

Email: office@churchofthechimes.org

hone: 818-789-7124

Facebook

Find us on

кеере

nnifer

Office

Manage

ducation Director

Coordinator

late

Minis

Curtis

Elizabeth Bingham,

Senior Minister

NES



14115 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Save lives. Wear a mask. Get vaccinated





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

Chiming In

Volume 72 Issue 9

Love YOU

neighbor

Matthew 22:39

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

MATTHEW 19:26

WITH GOD all THINGS are POSSIBLE.

May your New Year be blessed with peace, love and Joy.

JANUARY 2022

FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

FAITHFULLY YOURS

It is traditional that at the beginning of a new year we look back at what has been and forward to what might be. And we all know that the last years have been different, challenging our physical health, our emotional wellbeing, even our livelihoods.

As I was trying to figure out how to move into 2022 I thought about clutter. Getting rid of clutter has become a goal for many, a consulting business for some who help those of us who feel over cluttered, and even the subject of a bestselling book. (The life changing magic of <u>Tidying Up</u> By Marie Kondo).

The general suggestion is to put things in three piles: Throw away, keep and give away. That seems like a pretty good way of shedding this year and entering next year.

So let's look at our lives and figure out all within us that we can just get rid of: grudges, disappointments, times when we think we failed, when we were hurt, when we hurt someone else. Throw away all the regrets and the wishes that never came true.

Keep the joys and thrills of the past year, the resilience that has gotten us through the illness and chaos and uncertainty that has plagued our nation and circled the world. Keep the moments of love and friendship which, honestly, will simply not go away. Keep the faith which has held us together, those moments when God is so close and so real...for they will strengthen us in difficult times to come. And keep the questions that are unanswered, the wonderings that have crept into your mind for there may be answers and sometimes the questions themselves keep us awake to the ways God meets us, interrupts us, reassures us.

But we have lots to give away too! We can share the faith which defines us and fills us with hopefulness. We can share the love which God showers upon us---a love made known in gestures grand and small. We can give thanks for the ways in which people have loved us and been good to us and sheltered us and cared for us. And yes, as we look at the stuff we have we can give away what we don't need because, as most of us know, someone else may need it more.

With uncluttered heart, with faith filled souls swaddled in love, let us leave 2021 behind and enter 2022 with God beside us as we walk with the Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer, along his path of love and mercy and justice. With deep affection, **Beth**

TRUSTEE NEWS

Curtis Leseman, Chair

The Trustee Board did not meet in December. However, we continue to monitor the stewardship drive which has been successful. We are grateful for the pledges received and there is still time to return your estimate of giving cards if you have not yet done so. The board has been honored to participate in the "Hope of the Valley" Christmas families program this year.

In other news, the renovation of the Drier Hall kitchen is completed and is ready for use, we are continuing to do maintenance items on campus, and we will be pursuing bids for patching of the parking area.

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!

MORE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dr. Bingham

CONGREGATIONALISM CLASS: What membership means

Are you interested in learning more about Congregationalism and our church? Are you wondering what it means to be a member of the Church of the Chimes? Join us on Sunday, January 23, after worship for a class on Congregationalism and the history and organization of our church. Those who are interested in joining the church will be received into membership during our morning worship on Sunday, February 6.

And those of you who are a part of our faith fellowship remotely—we welcome you to become a member too!

Everyone is always welcome to all of our services and activities at the church. Membership in the Congregational tradition is important because all decisions for the church rest with the membership and each voice is important in who we are and how we continue to move into the future.

So whether you are ready to consider joining, or are just anxious to learn more about our tradition and our church, join us.

If you are unable to attend but are interested, please let Dr. Bingham know; this class can be attended via **ZOOM**.

DEACON NEWS

Greg Abbott, Chair

Though we didn't have an official meeting in December, we were very busy. We gathered after church on December 19 to box up all the gifts for The Genesis House of Hope of The Valley. Sylvia and I delivered the gifts on Tuesday the 21st. I want to thank my fellow Deacons and each and every one of you for your support and generosity in this project. It was a challenge to start with a new entity but with everyone's hard work we made it happen. Thank you all again and Happy New Year. **Greg**

COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICE NEWS

Robert Dunn, Chair

The CWS at Church of the Chimes works to raise funds and support various projects that reach out to the community and beyond. Interested in joining/getting involved? Make it happen in 2022! For more information, call the church office or Robert Dunn.

