

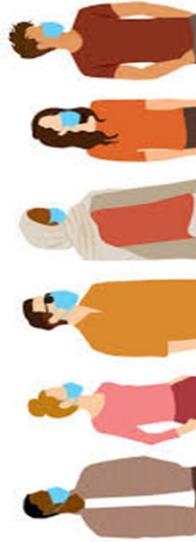
Chiming In

NEWS AND EVENTS OF
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES
www.churchofthechimes.org—www.Facebook.com/ChurchofChimes



AUGUST 2020

God Bless America!



Save lives. Wear a mask.

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



Congregational Church of the Chimes
14115 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA 91423



Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, Senior Minister
Rev. Curtis Peek, Associate Minister
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Lindsay Hill, Facility Manager
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STAY SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY

FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

FAITHFULLY YOURS

There's a song from the 60's that I still sing and like and it seems that it could be, should be sung now, nearly 60 years later. It was sung by the Youngbloods, and here is one of the verses and its chorus:

If you hear the song I sing
You will understand,
You hold the key to love and fear
All in your trembling hand
Just one key unlocks them both
It's there at your command

Chorus:

Come on People now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now

It feels so foreign to hear a call to “get together” and “to love one another right now.” We can't even see each other! These are days of paradox and contradiction even in the midst of fear and disease and enormous social change. When we get together, we might infect each other. When we are apart, we can't have the difficult conversations that are the beginning of understanding and healing of the pain and injustice that so many in our nation have suffered and endured.

And when we know God most dearly, and experience his son so fully in relationship to one another we worship together—remotely.

Yet as we are left wondering just how long it will be before we are sitting in a pew looking out the window at the garden, and just how long before we can say prayers together and sing hymns together...

We are left wondering in what is truly a wondrous moment. We are far apart and yet held together knowing that we are called together by song and the Word and prayer in Sunday worship. We are far apart and yet together when we lift up in prayer so many who are struggling in these days. We are far apart and yet together when we see a future filled with our fellowship, with our renewed friendships, and with our deepened faithfulness.

Continues on the next page...

REFLECTIONS

Robert Jones

The "Economy"....what exactly does that word mean?

I've heard that word said so many times in my life,
yet never thought of it in quite this way
The Lord has provided each of us with a "stipend", a "coupon"
...it comes printed in the form of each new day

Every morning when the sun first rises, each of us is given
a very precious and generous allowance to spend
There is great value, measured by 24 hours, that He extends to us,
along with a message only He can send

That there is such a great price that each of us must pay
for the privilege of living the days we've been given
Each new day that comes and goes has a very distinct cost...
it is the result of now having one less day of livin'

So how will you choose to spend your days?
Do you recognize the treasure that you hold?
Do you look at each day in the same ol' way,
as just another worthless day until you grow old

Or do you look at each moment with joy and gratitude,
for the fact there are going to be only so many
Some will sadly live a relatively few number of years,
but know that the quality of their life was full of plenty

Others may live for 100 or more years, yet look back
regrettably and wonder why they wasted
So many of those days just surviving or existing,
not able to recall any sweetness that was tasted

There are those whose health and physical condition
sets limits upon what activities they might have done
But if their hearts are filled with the presence of the Lord,
they'll receive joy beyond all measure from the Son

The question I pose applies to every one of us and
I ask it with genuine love and concern
How will you say that you spent your day,
did you waste it or did you finally learn

That yesterday is gone, it shall never return, and with it
went the precious price that you gladly or sadly paid.
Pay yourself back each day with the kindness, forgiveness,
mercy and love that you've shared
...and the peace with God and yourself...that you've made.

May God Bless you all.

GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

Stanley Dong, Historian

Brotherhood Month

During the ministry of Dr. Richard Bower and continued by Rev. William Trump, there was the practice of an annual exchange of sermons with congregation of Temple B'nai Hayim. This exchange was in observance of Brotherhood Month (in February). The Temple is located on Van Nuys Blvd at Benefit Street (two blocks south of Ventura Blvd). COTC ministers would preach at the Temple on Friday evening, and a Rabbi would be with us on the following Sunday morning.

