

Chiming In

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES
NEWS AND EVENTS

A Diverse and Loving Christian Community Accepting of All



January 2026

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Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, Senior Minister
Rev. Curtis Peek, Associate Minister
Jennifer Lee, Church Office Manager
Allvne Baker, Preschool Director
Joi Staves, Wedding & Events Coordinator
Javier De la Torre, Facilities

SERMONS:

January 4: Matthew 2: 1-12 Shining Bright
January 11: Matthew 3: 13-17 By the Water
January 18: Amos 5: 21-24 Everflowing stream
January 25: Following Matthew 4: 12-23



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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Faithfully Yours

Happy New Year! I have heard from many that their happiness at the arrival of 2026 is that it means 2025 is over! It has been a tough year for many people—financially, emotionally, and with so much uncertainty and instability in their own lives and in the world.

As I look back I see all of the dark spots too, but I will hold close the other moments of joy and wonder. They will be with me in new tough times, reminding me that God is close, and God is good.

My hope here at the Church of the Chimes is that we will: Continue to grow, not simply in numbers but in our faith and how we live our faith. Make God's love real to our young ones by knowing their names and delighting in having them in our midst.

Each find the place here where our gifts and passions can be shared and developed so that the light of God shines even more brightly. Our campus will be a neighborhood center where all are welcome to come to all that we do from Sunday morning worship to Golden West Fairs to the classes which are crafty and artistic and teach us more about our faith.

Stop and thank the people here who volunteer so selflessly in so many ways, and then volunteer to help them help our church by planting and building and painting and answering phones and...the list has no end...

Continue to make people feel so welcomed that once they have visited they come back again knowing that we are indeed a diverse and loving Christian community accepting of all. May God's light continue to shine from the corner of Magnolia and Hazeltine through our neighborhood, our community, our nation and around the world by how we live, and what we give.

Amen! Dr. Bingham (aka Beth!)

GETTING TO KNOW REV. CURTIS PEEK

Associate Minister Rev. Curtis Peek brings warmth, empathy, and encouragement to his ministry at Church of the Chimes. His mission is to help people find happiness and to remind them that God is always present, offering comfort and strength. He hopes to encourage those who may be facing challenges, just as he has faced his own, and to walk alongside others in their spiritual journeys. One of the most meaningful moments in his time at the church

was the day of his ordination. Surrounded by his family and embraced by the love and support of his entire church community, he describes it as a deeply special and unforgettable day in his life.

Many people might be surprised to learn how diverse Rev. Peek's professional background is. Before entering ministry, he worked for many years as a professional actor in San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles. He also spent time as a surgical tech assistant in hospitals and surgery centers throughout Los Angeles. Adding to his unique path, he holds a degree in meteorology and has worked as a TV weatherman. These varied experiences shape the depth and perspective he brings to his ministry today.

Outside of church, Rev. Peek enjoys staying active and appreciating life's simple joys. He loves walking, working out, traveling, and listening to music. Above all, his greatest joy is being a father and watching his daughter grow up. With a heart full of faith and kindness, he offers a message he hopes everyone will carry with them: "I pray for you, you pray for me, and God loves us all."



CWS - COMMUNITY WORLD SERVICE BOARD

Jane Poole

Our small but mighty Board has been busy this past month! We led the congregation in packing 109 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, 22 boxes more than our goal! Thanks to everyone who donated items and provided financial support. Many children around the world will be overjoyed to receive our gifts! We continue to make meals for the unhoused who go to the Unitarian Universalist Church for meals and other support. We make the meals one time a month and welcome everyone from the church to join our effort and have fun in the kitchen.

Beginning the first week of January, we will be collecting items to fill blessing bags for people in need in our community. We thank you in advance for helping us make our goal of 150 bags to be put together on January 25th. A list of items to donate will be handed out on January 4th. Mark your calendars!

The committee has financially supported the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, the Crop Walk and we look forward to expanding our donation efforts in 2026. The last piece of news we want to share is we'll have our annual Gala on May 16th. It will be a Speakeasy Murder Mystery event, mark your calendars! Many blessings, Bobby, Brian, Cameel, Michele and Jane.

CE NEWS

Jon Wallace

It is with great joy that we announce our new Director of Christian Education! Please join us in warmly welcoming Kristina Jasiukonis (Tina) as she transitions from long-time volunteer to Director of Christian Education (part time).

