



FirstChristianNews

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Volume LXII No. 27

January 3, 2018

"Though the
mountains be
shaken and the
hills be removed,
yet my unfailling
love for you will
not be shaken."

Isaiah 54:10, NIV

LETTER TO THE FAMILY



Every year has its ups and down, its highs and lows, its successes and failures. Whenever a new year rolls around we pray for the best – more ups than downs, more highs than lows and more success than failure.

2017 was a difficult year for many of us. I don't remember when I've heard so many people exclaim, "I'm so glad {fill in year} is over! It's been a really challenging year." And along with that statement is the obvious addition, "{Fill in year} has got to be a better year."

So we leave behind 2017, with all the things that caused it to be a difficult year for so many, and we embrace 2018 with all its hopes and dreams. I sincerely hope the new year will be a blessed year for each of us and that when we say "good-bye" to 2018 we will be able to say, "I hate to see this year over. It has been such a blessed year."

According to Dr. Google the next time Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday will be in 2023. Because of the way leap year fell we haven't had a Sunday Christmas Eve for eleven years. From a planning point of view that is long enough to forget the exact schedule we followed over a decade ago. However, I don't want to forget what we did this year when 2023 rolls around.

I thought Christmas Eve was an absolutely beautiful day. We had many more people, including children, at the morning service than I expected. The 5:30 "Family Service" had people standing in the aisles and the Children/Youth Choirs were awesome in bringing the special music. Josh Elson delivered the homily which was short, humorous, pointed and touched the hearts of both children and adults.

For the first time since 1969 I was unable to preach at the 11:00 PM Candlelight Service. This was by doctor's orders to avoid large crowds and the cold, early

morning air. It was disappointing but I'm very grateful to Louise Sloan Goben for leading the service and delivering a beautiful homily. As always the reports of the service were glowing.

On New Year's Eve we had only one service at 10:00 AM. We had lots of visitors and I felt we ended the year, one that has been marked with the loss of many in our church family, in a very positive and beautiful way.

This coming Sunday, January 7, we return to our regular schedule. I encourage you to not only worship at the morning service but to return and worship at the 5:30 PM SpiritSong service. This service has an entirely different tone with some marvelous musicians, great fellowship, and delicious refreshments and worship is always within a one hour time frame. Forget the word "contemporary" and replace it with "uplifting and spirited." Josh Elson is our very talented worship leader and the message is always timely.

The 7:00 PM Evenlight service is held in the Chapel and gives those who wish an opportunity to close out one week and begin the next in quiet meditation and prayer.

I invite you to take advantage of the different formats of worship your church provides for you. Invite a friend and come worship with us. You'll be glad you did.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday as we start the new year together.

Pergé!
Pastor Bob





2018 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN SET

Pledges this year will be collected at church on Cable Sunday, January 14, 2018. In the coming days, the Stewardship Council will work to inform members about what it means to pledge and tithe to the work of the church.

A pledge is a personal and confidential commitment between you and God about how you will financially support your church home. Pledges are a basis for the congregation to develop a realistic budget that will underwrite ministries. Your pledge will be confidentially maintained in the church office. You may raise or lower your pledge anytime during the calendar year.

You might wonder how to develop your pledge. A pledge should be made after thought and prayer. Hopefully, your pledge will be significant to you and will truly represent your faith and relationship with God. You may make your pledge based on weekly, monthly or yearly amounts. Your pledge may be made through your credit card (contact the church office.)

What's difference between a pledge and a tithe? The pledge represents your commitment to the church – a tithe represents a biblically based percentage of your income to give to the church. The scriptures suggest that you should give 10% of your income to the work of God. While you may not feel it is possible for you to tithe at this time in your life, it is a worthy goal for which to strive.

As you develop your pledge, think about how it compares to other aspects of your life. Do you spend more on movies and entertainment than the amount you give to the church? Do you spend more on a car payment than your pledge? Only you and God will know the answers to those questions.

As you contemplate your pledge, please also think about how you can give your time and talent to the congregation. While your monetary support is impor-

tant, the church could not operate without its members providing sweat equity as well. Please get involved in the church's ministries, fellowships and groups – you won't regret it.

Please plan to make your pledge on Cable Sunday, January 14, 2018!

Stewardship Committee



The Human Needs Committee is in need of winter supplies. Please take a look at the list below and consider donating one or more of these items to the homeless of our community. Donations can be dropped off at the church office during normal business hours or given to Deborah Luster in the Narthex on the morning of the second Sunday of the month. Please contact Deborah with any questions at 323.854.6707. Thank you!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> coats | <input type="checkbox"/> sleeping bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> warm socks | <input type="checkbox"/> knit caps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> jeans | <input type="checkbox"/> sweatshirts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blankets | <input type="checkbox"/> scarves & gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tents | <input type="checkbox"/> men's shoes |



Just A Thought...

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
Burst into jubilant song with music.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
Let the mountains sing together for joy!*
(from Psalm 98)

When Galen and I were in seminary in the mid-1980s, we signed a pledge called the Alverna Covenant. According to the website of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) this covenant was named for the place where the Covenant was first proposed, a retreat center in Indiana, home of the headquarters for the DOC. The retreat center itself was named after Mt. Alverna in Italy, the mountain retreat given to St. Francis of Assisi.

Francis is perhaps best known for his simple lifestyle and his deep affection for the natural world. He understood that the earth, animals, birds and flowers all were manifestations of God's love and generosity. All of nature, by simply being itself, praises and glorifies God each day. And finally, Francis related to the natural world as brother and sister as we are all part of God's being and God's generativity.

The Alverna Covenant reads:

*God has created the world with finite resources;
God has given to us the stewardship of the earth;
God has established order through many natural cycles;*

And it is evident that:

*We are consuming resources at a rate that cannot be maintained;
We are interrupting many natural cycles;
We are irresponsibly modifying the environment through consumption and pollution;
We are populating the earth at a rate that cannot be maintained;*

As a member of the human family and a follower of Jesus Christ, I hereby covenant that:

I will change my lifestyle to reduce my contribution to pol-

*lution;
I will support recycling efforts
I will search for sustainable lifestyles;
I will work for public policies which lead to a just and sustainable society;
I will share these concerns with others and urge them to make this covenant.*

For 30 years, Galen and I have attempted to live by this covenant, and we have encouraged our children to do the same. We have installed solar panels for our home, and have insulated it, installing double-paned windows; we have attempted to conserve water and have recycled plastics, glass and paper products for many years. I am aware that there is always more that can be done, but we try.

I would like for all of us, as a congregation to also try to make a difference around our church home. When you are able, turn off lights as you leave a room or the building. Try not to leave water running as you are at a sink. Be aware of what can be recycled or re-used, even when it is not always convenient. If the air-conditioner or heat is operating, close doors to maintain the temperature of a room.

Later this month, we will be offering a three-week series on Earth Care and the consequences of our lifestyles around the globe. We begin January 29 with the screening of "Dr. Keeling's Curve" featuring Mike Farrell. Mr. Farrell himself will be joining us for a Q&A about this film. February 5 will feature a speaker from "Blue Theology" and the need to understand the need for stewardship of our oceans, and finally on February 12 we will be joined by Dr. Timothy Murphy for a final discussion of "Creation Care."

May our new year be filled with the tender care and daily enjoyment of God's beautiful creation.

Pastor Louise

youthink



I greet you in the wonderful magnificent name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Can you believe it's 2018? Happy New Year!

The first major event for the youth is JanCamp! JanCamp is for our middle school youth in grades 6th-8th. They go to the regional Loch Leven camp site and have lots of fun during the MLK weekend. It is not too late to sign up for camp but the registration window closes January 8th. If you'd like your child to go to camp please register immediately at disciplespswr.org/camp/. Please inform me if your child will be attending camp to ensure traveling arrangements are in place.

This past Sunday you may have seen our youth providing leadership as they served as the diaconate in the 10 am service. I want to thank all the wonderful youth that helped to usher in the New Year through their service. Well-done! My thanks to the FCCNH family for their support of our youth as they continue to grow in leadership roles in the church.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to my one man show, "Black and 25 in America". I wrote this play in 2008 while attending the University of Kentucky. The play explores issues of race, class, and gender through the lives of five characters in the context of each character's environment. It contains adult themes and language and has been well-received by audiences on college campuses. In addition, the play has been featured in *The Dramatist* magazine. Recently, I was selected as one of the featured artists for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region IV. I will be performing my show during the week-long festival in February 2018. I am seeking the support of my church family for successful performances at the Atwater Village Theatre and for successful performances during the Festival. Again, the play opens February 15-17, 2018 at the Atwater Village Theater; tickets are available at <https://blackand25.bpt.me>.

Jeremy Gillett
Director of Youth Ministries



REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

For those of you who know someone serving in the armed forces, as well as people serving in other capacities, we want to lift them up in prayer... please let us know when they come home!

Christopher A. Bernstein Joshua Bigbee
Chris Diaz

We also want to continue to pray for peace, for wisdom for the world's leaders, and for the people of all war-torn areas of our world.



JEREMY GILLETT PRESENTS

The extraordinary actor and playwright (performer) with historical precision and riveting acting.
—The Dramatist

BLACK & 25

at the Atwater Village Theater

A featured artist in Residence for THE KENNEDY CENTER
American College Theatre Festival (4)

BLACK & 25 IN AMERICA is a searing one-man play that explores the issues of race, class, gender, and identity, through the lives of five characters. The sensitive subject matter of this bold work broadens our understanding and leaves audience members **FOREVER CHANGED**.

PERFORMER: JEREMY GILLETT

WHEN: February 15th, 16th, 17th, 2018 @ 7:30 p.m.
MATINEE on February 17th @ 2:00 p.m.
*A FREE FACE MASK DISTRIBUTION WITH THE PLAYBOUNT FOLLOWING EACH SHOW

WHERE: Atwater Village Theater
3289 Chastitas Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90039

TICKETS ONLINE: <https://blackand25.bpt.me> TICKETS BY PHONE: 1-800-838-3000 ext. 1
MAP & DIRECTIONS: www.atwatervillagetheatre.org

TICKETS \$15
— FREE PARKING —

WINNER
OF THE
ATWATER VILLAGE
THEATRE



The 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary. Photo by Raymond Torres



Dru Reed (Joseph) and Lucy Zavala (Mary) at our Live Nativity on Christmas Eve. Photo by Raymond Torres



INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY PICKUP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 10
Studio City Team

Thursday, January 4
#3 Rae Eiklor
Mike Eiklor
Neil Eiklor
Heather Hatch

Thursday, January 11
#5 Rosey Tamkin
Heather Hatch
Barbara Erdahl
Derek Reisinger

Sunday, January 7
#2 Fred Sloan
Louise Goben
Galen Goben
Jeff Goben
Hutch Hutchinson

Sunday, January 14
#4 Luis Oliart
Amanda Johnson
Barbara Erdahl
Hans Christoph
Robin Frank

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Transportation Teams:

Heather Hatch 508.667.1609

Congregation Representative:

Erin Zavala erinLzavala@gmail.com

ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE TO THE PANTRY

Make your donations to the Interfaith Food Pantry through the FCCNH web page (<https://fccnh.charityfinders.com/Donate%20Cash>).

THE FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF:

Canned tuna, canned chicken, rice, canned beans (pinto, navy etc.), boxed (dry) cereal, diapers, powdered milk, baby food, peanut butter and tomato products!

BY WAY OF REPORT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE _____

10:00 AM Worship	195
5:30 PM Family Worship Service	265
11:00 PM Candlelight Service	150
7:00 PM Wednesday Meditation	4
Sunday School Children	31

10:00 AM Worship	\$23,279.02
5:30 PM Family Worship Service	\$6,331.08
11:00 PM Candlelight Service	\$1,203.70
7:00 PM Wednesday Meditation	\$4.00

TOTAL GENERAL OFFERING **\$30,817.80**

Disciples Mission Fund (Christmas)	\$130.00
Food Pantry	\$880.00
Pastor's Class	\$50.00
Ralph's e-Script	\$227.51

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE _____

10:00 AM Worship	136
7:00 PM Wednesday Meditation	5
Sunday School Children	22

10:00 AM Worship	\$13,482.28
7:00 PM Wednesday Meditation	\$7.00
Sunday School Children	\$22.00

TOTAL GENERAL OFFERING **\$13,511.28**

Food Pantry	\$20.00
Youth Scholarships	\$1,100.00
Parking Lot Fund	\$1,000.00

CHURCH STAFF

- Robert M. Bock
SENIOR PASTOR
- Louise Sloan Goben
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- Alfredo Gomez
PASTOR, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION
- Jennifer Le'au
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
- Jeremy Gillett
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
- Tyana Parr
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH CHOIRS
- Joshua Elson
MUSIC DIRECTOR
- David Rigsby
ORGANIST
- Christine Karasseferian
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
- Gillian Bonacci
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
- Diane Hirsch
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST./WEB MASTER/PUBLICITY COORDINATOR
- Gabriela Dorantes
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Terri Burton
CHURCH PUBLICATIONS
- Michele Amundsen
WEDDING DIRECTOR
- Elmer Maldonado
BUILDING & GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT
- Miriam Mancilla
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL
- Greg Kirkland
MEDIA DIRECTOR

VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Craig Brooks, Jordon Goldschmidt, Jeff Hallada, Matt Hallada,
Janette Jara, John Henry Kreidler, Tom Louie, Susan Marble,
Jeff McFadden, Denise Ovaldson
SOUND TECHNICIANS
- Luis Oliart
SECURITY

IN MEMORIAM

- Earle Immel
MINISTER OF MUSIC EMERITUS
- Merle E. Fish, Jr.
MINISTER EMERITUS





First Christian News

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
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THINK GREEN! PLEASE RECYCLE!

NOTE: If you would like to receive this newsletter via Email, which saves on printing/mailling costs and is better for the environment, please contact us. Annual subscription cost for first class mail version is \$24.



First Christian News

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Jean Johnson Wanda Kanoy
Helen Scarna Kay Smith
Betty Van Zanten Shirley McClure
Deborah Wheeler Virginia Stebbins
Cindy Kaller

Sunday Preview

January 7, 2018

10:00 am Aliza Ramos (O)
Jeremy Scripter (C)
5:30 pm Anna Sigala
7:00 pm Aliza Ramos

Diaconate:

Diaconate schedule not available at time of print.

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

IS MIDNIGHT SUNDAY!

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA EMAIL TO
terrib@fccnh.com or terriburton@gmail.com
or in the office M-F from 9 am to 5 pm.