthechimes.org for more information about the Preschool, Parent & Me Program or other school events or reach out to her through the church office (818-789-7124). Thanks!

CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS

Jan Long, Chair

The youth Christmas party was held on December 22nd. Kids of all ages were there. We started out with pizza and a lot of other goodies and then went right into the white elephant gift exchange—a lively event that was! After that—a snowball fight—then the reindeer antler toss which was very lively too! We had a great time and everyone went home happy. We certainly are a blessed bunch! Looking forward to all the adventures that 2024 will bring. Happy New year to you all.





January 2024



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

	1 <u>HAPPY NEW YEAR</u> <u>Office & Preschool Closed</u> 77:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	2 <u>COUNCIL MEETING</u> <u>Dreier Hall ~ 6:30pm</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	3 <u>RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE</u> <u>Bower Hall ~ 10am—6pm</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower	4 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	5 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm tRPC ~ Sanctuary 7:00pm PRM ~ Chapel	6 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
7 <u>MAGNOLIA MARKETPLACE</u> <u>11:30am on Hazeltine Lawn</u> 10:00am MAIC Worship Svc 10:30am COTC Worship Svc ~ Communion Served 10:45am Sunday Gathering Grp 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 3:00pm Palabra Rhema 7:30pm Al Anon ~ Dreier	8 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	9 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	10 <u>BOUQUET CIRCLE</u> <u>11:30am ~ Dreier/BH</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower	11 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	12 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 6:00pm BE Bold ~ HH 77:00pm tRPC ~ Sanctuary 7:00pm PRM ~ Chapel	13 <u>WA BOARD MEETING</u> <u>10:00am in Dreier Hall</u> 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
14 <u>MLKJR CELEBRATION</u> 10:00am MAIC Worship Svc 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday Gathering Grp 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 3:00pm Palabra Rhema 7:30pm Al Anon ~ Dreier	15 <u>MLKJR DAY</u> <u>Office & Preschool Closed</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	16 <u>TRUSTEE MEETING</u> <u>Hamilton House ~ 6:30pm</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	17 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower	18 <u>VESPERS ~ 6:30pm*</u> <u>*Subject to change...</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	19 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm tRPC ~ Sanctuary 7:00pm PRM ~ Chapel	20 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
21 <u>Getting to Know Us DH 11:45am</u> 10:00am MAIC Worship Svc 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday Gathering Grp 11:45am Bible Study –Dreier 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 3:00pm Palabra Rhema 7:30pm Al Anon ~ Dreier	22 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	23 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	24 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower	25 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Cub Scouts Bower	26 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 6:00pm BE Bold ~ HH 7:00pm tRPC ~ Sanctuary 7:00pm PRM ~ Chapel	27 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
28 10:00am MAIC Worship Svc 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday Gathering Grp 11:45am Bible Study –Dreier 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 3:00pm Palabra Rhema 7:30pm Al Anon ~ Dreier	29 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	30 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	31 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower			