## 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



Let everything you do be done in Love

1 Corinthians 16:14

May 2023



Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, ennifer Lee, Church Office Manager Wedding & Events Coordinator **Christian Education Director** Senior Minister





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14115 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

#### FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

#### Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

#### **FAITHFULLY YOURS**

Do you ever have thoughts that swirl in your head, stuff that worries you or annoys you or angers you? Have you ever lain awake at night not able to sleep because of everything that you didn't do that you should have done, or even the things you did that you shouldn't have done? I know I have...

It is called, I understand from psychology "Rumination." Rumination is what cows do, chewing something over and over again...for us chewing over things without ever coming to any peaceful understanding. There is hope however!

A friend pointed out the other day that in our lives of faith, our ruminations can be what St. Ignatius would have called "desolation." Desolation comes in those times and places in our lives which keep us from being close to God, being one with God, being swaddled by God.

What we seek then is "consolation," those moments of depth and calm when we understand God really is with us—not that God isn't always with us but we understand that God is close and near. For we have reconnected with the Holy Spirit, we have walked upon the path that Jesus set before us, we have once again touched our faith which is so much deeper and so much more powerful than all the annoyances and distractions and anxieties and worries which keep us awake at night and disrupt our hearts and minds in the day.

How does that happen? Perhaps as simply and quietly as going back to a time when God was close, when we felt so deeply God's love. Maybe then we begin by looking back to find that time, that place and hold on to it, cherish it.

Because wondrously, when we reconnect to God, when we welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives we are strong again. We can face the challenges, the problems, the difficulties with a clearer mind and a fuller heart and the strength and determination to live through even the most difficult consequences. Because we are not alone. The One who watches over us is with us.

And the words of Jesus to his disciples the night he was betrayed echo in our hearts:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid.

Love and blessings to all, Beth

#### **MAY 2023 HAPPENINGS**

- ⇒ COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 6:30pm in Dreier Hall.
- ⇒ MOTHER'S DAY SPRING-A-THON: SATURDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 10am—4pm: This is an eco friendly pop-up shopping experience empowering female "Momtreprenures" offering their wares on the Hazeltine Lawn with food and entertainment. Come join in the fun of the day.
- ⇒ RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUP: SUNDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> at 11:45am: The Racial Equity Group did not meet in March or April, but we are back on track to meet on the first Sunday of each month after the worship service in Dreier Hall. This Group Discussion is a place where all views are welcomed as we learn from one another. Contact Diane Delaney, Shawn Burkley, or Dr. Bingham for details.
- ⇒ BOUQUET CIRCLE: FRIDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 11:30—1:30pm: All women are welcome to join this group who enlighten one another on a variety of topics of interest, typically on the second Wednesday of every month. This month we are joining the preschool Mother's Day Tea and afterwards will continue our program in Dreier with Jane Poole presenting stories about women in the Bible. Please RSVP to Barbara Downs (btdowns@gmail.com) or call the church office.
- ⇒ TRUSTEES MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30pm in Dreier Hall.
- ⇒ VESPERS: THURSDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 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.
- ⇒ RUMMAGE SALE: SATURDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 8:30—1:00 in BOWER HALL. Set up will begin on Wednesday, May 17 and continue on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Louisa Larez (loucare@yahoo.com) if you are available to help out at anytime.
- ⇒ 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 talk about what it means.
- ⇒ **ZOOM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYs at 7pm:** All women of any faith are invited to our virtual gathering of caring, sharing & loving women on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via **ZOOM** (e-mail jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net).
- ⇒ SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: The Men's Group is hosting a Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month (May 14th and 28th) in Dreier Hall from 9:30 to 10:15am. We are currently studying the Book of Proverbs. Please feel free to join in at anytime for lively and interesting discussions.
- ⇒ NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY: NHIFP continues to help the food insecure in our community during the hard times we are in. Contributions of granola bars and other snack items plus peanut butter and diapers for babies and adults are needed. Contact NHIFP.org for other specific needs as well as for volunteer opportunities. Thanks for your support of our community food bank.

#### **Rob Yurik**

Born in Burbank and raised in Sherman Oaks, Rob grew up just around the corner from COTC. A few years ago he decided to visit. He enjoyed the service, the place, and the people, and he has been here ever since!



Rob works as a Universal Studios Hollywood Ambassador which explains his friendly booming voice! A real asset at our Golden West Fair last year, Rob served as an enthusiastic impromptu greeter and friendly announcer to different areas of the fair - no microphone required! He stays active at the church by attending as many of our gatherings as possible.

Rob's hobbies include watching movies, reading, and writing—Rob performed one of his original pieces at last summer's drama night called, "Fiddle Town" - very entertaining!

For fun, Rob likes to enjoy a day every now and then at Santa Anita! He also likes to take public transportation (bus, train) around town on Saturday mornings to explore local areas and treat himself to breakfast, often making excursions to the beach at Ventura to spend the day - a true adventurer!

If Rob could ask God one question it would be, "Why has my life's pattern taken a certain design?" This is a question most of us might ask as our actu-

al life's pattern seldom meshes with what we had hoped for or expected. But that is the beauty of our lives: Each life is different and unique, often straying from the norm. Yet God is with us all the time, and it was His intended design all along! See you around church, Rob!

#### **Pool Opens to Key Holders Memorial Day Weekend**

Contact Church Office if more information is desired.





#### FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

#### **GOD'S LOVE**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:9-12

God desires to be experienced. He is living and active, but so few really experience the life and love He wants to bring. Today, after receiving his love, take some time to reflect on how differently you feel and act afterwards. See if you feel a stirring of desire for God and those around you.

The love of God will guide you, establish you, empower you, and fully delight you. His love will free you, compel you, and sustain you. His love for you is eternal, real and right now. All you need to do is simply open your heart to him and set aside a little time right now to receive his amazing gift of love.

You see, God intends for us to have his love for those around us. In loving God you receive his love for others. You care about the things the people you love care about. It is the same with God. But it all starts with simply being loved by him. There's no better time than right now, wherever you are, to receive the love of your heavenly Father.

\*\*Believe it! Reverend Curtis Peek\*\*

Revisiting Curtis' article from the May 2021 Chiming In

#### **SERMON TOPICS FOR MAY**

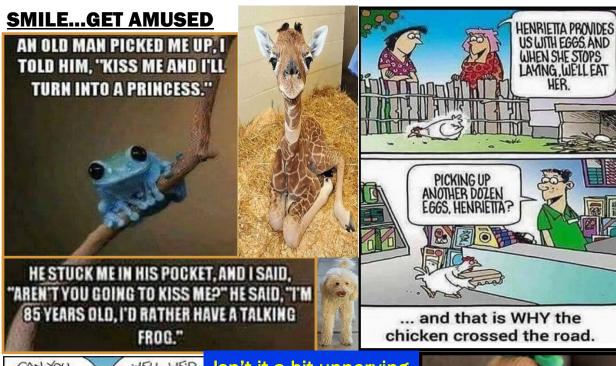
May 7: Stone Struck (Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16)

~ Communion Sunday

May 14: For Goodness Sake (I Peter 3:13-22)

May 21: Awesome! (Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35)

May 28: Fire and Wind (Acts 2:1-21)







My super power is holding onto junk for years and throwing it away a week before I need it

#### THOUGHTS TO PONDER...

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.







The best way to predict your future is to create it.

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves

the impossible.

HOPE PassitOn.

Abraham Lincoln

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Nelson Mandela

"Whatever things you ask in prayer,

believing, you will receive..." -Matthew 21:22

All things are possible through the openness of our mind, the gentleness of our spirit, and the act of understanding and embracing." Lily Yeh

When you forgive somebody, when you are generous, when you withhold judgment, when you love and when you stand up to injustice, you are, in that moment, bringing heaven to earth." Rob Bell

Let us not become weary in **doing** GOOD for we will reap *a harvest of BLESSING* in **due season** if we DO NOT Give Up. Galatians 6:9

JANE'S CORNER

### CALL TO CHURCH OF THE CHIMES' ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 21, 2023 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

THE 73RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY, MAY 21 FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES WILL BE PRESENTED AND THERE WILL BE AN ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS.

ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BE PRESENT TO VOTE

#### **DEACON NEWS**

Greg Abbott, Chair

The Deacons had a short meeting on April 16. We reviewed Holy Week, and we were pleased with how it went. Plus we were very happy with the Maundy Thursday service. Thanks to all the readers.

I'm sure you have noticed that there have been some new faces in the Lectern on Sunday Morning. This was always a Deacon Duty in the days when we had only a Senior Minister. We will continue to be the primary source until Curtis is ready to return.

We are going to try to do Christmas in July with the Los Angeles Children's Bureau this year. If all works out well, we will consider working with them on the Christmas Families program.

Till next month, Greg

#### **COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICE NEWS**

Robert Dunn, Chair

Saturday August 19th
4:00pm - 8:00pm
CWS will once again be Hosting a
Food, Games, Music, Dancing,
Silent Auction and more...



Tickets on sale soon!!!

\$20 for Adults & \$10 for children 10 & under

When we are born we have no preconceived notions about life. It's a blissful and simple existence. We eat, sleep, coo and accept the cuddles. On repeat for months. As the months progress we teach ourselves to crawl and eventually walk. In this time, we're taught to learn words: mama, dada, teetopher, and Em. Then the words start to flow, from being taught and by having books read to us.

When our kids were growing up, we'd work hard to teach them about how words work. Good words were complimented, and when a bad word slipped in, we would ask them to think about a better word to say about how they felt and what they were trying to convey. This encouraged thoughtfulness while teaching them on a basic level that words have power. That a word's power can and does have an effect on those around us.

The words we use represent who were are. They represent our morals, values and our talents. The words we use can dramatically affect the thoughts and feelings of those we live with, work with and worship with. Jesus' words resonate with all Christians. They have just as much power today as they did over two thousand years ago. His words and ours have an impact. The words we speak have a sense of life – they can provide encouragement, evoke emotions and set a tone for conversation.

Jesus' teachings ask us, as His followers, to use words that reflect thanks, kindness and respect. We are to use our words for good - lifting others up in praise and inspiring joy. As Christians, let's remember to treat others with loving words that are felt in our hearts and souls.

Blessings, Jane ... and please remember to spend quiet time with God!



Join the Festivities: A Benefit Fundraiser will be held at the First Christian Church of North Hollywood on Sunday June 4, 2023 from 3-5PM ~ Hors d'Oeuvres, Wine, a Silent Auction and a Tour of the New Food Distribution Center ~ \$40/person ~ Dressy Casual Attire ~ Call Jane to RSVP by May 19. Your support of the Food Pantry is always so appreciate. Thank you!



#### **RED CROSS URGENT NEED!**

Sign up online: www.churchofthechimes.org DRIVE The next Blood Drive at COTC will be on July 5th.



#### **BAND OF PRAYER**

A church that prays together, stays together especially during challenging times when everything seems to go upside down. What is certain is that God is with us. Bringing things back into focus. He hears our prayers.

Please send Band of Prayer requests to Sylvia McCormick; miss\_daisy1226@yahoo.com or feel free to call or email the Church Office;

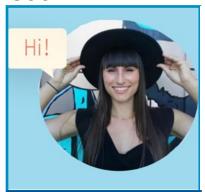
#### LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

If you know someone who would enjoy a receiving a call or maybe a card with a short note, please send their name, address & phone number to the church office:

office@churchofthechimes.org

One of our pastors or deacons will reach out...

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS**



I CAN'T WAIT TO CONNECT WITH YOU ONLINE!

The Problem







Make a global impact AND earn money for COTC by



#### The Solution



Stopped 75 million pounds of CO2



Recycled and reused 2.5 million

818-789-7124

#### Hayley Cabral, Director

#### **HOW IT WORKS:**

Step 1: You donate sneakers Step 2: GotSneakers sends a \$\$ check to COTC for every viable pair we collect

+	Excellent:	\$7.00	per	pair

- + *Good:* \$2.00 per pair
- Fair: \$1.00 per pair
- Recyclable: \$0.25 per pair
- Non-Athletic Shoes: \$0.00
- + Non-Paired (Singles): \$0.00

Shoes MUST be SNEAKERS to be accepted into the program.

A collection box will be in the Sanctuary to receive donations.

Thank You

#### PRESCHOOL NEWS

On April 27th a crew from Fire Station 88 stopped by COTC to teach the preschoolers all about what they do and to let them get up close to the Fire Engine. What fun was had by all!

The Preschool program begins at 27 months through 5 years. Enrollment for our '22-'23 school year is on-going. The Parent and Me Program offers a class on



Thursdays from 9:30–11:30am. For more information on our Preschool &/or Parent & Me Program, contact Ms. Ally at preschool@churchofthechimes.org or call the church office.

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

Thank you to all who helped put together our Easter Egg Hunt. It was an "eggciting" and fun time for sure!

Our BE Bold youth group along with the CE Board will be sponsoring fellowship time after our worship services during the month of May. If you are a part of these wonderful groups, or just want to help out, please reach out to Jane.

We hope to help coordinate a May Chimes Café. Date and details will be sent via COTC's daily email blast.

VBS - Save the Dates: July 24th - 28th.

. Let all your friends and neighbors know about this amazing camp. We're looking for volunteers to lead music and Bible story time. Let Jane know if you are interested.

If you feel the call, we would love for you to join our CE Board! We are a fun, loving and respectful group who share the love of God with both kids and adults. Contact Jane or Barbara if you're interested in joining the group or have any questions. Submitted by Jane Poole

#### Barbara Downs, Chair

Ally Baker, Director



#### THE BEAUTY OF OUR SANCTUARY

Submitted by Joi Staves

The magnificent stained glass window at the front of the Sanctuary was donated by church members as a memorial to Dr Walter Staves. In front of it is a 17 foot tall silver cross, designed by silversmith Allan Adler. Fabricated from treasures contributed by the members, it was worked into a gleaming symbol, representing the faith of the congregation.

#### "I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA..." ~ Contributed by Stan Dong

The beautiful stain glass panels that bracket the Magnolia Doors contain the symbols alpha and omega, i.e., the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. In physical and biological sciences, alpha is associated with names such as alpha rays, alpha particles or alpha dog; and omega is the unit of resistance in an electric circuit or the unit of circular frequency of natural vibration. For us Congregationalists, these Greek letters refer to the Book of Revelation (verses 1:8, 21.6 and 22.13). It relates to the phrase "I am Alpha and Omega," an appellation of Jesus meaning that He is the beginning and end of all things. Another way of saying this is that God is forever.

These stain glass panels were a gift from Fred and Anita Young, in loving memory of their one and only grandchild, Monique, who unfortunately perished very soon after her high school graduation in Vancouver, British Columbia in an auto accident.

Fred and Anita emigrated to the United States from Canada after his service in the Royal Canadian Armed Forces during WWII. This writer recalls the romantic story of their wedding at the historic Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel in Alberta. Fred came to Southern California and was in Real Estate most of his career. Anita was a teacher in LA Unified School District. At COTC they served with love and distinction on the Board of Deacons; the two were very devoted to the spiritual life of our church. Fred and Anita were also quite prominent at our annual Golden West Fair. They ran the garden booth. All year long, they would grow and nurture impatients, vincas and red foliage perennials for the fair. Fred also acquired exotic items such as banana trees. Their booth was quite lucrative, grossing over 1000 dollars in many years. Many of us (elders!) enjoyed working in their booth because it was always under the majestic oak tree beside the pool, obviously for its shade during the two hot September days of the fair.

It was not too long after their gift that they decided to move back to Vancouver, BC (around the turn of the century) to be closer to their only son and daughter-in-law in their retirement.

The dedication to the stained glass window at the front of the Sanctuary will be presented in next month's edition of Chiming In.

# MOTHER'S DAY SPRING-A-THON SHOPPING

MAY 6TH · 10am - 4pm

at Church of the Chimes

Empowering Female Momtreprenures

#### **Diverse High End Vendors**

ECO- FRIENDLY SHOPPING EXPERIENCE SOCIAL GOOD- WOMAN OWNED - FOOD JEWELRY - ARTISAN CRAFTS - CLOTHES & MORE



#### **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Natalie Karp, Chair

All women of the church are invited to attend all of the gatherings held by the Women's Association.

### BOUQUET CIRCLE TO JOIN THE PRESCHOOL MOTHERS AT THEIR ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY TEA, FRIDAY, MAY 12TH

While the Bouquet Circle typically meets for lunch in Dreier Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month, in May on Friday the 12th we will be joining the Preschool mothers at their Annual Tea Party to celebrate Mother's Day. Then we will all mosey over to Dreier Hall where Jane Poole will present our May program that will focus on Women of the Bible. Please RSVP to Barbara Downs at btdowns@gmail.com or call the church office.

#### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 13TH

The WA Board meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10am in Dreier Hall. Anyone interested in participating on the Board may contact Natalie Karp, our Board Chair.

#### VESPERS CIRCLE TO MEET FOR DINNER ON THURSDAY, MAY 18TH

Vespers gathers at a local restaurant on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month. This month they will meet on Thursday, May 18th for an enjoyable time of fellowship as we celebrate Jean Hall's 94th birthday. Anyone who wants to join in the fun of this evening is invited. Please contact Natalie Karp at 818-590-2640 for location and reservations.





## May 2023





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm AlAnon ~ Staves Chapel	9:00am Preschool 10:00am Crafting ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Upper CE 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons 6:00pm Be Bold Gathering ~ HH 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Group	6 Mothers Day Spring-a-Thon 10:00am to 4pm Hazeltine Lawn  9:00am -1pm Swim Lessons 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S	
7 10:30am COTC Worship Svc Communion Served 10:45am Super Kids 11:45am CWS Meeting 1:00pm tRPC Worship Svc 1:30pm Daisy Scouts ~ Dreier 7:30pm AlAnon ~ Dreier	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ CE 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ Bower 7:30pm AlAnon ~ Staves Chapel	9:00am Preschool 10:00am Preschool 10:00am Crafting ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ Bower	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 3:00pm –7pm Swim Lessons	12 BOUQUET CIRCLE AND PRESCHOOL MOTHER'S DAY TEA ~ Bower Hall ~ 11:30AM - 1:30PM 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ Dreier 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Upper CE 3:00pm -7pm Swim Lessons 7:00pm tRPC Recovery Group	9:00am –1pm Swim Lessons 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S 10:00am WA Board Mtg ~ Dreier	
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