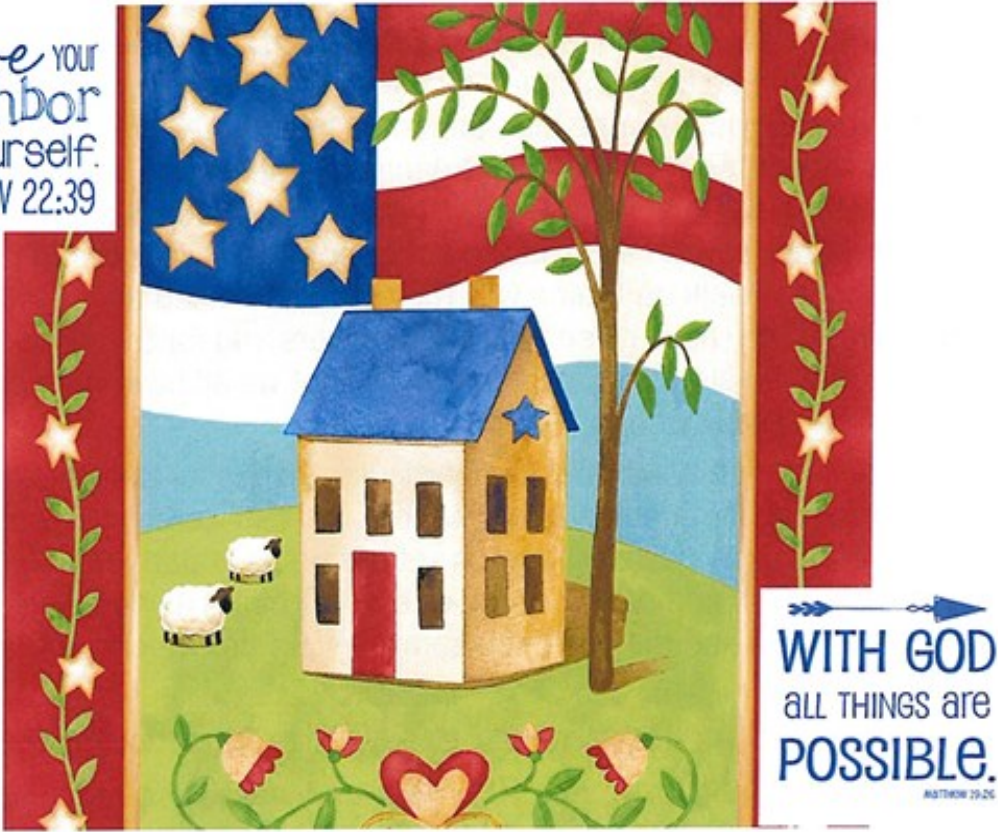


Chiming In

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



July 2021

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



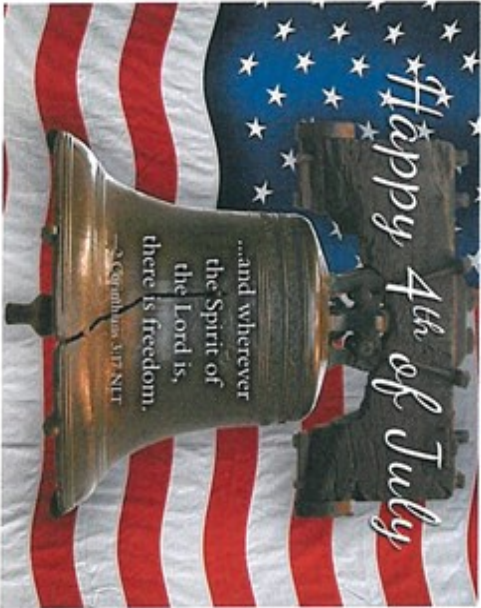
Congregational Church of the Chimes
14115 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA 91423



Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, Senior Minister
Rev. Curtis Peek, Associate Minister
Jennifer Lee, Church Office Manager
Jane G. Poole, Christian Education Director
Allene Baker, Preschool Director
Joi Staves, Wedding & Events Coordinator
Lindsay Hill, Facility Manager
Javier De la Torre, Groundskeeper



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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

FAITHFULLY YOURS

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

In 1956 then Senator John F. Kennedy published a book he called “Profiles in Courage.” In it he wrote short biographies of 8 senators, from John Quincy Adams who broke away from his party in the 18th century, to Robert Taft in 1948 who lost his senate seat because of a strong stand he took as Nazi criminals were being tried. These courageous men made decisions based on what was right but not easy.

As we celebrate the 4th of July, our “Independence Day” we might think about all those who have acted courageously throughout our country’s history. Their strength has been tested on battle fields, in halls of government, in hospitals. They have fought fires and fought hatred. They have saved lives in hospitals, in crumbled buildings, and when they have stopped by the side of the road, often risking their own lives. Some, wearing blue uniforms, answer calls for help which they know may put them in immediate danger. Others have been on the playground standing up to bullies; some have been on buses sitting down for justice. They have carried signs in the street and carried lost souls who can no longer walk on their own. They have sacrificed their livelihoods and their lives. They have given their all for others and for the principles of our nation—that we are all created equal and that we all have the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

And as a faith community we offer our particular thanks for the freedom of religion which is a cornerstone of our nation. We can worship God as God calls us. We follow the path that Jesus set before us, a path of justice and mercy and kindness and peace. We love our neighbors as ourselves even if they do not understand the world the way we do. We can courageously live our faith without fear.

So, let us sing in our hearts “God Bless America, land that we love!”
Love and blessings to all, Beth

Sermon Topics for June

JULY 4:

The Holy Truth (John 8:31-36)

JULY 11:

May I Have This Dance? (2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19, Psalm 24)

JULY 28:

Whatever Wherever (2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37)

JULY 25:

Unbelievable (John 6:1-21)

GRACE BEFORE EATING

Pam Voetberg, COTC Member

Pam learned this prayer from her daughter-in-law’s family. Typically they hold hands. For the last line they raise their hands and say it exuberantly.

God, we thank You for this food
For rest, and home and all things good.
For wind and rain and the sun above.
But most of all for those we love.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

COTC Cook Book

Mildred Ray’s Favorite Lasagna

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 lbs. Ground beef, pork, sausage, etc. | Teaspoons Salt |
| 2 ½ Cups Canned Tomatoes | 1 Clove Garlic, minced |
| 16 oz. Tomato Paste | 1 Tablespoon Parsley Flakes |
| 1 lb. Lasagna noodles | 1 Tablespoon Basil |
- Brown meat. Add above amounts of garlic, parsley, basil and salt.
Add Tomatoes and paste and simmer 1 hour.
Prepare noodles per package instructions.
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mix together: 1 lb. Grated Mozzarella | 2 Tablespoons Parsley |
| 3 Cups Ricotta | 2 Teaspoons Salt |
| 2 Eggs | ½ Cup Parmesan |

In a greased 9x13 pan, spread a little of the tomato/meat mixture.
Layer half the noodles, then half the ricotta mixture, half the mozzarella, and half the meat mixture. Repeat layers reserving some mozzarella for the top. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 30 minutes. YUM!

FOUR THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty stands in Upper New York Bay. Originally conceived as an emblem of the friendship between the people of France and the U.S., it is a sign of the mutual desire for liberty.

Over the years, the Statue has become much more... It represents the United States itself.

1. The statue represents a Roman Goddess.

2. Lady Liberty is struck by lightning 600 times every year.

3. Gustave Eiffel helped to build it.

4. Lady Liberty's face is modeled after the artist's mother.

JANE'S CORNER

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

AMERICA'S FREEDOM

There is a woman I know who weighs 31 tons, is 305 feet tall and lives on her own island. She's has a specular headpiece and even though her color is green, she is majestic. Her only job in life? To project freedom for all!

I've been fortunate enough to pay visits to the Statue of Liberty many times in my life. I've climbed her 162 stairs and stared out of her crown's windows at the city and waters surrounding her. It's an unforgettable experience.

The last time I visited her, our family was there around the 4th of July just a year+ after 9/11. Although all my visits to her are memorable, this one was an extremely powerful experience that remains lodged in my heart. Lady Liberty is a universal symbol of freedom who is also called "Liberty Enlightening the World." And THAT she does. Standing at her base that day, I thought about all the so meaningful elements of her.