Tina brings more than three decades of experience in education, family relations, and a wide range of advisory and volunteer roles, both locally and globally. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Human Development, with specializations in Leadership in Education, Social Justice, and Child Development. A professional with both deep expertise and a generous heart, Tina is a true gift to our community, and we are grateful to welcome her into this leadership role within our church.

Our Christmas Pageant was a meaningful and joyful celebration, reminding us all to reflect on the story of Christmas. This year's intergenerational cast made the experience especially welcoming and meaningful for all ages. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to bring the pageant to life, and to the entire cast—bravo! If you have a moment, we invite you to visit our YouTube page to enjoy the Christmas Pageant.

Our next Christian Education Board Meeting will be held in person on January 4, 2026, at noon. If you are interested in learning more about the work of our board, we warmly invite you to join us as a guest at this month's meeting.

JANUARY 2025 HAPPENINGS

- **BE BOLD:** Jan 2nd & 16th at 6pm Hamilton House
- **CHRISTIAN ED MEETING:** Jan 4th at 12pm Lower CE
- **COUNCIL MEETING:** Jan 6th at 6:45pm Dreier Hall
- **WOMENS ASSOCIATION MEETING:** Jan 5th at 5pm on Zoom
- **DEACONS MEETING:** Jan 11th at 12:00pm Bower Hall
- **DISCOVER & CONNECT: WOMENS ASSOCIATION GATHERING:** Jan 11th at 12pm Dreier Hall
- **BOUQUET CIRCLE:** Jan 14th at 11:30am Dreier Hall
- **VOICES OF THE VALLEY MLK JR. EVENT:** Jan 18th 11:30am-1pm Bower Hall
- **TRUSTEE MEETING:** Jan 20th at 6:30pm Dreier Hall
- **BLESSING BAGS:** Jan 25th after service, in Bower Hall
- **CRAFT CREATIONS:** MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 10:00am in Dreier Hall
- **BROWN BAG BIBLE:** TUESDAYS at Noon in Dreier Hall
- **ZUMBA:** WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS at 9:45 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.
- **PAINTING CLASS:** THURSDAYS 10:00am - 12:00pm in Dreier Hall

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Kristina Jasiukonis, M.A.

Many of you already know me, but I would like to reintroduce myself. My name is Kristina Jasiukonis (Tina), and I am honored to serve as the new Director of Christian Education. I am deeply grateful to have worked alongside such a dedicated and caring group of volunteers over the past year, and I look forward to our continued partnership in the meaningful work we do together through Sunday School, Youth Group, and Vacation Bible School (VBS).

I am continually inspired by the growth of our programs and the strong sense of connection and community that has developed among our children, youth, families, and volunteers. I give thanks for each baby, child, youth, parent, elder, volunteer, and leader who makes our church such a warm and welcoming place.

Announcements

- **New Year Potluck**-Youth Group, Be Bold, will gather at Hamilton House on Friday, January 2, from 6:00–8:00 pm. All middle school and high school students are welcome. Be Bold meets on the first and third Fridays of each month from 6:00–8:00 pm.
- **New Year Sunday School Celebration**-On Sunday, January 4, we will hold Sunday School outdoors as we take in the beauty of our church campus. Together, we will continue adding to our prayer journal, enjoy a lesson, and then enter the sanctuary early for Communion Sunday.

Save the Date

CE Bingo Night – Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Vacation Bible School (VBS) applications open – February 8, 2026

Palm Sunday – Sunday School Event, Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 10:30 am

If you would like to connect or schedule a time to meet, please email

ChristianEd@churchofthechimes.org or leave a message with the church office at 818-789-7124.

MENS ASSOCIATION

Bobby Jones

Happy Birthday to the Christ Child and Merry Christmas. Plans are moving forward for the Memorial Rose Garden next to the Hamilton House carport. Planting of 5-gallon roses is planned for the 2nd or 3rd week of March, pending nursery deliveries. Those wishing to donate a rose may sign up and share color preferences closer to that time.

Roses will cost approximately \$20–\$22 each, with final pricing determined after memorial placard costs are confirmed. Placards will include the honoree and donor names. Men’s Association volunteers will prepare the soil and plant the roses. Thank you for the strong response and for helping honor loved ones in this special space.

DISCOVER & CONNECT: WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION GATHERING

The Women’s Association (WA) of the Congregational Church of the Chimes warmly invites all women of our church community to join us for a special gathering to learn more about who we are and what we do. The “Discover & Connect: Women’s Association Gathering” will be held Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 in Bower Hall after the church reception.

The WA is more than fundraising—it’s about fellowship, service, and making a difference in our community. Whether you’re new to the church or a longtime member, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect, contribute, and grow together. It’s also a chance to be with other women, share experiences, and create lasting bonds by doing meaningful things together. Come discover how you can be part of the CotC Women’s Association and help us extend our mission of compassion and support. Warmly, Diane Delaney

GRIEF SHARE

All are welcome to the COTC GriefShare support group, a compassionate 13-week program meeting weekly for 90 minutes. GriefShare offers thoughtful, “just right” guidance to support healing, understanding, and meaning in your grief journey. The first gathering will be held Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 12:00–1:30 pm. Each session stands on its own, so participants may join at any time and need not attend every week. Winter/Spring sessions will be co-facilitated by Tanny Wiggins and Tina Jasiukonis. For more information, contact: ChristianEd@churchofthechimes.org or the church office.

VOICES OF THE VALLEY

You’re warmly invited to Voices of the Valley on Sunday January 18th a special Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration bringing together art, music, food, and inspiring community leaders as we honor Dr. King’s legacy of justice, unity, and love. This gathering is open to our congregation and the entire San Fernando Valley community. Come connect, reflect, and celebrate the voices that continue Dr. King’s dream—right here in the Valley. All are welcome. Bring a friend, a neighbor, and an open heart.



TRUSTEES

It was a successful year for your Board of Trustees, accomplishing much and being prudent with funds on repairs, keeping as much as possible in-house. As always, that was due to Javier. The repairs to the chapel have begun with the gutter work nearly done. Stained glass repair and painting will commence in the new year as well. Our 2026 Budget and Stewardship Drive will kick off in January, and a polite reminder to please fulfill your 2025 pledges. Lastly, we ask that Board leaders to submit their 2026 budgets to the trustees by January 15th.

ALL FOR KIDS TOY COLLECTION

The Christmas toy collection was a heartwarming success. The toys were picked up by “All for Kids”, and the outpouring of generosity was truly overwhelming. There were so many toys that they filled two large car loads! Additionally, four gift cards were donated by the Women’s Association. “All for Kids” were thrilled and genuinely surprised by the large quantity of donations received. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously!





JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<u>1</u> NEW YEARS DAY 7:00pm AA DH	<u>2</u> BE BOLD 6-8pm 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 6:00pm BE BOLD 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>3</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball
<u>4</u> CHRISTIAN ED MEETING Lower CE 12pm 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm AI Anon ~ DH	<u>5</u> COUNCIL MEETING DH 6:45PM WOMENS ASSOCIATION MTNG 5pm on Zoom 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>6</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creations ~ DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>7</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH 7:00pm 12 Step MR	<u>8</u> 9:00am Preschool 10am Art Class DH 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm AA DH	<u>9</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>10</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>11</u> DEACONS MEETING 12pm DH DISCOVER & CONNECT 12PM BH 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm AI Anon ~ DH	<u>12</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>13</u> 10:00am Craft Creations DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible DH 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>14</u> BOUQUET CIRCLE 11:30am DH 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH 7:00pm 12 Step MR	<u>15</u> 10am Art Class DH 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm AA DH	<u>16</u> BE BOLD 6-8pm 9:45 Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>17</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>18</u> VOICES OF THE VALLEY MLK JR 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm AI Anon ~ DH	<u>19</u> MLK JR. DAY Preschool & Office CLOSED 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ DH	<u>20</u> TRUSTEE MEETING 6:30pm Drier Hall 10:0am Craft Creations ~ Dreier 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm LC Choir 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>21</u> 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH 7:00pm 12 Step MR	<u>22</u> 10am Art Class DH 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm AA DH	<u>23</u> 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>24</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>25</u> BLESSING BAG PACKING 11:30am- 1pm BH 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm AI Anon ~ DH	<u>26</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm AI-Anon ~ DH	<u>27</u> 10:0am Craft Creations ~ Dreier 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming 7:00pm LC Choir 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>28</u> 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH 7:00pm 12 Step MR	<u>29</u> 10am Art Class DH 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm AA DH	<u>30</u> 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>31</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S