

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



***"It's all about
lifting other's spirits,
—the good medicine—
we all have within us."***

December 2023

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
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14115 Magnolia Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

 <i>Sherman Oaks</i>	<p><i>All are Welcome to Sunday Service 10:30am</i></p> <p><i>faith</i></p>
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SCAN ME



 www.Churchofthechimes.org
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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Faithfully Yours

When I was growing up Advent calendars were very special in our household. We would try to find new ones every year, sometimes with Santa, sometimes with the crèche scene. We loved opening up each little window to see the little picture knowing that each time we opened a window Christmas was one day sooner.

Somehow Advent calendars have exploded in our world, without always, I suspect, understanding what Advent means in the faithful tradition. I have to smile when I consider the options these days—options far beyond Santa and crèche scenes. You can now get milk chocolate Advent calendars, wine calendars, tea calendars, brain teasing and puzzle calendars. There are Star Wars and Jurassic Park and Chakra calendars. National Geographic has a magic Advent calendar (which makes me wonder if the magic is making Santa come sooner than expected). The one that has tempted me is the rubber duckie Calendar—rubber duckies being favorites in our family from the oldest to the youngest of us.

But while I might chuckle at the explosion of the season, I am saddened by what is almost an exploitation of the season—because Advent is more than counting down days until we can open our presents. Advent is a time of preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. Advent is a time of reflection and meditation. Its tone can be more somber than celebratory as we pause in awe at the gift God gave us: God's own son whose life and death and life again define us.

Each Sunday an Advent candle will be lit during our worship. We will remember whose birth we are celebrating and the gifts He has given us: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May we be inspired to live in the light of those candles, and spread the true meaning of Christmas in all we are and all we do.

With love and faith, Beth

SERMON TOPICS FOR DECEMBER

December 3	<i>Comfort Care</i> (Isaiah 40: 1-11)
December 10	Children and Youth Christmas pageant
December 17	<i>Mother Mary</i> (Luke 1:26-38)
December 24	10:30am: <i>Cup of Joe</i> (Luke 2:1-7) 7pm Family Service: <i>Baby Jesus</i> (Luke 2:1-20) 11pm Candlelight Service; <i>Starry Starry Night</i> (Luke 2:1-20)

DECEMBER 2023 HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ **LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST from 6pm to 8pm beginning on the Hamilton House Patio** singing Christmas Carols and barring no emergency calls, the good firefighter from Station 88 will arrive at 6:30pm to take the PoleStar to the top of the Hazeltine Redwood tree to officially start our Christmas celebration.
- ⇒ **MAGNOLIA MARKETPLACE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD from 11:30am to 2:30pm on the Hazeltine Lawn**
- ⇒ **COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH at 6:30pm in Dreier Hall**
- ⇒ **BOUQUET CIRCLE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 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, DECEMBER 9TH at 10:00am in Dreier Hall:** Anyone interested in participating on this Board may contact Natalie Karp, our Board Chair (nataliefkarp@mac.com).
- ⇒ **TRUSTEE MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH at 6:30pm in Hamilton House.**
- ⇒ **VESPERS: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 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.
- ⇒ **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 December 10th in Dreier Hall at 11:45 am. Please feel free to join in anytime for lively and interesting discussions.

MAGNOLIA MARKETPLACE

at Congregational Church of the Chimes

1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Neighborhood Family Gathering!



**LOCAL ARTISANS
FOOD TRUCKS
JUMPING CASTLE
& MORE!**



SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS IN THE VALLEY!

14115 MAGNOLIA BLVD NOV 5TH 11:30AM-2:30PM

Check it out! Sneak Peek of Vendors!



Magnets by Deb



Maggies Boutique



Hot Rocks Jewels



Bloom with Cara
Coaching and Mentoring



Carina Klinikin
Massage Therapy



**FREE
Bounce
House**

WILL HE DO IT?

“And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, ‘Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!’ And God granted him that which he requested.” ~ 1 Chronicles 4:10

Just like God favored Jabez, He will grant your request to be used by Him. To have an enlarged territory is to increase your influence among people and to be used by God.

As God opens doors we must become more sensitive to His voice and His will. If you want to be used by God, seek to fit in with His timing. Be willing to wait, if necessary. Be careful not to “invent” your own messages, claiming that they came from God.