A gentleman by the name of Salazar once wrote about her saying: "There is nothing that symbolizes what America is, more than this statue. Standing at the top is awe-inspiring and sends goosebumps from my shoulder blades down to my spine." That's how I felt that day when I visited her.

It's difficult to see her feet clearly, but she is standing on a broken shackle and chains with her right foot raised, representing moving away from oppression and slavery.

The seven rays of her crown illustrate she is divine and represents the seven seas & continents of the world. That day I thought about how my grandparents felt as they saw her from the ship they were on. Fleeing from the oppression they faced in their countries of birth, they approached Ellis Island with hopes and dreams in their hearts.

On her base is a tablet inscribed with words written by Emma Lazarus in 1883: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore". That's what it's all about, to breathe free.

The 25 windows in her crown symbolize gemstones and heaven's rays shining over the world. Yes, God is a part of her story and obviously ours. Our freedom story. God's promises of freedom ring true daily and help us to deal with the troubles the world presents us. We are sometimes shackled to the events surrounding us, but our Lord lifts us up and helps us to break those shackles through his grace, love and light. How blessed we are for our freedom and God's love.

Peace and love, Jane ~~~ PS. *Please remember to be quiet with God!*

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Curtis Peek

VISION RENEWED

And Hannah prayed, and said, "My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord : my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God." - 1 Samuel 2:1-2

A certain gentleman explains "After a painful minor surgery on my left eye, my doctor recommended a vision test. With confidence, I covered my right eye and read each line on the chart with ease. Covering my left eye, I gasped. How could I not realize I'd been so blind?"

While this man adjusted to his new glasses and renewed vision, we are reminded how daily trials often cause us to be spiritually nearsighted. Focusing only on what we could see up-close—the pain and ever-changing circumstances— we sometimes become blind to the faithfulness of our eternal and unchanging God. With such a limited perspective, hope can become an unattainable blur.

First Samuel 1 tells the story of a woman who failed to recognize God's trustworthiness while focusing on her current anguish, uncertainty, and loss. For years, Hannah had endured childlessness and endless torment from Peninnah, another wife of her husband Elkanah. Hannah's husband adored her, but she was not able to find contentment. One day, Hannah cried out and prayed with bitter honesty. When Eli the priest questioned her, she explained her situation. He assured her that God would "grant her request" (1 Samuel 1:17). Though Hannah's situation didn't change immediately, she walked away with confident hope (v. 18).

Her prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-2 reveals a shift in Hannah's focus. Even before her circumstances improved, Hannah's renewed vision changed her perspective and her attitude. She rejoiced in the ongoing presence of God — her Rock and everlasting hope.

Today I want to encourage you to "look again". God has not forgotten you. Your situation is not beyond repair. It only appears that way, when we can only see the problems we are facing. I challenge you to begin to tell your problem to God. Change your focus to the things that are positive in your life. The enemy thought he was going to knock you out of the game. BUT GOD has a different plan, and you are still here!

God promises that He will see you through this. And you will live to see it happen. Command yourself to LIVE, LIVE, LIVE, LIVE, LIVE! ***Believe it!*** Curtis

JULY 2021 HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: TUESDAY, JULY 6TH , 11am to 5pm**
Blood donation is essential to ensuring community health. Sign up online at www.churchofthechimes.org and then check-in at Bower Hall on the day.
- ⇒ **COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 6TH at 6:30pm**
- ⇒ **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 20TH at 7pm**
- ⇒ **WOMEN'S ASSOC. RUMMAGE SALE: SATURDAY, JULY 17TH , 8am to 1pm**
We are currently overloaded with donations, however we could use some help with set-up, working the event, and clean-up. The Women Association reinvests the rummage sale proceeds into church repairs and charity. If you are available to donate some time, please call Louisa Larez at (818) 590-2640.
- ⇒ **VESPERS DINNER: THURSDAY, JULY 22ND at 6:30pm**
All women of the church are invited to gather for dinner on Thursday, July 22ND at 6:30pm. Natalie will send out an email with information as to where we are gathering. Please join us!
- ⇒ **ZOOM DISCUSSION: *Racial Equity and the Church*: JULY 18TH at 1pm**
As our Racial Equity group continues with our conversation; please join us for this important discussion. We meet for about an hour on ZOOM; the link will be sent in our Friday e-blast on July 16th.
- ⇒ **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 PST via ZOOM to gain insight as we study the book of ACTS. If you would like to join us, e-mail Jane Poole at jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net. See you then.
- ⇒ **SWIMMING HOURS: M-F 12Noon to 3pm & 5pm to dusk + SS 1pm to dusk until the heat ceases in the fall.** Please note that in July our pool hours will overlap with AquaBuddies' lessons as some of their package sessions were booked in May when it was thought that the pool would be offered for family swimming this summer. Whenever this overlap occurs, feel free to go in and enjoy the pool, and please do make the office aware if there are any issues resulting from this cooperative sharing.
- ⇒ **THE INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY:** Located in North Hollywood, The Interfaith Food Pantry benefits the food insecure and homeless of our community. Donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries are always welcome and can be left at the church. They are also in need of volunteers for a variety of tasks from unpacking and organizing the donations to distributing the food. Check them out if you feel so inclined. For more information please contact Jane Poole at (818) 422-1936.

GOLDEN WEST FAIR NEWS

John Sullivan, Chair

Golden West Fair 2021 And You

After an interruption last year, it is my desire that we have a Golden West Fair this year. Council has approved October 9, 2021 as the date. We will start planning in early August. As always the first step is to determine who can help. If you can help let the office or me know over the course of the next few weeks and months.

I think barring any major outbreaks we should plan on a full array of items for sale in the usual areas. Its probably a little too early to tell if we are going to do any food, music and/or children events but I think so long as we have people willing to help make it happen, we should try. Since so much of the food, music and children events are outdoor that limits fear and risk as well.

The Golden West Fair only happens because we decide to make it happen. Its size and success depends on our collective effort. If you are willing to contribute to this long 70+ year tradition at Church of the Chimes, let us know. And of course if you are new to the church and have questions about it do not hesitate to ask me. Thanks! **John**

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

Chair TBD

The Nominating Committee has not met yet. Representatives from CE and Deacons are still pending. Once these two members have been determined, their first meeting will be scheduled. Diane Delaney is currently the acting chair for this committee.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

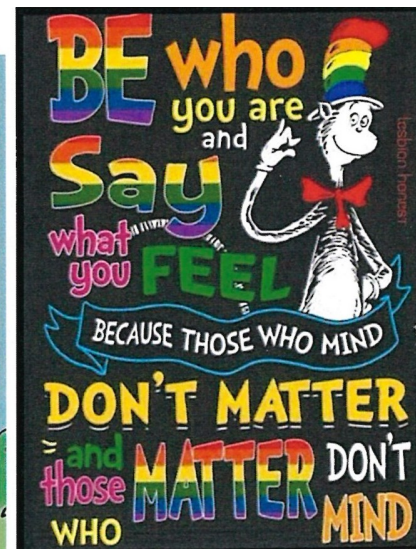
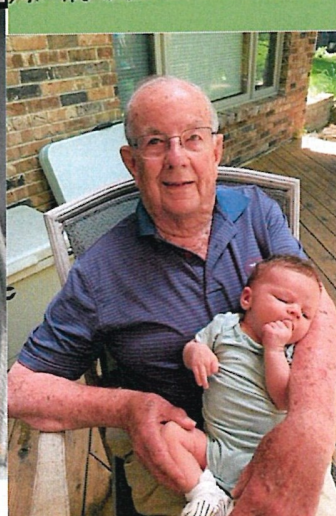
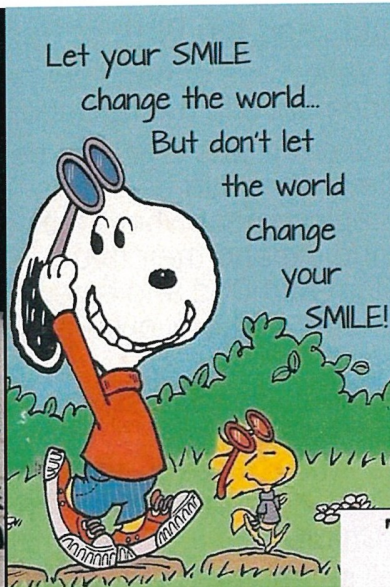
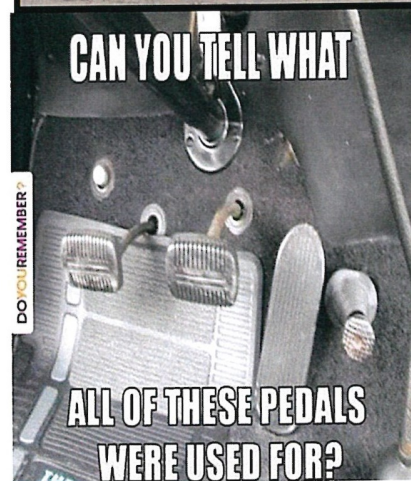
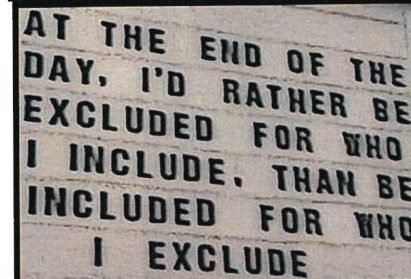
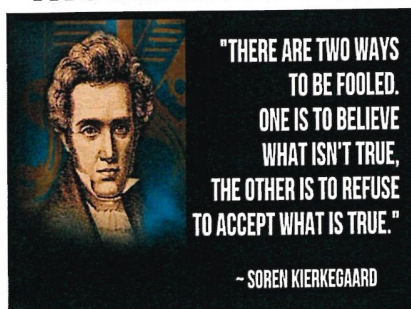
Ally Baker, Director

The current Summer Camp Session began on June 14th and ends on July 24th.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE FALL SESSION CONTINUES...

For more information about the Preschool, Parent & Me Program or other school events, please email preschool@churchofthechimes.org or call the church office (818-789-7124). Thanks! **Ally**

THOUGHTS TO PONDER...



Take life day by day and be grateful for all little things. Don't get stressed over what you can't control.



TAKE A DEEP BREATH. IT'S JUST A BAD DAY. NOT A BAD LIFE.



Jevaye & Gennaro
JOYFULLY ANNOUNCE THEIR ENGAGEMENT
...AND UPCOMING NUPUTIALS...
Save the date
09.18.2021
CHURCH OF THE CHIMES
SANCTUARY

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;

Let's Keep In Touch
If there is someone who you know would like to receive a card or note, 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"

OUR STEWARDSHIP DRIVE: Reach in to Reach out!



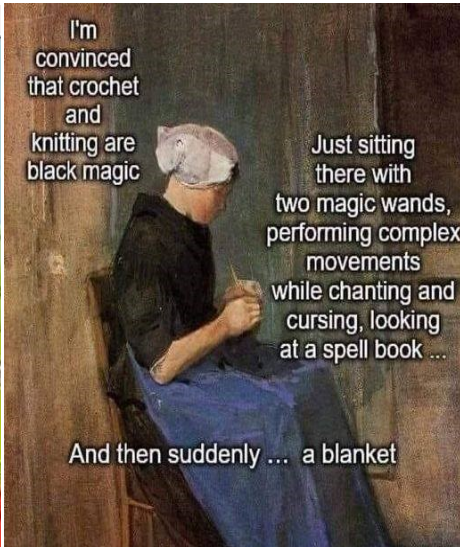
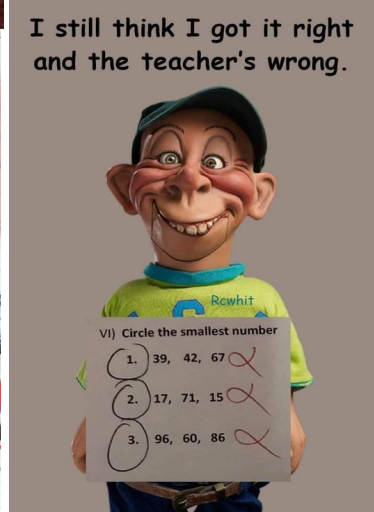
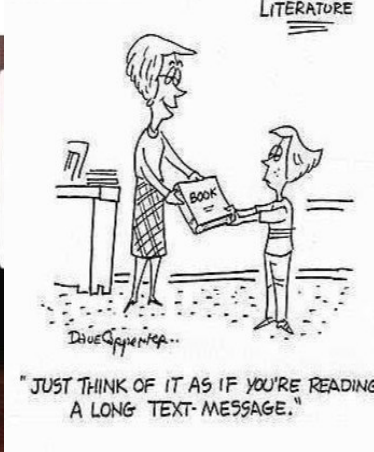
We thank each one of you for your support of our Stewardship Drive: "Reach in to Reach out". Reaching into your pockets so we can continue to reach out with our worship, our educational programs, and our gifts to missions and organizations is a blessing indeed! Estimate of Giving cards are available in the office. Knowing the potential level of giving helps the church immensely as we journey down the path of serving the needs of our church community. Thank you for the blessing of your generosity!