This tradition began in February 1986 when Rabbi Sheldon Weltman shared our pulpit. It was preceded by Dr. Richard Bower preaching at the Temple in its regular Friday evening service. This tradition continued for a number of years, but stopped and never resumed again. This writer cannot remember when or exactly why. It may have been due to a vacancy in the pulpit of Temple B'nai Hayim.

It is recalled that there was no exchange of worship services in the second year. But Rabbi Weltman did address our Women's Association in February 1987, at their monthly meeting, as their Brotherhood Month activity. In the following year, the exchange of worship services was back on track with Rabbi Weltman at our Sunday service and Dr. Bower at their Friday meeting.

With the passing of Rabbi Weltman in 1991, Rabbi Sally Olins assumed the ministry of Temple B'nai Hayim. She has been in our pulpit every Sunday of this exchange since 1992. Rabbi Olins is a dynamic orator with a very distinctive voice, and she has always had our congregation hanging onto every thought and word in her sermon. Our congregation always looks forward to her visit. With the retirement of Dr. Bower in 1995, this tradition was continued by Rev. William S. Trump. His inspirational messages have had an equally profound effect on our Jewish brethren. To this writer, Rabbi Olins' appearance always reminded him of Joan Rivers!

This celebration of Brotherhood Month enables the participation of both congregations. The opportunity for members on both sides enabled everyone to learn more about the two faiths. Also, we were able to meet people who are part of our community. At one of these Sunday services, this writer had the pleasure of seeing a former (Jewish) neighbor, whose daughter was our baby-sitter and whose youngest son was our son's friend and grammar schoolmate. And it was so nice to renew this friendship, after an absence of over twenty years. Brotherhood Month serves to remind all of us that only through mutual understanding, compassion and neighborly help will brotherly love be possible.

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Faithfully Yours continued...

So even in the Dog Days of August let us be thankful once again for the God who loves each of us so fully, and for God's son who loves us and guides us and whose life and death and life again are the fulfillment of God's unconditional and everlasting love!

Beginning the Conversation on Race relations *Zoom in with us!*

This is a time when our nation is examining what changes must be made to insure justice for all people.

We have posted an interview with Dr. Bernice King, who is Dr. Martin Luther King's daughter with Judd Wilhite, the pastor of Central Church in Las Vegas, NV. She helps us understand how the church can be a compelling voice.

We invite you to watch it. We will then have discussion via ZOOM later this month, as the beginning of the sometimes difficult but critical conversations about all the dimensions of the call for racial justice.

If you are interested in being a part of the discussion, please let me know through the church office (office@congregationalchurchofthechimes.org) or you may email Rev. Peek (curtispeek201@gmail.com) or Dr. Bingham (ebingham@churchofthechimes.org).

WHERE IS OUR DIRECTORY?

This is the question that has been asked a lot lately. Lifeline's operations were suspended for a while so we are just now in the queue to be caught up. It is now the time lag to be sure that all of the contact information we have for you is accurate.

So if phone numbers or email addresses or your addresses have changed recently, or if you want to monitor what information if any we include in the directory, please call the office! We will update our records and if you choose not to include your contact information we will be sure not to include that in the directory. We would like to have that information by **August 15**. Although there is undoubtedly a back up we hope for a quick turn around time.

Thank you so much!

Life is an endless series of tiny miracles...Take them in...

THE ENTIRE CHURCH OF THE CHIMES CAMPUS IS CLOSED!

INCLUDING THE OFFICE.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL DR. BINGHAM'S LAND LINE (747) 264-0285.

IF YOUR NEED IS OF A LESS URGENT NATURE, PLEASE CALL (818) 789-7124

AND/OR SEND AN EMAIL <office@churchofthechimes.org>.

Messages will be responded to in a timely manner.

A Message from our Moderator, Sylvia McCormick

I know we are all unhappy about not being together. I don't know if you feel as I do when you watch the Sunday service, but I feel like I am sitting in my usual pew, and that Beth, Curtis, Greg, Alan and Jane are looking directly at me, and talking to me. It is a comforting feeling. I hope you all are enjoying the Sunday service and the daily devotions. It keeps us all close.