Today, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Be ready to do God’s will, in His time, and in His way. Don’t depend on your flesh or the reactions of other people. Trust in Him to guide you as you wait on Him. **Believe it! Curtis**

LET US PRAY: Father, I want to speak Your words and do Your will. Guide me. Open up the doors at the right time and in the right way. Help me to be ready. I submit my life to You. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Merry Christmas!

Reprint from December 2021 Chiming In



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

7pm Family Service: Baby Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)
11pm Candlelight Service: Starry Starry Night (Luke 2:1-20)



JANE'S CORNER

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

How do we get there?

When I first moved here and before GPS, (global positioning system), I had a Thomas Guide to help me get around. I remember sitting at my office desk looking at the Thomas Guide's quadrants to determine how to get to client's offices. It was a tricky & time-consuming process. I was elated when we were introduced to the new technology of Mapquest. My Assistant would just print out the directions and off I went to meetings without the prior frustrations.

Centuries before our current easiness of asking Siri to get us somewhere or using Waze, ships-men used an astrolabe which is an astronomical instrument dating back to ancient times. It served as a star chart, a brilliant device used to determine latitude by observing the altitude and position of the sun, stars, or other planets. The sun and stars were checked several times a day to make sure the ships were still on course. If they were even a fraction off, they could end up miles away from their destination.

Now let's think about the Magi. How brilliant they were! Using just the stars to guide them not even an astrolabe instrument. Just the stars. They were trained astronomers; men of science and knew what the sky could provide. They were a distinguished group of men and as such, were highly respected. Their ability to find Jesus from only one star was a miracle.

That one miraculous guiding star led them to see the new King, our Savior, Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, the three very wise men paying homage to this ever so special infant.

A little background of the Magi; Eastern tradition defines the Magi as a group of 12 however Western tradition sets the number that we are familiar with at three. Their names of Belthasar, Melchior and Gaspar are names that are not accounted for in the Bible but written in a chronical.

As followers of Jesus, we might not use stars to guide us on our faith journey and personal story, but no worries, we have many "instruments" at our disposal we can use to guide us so we won't stray off course; our Bibles, people who share their faith with us, our families, and coming to church. God's Word is the ultimate guide that keeps us on course!

Stay on course this Advent season. For your holiday bucket list, be present instead of focusing on presents. Wrap someone in a hug, instead of concentrating on how to wrap gifts. Instead of brewing on what gifts to give, send love out to those you love. Perhaps while buying holiday food, buy some for people in need. Make endearing memories, and lastly, not only see Christmas lights – BE the LIGHT! May you have a blessed advent season and Christmas!

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

Getting to know you...cont.

total stranger; a grownup or a child. When someone compliments a cross that Cindi is wearing, she knows that said person will value, care for, and wear the cross - she often lets it go.

How did this start? I'll let Cindi tell it in her own words: "I started collecting the crosses on my honeymoon in Big Bear with my first husband (1982). Back then I had the idea to give away my X-Ray pins from attending conferences for work. At a conference in San Jose, I met a young lady who had just finished presenting her paper. I ran into her in the lobby and congratulated her on a fantastic presentation, but she was so down (she was very upset). Long story short, her boyfriend had been killed in a car accident the night before and she had just been told. So I gave her my cross from Big Bear, and prayed with her for peace in her heart, and hoped that she could have solace with the cross. She was so grateful! And she contacted me a few months later to say that she had joined a church and was feeling very blessed. So I continued with giving away the crosses and I enjoy it."

In giving away a cross, Cindi knows that she has a good excuse to go antiquing, or stop at a rummage sale: to invest in a new treasure that she will eventually, and quietly, pass on to another believer. And in so doing the cross necklace will remind us all, the wearer and the admirer, why we are here.



Church of the Chimes INVITES YOU TO "Light Up the Night"...

Friday, December 1ST - 6PM to 8PM

For over 72 years the Church of the Chimes has been a place of prayer, joyous music, nurturing, education, thoughtful contemplation, and reflection—for children, families, and individuals. On this wondrous occasion we invite you to celebrate with us the beginning of this Christmas Season...

CHRISTMAS CAROLING BEGINS AT 6PM ~

POLESTAR AT TOP OF 80' REDWOOD TREE to be mounted at 6:30pm by

FIRE STATION 88 Captian and Crew Please note: Emergency Calls will receive priority attention...

JAZZ BAND will be performing for your enjoyment

MEMORIAL TREE offers opportunity to honor our loved ones

HOT CIDER and COOKIES will be served

MRS. CLAUS WILL BE READING *T'was the Night Before Christmas...*and...

SANTA CLAUS WILL BE HERE TOO!

