CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES



FEBRUARY 2022

Chiming In

NEWS AND EVENTS OF THE

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

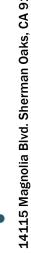




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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

FAITHFULLY YOURS

Growing up, the month of February was chock full of good stuff: my mom, my sister and my grandpa all had birthdays so there was lots of cake (and on my sister's birthday always a little present for me too). Abraham Lincoln and George Washington each had their own day so we always made silhouettes of each and usually had some cherry dessert on February 22. And of course, Valentine's Day: Parties at school where everybody got a card from everybody else. Heart-shaped sugar cookies, red punch and, hopefully, lots of chocolate!

As I grew older I began to appreciate more of the month. Days were short, it was dark, and living in Wisconsin we couldn't escape snow and cold. And often Ash Wednesday was a shadowy reminder of the road to the cross.

These days, and this year, there is more to appreciate. The days are still short, but I see the sky lightening earlier each morning, and the sun sets just a few minutes later, so there is daylight coming for my waking up and getting home. While Ash Wednesday isn't until March, I can feel the bright light of the Transfiguration brightening the gray quiet and somber 40 days of Lent.

And this year, in 2022, all of us are hoping for and praying for the end of this latest surge! We are anxious to be together, to break bread together (and after worship drink coffee and eat cookies and cake together). We want to sit together to study the Bible, to sing songs, and to have weekend dinners in Hamilton House. We want to be able to go to any store any time.

It is hard to believe that it was two years ago when we became aware of Covid 19 and in the months ahead began to realize how serious and widespread it was. Looking back we will know a lot more about disease, and viruses, and vaccines, and immunity. We will continue to mourn the lives lost and the ways in which the contagion had such tragic effects on so many people.

But we will also realize, I pray, that we have learned much about each other, about how to care for each other by staying physically apart but close in every other respect. We will have a new understanding about how we protect one another. We will have new ways of communicating which will continue—my five baseball mom friends and I still zoom twice a month and will keep it up so that even if we are apart by miles, we are close by smiles.

We have learned to be resilient. We have learned to be intuitive and creative. And I know, in the depths of my soul, that God has been with us through it all—through it all. God has been and will be with us, through it all.

With deep affection, Beth

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Barbara Downs, Chair

Due to the recent COVID surge, the Super Kids and BE Bold youth group are gathering for the time being via Zoom. As soon as things calm down, we'll resume our in-person gatherings to explore relevant Bible topics as well as having social activities. The second Sunshine and Shadows quilt with Emoji art will be raffled off during the Lenten season, and the children and youth will present the Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday. We plan on viewing a movie in the spring tied to the church's Racial Equity initiative, and we hope to start a kid's docent group to showcase the Staves Chapel's stained glass windows for the congregation to view, as well as putting together a Children's Choir.

We will be hosting the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" on February 13th and 20th. It's NFL vs. AFL. Let's raise some money for this very worthy cause!

In mid-January the Woman's Bible Study group began a new study entitled, "It's All Under Control". All women are welcome to join this caring, insightful group. Please contact Jane for information on how to join in!

Submitted by Jane Poole

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

Enrollment and registration for 2022-2023 school year is now open. The preschool program begins at 2 yrs. 7 months through 5 years.

The Parent & Me Program offers a class on Thursdays from 9am-11am.

For more information on our preschool or parent & me program, please contact the church office or preschool@churchofthechimes.org at any time.

MORE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dr. Bingham

Membership Class: Date TBD

We are looking forward to having a class for anyone interested in becoming a member or simply learning more about our Congregational tradition and the history and organization of our church. The class will be an introduction—and those interested in joining will be welcomed into membership during a worship service in the near future.

Membership is important in a congregational church because members make all the decisions for the church; each person is important & your voice is always welcome. Members can also serve on church boards or as church officers.

HOWEVER, we are still waiting until the worst of the surge is over—we would like to be able to have an in-person meeting—with remote access for those who are a part of our fellowship but far away or needing to be at home.

We will announce the date as soon as we have one—if you are interested please give us a call so we can reach out to you when the date and time are set. Hopefully it will be this month!

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Great Wall of "Los Angeles / Valley Glen"

Did you know there is a spectacular muraled wall here in our neighborhood that runs along the Tujunga viaduct paralleling Coldwater Canyon? The Great Wall of LA illustrates the diversity and history of the SFV and LA through images of significant figures & historic events from diverse and traditionally marginalized communities.

