

Chiming In

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES
NEWS AND EVENTS

A Diverse and Loving Christian Community Accepting of All



December 2025

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

14115 Magnolia Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423



Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, Senior Minister
Rev. Curtis Peek, Associate Minister
Jennifer Lee, Church Office Manager
Allvne Baker, Preschool Director
Joi Staves, Wedding & Events Coordinator
Javier De la Torre, Facilities



Find us on
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SERMONS:

December 7: Matthew 3: 1-12 Getting Ready

December 14: Christmas Pageant

December 21: Luke 2:1-7 Long Night's Journey into Day

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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Faithfully Yours

Every year I have at least one Advent calendar—it started when I was little girl and I have never given it up. Granted, sometimes I forget to open the window, but I eventually catch up. It was always a choice between one with Mary and Joseph and Jesus and the animals in the stable and something Santa. Some years, I got both. For a while I was a rarity among my friends, some not even quite sure what an Advent calendar was. For many years they were hard to find—stuck in a corner at a bookstore, perhaps, or at a store somewhere nestled in the greeting card section.

Then I noticed that things changed. When Teddy was little, my sister sent a wooden one with 25 doors when each day I put something little inside from candy to coins to...toys small enough to fit. Then I found lots of calendars that had candy behind each window. My great find was when visiting New York and finding an Advent calendar at the Metropolitan Museum of Art—gorgeous. It is now my go to place. Suddenly, it seems that Advent calendars are all over. One of the news shows featured the calendars as ways to count the days ‘til Santa came. I was surprised, and then...oddly, somewhat saddened.

So many people buying the calendars with candy or jelly or wee bottles of liquor have no idea what Advent really is: the four weeks of quiet anticipation as we await the arrival of the baby Jesus, the son of God, the light of the world. Advent is the season of preparation, getting ready for the birth of our savior. Preparing not by shopping or baking or wrapping but by pausing in our lives to...take a breath, so beautifully described by Frederick Buechner in his book *Whistling in the Dark*:

“...if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of yourself somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath. So in these coming days, it is hope awaiting us, light to come to us, and love to swaddle us.”

Happy Advent...and Merry Christmas!

COUNCIL

Diane Delaney

Council will be meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:45 PM in Dreier Hall. We invite all members to join us as we review upcoming plans, share updates, and discuss important community matters. Your participation and input are greatly appreciated.

ALL FOR KIDS

The church of the chimes is taking Xmas donations for the organization "All for Kids" in Los Angeles. They are requesting new toys and gift cards for ages 1 to 18 years old. Their services are foster care, adoption and related services. In Los Angeles County alone, the foster care population exceeds 33,000 children. Within the local foster care program, 200 of those foster children are waiting for an adoptive family and place to call home.

RACIAL EQUITY

Diane Delaney

Save the Date: Sunday, January 18, 2026, immediately following our church service, for our 4th Annual MLK Jr. celebration, “Voices of the Valley.” We will gather for lunch together and then enjoy a meaningful one-hour program honoring the life, legacy, and message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This is always a powerful event filled with reflection, storytelling, and community connection. If you are interested in helping with the planning or would like to speak or share during the program, please contact Beth or Diane.

HANDBELLS

Diane Delaney

If you are interested in playing in our Chimes Handbell Choir, please contact Diane Delaney at sfvcropwalk@yahoo.com. We welcome both new and experienced ringers, and would love to have you be part of this joyful music ministry. Rehearsals are warm, supportive, and a wonderful way to share your gifts with the community.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO CHURCH OF THE CHIMES!

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

Our holidays are coming –here is what awaits us in the month of December:

Friday, December 5: Light up the Night

It is a night of light and fun and wonder (and Santa!) See the firefighters place a star in the tall tree. See the dancers, sing the carols....6 p.m.!

Sunday, December 14: Christmas Pageant!!!!

The center of our worship will be the Christmas story presented by our children and youth. They are working with such big hearts to share the birth of Jesus. Come and join us!

Sunday, December 21: Christmas Sunday Worship

This is the Sunday of carols and stories and wonder...

Christmas Eve: 7 p.m.: Family Service

With story and music and candlelight and a very special children's moment we welcome the baby Jesus!

11 p.m. Candlelight Service

The full choir will sing and we will rejoice in the birth of Jesus through music, story, meditation. The service concludes as we go outside in the starry night to light candles of love and hope.



DECEMBER 2025 HAPPENINGS

- **COUNCIL MEETING:** Dec 2nd at 6:45pm Dreier Hall
- **BE BOLD:** Dec 5th & 19th at 6pm Hamilton House
- **WOMENS ASSOCIATION MEETING:** Dec 13th 10am Dreier Hall
- **VESPERS:** Dec 10 at 6:30pm
- **DEACONS MEETING:** Dec 21st at 12:00 pm Bower Hall
- **CHRISTIAN ED MEETING:** Dec 21st at 12:00 pm Lower CE
- **CWS MEETING:** Dec 21st at 12:00pm Dreier Hall
- **TRUSTEE MEETING:** Dec 16th at 6:30pm Dreier Hall
- **CRAFT CREATIONS:** MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 10:00am in Dreier Hall
- **BROWN BAG BIBLE:** TUESDAYS at Noon in Dreier Hall
- **ZUMBA:** WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS at 9:45 in Dreier Hall
- **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** MEETS WEDNESDAYS at 7pm via Zoom. All women of any faith are invited to our gathering of caring, sharing and loving women. For more information contact Jane Poole via email at jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net.
- **PAINTING CLASS:** THURSDAYS 10:00am - 12:00pm in Dreier Hall

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Tina Jasiukonis & Jon Wallace

Warm greetings from your Christian Education Board! We hope your Thanksgiving celebration was meaningful for you and your loved ones. Each day, we give thanks for the wonderful families of Church of the Chimes and for our surrounding Sherman Oaks community. We continue to lift prayers for peace, hope, and goodwill to all.