CRAFT CLASS NEWS

Our COTC Craft Class, led by Cindi Olson, will resume meeting on Tuesdays beginning January 4th, 9:30 to 11:30 (the Brown Bag Bible Study follows afterwards at noon). Something to look forward to: Cindi and Michele have designated the last Tuesday of every month to be "Yarn Tuesday," a time to bring your knitting, crocheting, or any other project you happen to be working on!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

Diane Delaney, Chair

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

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.

Rev. Curtis Peek

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM !

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." ~ Matthew 2:11

As we began to ponder with the Lord about the upcoming year, many people will start their annual New Years Resolutions.

Be it resolved that God has been giving hints all year long about what 2022 was going to hold for the Body of Christ. He has provided several key points that must become your life message. I believe the Lord is going to cause 2022 to be a year of restructuring how we do life, ministry, family and many other areas. I believe specifically the first 3 months of the year are key in this process to prepare us for a great shift to come in the second and third quarters of the year. I sense that as we begin to embrace these "restructurings" we will begin to see a move of God take place in the Body of Christ like never before.

You must get ready for this great and powerful move of God. Since time waits on no man, you must redeem every moment to make wise choices. Allow God to speak to you. Because WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM. Offer the Lord the gift of your life as the living sacrifice. Don't wait until New Years, do it now! *Believe it!* Curtis *Happy New Year!*



Wishing you a fresh start with renewed energy and confidence throughout the New Year.

SERMON TOPICS FOR JANUARY:

January 2:	Rev. Peek will be preaching ~ Communion Sunday
January 9:	"Holy Water" (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)
January 16:	"He Had a Dream: Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr."
January 23:	"Body Parts" (Corinthians 12:12-31a)
January 30:	Rev. Peek will be preaching

JANE'S CORNER

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

As some of you may know, I'm not a fan of New Year's resolutions. I prefer taking steps toward new beginnings, or, to mixing things up in my life, or, to simply do better at something without pressure.

January 1^{st} is just the beginning of another new year. The physical calendar is just an outline of months and days. Each year there are 12 firsts where we have an opportunity to step forward with the intention to move ourselves in a new direction or beginning. Each 1^{st} of a month is an opportunity to tell the people we care about, that we care about them! It can be a reminder to share what we have with those who don't have. It can be a time to make an unselfish effort to cheer others on their life path. And in doing so, our lives may become happier. Below are quotes I'm sharing as encouragement for 2022.

"Peace is the result of retraining your mind to process life as it is, rather than as you think it should be." ~ Dr. Wayne Dyer

"Choose love, and peace will follow. Choose peace, and love will follow." ~ Mary Helen Doyle

"Kindness ~ Do you know that one of your greatest strengths is simply to be kind? Yes, being kind. You can change a life being kind. You can give hope being kind. So listen, today choose to be kind." ~ Rachel Marie Martin

"Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth, and your heart for love." ~ Anonymous

Peace, blessings, hugs and love for the new year and all years, Jane P.S. Please take quiet time with the Lord

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

School was closed December 13 – January 3, and resumes: January 4. Our Parent and Me Program serves ages: 15months – 36months and meets every Thursday from 9:00 -11:00. If you would like to schedule a tour or would like more information on the Preschool or Parent & Me Program, please contact the church office or email Ally at <u>preschool@churchofthechimes.org</u>.

JANUARY 2022 HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ zoom COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 4тн at 6:30pm
- ⇒ PRAISE THE PROSE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 15тно 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.
- ⇒ BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 18тн at 7pm

⇒ VESPERS : THURSDAY, JANUARY 20тн at 6:30pm

All women of the church are invited to gather for dinner, typically on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 6:30pm. Date is subject to change depending on availability of majority. Natalie will send out an email with info as to where we are gathering. Please join us if you can!

⇒ CONGREGATIONALISM CLASS: SUNDAY, JANUARY 23RD, after worship Interested in becoming a member of COTC? Want to learn more about our church and the history of Congregationalists? Let Rev. Bingham know and join us on the 23RD.

⇒ VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2022 HOMELESS COUNT: TUESDAY, JANUARY 25TH

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is January 25, 26, and 27; COTC is hosting the Sherman Oaks count on January 25th from **7pm – 11pm**. If interested in participating in this event feel free to call the office or go to their website for more details: https://www.theycountwillyou.org/sherman_oaks_count_20220125?fbclid=IwAROIdqkgUkCmI-c80mPw8FJdYYECPgrTJNYXtvC8g5A1hNVqCJiOAuzIvU

- ⇒ NEW CRAFT CREATIONS: TUESDAYS at 9:30am in Dreier Hall
- ⇒ BROWN BAG BIBLE: TUESDAYS at 12noon in Dreier Hall Come to Dreier Hall every Tuesday at noon for 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!!!!

⇒ ZOOM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYs at 7pm

All women are invited to the virtual gathering of this caring, sharing, loving group of women on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via **zoom.** For the link, e-mail Jane Poole at: jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net. See you then.

⇒ <u>NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY</u>: Thanks for all the donations made to sustain this much needed organization's mission of feeding those in need in our community. Please bring donations to the church and Jane will take them to the Pantry. Check out their website (NHIFP.org) and/or contact Jane Poole at jane@nhifp.org for more information.

HISTORIAN NEWS

Robert Jones, Historian

STAVES CHAPEL ~ STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The Chapel's stained glass windows which depict Congregationalism from our roots in England to the founding of Church of the Chimes were of plain glass when the Chapel was dedicated in 1952. Designated memorial gifts replaces the plain glass over the years. The first five stained glass windows are pictured below along with an overview of the significance of the fifth of the Chapel's fourteen stained glass windows, entitled "5: Plymouth Landing".



5: PLYMOUTH LANDING:

After over two months of what must have been a harrowing. miserable journey, the troupe arrived at Cape Cod. Significantly, this was several hundred miles north of its planned destination in Virginia owing to storms at sea. The passengers realized they were outside the bounds of the governmental authority they had contracted with England. William Braford, the Pilgrim leader at this time, was alarmed to hear that some of the others felt no obligation to respect the rules of the Pilgrims. Because there was an immediate need to formulate some plans for self-government, they drew up the "Association and Agreement" which became known in history as the "Mayflower Compact."

"6: Adoption of the Mayflower Compact" will be featured in the February 2022 Chiming In.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

December was a very busy month for CE ministries! The Christmas story. "God With Us", was beautifully and passionately presented by the church youth. On the 19th, the Sunshine and Shadows Ouilt raffle concluded with a final total of \$422 raised for "Shoes that Fit." Thanks to all who supported this outreach project. On the HH patio, Dianna Roden picked the winning ticket -- Sylvia McCormick! She was stunned to have won the guilt, and guickly and graciously donated it back to the church! When CE has our next meeting, we'll talk about where it should be hung and/or used. In the meantime, we'll keep it in the Narthex for people to see after being warmly welcomed by Robert, John and others as they come into our church!

FYI: There is one more S & S quilt, with the art of all emojis. This raffle will be sometime in late winter. The proceeds of this one will benefit the children and youth social activities. Those funds will help underwrite activities such as ice skating, movies, bowling etc...

After the quilt raffle on the 19th, a group of WBS women gathered in Bower Hall to assemble purses for the Purse Project. We put together 28 purses stuffed to the top with meaningful contents and other goodies for the House of Ruth, a woman's shelter. We were even able to include a gift card for each of the women in the bags! Bless Michele for taking this project under her wing, and thanks to Jan Long for researching the shelter. Thanks to all who contributed to this outreach!



The youth groups will resume their Friday and Sunday gatherings on January 7th for the BE Bold Youth group and on the 9th for Super Kids.



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

essential to ensuring community health

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"

2: "Faithful are Imprisoned"



3: "Pilgrims in Holland"



4: "Mavflower Sails"



FAVE OUOTES

the longest journey a man must take is the eighteen inches from his head to his



Whatever happens



LOOP

today H. JACKSON BROWN

RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

The COTC Racial Equity Group will meet on January 9 at 1 p.m. via Zoom to discuss our next steps as we begin 2022. We welcome new folks who are 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 January 7 e-blast. Please join us! Our Racial Equity Discussion gathering is a place where all views are welcomed as we continue to learn from one another.