The mural is on the west wall of the Tujunga Flood Control Channel in the Valley Glen/North Hollywood area. It was painted between 1974 and 1984 by teams of young people and artist supervisors. Chicana muralist Judith F. Baca, working with the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), was primarily responsible for the artistic vision & subject matter depicted in the mural. The Great Wall is one of the largest murals in the world, 13.5 feet high and 2,754 feet long, stretching over half a mile. The west wall of the channel functions as a canvas for the mural located in a section of the channel bounded by Oxnard St. to the north, Coldwater Canyon Blvd to the east, Burbank Blvd to the south, and the Coldwater Canyon Extension road/a parking lot to the west.

The mural is arranged in paneled.

Great Wall of LA Featured Titled Segment ~ "Bridget "Biddy" Mason

Bridget "Biddy" Mason was born into slavery in 1818 and was sold multiple times (let that sink in for a moment), with the final time being to Robert Smith, a Mormon from Mississippi. Biddy followed the Smith family and others in a caravan walking by foot for 1,700 grueling miles to California, which was—unbeknownst by Smith—a free state. She legally contested her slave status along with 13 of her family members and won freedom. She used her midwife skills to birth hundreds of babies and saved her earnings for many years amassing over three million dollars over time. With her well earned money, she became a prominent LA home & land owner, philanthropist & a key founder of the AME church in LA. There is a memorial wall in downtown LA @ 333 S.Spring St. if you want to learn more about this remarkable woman.

chronologically connected segments depicting eras of California's history from prehistoric times through the 1960s. The scenes emphasize the role played by Native Americans, Latinos (focusing on those with Mexican heritage, sometimes self-identified as Chicano/a), African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish Americans in creating California's culture. Its imagery highlights themes such as immigration, exploitation of people and land, women's rights, class distinctions, racism and racial equality, and the struggle for gay and lesbian rights. The artistic style of the mural reflects the Chicano/a mural movement of the 1970's and Mexican muralists of the 1930's using colors steeped in rescinding perspective. The panel's compositions blend into each other, comprising six sections with 86 titled segments mostly organized by decade. Take some time to visit the Great Wall of LA to learn more about our roots as Angelinos!

(Sources: LA Wall Website; The Valley Glen Newsletter, Fall 2021)

Blessings and love, Jane

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ~ Philippians 4:6

When you pray, how much of your prayer is spent praising and thanking God, and how much is spent making requests? What's wrong with having too little gratitude in your prayers?

We should take advantage of every opportunity we get to say "thank You" to God in prayer. That's good advice whether we're feeling incredibly happy or incredibly down. If we're happy, our joy will be multiplied by sharing our gratitude with the One who made it possible. If we're down, we'll feel better when we focus on the good things God is doing in our life.

Too often our prayers, even during our family devotions, sound like a fast-food order: "I'd like good grades for my math test, a successful surgery for my grandmother, and a way to make \$250 before spring break. Amen."

The problem with that approach is that it's one-sided. Prayer should be a conversation, a way of exercising and celebrating our relationship with God. Constant asking does not make for a good relationship.

If we're serious about having a relationship with God, a good rule of thumb is to begin our prayers with praise and thanksgiving. That way, if we run out of time, we will have gotten to the important, relationship-building part.

God will take care of our needs and honor our requests. He proves that every day. So, will we honor him with our thanks?

LET US PRAY: Dear God, thank You for our family and for time to come together in devotion. Forgive us for the times we forget to tell You how much we appreciate what You've done. Please help us remember Your work in our lives. Amen.

Believe it! Curtis Happy Valentine's Day!

Join us in the Sanctuary or Streaming Live

Sunday Worship Service* — 10:30am Every Sunday Morning 10@10* — 10 minute devotional at 10am every weekday Lively and relevant chats with Beth (MW*F) & Curtis (TTH)

*Wednesdays' 10 at 10 offer a mini-Bible study in preparation for Sunday's Sermon. *VIDEOS of past Sermons and Devotionals are on Facebook and YouTube.