The Christmas season is upon us, and preparations are well underway for our Annual Church Christmas Pageant. Excitement fills the Sunday School classroom each week as the children rehearse the joyful retelling of the Christmas Story. We invite the entire congregation to join us on Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m., as our children and youth share this timeless story and lead us in singing classic Christmas carols. Come one, come all—and feel free to bring a friend or neighbor!

Sunday School is continuing to grow, and we ask you to join us in warmly welcoming our new families during reception time after worship each week. We are delighted to have them with us. If you ever have questions about our programs, please don't hesitate to ask—we are always happy to help. Our Youth Group, Be Bold, continues to meet on the first and third Fridays of each month from 6:00–8:00 p.m. All middle and high school students are invited to join us for fellowship, fun, and faith. For more information, feel free to contact us at ChristianEd@ChurchoftheChimes.org.

As we approach the close of 2025, we are profoundly grateful for our church family. We wish you a warm, joy-filled holiday season, a very Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year.

TRUSTEES

Tony Bliss

The trustees are happy to report that we procured a new (to us) golf cart for Javier and the campus! Javier and I drove out to Castaic on November 8th to pick it up. We got a terrific price for this very clean cart with new batteries and charger. The chapel crack fix/indoor painting job has been awarded and work is scheduled to begin after the holidays. Javier also did a great job fixing the concrete around the fountain and replacing the pump. Happy Holidays to All!

50th Annual SFV CROP WALK

Diane Delaney

We had a very successful 50th Annual San Fernando Valley (SFV) CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, November 2nd, 2025. Our church alone raised \$10,547, and our SFV Walk ranked 27th in the U.S.! We had a nice 2-mile walk around Van Nuys Park with 14 walkers from COTC. Thank you to all who made donations and to those who walked for this important cause. We are proud that 25% of what we raised stays right here in the SFV, supporting the NHIFP, SOVA, and the West Valley Food Pantry, as we know that these organizations truly need this money at this time.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

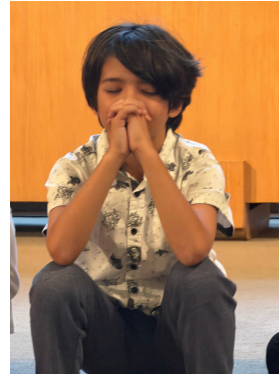
Diane Delaney

The Women's Association hosted a very successful annual Holiday Boutique on Saturday, November 22nd. We sold our handmade ornaments, hats, scarves, plants, and other items, along with holiday home decor and gift items in Santa's Closet. We also had 13 outside craft artist booths. We raffled off holiday play tickets and a beautiful handmade Christmas quilt. We enjoyed live holiday music by Tomo and his band while attendees savored a delicious chili and cornbread lunch. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success and to all who attended—we hope you enjoyed it! Merry Christmas!



**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

**COTC WALKERS RAISED \$10,000
TO END HUNGER! THANK YOU!**



COTC SENT 100 GIFT BOXES TO KIDS IN NEED THIS CHIRSTMAS!





DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	<u>1</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>2</u> COUNCIL MEETING DH 6:45PM 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creations ~ DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm LC Choir ~ BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>3</u> 9:00 Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>4</u> 9:00am Preschool 10am Art Class DH 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm Jumpin’ Fleas MR 7:00pm AA DH	<u>5</u> LIGHT UP THE NIGHT 6-8pm BE BOLD 6-8pm 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 6:00pm BE BOLD 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>6</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>7</u> 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Al Anon ~ DH	<u>8</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>9</u> 9:00am Preschool 10:0am Craft Creations ~ DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm LC Choir ~ BH 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>10</u> VESPERS 6:30pm 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>11</u> 9:00am Preschool 10am Art Class DH 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm AA DH	<u>12</u> 9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>13</u> WOMENS ASSOCIATION MEETING 10am 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>14</u> CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Al Anon ~ DH	<u>15</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ Chapel	<u>16</u> TRUSTEE MEETING 6:30pm 10:00am Craft Creations DH 12Noon Brown Bag Bible DH 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming 7:00pm LC Choir ~ BH	<u>17</u> 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women’s Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts~ BH	<u>18</u> 10am Art Class DH 4:00pm Drumming BH 7:00pm AA DH	<u>19</u> BE BOLD 6-8pm 9:45 Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>20</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>21</u> DEACONS MEETING 12pm CHRISTIAN ED MEETING 12:00pm CWS MEETING 12:00pm 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Al Anon ~ DH	<u>22</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ DH	<u>23</u> 10:0am Craft Creations ~ Dreier 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming BH	<u>24</u> CHRISTMAS EVE 9:45am Zumba ~ DH 7:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service 11:00pm Candlelight Service	<u>25</u> CHRISTMAS DAY	<u>26</u> 9:45am Zumba DH 10:00am 10 at 10 12PM- 7PM Girl Scout Camp 7:00pm RPC ~ Sanctuary	<u>27</u> 9:00am Kingdom Camp B-Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
<u>28</u> 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm RPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Al Anon ~ DH	<u>29</u> 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm AA Meeting ~ BH 7:30pm Al-Anon ~ DH	<u>30</u> 10:0am Craft Creations ~ Dreier 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 3:00pm Gymnastics CE 4:00pm Drumming	<u>31</u> NEW YEARS EVE 9:45am Zumba ~ DH			