Church of the Chimes Blood Drive
Thursday, July 6th in Bower Hall
Sign up online at-
www.churchofthechimes.org

Blood donation is essential to ensuring community health.

GET AMUSED...



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Martha Smyser, Moderator

The Church Coordinating Council met for the first time this term in early June. The Council is the body tasked with overseeing all of the Church's activities. Each month we hear reports from the Ministers, the staff, Church officers, Committee chairs and representatives of auxiliary organizations such as the Women's Association and the Scouts. The meetings are always interesting because you get to hear about all of the many activities and issues involved in keeping the Church running.

At our June meeting we agreed to carry over until July any decisions about the Church's re-opening as the Governor's re-opening message would not be available until June 15. But if you keep reading the daily e-blasts from Beth you can keep up to date on what changes, if any, we are making in our COVID policies. This is also a great way to keep up on Church activities that may be happening between issues of the monthly Chiming In.

All Church members are welcome to attend Council meetings. If you have questions or concerns about the Church please see me before or after worship or send me an email.

RACIAL EQUITY AND THE CHURCH: Concept Definitions

Equity and equality are different. Equality means everyone is treated the same exact way, regardless of differences. Equity means everyone is provided with what they need to succeed.

Equality is one of the central principles of democracy and is based on the belief that all people should have the same opportunities to be successful and have a productive, enjoyable life. Equality is rooted in fairness since it is linked to another American ideal, that of a meritocracy. The idea of equality is key to the notion that everyone will be able to achieve based on their efforts and contributions to society instead of their status or position. Equality was particularly important during the civil rights era when nonwhites didn't have equal standing or treatment before the law. More recently there has been a debate about whether equality is enough and whether equity is a more important principle.

Equity recognizes that everyone doesn't begin in the same place in society. Some people face adverse conditions and circumstances making it more challenging with the same effort to achieve the same goals. Equity advocates for those who may have been historically disadvantaged, making it difficult for them to be successful. What is "fair" as it relates to equity is not a question of what is the same but rather the point from which a person begins. Equity takes into account historical and other factors in determining what is fair.

Does the removal of the wooden fence eliminating the structural barrier to access achieve fairness?

The three panels show a baseball field with a wooden fence. In the first panel, labeled "Equality", a tall person and a short person are both looking over the fence. In the second panel, labeled "Equity", the short person is standing on the tall person's shoulders to see over the fence. In the third panel, labeled "Solution", the fence has been removed, and both the tall and short people can see the field.

HISTORIAN NEWS

Robert Jones, Historian

The Birth of a Child.....and the Birth of Our Church: 1949

The War was over and the Valley was dotted with new homes and new hope—hope for peace in the world and peace in the neighborhood... The future was here.

One small group of believers felt it was a good time to plant a church for worship in the San Fernando Valley. They had been meeting at a theater in Encino on Sundays, dreaming of someplace near where they could gather to learn of the ways of the Lord, to develop and expand their faith. There were roughly a dozen or so couples, including my Mom and Dad and a new Babe they called Bob (me). They learned of a large and unique property owned by Doctor Hamilton who had delivered me.

With the support of the National Association of Congregational Churches and others, they purchased the property and set out upon the job of turning the grounds into a campus, with a little chapel, the family home, a pool and much more—oak trees, other buildings which became the foundation of what we are blessed to call Church of the Chimes.