TRUSTEE NEWS

Curtis Leseman, Chair

The Trustee Board held its meeting on January 18, 2022 by zoom. The Treasurer's report showed a positive cash flow for the month of December while the year to date numbers are still negative. We have had good income from the filming and parking. There is interest for the future by the film industry which could yield good income in the new year. We are preparing the budget for 2022 and hope to present it to the Congregation by the end of February. Thank you to all who returned the Estimate of Giving Cards!

In other news: The Dreier Hall kitchen remodel has been completed, the Boy Scouts have completed their Eagle Project to install a fence around the oak tree, we are continuing to do maintenance items on campus, and we will be pursuing bids for patching of the parking area.

We hope you all have a wonderful New Year.

Respectfully submitted, Curtis Leseman

OUR STEWARDSHIP DRIVE: Stewardship: A way of living...

Estimate of Giving cards are available in the office for those who have not yet submitted one. Knowing the potential level of giving helps the church immensely as we continue to serve the needs of our church community. Thank you for the blessing of your generosity!

WOMEN ASSOCIATION NEWS

Natalie Fransconi-Karp, Chair

The Women's Association Board met on January 22 via Zoom to discuss our 2021 accomplishments which included providing three scholarships for LAVC students, the reupholstering of chairs around campus, and helping oversee the remodeling of Dreier Hall's kitchen! We also discussed future COTC improvement projects we would like to sponsor. For now, we are planning to go ahead with our two annual rummage sales as well as the Golden West Fair & Holiday Boutique, but are currently putting the Bouquet Circle and Vespers Dinners on hold due to the pandemic surge.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

Diane Delaney, Chair

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

And I said "Here I am; send me!" ISAIAH 6:8

FEBRUARY 2022 HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST at 6:30pm
- ⇒ RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 10AM-5PM
- ⇒ ZOOM RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUP: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 at 1pm Our Racial Equity Discussion is a place where all views are welcomed as we continue to learn from one another. If you want to find out more about this group, please contact, Beth, Curtis or Diane Delaney.
- ⇒ ZOOM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH at 7pm
- ⇒ zoom VESPERS: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17тн at 6:30pm
 All women of the church are invited to gather, typically at 6:30pm on the
 3rd Thursday of each month. The date is subject to change depending on
 availability of majority. Natalie will send out an email with info as to where
 when and/or how we will be gathering. Please join us if you can!
- ⇒ PRAISE THE PROSE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH at 12NOON in Dreier Hall COTC's New Writer's Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month. All ages who are interested are welcome.
- ⇒ CONGREGATIONALISM CLASS: SUNDAY, TBD, after worship
 Interested in becoming a member of COTC? Want to learn more about our church and the history of Congregationalists? Date TBD: Coming soon!
- ⇒ VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2022 HOMELESS COUNT: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
 The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count was rescheduled; COTC is hosting the Sherman Oaks count on February 22nd from 7pm −11pm. If interested in participating in this event feel free to call the office.
- ⇒ NEW CRAFT CREATIONS: TUESDAYS at 9:30am in Dreier Hall
- ⇒ BROWN BAG BIBLE: TUESDAYs at 12noon in Dreier Hall
 Although currently suspended due to the COVID surge, typically this activity
 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. Join us when were back in session!!!!
- ⇒ zoom WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYs at 7pm
 All women are invited to thise virtual gathering of caring, sharing, loving women on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via zoom. For the link, e-mail Jane Poole at: jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net. See you then.
- ⇒ NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY: The food pantry continues to help the food insecure on our community during the continued hard times we are in. Contributions of BAGGED beans, tuna fish and baby diapers sizes 1, 2, 3 & 4 are needed. Thank you for your continued support.

STAVES CHAPEL STAINED GLASS WINDOWS











1: "Robert Browne" 2: "Faithful are

Imprisoned"

3: "Pilgrims in Holland"

4: "Mayflower Sails" 5: "Plymouth Landing"

DREIER HALL KITCHEN REMODEL



The long-awaited remodel of our Dreier Hall Kitchen has been completed. and it looks fantastic! Check out the Before and After photos, or better yet stop in and see it for yourself! In just 3 short weeks, this outdated kitchen was transformed and modernized. We want to thank Louisa Larez for her donation of a new stove and microwave, George and Diane Delaney for a generous donation to help offset the costs, and Curtis Leseman, Natalie Franscioni-Karp and Diane Delaney for their oversight to ensure the project was completed to our satisfaction. And finally, a big thank you to Quality Home Remodeling Inc. for a great kitchen remodel.