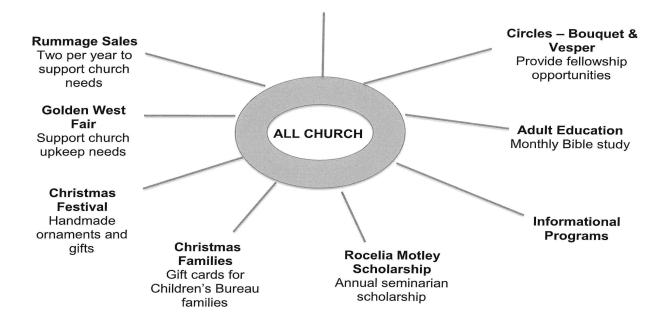
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Natalie Karp, Chair

The Women's Association Board typically meets the third Saturday of the month at 10:00am in Dreier Hall. The women's Vespers Dinner takes place the third Thursday of each month. Please contact Natalie for details.

Bouquet Circle will be resuming their monthly meetings at 11:30am on the second Wednesday of each month, in Dreier Hall. There's a program, you bring your own sack lunch, and dessert is provided. Call Barbara Downs for

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION CHURCH OF THE CHIMES



HEAR THE GOSPEL OF....NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

~ By Terry Palestro

It's the New Year. A fresh start. A new beginning. A changing of the guard. And yes, resolutions. Every year at this time millions of us resolve to lose weight, quit smoking, eat healthier, have better family relations, get a better job, finish that screenplay, and dozens of other things we wish to accomplish. But what should we resolve as Christians? Scripture doesn't specifically mention new year resolutions, but as Christians we have an amazing Savior who will always help us succeed and, while we're at it, why not yoke our secular resolutions and spiritual resolutions together?

First, let us forgive others and carry no grudges. This could be the hardest, near impossible, most demanding thing to accomplish. Remember what Paul wrote in **Colossians 3:13**: *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone...forgive as the Lord forgave you."* Wouldn't this go a long way to healing family relations? Friendships? Business partnerships?

Second, do you know your body is a temple? Well, it is! And the Bible says so in **1 Corinthians 6:19:** "*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God*?" Then why do we pollute our temples with smoking, excessive drinking, bad diets, overeating, and drugs? This pollution, little by little, destroys our earthly bodies and dishonors the Holy Spirit inside us. Let's drop that twinkie and hit the gym!

Third, and lastly (until next year), don't complain. Did our Creator give us a mouth so we can complain, moan, and gripe? **Philippians 2:14** commands us: "*Do everything without complaining and arguing.*" You were overcharged at the supermarket? Be pleasant and correct the charge, mistakes happen. Traffic? Chill out and tune in your favorite radio station. Whenever we feel like complaining, replace it with a prayer or a praise to God, and to take it one step further, prayer and praise could be a daily practice!

Forgiving, better health, and no complaining. It's been said that solutions to all our resolutions can be found in the inspired word of God. Amen to that.

Terry is a member of the recently formed COTC Writers Group, "Praise the Prose." We meet the third Saturday of each month from noon to 1:30pm. All ages–and all types of writing–are welcome. Please join us!

Questions? Contact Michele Marot at 818-653-2406





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						<u>1 NEW YEARS DAY</u>
2 <u>COMMUNION SUNDAY</u> 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>3</u> Preschool Closed <i>10:00am 10 at 10</i> 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>4</u> <u>COUNCIL MEETING</u> 9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	<u>5</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<u>6</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>7</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>8</u>
9CWS MEETING CE MEETING via zoom RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION via zoom ~ 1PM10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>10</u> 9:00am Pre School <i>10:00am 10 at 10</i> 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>11</u> 9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	12 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<u>13</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>14</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>15</u> <u>COTC WRITERS GROUP</u> <u>12NOON IN DRIER HALL</u>
16 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Office and Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	18TRUSTEE MEETING9:00am Pre School9:30am Crafting10:00am 10 at 1012Noon Brown Bag Bible	19 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20VESPERS ~ 6:30pm*9:00am Pre School10:00am 10 at 107:00pm Cub Scouts*Subject to change	21 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	22
23 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	24 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts	25 9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	26 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 <u>7</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	28 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>29</u>
30 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	31 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Sea Scouts					