Seventy two years ago and still spreading The Word, supporting the community and the world at large. This is the beginning of Our Story. In months to come we'll shed some light on many special times. His blessings to you. *Robert*

COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICE NEWS Robert Dunn, Chair-TBD

A MISSION MOMENT with MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity)

Located in Pacoima, CA, over the past 50 years, MEND has continuously served the most vulnerable in our community, including those who are homeless, unemployed/under-employed, very low income, and older adults. Their mission is to meet the immediate needs of individuals and families and to increase their access to opportunities that strengthens their capacity to thrive—to help them address and overcome long-term challenges that have kept them from thriving. Core services are provided by a Foodbank, Homeless Care Services and Clothing Center. Deeper case managed services are offered through the Family Support & Pathways to Wellness Programs. Plus, they provide work experience, life skills and financial literacy classes and support services to enrolled clients.

A majority of the individuals and families who come to MEND live in extreme poverty – some in unconverted garages, uninhabitable spaces or vehicles. Still others live in apartments with multiple other families – one family per bedroom. Some are able to secure transitional housing or stay in a shelter, still others are completely unsheltered. Applying the Public Health Service Act and HUD's definitions of homelessness – which include lacking any fixed, stable shelter; living in conditions not fit for human habitation; and “doubling up” – almost 100% of our clients qualify as homeless.

To learn more about MEND visit their website at <https://mendpoverty.org>

DEACON NEWS

Greg Abbott & Ralph Migliori Co-Chair

The Deacons met on June 27. Not a lot to report. Sadly, in spite of the best efforts by Ralph, we have not been able to get The LA Children's Bureau to return our calls. So unless something changes, there will be no Christmas in July this year. We talked a little bit about how we will move forward to a more normal existence. This included how we serve Communion and reestablishing some of the services we have done in the past. We will meet again on July 25. *All the best, Greg*

TRUSTEE NEWS

Curtis Leseman, Chair

The Trustee Board held its meeting on June 15, 2021 in person, without masks, for the first time since March of last year. Church services will still be conducted with masks for the present.

The Treasurer, John Van Veen, reported a small positive cash flow for the month of May due mainly to significant use of the campus by the film industry. Also, as we begin re-opening the church for services, there has been an increase in the pledges for which we are most grateful. However, the year to date budget still shows a significant negative cash flow.

In other news, the parts for the repair of the organ were received and work was completed in mid-June. I'm happy to report that we are once again hearing the beautiful organ music in the Sanctuary!

The Trustees are reviewing a list of campus maintenance items and establishing priorities for their completion. We will also be reviewing costs for a possible security person to be present during our church services.

Respectfully submitted, *Curtis*

NACCC ANNUAL MEETING

Greg Abbott, Delegate

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Annual Meeting
June 19 and 20 via ZOOM

The annual meeting of the NACCC was held on Saturday, June 19th and Sunday, the 20th, by Zoom. This year, in addition to the business meeting, there was a Congregational lecture, a three part Bible lecture and various workshops. There was also a presentation about the Lay Ministry program. It was nice to see some familiar faces and I look forward to seeing them in person next year. We will meet in Wichita, KS, from June 25th through June 28th. *Greg*

CHURCH OF THE CHIMES:
A diverse, and loving Christian community accepting of all.



JULY 2021



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<u>1</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>2</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY! 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>5</u> SCHOOL & OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>6</u> RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11am to 5pm in Bower Hall COUNCIL MEETING 6:30pm in Dreier Hall 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>7</u> 9:00am Summer Camp <i>10:00am 10 at 10*</i> Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via ZOOM	<u>8</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>9</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> CWS MEETING 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>12</u> 9:00am Summer Camp <i>10:00am 10 at 10*</i> Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>13</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>14</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via ZOOM	<u>15</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 6:30pm Vespers via ZOOM	<u>16</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>17</u> RUMMAGE SALE
18 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook 1:00pm ZOOM DISCUSSION	<u>19</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>20</u> TRUSTEE MEETING 7:00pm in Bower Hall 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>21</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via ZOOM	<u>22</u> 9:00am Summer Camp 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>23</u> 9:00am Summer Camp (Last Day) 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> CE MEETING DEACON MEETING 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>26</u> 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>27</u> 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>28</u> 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via ZOOM	<u>29</u> 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>30</u> 10:00am 10 at 10* Ten Minute Devotional via Facebook	<u>31</u>