Band of Prayer

A church that prays together, stays together especially during these challenging times when the need for social distancing often separates us... 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!

Let's Keep In Touch

If you know someone who would like to receive a card or note, please send their name, address & phone number to the church office: office@churchofthechimes.org 818-789-7124

We believe in no one being left out; it's always nice to receive a note... "Just Because"





Church of the Chimes BLOOD DRIVE Thursday, February 10th in the Sanctuary Sign up online atwww.churchofthechimes.org

Blood donation is essential to ensuring community health.

COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICE NEWS

Robert Dunn, Chair

COTC'S IS SPREADING LOVE!

The CWS Board, the Women's Craft Group, and Christian Ed are feeling the love this Valentine's Day.

Michele Marot found the Le Bleu Chateau Retirement Center in Burbank that has 75 seniors living there. The CWS Board and the Craft Group decided to work together and distribute cards and gifts to these seniors for Valentine's Day.

The Craft Group came through in a huge way making flower pens, original greeting cards, and potted plants. Christian Education Board will be providing 40 bookmarks, and CWS will be adding remaining cards and gifts. We will take all these gifts to make a special Valentine's Day at Le Bleu Chateau!

As Pastor Beth preached on Sunday January 23rd, we are all parts of the body of Christ and of the church.

CWS, the Craft group, and CE—all working parts of COTC!

TUESDAY MORNING CRAFTING NEWS

Cindi Olson, Leader

Pictured below are the cards and gifts hand made by the Craft Group.



















SERMON TOPICS FOR FEBRUARY:

"Can You hear me now?" (Isaiah 6: 1-8; Luke 5: 1-11) February 6:

~ Communion Sunday

February 13: "Woe is me!" (Luke 6: 16-17)

February 20: "Do Gooders" (Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40)

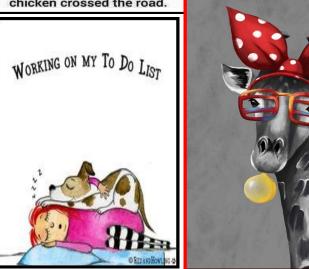
February 27: "The Shining" (Luke 9: 28-36)

GET AMUSED...













How lucky I am to have something that makes





HISTORIAN NEWS

Robert Jones, Historian

STAVES CHAPEL ~ STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The Chapel's stained glass windows depict Congregationalism from our roots in England to the founding of Church of the Chimes. Pictured below along with a description of its significance is the sixth of the Chapel's fourteen stained glass windows entitled "6: Adoption of the Mayflower Compact". The first five of the stained glass windows are on the next page of this publication.



6: ADOPTION OF MAYFLOWER COMPACT:

The compact was drafted to prevent dissent among Pilgrims and non-separatist Pilgrims who had landed at Plymouth. The male heads of Pilgrim and non-Pilgrim families therefore drew up a compact that bound all signers to accept whatever form of government was established after landing. The compact created a "Civil Body Politic" to enact "just and equal laws, Ordinances, Acts Constitutions and Offices." Every adult male had to sign the agreement before going ashore. On November 11, 1620, 41 men signed the document in a cabin on the Mayflower. It would be the first of many American documents influenced by the passion and discipline of this small band of Pilgrims. The 1606 Covenant was perhaps a precursor to the Mayflower Compact. But whereas the Covenant was a strictly congregational document, the Mayflower Compact created a civil estate. The Pilgrims formed a government in which all the people would have a voice in civil and state matters in order to promote the common welfare of the group. This was a first stepping stone toward a constitution that our Founding Fathers created to govern America. The Mayflower Compact was the first written framework of government established in what is now the United States of America. The compact remained in effect until Plymouth was incorporated into the short-lived Dominion of New England in 1686 and subsequently was absorbed into the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1691.

"7: First Thanksgiving" will be featured in the March 2022 Chiming In.

RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

HOW DO WE GET PAST THE FEAR?

~ by George Delaney

As Black history month is upon us, the problems of bigotry and prejudice are brought to the forefront, something that we talk about monthly in our Racial Equity Group zoom meetings (all are welcome to join). I would like to start the conversation by acknowledging there are people in this world that will do you harm. Dangerous people. To ignore this fact would be ignorant, disingenuous, and a danger in itself. I would also like to point out that these people come from all ethnic and socio-economic groups, it's just not "they" or "them" but all groups. This causes us to fear what we consider the "other." We put the "other" in groups because we fear they will try to take our material goods and change our value systems and our lives to make them more like what we suppose "theirs" to be.

