

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



February 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
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All are Welcome
to Sunday Service
10:30am

faith

SCAN ME

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14115 Magnolia Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423



FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Faithfully Yours

As we all know, Valentine's Day is coming right up. In fact, there were a few places that had valentines and chocolate hearts before Christmas...So, it is no secret that on Wednesday, February 14, we will be (should be?) sending sweet cards, beautiful flowers and holiday emojis to the ones we love. It is good and right so to do.

But for us as Christians Wednesday, February 14, has another meaning, a deeper meaning, a meaning that may be a cross of ashes instead of a box of chocolates.

This year Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent: Forty days we walk with Jesus to the cross. Forty Days when we are to contemplate the life and death and life again of God's own son. Forty Days of penance, and prayer, sacrifice and sacred meditation so that we can fully appreciate the wonder and joy of the resurrection.

What are we to do? The spirit of each seems so different from the other—romantic love, and somber sacrifice and yet...there is something binding both together in a way which may deepen our faithfulness. For Valentine's Day celebrates love—romantic love, family love, friendship love.

Ash Wednesday brings us the depth and wonder of God's love. As Jesus tells us in John's Gospel: *For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*

February is, indeed, the month of love.

Great love...Beth

SERMON TOPICS FOR FEBRUARY

February 4	Grace Fully (Ephesians 2: 8-10) <i>Baptism of Sebastian Davis Bingham</i> <i>Communion Sunday</i>
February 11	All You Need is Love (I Corinthians 13: 1-8a)
February 21	Driven (Mark 1: 9-13)
February 28	Closing the Gap (Psalm 22:23-31)

FEBRUARY 2024 HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ **COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH at 6:30pm in Dreier Hall**
- ⇒ **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BOARD: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH at 10:00am in Dreier Hall:** Anyone interested in participating on this Board may contact Natalie Karp, our Board Chair (nataliefkarp@mac.com).
- ⇒ **CHIMES CAFÉ: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH at 6:00pm –8:30pm in Bower Hall.** Join us to celebrate the upcoming Valentine's Day with a Heart Healthy Potluck Supper and a Bingo "Funraiser". Bring Family and Friends to this Fun Event!
- ⇒ **PRESCHOOL VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH at 8:30am in Bower Hall.**
- ⇒ **ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 14TH Quiet Communion from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Sanctuary:** Begin the season of Lent with a time of personal reflection and meditation on the gift and sacrifice of Christ with communion served individually whenever you are ready to receive the elements of the sacrament.
- ⇒ **VESPERS: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH 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.
- ⇒ **TRUSTEE MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH at 6:30pm in Dreier Hall.**
- ⇒ **BOUQUET CIRCLE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST at 11:30 in Dreier Hall**
All women are welcome to join us for our monthly gathering; Judy Kemecei will be sharing her life story that started in Hungary. Please call Barbara Downs at 747-355-6077 or email barbaradowns1913@gmail.com to RSVP.
- ⇒ **MEMBERSHIP CLASS: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH AFTER WORSHIP.**
- ⇒ For anyone interested in becoming a member of the church or perhaps just interested in learning more about our church—the organization, administration, and history of the church as well as what it means to be a member. Plus representatives from boards and committees will be there to talk about their groups.
- ⇒ **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 the 2nd and 4th Sunday (February 11th and 25th) in Dreier Hall at 11:45 am. Please feel free to join in anytime for lively and interesting discussions!

MAGNOLIA MARKETPLACE



FREE JUMPING CASTLE
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD KIDS CORNER

RAIN CHECK!

**NOW
MAR 3**

**SHOP
SMALL**



Church of the Chimes
14115 MAGNOLIA BLVD
STARTS 11:30AM
ENDS 2:30PM

"The sun is a daily reminder that we too can rise again from the darkness,

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AFTER WORSHIP

We will have a class for those who are interested in becoming a member of the church. We will talk about the organization, administration, and history of the church as well as what it means to be a member.

Those who are ready to join, and those who are interested are welcome to join us. We will have representatives from boards and committees to talk about their groups.

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Curtis Peek

THANK YOU, LORD

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!

Revised Reprint from February 2022 Chiming In



JANE'S CORNER

Love is...

Our families ~ Our friends ~ Our pets ~
Our gardens ~ A great movie...

A favorite piece of clothing ~ A great song ~
A snuggle on the couch ~ A great hug ~
A good night's sleep ~ A great meal ~
A sunrise ~ A sunset...

The lists goes on and on. We love so *many* things. All of the things we love are rightful and sincere. But what about Love does?

Love Does...

Make our hearts and souls burst ~ Make our eyes tear up ~ Make us proud ~ Make our lives full...

The word “does” is defined as a helping verb. As I introduced to the congregation several weeks ago — let’s *do* PIFs — paying it forward. In paying it forward we honor God and his Son Jesus. Let’s do love!

Blessings and love, Jane
(And remember to spend quiet time with God!)

Jane G. Poole, CE Director



The Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon “A Seat at the Table” was a wonderful gathering celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King! We were inspired by the stories and reflections of the speakers Beth Bingham, Shirley Zaragoza, Wade Young, Robert Dunn, Ryan Anhari, Curtis Peek, Jane Poole, Devon Jasiukonis, Ricky & Brandon Parker-Kim and Jessica Wood. We were enlightened by the original poetry by Bola Shasanmi and art by Michelle Marot. Special thanks to council woman Nithya Raman for speaking about the history of race relations in the valley, how it has affected the homeless population and how we can follow in the footsteps of Martin Luther King to solve the problem. Huge thanks to Diane Delaney for organizing this special event!



GETTING TO KNOW...

Born in Hungary, Judy migrated with her family to Toronto, Canada, and then to Burbank, California where she attended and graduated from John Burroughs High School. Judy has had many varied jobs over the years, starting in secretarial work with Children's Services for LA County, after which she became office manager for County Supervisor Baxter Ward. Then she trained and was certified as a massage therapist, working about 20 years for hotels in Beverly Hills, and for chiropractors and acupuncturists. It was a different world then, where she was on call 24/7 with a beeper (remember beepers?!). While working in massage therapy for the rich and famous, including daily massages for Bob Hope for 8 years, she took classes and graduated with a degree from HMI (Hypnosis Motivational Institute) in Encino. At some point, Judy got her real estate license, though she's never done anything with it. But wait - there's more: Judy became a nutritionist, studied Ayurveda (natural system of medicine originating in India), and became a certified holistic health provider!



With all this going on, Judy found time to study handwriting analysis, as a hobby, under renowned handwriting analyst and author Andrea McNichol. Whew! Judy currently enjoys reading - mostly medical research (are we surprised?). She recently took to fostering dogs until one of them became a part of her life: Bella. Judy enjoys walking her precious companion, who has pretty much won all our hearts - Bella has virtually become the mascot of our COTC Craft Group.

Judy is an active member of the Board of Deacons, likes volunteering for different church functions, and enjoys social time every Tuesday with the Craft Group. When Judy gets to heaven, she will have a lot of questions but believes most of them will be answered by just looking around. "I'm going to be SO glad to see God," she says with a big, genuine smile.

TRUSTEE NEWS

No updates to share at this time.

Submitted by Michele Marot

Diane Delaney, Chair

Ash Wednesday, February 14
Quiet Communion 5:30 – 6:30 in the Sanctuary

You are invited to begin the season of Lent by joining us in the sanctuary for a time of personal reflection and meditation on the gift and sacrifice of Christ. You may come any time between 6 and 7 : "Come when you may, leave when you must." Communion will be served individually whenever you are ready to receive the elements of the sacrament.

DEACON NEWS

Greg Abbott, Chair

Not much to report on this month. We had a very short meeting on the 21st. We had a quick review of the Christmas Families program. We made server assignments for February 4 Communion and planted some seeds for our Holy Week duties. (Easter is really early this year). Until next time, Greg

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

Valentine's Day Breakfast for Preschool families will be served at 8:30am. And please do 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 for a tour. She can be reached through the church office (818-789-7124) or email at preschool@churchofthechimes.org for more information about the Preschool, Parent & Me Program or other school events. Thanks!

CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS

Jan Long, Chair

On January 3rd, three of our youth, Eli, Mark and Jones, joined Jane and I at Operation Gratitude headquarters in Chatsworth to present a check for eight care packages for the troops. By way of a brief history, this past year the youth chose Operation Gratitude which provides care packages and other comfort items to the troops and first responders, as their mission project. A portion of the money raised at the Bingo "Funraiser" was donated to OG to pay for the eight care packages. Once a month Operation Gratitude assembles approximately 5000 care packages to ship out. Besides presenting our check, Jane also presented them with a project board showing our kids decorating 38 pillow cases which the troops use for pillows and as laundry bags. We were also given a tour of the facilities. We plan to have the Be Bold group make parachute lanyards for the troops which can be used in a number of emergency situations.



February 2024



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<u>1</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	<u>2</u> 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	<u>3</u> 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>4</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	<u>5</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>6</u> COUNCIL MEETING Dreier Hall ~ 6:30pm 9:00am Preschool 10:00am Craft Creations~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	<u>7</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~ BH	<u>8</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	<u>9</u> 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	<u>10</u> WA BOARD MEETING 10:00am in Dreier Hall CHIMES CAFÉ 6pm in Bower Hall 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>11</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	<u>12</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>13</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am Craft Creations~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	<u>14</u> ASH WEDNESDAY 8:30am~Bower Hall Preschool Valentine Breakfast 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Svc 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>15</u> VESPERS ~ 6:30pm* *Subject to change... 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH	<u>16</u> 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	<u>17</u> 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>18</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	<u>19</u> PRESIDENT'S DAY Office & Preschool closed 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>20</u> TRUSTEE MEETING Hamilton House ~ 6:30pm 9:00am Preschool 10:00am Craft Creations~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	<u>21</u> BOUQUET CIRCLE 11:30am ~ Dreier/BH 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	<u>22</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Cub Scouts BH	<u>23</u> 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	<u>24</u> 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>25</u> Membership Class ~ DH 11:45am 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	<u>26</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics ~ CE BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>27</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am Craft Creations~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics-CE/BH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE BH	<u>28</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~ BH	<u>29</u> LEAP YEAR CELEBRATION 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 11:00am Gymnastics CE BH 7:00pm Cub Scouts BH	1	