GETTING TO KNOW...

The Spirit of Giving

By Cindi and Michele

Have you ever given something nice to a total stranger for no reason? I had that experience several times last year when I was crocheting sunflowers in support of Ukraine (their national flower). You probably saw them in the church narthex - I believe there may still be a few around near the prayer cloths or in the church office. I enjoyed making the yarn flowers, and sewed a pin on the back so it could be worn or pinned to a purse, etc. Plus it gave me something productive to do for a situation in which I felt helpless.

If I were out somewhere, say shopping, and someone noticed and/or complimented the sunflower I was wearing, I would give it to them and tell them that the craft ladies at my church were making them in support of Ukraine. To use a phrase from the 1960's: It totally blew their minds! They would graciously, incredulously, accept the little sunflower, and by their kind words and smile I knew that we had briefly struck some commonality. What did it cost me? Virtually nothing - a little yarn, some creativity, and maybe 20 minutes spent crocheting while watching the nightly news.

So let's upgrade that a bit to the story I'm now going to share with you: It's about our own Cindi Olson. Cindi collects cross necklaces. Jewelry sale at the Golden West Fair? Cindi will be looking through our collection of donated religious jewelry and pick out a pretty cross to buy. Antiquing? Cindi foregoes the furniture and knickknacks in favor of the jewelry case, searching for a unique antique cross necklace that needs a home.

Cindi has quite a collection - some valuable, some not - but each one is intrinsically beautiful and unique. She wears them and will, on occasion, give them away. Why? Because she feels that she is just housing them temporarily, that crosses celebrate Christ's ministry on earth, and that they should be worn often and by many diverse people. The recipient can be a friend or a

Submitted by Michele Marot



DEACON NEWS

Greg Abbott, Chair

So this is the biggest time of the year for the Deacons, Christmas Families. As you all know by now, The Childrens Bureau is Setting up a store so that families can shop rather than have gifts bought for them. Wish lists have been distributed and the shopping has begun. Bring the gifts to the office or to Church by December 5 so that The Childrens Bureau can pick them up by Friday or earlier. Happy shopping and Merry Christmas! Greg

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

Upcoming events for the Preschoolers in December include the Holiday luncheon on December 6th at 12:15 pm in Bower Hall, followed by the children singing holiday songs with the members of the Bouquet Circle joining us. On December 8th will be the Christmas Pageant. School will then be dismissed for the rest of the year, so that everyone will have time to enjoy their Christmas holidays and rest up for the new year.

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 year's Christmas Pageant, "From our Hearts to Yours" is a compilation of monologues and focuses on the main characters from the Biblical story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The pageant will take place during the December 10th worship service. Please come to enjoy the pageant and support our church's youth!

The youth Christmas party will be on December 22nd. All aged kids are invited to come for dinner and games. We'll make s'mores, play antler toss, have a "snow ball" fight, a Christmas wrap relay, do a Christmas limbo, and enjoy a white elephant gift exchange.

Let Jane know if your youth will be coming.

Submitted by Jane Poole





December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 <u>LIGHT UP THE NIGHT</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Group	2 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
3 <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	4 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	5 <u>COUNCIL MEETING</u> <u>Dreier Hall ~ 6:30pm</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	6 <u>BOUQUET CIRCLE</u> <u>11:30am -1:00pm ~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 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	8 9:00am Preschool Pageant 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Grp 7:00pm Palabra Rhema Preschool Break Begins	9 <u>WA BOARD MEETING</u> <u>10:00 am in Dreier Hall</u> 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
10 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	11 <u>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	12 <u>TRUSTEE MEETING</u> <u>Hamilton House ~ 6:30pm</u> 10:00am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	13 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE/BH 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower	14 <u>VESPERS ~ 6:30pm*</u> *Subject to change... 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	15 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm RPC/Recovery Group 7:00pm Palabra Rhema Last day of gymnastics	16 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
17 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	18 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	19 10:00am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	20 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ Bower	21 10:00 am 10 at 10 7:00pm Cub Scouts	22 <u>Office & Preschool Closed</u> 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10	23
24 <u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u> <u>7pm & 11pm Svcxs.</u> 10:00am MAIC Worship Svc 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 3:00pm Palabra Rhema 7:30pm Al Anon ~ Dreier NEW YEARS EVE → 31	25 <u>MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY</u> 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	26 10:00am Craft Creation ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	27 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ Bower	28 10:00am 10 at 10	29 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10	30