So, this is how it starts, the fear. If you examine the other groups, you will find that their value systems are very similar to your own. They value security, family, and love. But we tend to group people by how they look, talk, act, or by their heritage, faith, or sexual orientation. At first glance, we prejudge and predetermine in an attempt to categorize those around us to protect ourselves from danger. It may seem harmless to say this group all does this or all likes that, but it leads to fearing other groups that you believe are not like your own. We often believe the other groups to be inferior and that they may be harmful to society.

As Christians, we are taught to love thy neighbor as thy self, and to have faith over fear. For me, loving my neighbor is one of the hardest things that can be asked. Maybe it's not loving my neighbor, but respecting my neighbor as I wish to be respected. Let's face it, you and I are not going to like everyone we meet. But how do we get past the fear of the "other"? Is it as simple as treating each person you meet as an individual, consciously not placing them into groups based on their race, ethnicity, faith, or who they love? Not judging a book by its cover, as corny as that sounds. Turn a few pages, read a chapter or two. It doesn't mean you'll like the book, but at least you gave it a chance.

I realize I am simplifying this. Many politicians pit people against each other so they can be the savior. They use our fear to manipulate us, but if we take each person for their own talents, we'll be able to create a society based on individual worth.

Many would have you believe that the world has limits to its assets. We fear that if "they" have, there might not be enough for us to have as well, setting up more fear. There is enough to go around for everyone, more than enough actually.

So, we should start within our own Christian community, treating each other with the respect we would like to be treated with, not prejudging, having faith over fear, and trusting in God. In closing, I would like to point out that when you break people into groups of "they" and "them", you will also be someone else's "they" or "them". So, give the book a chance and turn a few pages.

PRAISE THE PROSE

Michele Marot, Group Leader

GROUNDHOG DAY

~ by Shirley S. Zaragoza

Groundhog Day here in the U.S. carries a variety of associations. If I were to have fun with 'word play', these would be some of the more common responses:

- 1. February 2nd
- 2. A funny movie with Bill Murray
- 3. Punxsutawney, Pa.
- 4. Farmer's Almanac
- 5. A predictor for early spring or a longer winter

I am guessing that most of you agree that your responses overlap with these answers.

Upon investigating Groundhog Day further, I learned interestingly that it has some philosophical roots and concepts associated with it. The folklore of Groundhog Day examines how free will is influenced by one's environment. Do we come out of hibernation after winter with a level of optimism and brightness, or do we see our shadow and return to our burrow for another six weeks until the environment appears more welcoming?

The movie 'Groundhog Day' comically addresses these issues and has Phil, its principal character, stuck in a daily time loop that he is not able to break out of.

Groundhog Day might have us examine self-awareness and self-improvement. There comes a time that we, as individuals, have to face environmental factors and, instead of reacting critically to them, we need to adapt from within.

I would like to believe Groundhog Day can offer us a reminder that we can turn these days of quarantine into a time of self-transformation: an opportunity to let go of some of the guarded cynicism and instead embrace feelings of compassion. This pandemic period has taught us a lot, including appreciating what was taken for granted. Let us come out of the shadow of our quarantine with a fresh new spring, a positive outlook, and an attitude of acceptance.

Shirley is a member of the recently formed COTC Writers Group, "Praise the Prose."

RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

The COTC Racial Equity Group will meet on February 13th at 1 p.m. via Zoom. We welcome anyone who is interested in good, faithful conversations about how we continue to be <u>"a diverse and loving Christian community accepting of all."</u>
The Zoom link will be in the February 11th e-blast. Please join us!





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 COUNCIL MEETING 9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible* *Subject to Change *	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<u>3</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>5</u>
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible* *Subject to Change	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	10 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11am to 5pm Sanctuary 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	12
13 CWS MEETING RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION via zoom ~ 1PM 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible* *Subject to Change	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	18 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	19 COTC WRITERS GROUP 12NOON IN DRIER HALL
20 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	21 PRESIDENTS DAY Office and Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible* *Subject to Change	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Cub Scouts *Subject to change	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>26</u>
27 CE BOARD MEETING via zoom ~ 12NOON 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts					