

Chiming In

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



JUNE 2020

of www.churchofthechimes.org

Happy Father's Day!



Congregational Church of the Chimes
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A
good
laugh
&
a long
sleep
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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Reflections

June was always a month filled with so much! There was graduation at every level of education, which meant ceremonies and parties and presents and cakes, very proud students, moms and dads and grandpas and grandmas, gathering together to celebrate. Traditionally it was the month of weddings—lots of weddings and although that has changed some, there are still lots of couples planning their nuptials for this month.

For those churches like Church of the Chimes who are members of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, it also meant that we gathered for our annual meeting. Each year the conference was held in a different place, and each year there were new faces, but each year too, we saw the folks who had a part of our lives for years. I have missed only two meetings since 1976 – one because of a parishioner funeral, and one when my husband was too sick for me to leave.

So our four days of business and worship, and learning and sharing will be condensed into a “virtual meeting” for a few hours, one Saturday in June. There are financial matters that need to be attended to, and elections. This was to be the great year when we were celebrating the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims! Greg Abbott, Sylvia McCormick and I were looking forward to the same great time we had in Cleveland last summer, with some baseball, some boat rides and maybe even a little dancing mixed in with the important and helpful meetings and workshops we attended.

Nothing, though, can tarnish or diminish the importance of the NACCC to all of us and to our churches. We are joined together by our heritage, yes, but also by our hopes for the future. We are as committed to religious **freedom** as were those brave women and men who landed in a foreign land so they could worship the Lord as they felt called to worship. We are committed to the **fellowship** of churches, knowing that together we have much to share, and together we have the strength of commitment. We are founded on the deepest **faith** in God, and on the path set forth for us by God’s son.

The church gathered in 1629 as the covenant of the church in Salem, MA. There are perhaps no words that express more clearly or more beautifully, who we are as individual churches. Many believe, as do I, that these words

Continues on the next page...

FAITHFULLY YOURS

WHEN WILL THE SANCTUARY OPEN FOR WORSHIP?

On Tuesday, May 26th, Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti announced that houses of worship can resume operations as long as they follow proper safety laws.

On Tuesday, June 2nd COTC Council was going to meet on the Hamilton House patio (staying 6 feet apart and wearing masks) to determine when to open the Sanctuary for Worship Services. However, given the current county-wide curfew now in place, they will not meet until such time it is determined it will be safe.

Thus, the decision to reopen has now been postponed indefinitely. When that time comes, we will be following the guidance from the CA Dept. of Public Health.

- Attendance is to be limited to 25 percent of the building’s capacity, or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is lower.
- Temperature screenings may be done at the door.
- All congregants and staff are required to wear face coverings, use hand sanitizer frequently and practice physical distancing.
- Services should be shortened to limit the amount of time congregants are spending around one another.
- Places of worship should consider discontinuing singing in situations “...where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets...” At the beginning we will not have congregational singing but we will have music from our incredible musicians!
- Common areas are to be thoroughly disinfected regularly.
- The Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the pew rack.
- Offering plates will not be passed; a moment of gratitude will be observed for donations dropped in the narthex basket, mailed in or donated on-line
- Congregants are discouraged from hugging or shaking hands and removing from service” or finding “low-community touch alternatives for communal/religious water containers.

These limitations will be in effect for 21 days; then they will be reevaluated by the health department. “Even with adherence to the above, convening in a congregational setting of multiple different households to practice a personal faith carries a relatively higher risk for widespread transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations,” DPH wrote.

Given the understood risk factor and her abundance of caution mode, Beth suggests that when we do get together again, we will learn how to wave, keep our ears tuned to hear others speak behind masks, remain six feet apart and perhaps most importantly—we will learn how to smile with our eyes!

We have been so fortunate to have had our services via live streaming over these past weeks and months, and we will continue this for now and when we do open the Sanctuary for worship, remote broadcasting will indeed continue so that more vulnerable people can worship safely at home...

WHO'S WHO AT COTC

Nancy Nelsen

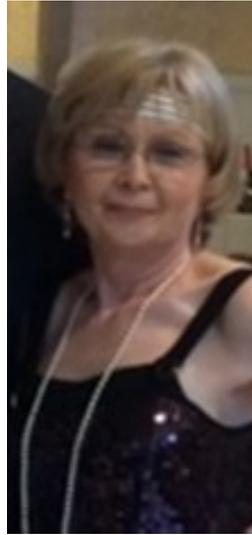
Nancy spent the first years of her life on a farm in Illinois where she developed a strong work ethic. Her family raised cattle, pigs and chickens. One of three children, she was always expected to complete her share of the daily chores which included caring for, feeding and butchering the chickens.