The council has met only once, and there is no plan to meet again in the near future. Plans are being kept in mind for all the things we have not been able to do, but will be able to eventually.

Blessings and good health to everyone. Until we meet again, Sylvia

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, MEDITATION, MOTIVATION AND DEVOTIONALS

STREAMING LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Sunday Worship Service — 10:30am Every Sunday Morning

Sermon Topics for August:

August 2: Rev. Peek is preaching

August 9: "Turn Coat" (Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28)

August 16: "Smile on your Brothers" (Genesis 25: 1-15)

August 23: "Body Parts" (Roman 12: 1-8)

August 30: "Hospitably Yours" (Roman 12: 9-21)

10 at 10 — 10 minute devotional at 10am every weekday

Lively and Relevant Conversations with Beth & Curtis

Videos of past Sermons and Devotionals are on Facebook and YouTube

Woman's Bible Study with Jane — Wednesday at 7:00pm via ZOOM

Continuing with the Simple Relevance Series:

"Savor the Moments" - 6 sessions on Patience began on July 1st.

Join in whenever you can.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Robert Jones, Chair

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD WHEN WE GATHER TOGETHER AGAIN

At Church Of The Chimes there are various boards and committees in which members can actively play a role in the responsibility of leading, as well as reaching out to those in need, wherever they may be.

We thank those currently serving on Boards and Committees for continuing to do so until we can have the Annual Meeting.

We encourage everyone to join in the effort to spread the Good News of the Lord. For those who do not currently serve on a board or committee, we invite you to consider the various positions where vacancies currently exist. Through offering your time and talents, you will be helping Church of the Chimes on our continuing path, as a vibrant and deeply caring church. If interested please let the church office know. Thank you.

THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING

"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

AND I SAID "Here I am; send me!" ISAIAH 6:8

It's time to feel good...

This moment, too, is worth living to its fullest...Please, allow yourself to accept the goodness of this moment— whether happiness comes to you in the form of a hot mug of coffee...wearing comfy clothes, while reading your favorite book...or doing nothing at all. Accept that this moment is your moment to enjoy, just like any other.

When you come to the edge of all the light you have known and are about to step out into the darkness, FAITH is knowing one of two things will happen... There will be something to stand on or You will be taught how to fly.

*Hope is hearing the melody of the future;
Faith is dancing to it today.* -Ruben Alvarez

GET AMUSED...



I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6 foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are 🤔🤔

I know this. When this ends— AND IT WILL—every game will sell out, every restaurant will have a 2-hour wait, every kid will be glad to be in school, everyone will love their job, the stock market will skyrocket, every other house will get TP'd, and we'll all embrace and shake hands. That's gonna be a pretty good day.
Hang in there, World.

If your Mom doesn't have an old gift bag filled with other old gift bags, is she even a Mom?



I just Clorox wiped a bottle of Purell and Purelled my hands cuz I touched the Clorox canister.
How far down a rabbit hole does this go?



what doesn't kill you gives you a lot of unhealthy coping mechanisms and a really dark sense of humour



THE CHURCH OF THE CHIMES IS LIVE ON-LINE



If you need help connecting to and/or otherwise utilizing any of these on-line tools, please call the church office and we'll find someone to get you started.



Visit our website:
<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChimes>
Find an abundance of information regarding all the various activities on campus; listen to audios of past sermons, plus you can view past copies of Chiming In and/or request future editions be emailed to you....

Visit, Like, Share, follow our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChimes/>
View up-to-date information on programs and live stream events such as Sunday Services and Daily Devotionals (10 at 10 with Beth).

Visit various productions on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLj2TLj2XfbBtgAOY0rjA>
Weekly Worship Services and Daily Devotions are now available on YouTube. We'll keep you posted as we add other things.

Get this app on your smart devices and then arrange conference call events to meet with Church Boards, Committees, Bible Studies* and/or other groups up to 100 participants.
*e.g., Wednesday night Women's Bible Study with Jane.
<https://zoom.us/meetings>

Let's Keep In Touch
When we can't embrace we can send our love through the mail.
If you know someone who would love to receive a card or note from the Women's Association. Please call or send an email with their name, address & phone number to the Church office
office@churchofthechimes.org
818789-7124
-or-
Joi Staves
joistaves@gmail.com
818-648-1638
We believe in no one being left out; it's always nice to receive a note

Band of Prayer
A church that prays together, stays together
Especially during these challenging and uncertain times when we are separated by the need for social distancing and don't know what happens next...
What is certain is that God is with us, filling in the spaces between us and He hears our prayers.
Band of Prayer requests may be sent via email to Sylvia McCormick; miss_daisy1226@yahoo.com or feel free to call or email the Church Office; office@churchofthechimes.org 818-789-7124
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

TRUSTEE NEWS

Greg Abbott, Chair

The Trustees met on July 14, and John VanVeen, our Treasurer, gave us a comprehensive report on our financial situation. It is obvious that we are in an unprecedented time, one none of us has seen in our lifetime. As we navigate through these difficult financial times, we are blessed to have the contributions from the congregation, income from our various endowments and a pool that provides it fair share.

Given that we have retained all staff, which is our single biggest budget item, and with only a relatively small amount of savings on utilities, these income sources unfortunately do not meet our expenses. Fortunately John identified other sources to meet our need including a surplus left from last year's budget. Additionally, we received the money from the Payroll Protection Act which will soon be depleted. However it appears other government stimulus plans are in the works from which we may be able receive funds.

As other things ever so slowly open up we will start to receive income from our other sources. With the filming industry's push to get back to work, we are starting to get some parking, plus inquiries on filming. And hopefully, following public health directives, we will be able to open our campus for additional facility use income before too long.

Needless to say, the Trustees are going to have to keep a vigilant watch over expenses over the next months, and will only be moving forward with those capital improvement projects deemed extremely necessary. For example, the Chapel roof is on its last legs.

We will get through this together. Our thanks to the congregation for keeping up with your estimate of giving, as you can, and if you can, consider giving a little extra. Until next time, Greg

DEACON NEWS

Nancy Nelsen, Chair

The prepackaged communion sets are in stock in the office, and ready for use when we can safely reunite for worship, following all the safety guidelines. Hopefully right now you are able to stay connected through the Sunday 10:30am online service, daily devotions at 10am and Jane's Women's Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via ZOOM.

We continue to pray for everyone in our church family. We are thankful for each donation we receive for the Angel Fund. The fund continues to be available for members and friends of the church with financial emergencies.

If you need any assistance for prayers, financial needs, or just somebody to talk to, contact Beth, Curtis, or the church office. We are trying to reach out to as many church members by email, regular mail, and by text or phone. If you are able please join the effort for us all to stay connected.

May God keep you safe and healthy and bless our church family.

Thanks, hope you are staying well, Nancy

JANE'S CORNER continued...

Please know your thoughts DO matter, and things WILL get better. If you need anything COTC is here for you! I'm going to close this note by adding something to the *findmywellbeing.com* piece I started this story with ~

Instead of:

"God where are you? I need you."

Try:

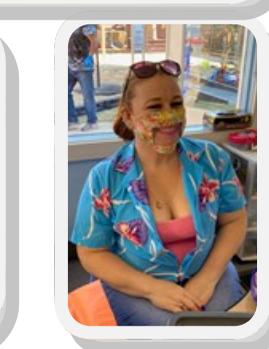
"I know you are here God, right beside me.

I just have to listen and look for your messages of guidance and support!"

Blessings and Love, Jane

Wear a mask...Save a life!

Masks with our Church Logo are available for purchase in the church office. Plus our dear Jane Poole, who has made masks for so many, designed one for the Preschool team that allow the kids to see their teachers' smiles.



Masked above from l to r are Ally Baker, Beth Bingham, Lindsay Hill, Jennifer Lee, Curtis Peek, Jane Poole, Rookie, Laurie Cole, Susan Hines, Laura Rhea and Cynthia Perez

JANE'S CORNER

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

Your Thoughts Matter

Instead of:

"I'm a mess!"

"I can't do this."

"I'm a failure."

"Why is this happening?"

Try:

"I'm human."

"I can do hard things."

"I'm learning to do new things."

"What is this teaching me?"

I get messages on a frequent basis, like the one above, from the online site called *findmywellbeing.com*. The posts are thought provoking and support a person's mental health. I really try to take advantage of their messages by reflecting on, or, practicing the suggested approach to be mentally healthier. Mental health isn't something to be ashamed of. We all should acknowledge not only is it important to be physically healthy, but mentally healthy as well.

During this roller coaster of life right now, occasionally I find myself spiraling from a mental health standpoint. I'm learning to give myself permission to feel this way. The toll of the pandemic can weigh heavily on me, along with all the other things that would normally weigh on my heart. Yes, I do rely on God for support, but honestly, even though I rationally know God's support is always there, sometimes I can't clearly see God's messages in the thick fog of COVID.

I'm doing things to help, like quiet prayer, not reading the newspaper every day, and taking TV news breaks regularly. I love our Woman's Bible Study group as we are open, honest and support each other in our gatherings. I also have to admit, the Hallmark Channel with its predictable story arcs has now become part of my TV viewing. And that's ok. The simplicity of the stories allow me to just chill and not think about anything in particular, when I escape to the little town the movies are set in. My summer books help too.

My point here is to stay healthy from a mental health standpoint. Be kind to yourself, give yourself permission to not feel 100%, and check out of the every day heaviness by partaking in mind distracting activities – blowing bubbles, puzzles (why is it I always do the corners first?), coloring books, handiwork such as knitting, crochet, needlepoint, painting-by-numbers, taking walks, and of course, reading.

Continues on the next page...

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

Last week I brought to the "I'm Awesome ~ Here's Why" book to the homes of our Sunday session kids, . Based on an outline I developed, it's a book they will creatively put together with written word, through drawings, photography and other 3-D images. We'll be checking in with each other to catch up via ZOOM shortly. I'm so looking forward to seeing all the kids!

Our Woman's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday evening at 7pm via ZOOM . All women are invited! Email me if you would like to join our group. Our gatherings are insightful, honest and loving!

Blessings & Hugs, Jane

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

Our preschool summer session concluded on July 31st without incident. All the guidelines Ally so diligently implemented for keeping everyone safe are now tried and true, and will be followed when classes resume in September.

For more information about the Preschool, *Parent & Me Program* and/or future school events, contact the Church Office (818) 789-7124 or email Ally at <preschool@churchofthechimes.org>.

COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICES NEWS

Diane Delaney, Chair

We are grateful that despite the difficult times the CWS Board has been able to continue monthly gifts to the North Hollywood Food pantry.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Natalie Karp, Chair

We are delighted that our Women's Association has awarded three scholarships to students at LA Valley College. The scholarships are under the guidance of Maryam Jonas and target women studying in areas of Science,

GREAT RECIPE of the MONTH

A favorite dish from the potluck brunch after Easter Sunrise Service:

Joann Weisbard's Mexican Medley

2–4 oz. Cans Diced Chiles (Ralph's works well)

2 medium Tomatoes, chopped

Grease a 9x9 pan and sprinkle chiles and tomatoes on the bottom.

In a bowl, beat till smooth:

1 Cup Bisquick
1 Cup milk
2 eggs

Pour over the chile-tomato mixture.

Cover with 1 Cup of grated cheese.

Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.

ENJOY!



AUGUST 2020



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<u>2</u> 10:30am Worship Service Live on Line via Facebook	<u>3</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>4</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>5</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study via ZOOM	<u>6</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>7</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>1</u>
<u>9</u> 10:30am Worship Service Live on Line via Facebook	<u>10</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	11 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	12 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study via ZOOM	<u>13</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>14</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>8</u> <u>15</u>
<u>16</u> 10:30am Worship Service Live on Line via Facebook	17 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>18</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>19</u> BLOOD DRIVE TODAY!! 10:00am—5:00pm BH 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study via ZOOM	20 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>21</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> 10:30am Worship Service Live on Line via Facebook	<u>24</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>25</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>26</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study via ZOOM	<u>27</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>28</u> 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>29</u>
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