Unfortunately, Nancy's childhood was disrupted when she was involved in a horrific accident. At the age of eleven she was riding in a school bus that swerved off the road and burst into flames. She was severely injured, suffering first and third degree burns. She was confined to a hospital bed for seven weeks; she underwent several surgeries that would continue through her high school years. Although it was a difficult time, Nancy credits her parent's love and support for getting her through it. She said, "My parents never treated me differently; they expected me to go on with my life as usual and not wallow in self-pity." And so, that's what Nancy did. Proving herself to be a brave and resilient young girl, she forged ahead carrying on as a normal teenager, partaking in all the social happenings such as dances, cheerleading and boyfriends.

Her sophomore year, however, brought on another challenge. At 15 years old Nancy's father passed away unexpectedly. It was an emotionally difficult time for the family. As a way of coping with the loss, a friend suggested that they join a group that was going to Asia to visit the missionaries. Then at 16, she traveled extensively to Singapore, Borneo, Indonesia and India, observing the work of the missionaries. She still has vivid images of that experience, and reflects, "I learned so much about different cultures and religions."

When she returned to Illinois she received a teaching degree, and taught 3rd grade for several years. In 1970 she met her husband, Randy, and after a short courtship they were married. In 1972 they built a house in the countryside. They constructed 80% of the house themselves. (Such a power couple!) In 1978 their daughter, Christy, was born. During that time they were members of the local Congregational Church where Nancy was the Director of Christian Education for 16 years.

JERI CHRISTENSEN



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

CE HAPPENINGS

(Yes, even though we have not been physically at church, there is CE news!)

~ "At Home with God" ~

The "At Home with God" e-mails have been sent out to families since the middle of March. In the not too far distant future, we will begin a new, creative and fun children's **Summer Program: "I'M AWESOME ~ HERE'S WHY..."**

The children will all be given a photo album containing ideas and pages to be creative about why they are awesome. Drawings, photos, developing board games, the sky is the limit on what they can create and include. It's going to be fun and will be something the kids can do easily at home or here when we are able to resume being together. When that time comes, we will have CT@COTC (Creative Time at Church of the Chimes). On Sundays, we will create our books, play board games, watch a movie or two and create great stuff.

~ Woman's Bible Study ~

We meet weekly via Zoom and hopefully face to face when we are allowed to gather once again. We are currently exploring the study of "Being Joyful in Life's Ups and Downs from the Simply Relevant Woman's Bible Study series. All women are invited to join us. Call or email Jane for details.

~ Vacation Bible School ~

The current thought is to host VBS during Christmas vacation. It's kind of up in the air. We will make every effort to make it happen!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

Our preschool classrooms remain closed to help stem the tide of the Covid-19 Pandemic...however the interactions of kids and parents continue on...

Friday, May 15th, the kids honored their teachers with a parade;...and one dad helped facilitate the Talent Show, one of the highlights of the year via a YouTube video that is so fun to watch; it's a wonderful display of all the kids' creativity and joy in performing;...and when the parents couldn't gather for their annual gala, they moved forward with an on-line silent auction to raise funds for the preschool. Good on them.

For more information about the *Preschool, Parent & Me Program* and/or future school events, contact the Church Office (818) 789-7124 or email Miss Ally at <preschool@churchofthechimes.org>.



Family is where *Life* begins and *Love* never

GET AMUSED

A priest, a rabbit and a minister walk into a bar. The bartender asks the rabbit "what'll ya have?" The rabbit says "I dunno. I'm only here because of Autocorrect."



... and that is WHY the chicken crossed the road.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
JULY 3rd in Bower Hall
Sign up on-line at COTC's web link



I tried donating blood today...NEVER AGAIN!!!
Too many stupid questions. Who's blood is it? Where did you get it from? Why is it in a bucket?

Of course they bloody do. Their feet can barely touch the pedals. Cut them some slack.



Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Reflections Continued

are precious. They will be familiar to you, for they also unite us together in this church, the Congregational Church of the Chimes:

We covenant with the Lord and one with another and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk together in all His ways according as HE is pleased to reveal Himself unto us in His blessed word of truth.

So it is, and so it will be!

When Will I See You Again?

You can see us every Sunday at 10:30am on our church website or Facebook page, or every weekday morning at 10am, for our "10 at 10" devotional.

We will see each other just as soon as we get the "It's safe" go ahead from the city/county. We will be gathering with social distancing, covered faces and any other guidelines that are suggested for our worship together. It won't be "Sunday as usual" but the sun will be shining, and the Son will be keeping us together.

As soon as we have word we will let everyone know!

Graduation Sunday: June 7

If you are graduating from preschool, kindergarten, middle school, high school, college, or work programs...let us know! We would like to honor you during our live streaming service. Send your information to the church office, and let us know what is next for you.

Staying Connected

We will stay in touch, no matter what. Our plan is to continue live streaming even after the sanctuary opens, so that those who are not comfortable attending in person may watch remotely. We have been thrilled to see that people in the Church of the Chimes orbit have been able to stay connected.

We will keep you updated, as further information becomes available.

Let us gather together in fellowship, worship and prayer—**LIVE ON-LINE**—knowing God is with us, connecting us together in His wisdom with His love.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, MEDITATION, MOTIVATION AND DEVOTIONALS

Sunday Worship Service – 10:30 Streaming Live on FaceBook

June Sermon Topics:

- June 7: In the Beginning... (Genesis 1:1-2)
- June 14: "You've Got to be Kidding" (Genesis 18: 1-15)
- June 21: Rev. Peek preaches
- June 28: Free at last (Galatians 5: 13-15)

Daily Devotionals – Beth's 10 at 10 – Streaming Live on FaceBook

10 minute devotional often with music at 10am every weekday,
Videos of Devotionals on Facebook and YouTube

Woman's Bible Study with Jane – Wednesday at 7:00pm via [zoom](#)

Continuing with the Simple Relevance Series:

Singing in the Rain – Finding Joy in Life's Ups and Downs

Join in whenever you can.

*Hope is hearing the melody of the future,
Faith is dancing to it today.* -Ruben Alvarez

Let's Keep In Touch

When we can't embrace we can send our love through the mail.

If you know someone who would love to receive a card or note from the Women's Association; Please call or send an email with their name, address & phone number.

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

You can contact:
Joi Staves
joistaves@gmail.com
818-648-1638

Band of Prayer

**A church that prays together, stays together
Especially during these challenging and uncertain times when we are separated by the need for social distancing and don't know what happens next...**

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 to Sylvia McCormick via email at miss_daisy1226@yahoo.com

-or-

call the Church Office: 818-789-7124

WHO'S WHO AT COTC, Nancy Nelsen continues...

She says it was a very easy transition when she joined Church of the Chimes since she was so familiar with the structure of the church. She said it felt like home. Since she has been with us she has done a fantastic job taking on a leadership role in the Women's Association in charge of the Bouquet Circle. This group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and you can count on an interesting program every time. She has also been Chair of the Board of Deacons and is a consistent member of the choir. Thank you, Nancy.

When Nancy is not giving her time and energy to our church, she is a steady and loving caregiver to her 3 beautiful grandchildren. It's an honor to know such a remarkable person. It is wonderful people like Nancy and Randy that make COTC a special place.

Life is an endless series of tiny miracles...Take them in...

THE CHURCH OF THE CHIMES IS LIVE ON-LINE



Visit our website:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChimes>

Find an abundance of information regarding all the various activities on campus; listen to audios of past sermons, plus you can view older copies of Chiming In and/or request future editions be emailed to you....

Visit, Like, Share, follow our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChimes/>

View up-to-date information on programs and live stream events such as Sunday Services and Daily Devotionals (10 at 10 with Beth)

Visit various productions on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLl2TLj2XfbBtgAOY0rjjA>

Weekly Worship Services and Daily Devotions are now available on YouTube. We'll keep you posted as we add other things.

Get this app on your smart devices and then arrange conference call events to meet with Church Boards, Committees, Bible Studies* and/or other groups up to 100 participants.

*e.g., Wednesday night Women's Bible Study with Jane.

<https://zoom.us/meetings>

If you need help connecting to and/or otherwise utilizing any of these on-line tools, please call the church office and we'll find someone to get you started.



THE ENTIRE CHURCH OF THE CHIMES CAMPUS IS CLOSED!

INCLUDING THE OFFICE.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL DR. BINGHAM'S LAND LINE (747) 264-0285.

IF YOUR NEED IS OF A LESS URGENT NATURE, PLEASE CALL (818) 789-7124

AND/OR SEND AN EMAIL <office@churchofthechimes.org>.

Messages will be responded to in a timely manner.

TRUSTEES

Greg Abbott, Chair

Wow, I'm not really sure what to write about; the trustees haven't met since we shut everything down. Our treasurer, John VanVeen, has applied for a government loan to help cover the cost of paying our staff. I am looking forward to announcing good news on this soon.

This whole situation points out the problem of having a high percentage of our budget funded by sources other than the congregation. We are fortunate that we have a strong endowment to fall back on. That said, I urge you as you can, to keep current with your estimate of giving.

Beyond that, like everyone else, I am looking forward to the day when we can meet for services in person; I really miss all of you. We will have to keep our faces covered, and we won't be able to shake hands or exchange hugs, but at least we can worship together.

Until then, a virtual hug to all, Greg

DEACONS

Nancy Nelsen, Chair

The Deacons miss connecting with you. If you are in need of prayers or assistance please call Pastor Beth. May God bless you, and keep you safe and healthy!

COMMUNITY AND WORLD SERVICES

Diane Delaney, Chair

No News This Month

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

How have you and your family been occupying your time during the Pandemic? Let us know by emailing the office or just giving us a call.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Jane G. Poole, Director and Jan Long, Chair

Silver Linings... continues...

Live entertainment is being viewed and shared in a new way too! Concerts, comedy shows and orchestras where attending such events is usually pricey and time consuming to coordinate, are now fairly and readily available. Lately, creators and artists are performing live online for free. We can pretty much tune in to a performance every night of the week. You can start the week with Grace Potter or Metallica, wind down each night with a live stream from the Metropolitan Opera; during weekends, there are a plethora of performances. My personal favorite is John Mayer who has a half hour Instagram show which is a mix of his music, humor and hosted guests which is fabulous!

We have had a chance to reconnect with friends from long ago, and family that we don't usually speak to for long periods of time. We are using Zoom, Facetime and just good old phones to connect. Importantly, we have had the chance to reconnect with ourselves.

With this slower life, Collin Reiff, a psychiatrist with NYU Langone Health, said "The crisis has had an interesting way of giving us permission to reach out to those closest to us for support, reinforcing positive relationships, picking up old hobbies or created new ones". Mental health experts say hobbies do wonders for our mental health and well-being, but, it can be tough to find the time to take on new hobbies in our normal busy life. Mr. Reiff said he's noticed many people are using this free time to practice self-care; going on walks, crafting, cooking, reading, writing and gardening. People are also revisiting activities they loved as a kid—like playing soccer, or making friendship bracelets—as a way to relax, revisit old memories, and of course, stop thinking about the virus.

Finally, the pandemic has given us time to check-in with ourselves, and has allowed us to make an effort to prioritize our own well-being. For us to take care of ourselves, both physically and spiritually.

Not only is it important to keep ourselves healthy, other people now depend on it. It's OK to let ourselves rest. It's wonderful to have a little more time to explore our spiritual lives more deeply, and reawaken our faith. Let's hope some of these life lessons, if not all of these silver linings, last now and forever! It would make for a more peaceful and better world to live in. AMEN!

(Referenced and inspired by a Huffington Post Article)

JANE'S CORNER

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

Yes, there is a Silver Lining...

The last three months have undoubtedly been difficult both physically and mentally, while we deal with the differing aspects of loss and disappointment. However, not everything is bleak. In fact, there are many things we can be thankful for, even when the world seems to be, figuratively speaking, like a Rubik's cube; mixed up and confusing.

I recently read an article in the *Huffington Post* which noted that there are many silver linings arising from our stay-at-home orders. After reading the article, my hope is that these are not just temporary; rather these will continue and help reshape our world and thinking, as the months and years pass.

Here are some silver linings worth recognizing:

Our air is getting cleaner. Pollutants that cause smog are not filling our atmosphere, given far less car traffic and industrial activity. A new report found there's been a nearly 17% decline in global carbon dioxide emissions since last year; potentially the largest drop in pollution ever recorded. Los Angeles is seeing clear crisp skies and stars at night, while Detroit is down 30% in smog, Minneapolis is down 15%, and major cities across the U.S. have clearer skies. Additionally, the smog infected country of India is at a 20 year low for smog!

Scientists are innovating at lightning speed, creating COVID-19 testing, drugs and technologies around the world and uniting to share their findings. Onyema Ogbuagu, a Yale Medicine infectious disease doctor, said, "There are currently over 250 trials looking at various drugs and treatments for COVID-19".

New technologies have been developed to sanitize personal protective and medical equipment for reuse. Old drugs are being repurposed; new drugs are being developed.

It's amazing to see how much innovation is going on; and it's all happening at record speed. These new discoveries won't just help us recover in the short-term, but they'll transform our lives for years to come. The pandemic has ushered in an unprecedented era of cooperation and innovation from the private and public sector and medical community, towards achieving common goals," Ogbuagu said. "This level of collaboration has transcended country borders and regions, and galvanized the research community. The world is united in a way we've never really seen before." Continues on the next page...

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Robert Jones, Chair

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD WHEN WE GATHER TOGETHER AGAIN.

At *Church Of The Chimes* there are various boards and committees in which members can actively play a role in the responsibility of leading, as well as reaching out to those in need, wherever they may be.

We encourage everyone to join in the effort to spread the Good News of the Lord. For those who do not currently serve on a board or committee, we invite you to consider the various positions where vacancies currently exist. Through offering your time and talents you will be helping Church of the Chimes on our continuing path, as a vibrant and deeply caring church. If interested please let the church office know. Thank you.

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

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Natalie Karp, Chair

BOUQUET CIRCLE AND VESPERS CIRCLE

Ladies, we miss gathering together! Under the current circumstances we are not scheduling any meetings. We can, however, continue to pray for each other, email or call one another to share our thoughts and concerns. If you need contact information for someone in our groups, email, call or text Nancy Nelsen at nancynelsen@sbcglobal.net or 630-842-6977.

GREAT RECIPE of the MONTH

FROZEN FRUIT SMOOTHIE

- 1 frozen banana, peeled and sliced
- 2 cups frozen strawberries, raspberries, or cherries
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup plain or vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 2 to 3 tablespoons honey or to taste

Put all the ingredients in a blender and process until smooth. Pour into glasses and serve.

Cooks note: For non-dairy smoothies, substitute 1 cup rice milk for the milk and yogurt; or, use soy yogurt or milk instead of dairy.

GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

Stanley Dong, Historian

The Corral at the Golden West Fair

What is one person's junk may very well be someone else's treasure. This is the underlying theory of the Corral at the *Golden West Fair*, an integral part of the Fair for the past sixty-five years. Originally, the Corral operated outside of a shed at the rear driveway of the campus. The booth provided an abundance of goods for sale. Almost any item is acceptable for the Corral, ranging from very useful hand and power tools, to more mundane and dated items like old suitcases and book ends.

Prices are at bargain levels, but gatekeepers like John Drew staunchly enforced a minimum floor of pricing to discourage highway robberies at the Corral! Over the years, it has been a formidable profit center for the Fair.

Originally, the Corral was run by Dallas and Jessie Getz, parents of dear member Ginger Getz Wright. Next, Bill and Carol Miller ran it and then Kelley Judd. We also need to mention Dora and Larry Humphreys ably assisting Dallas and Jessie. For a year or two, there was a role reversal, with the Humphreys' running the concession and the Getz's assisting. Over the years, there have been countless others who have contributed to its success.

Dallas Getz was originally from Utah. His mother, not of the Mormon faith, was pleased to see Dallas migrate to California (more correctly...away from Utah). Jessie was home grown - born and raised in Hollywood, and a Congregationalist from the outset. She attended Mount Hollywood Congregational Church, before joining the Church of the Chimes. They were married in 1942, and have three married children, son Bill in Granada Hills and daughters Kaye Carlson in Stillwater, Oklahoma and Ginger Wright of Reseda.

The Getz's used to live a half block away from the Church...in the second house on Hartsook Street, near Hazeltine Avenue. Upon Dallas' retirement, he worked almost full time at Church, before moving out to Green Valley. Dallas and Jessie continued to worship with us and never considered worshipping anywhere else. They moved again to Santa Clarita, to a home closer, cutting the distance to the Church by a half.

The Getz's had a wonderful anecdote about the Staves and the Corral. He recalls that Dr. Walter Staves, when driving to Church on refuge collection day,

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The Corral at the Golden West Fair cont.

Stanley Dong, Historian

had his eyes out for potential Corral items, much like the eyes of an eagle seeking its prey.

Whenever he came upon something of value, he would stop his car to execute an EVR, a space age acronym for *Extra Vehicular Rescue*. Whenever Evelyn was in the car during an EVR, she would become quite embarrassed....being the proper lady that she was. We can all share in her anxiety at the sight of an outstanding citizen of the community and her own husband, scrounging around in other people's garbage cans! So as soon as Walter stopped his car to retrieve an item, Evelyn would begin slumping lower, and lower, and lower until she was completely out of sight of anyone passing by at that moment!

In carrying out God's work, obviously Dr. Staves believed that saving an object from oblivion was merely an extension of saving a person's soul.

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## **NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY**

A HUGE thank you to all the wonderful, amazing and dedicated congregants and friends of Church of the Chimes, for your support of the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. Thanks to Martha and an anonymous donor, for starting the donation challenge, and to the donors who rose to the challenge. We raised enough money to purchase a full pallet of food. For those of you who are not familiar with that term, it's hundreds and hundreds of pounds of food!

The Church of the Chimes is one of the founding churches of the pantry, and we are still one of the guiding forces helping our community neighbors in need.

Thank you for the blessings of your constant support. Jane

Look through the eyes of another,  
be kind, forgive, love.

