



FirstChristianNews

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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Volume LXIII No. 39

March 18, 2020

WE'RE ENTERING A

New Season!



LETTER TO THE FAMILY



It seems the word for the day is “anxiety.” Everyone I talk with is expressing their feelings of uncertainty and anxiety. We human beings don’t like being out of control and the present coronavirus crisis has everyone feeling out of control. But the facts of life are that everyone has lived through anxious and uncertain times before and everyone has felt that their life was out of control before. What seems to be good advice is to reflect back on those previous times and pull up the lessons learned from them. Take deep breaths, pray regularly, meditate if you are so inclined, remind yourself that this is still God’s world and God is still in charge and try to counterbalance all the fearful information you hear with positive, spiritually-based thoughts. We learn from the past. We learn from how we have acted before in situations that cause anxiety and fearfulness. Don’t let this crisis overwhelm you. This too shall pass. And never forget – “God is bigger than your anxiety.”

Last Sunday we had sixty-one people in the morning service and eight in the SpiritSong service. Everyone who attended observed the “social distancing” being encouraged by the authorities and enjoyed being in the same place at the same time. Every surface of the sanctuary that can be touched by human hands was disinfected prior to Sunday morning. I’m very grateful to our leadership team for doing such an amazing job of leading worship under such demanding circumstances.

Many of you have asked how I am “weathering the storm.” I would answer that with a phrase I heard for the first time yesterday. “Smooth seas do not make a good sailor.” These seas we are sailing through are extremely rough and totally uncharted. The challenges presented to each of us seem, at times, daunting. But

personally, I like challenges. And when this crisis is over I hope I am a better sailor.

Peggy and I are staying in our home and working from here on computer, text and phone. My doctor has instructed me to avoid any crowds or socializing. Although my white count is improving, as a result of discontinuing all but one chemotherapy, it is still quite low. So we are observing those magic words we hear so much – “social distancing.” In reality it is social isolation. But we are fine and give thanks every day for the calls and emails we receive. We so appreciate your prayers and continued concern and are so grateful for each of you.

I love the quotes of famous people. Unfortunately I have no idea who said this but I like it. “You’re going to be happy,” Life said, “but first I’ll make you strong.” I think in a month or two we will all be stronger and I am sure happier. In the meantime we observe those things our government is asking of us in order to shorten this pandemic and remain faithful.

Pergé!
Pastor Bob

IMPORTANT NEWS

We made the decision this morning to cancel all worship services held on campus until after Easter. We are working to provide a worship service online which will be available through the church’s Facebook, YouTube and the website. As we move forward during this world crisis we will be using more and more technology and social Media to reach our church family and friends. We appreciate your ideas and suggestions.

Pastor Bob

“Just A Thought ...” BY REV. LOUISE SLOAN GOBEN

Pandemic.

Just the word is kind of scary. I have received essentially the same information from a couple of dozen organizations in the past several weeks, about how to protect ourselves and prevent the spread of this illness. It involves everything from regular washing of hands to stocking up on a few extra items in the event you are stuck at home for a period of time. It appears that many of us will be at home as restaurants are closing to all but take-out, theaters and malls, museums and pubs – any gathering of people with 50 or more attending – all closed.

I have also received some information from sources I would not have expected. For example, I received the following poem from *Stillpoint*. It helps me re-frame my way of thinking about this time of seeming isolation. The reality is, we are all still connected to one another through the Spirit of the one who loves us deeply.

Pandemic

*What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?*

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now,

*on trying to make the world
different than it is.*

*Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.*

Center down.

*And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.*

Know that we are connected

*in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)*

Know that our lives

are in one another's hands.

(Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.

*Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.*

*Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.*

– Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

We still connect, pray and love one another, particularly when we are apart from each other. Let us hold one another in prayer for good health and the return to each other at the end of this season of concern.

Pastor Louise

ON HIATUS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**2020 LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
MONDAYS . 7PM . in the Annex**



BY
AMY-JILL
LEVINE

**ENTERING
THE
PASSION of JESUS**



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!

Chris Diaz • Joshua Bigbee • Steve Zaun

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.



SPECIAL REQUEST

Dear Fellow Worshipers,

We have a very rare occasion, when LUNCH IN THE PARK for the homeless, is actually falling on Easter Sunday. I would love to make it special for our park friends. If anyone would like to donate something, including money, please let me know. We need roast turkey, potato dishes, pasta dishes, soup, vegetables, deviled eggs, colored hardboiled Easter eggs, rolls, and desserts.

You can drop it off before church that morning. Items may be dropped off in the Social Hall kitchen beginning at 8:30am. Also if you would like to volunteer at the park, please let me know. Several of our members are singing in the choir and have many services at which to perform.

Thank You for your help.

Deborah Luster
323 854-6707

Save the Dates

2020 Summer CAMPS

June 15-19

MUSICAL THEATRE

Grades 3-12

June 22-26

ROBOTICS

Grades K-12

June 29-July 2

INTRO TO VIDEO PRODUCTION

Grades 5-12

July 6-10

DANCE

Grades K-12

July 13-17

ART

Grades 2-12

July 20-24

COOKING

Grades K-12

July 27-31

VBS (Vacation Bible School)

Potty Trained and Up

August 3-7

MARTIAL ARTS

Grades K-12

August 10-14

PHOTOGRAPHY/ADV. PHOTOGRAPHY

Grades 3-12

Further details to come. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact Kristina Frost at camps@fccnh.org.

youthink



I greet you in the Wonderful Magnificent name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Meteorologists are often blamed for bad weather. In the great state of Kentucky on a sunny day it might rain unexpectedly. In the Windy City, on a cold winter day, it might snow unexpectedly for hours. On a clear day in Arizona, a sand storm might appear out of nowhere. The unpredictability of the weather is often received as the lack of skill of the person reporting the weather but in reality, as I've learned it's the weather. It's seasonal and it comes in waves, stages and phases. It's the weather and it's life.

On the journey of life our young people will encounter storms. It's possible that at any given moment they will be going into a storm, coming out of a storm, or be in the middle of a storm. Meaning they will be facing or experiencing tumultuous situations which they feel unprepared to handle. They will be facing unexpected storms which they feel unequipped to handle. We have all been there.

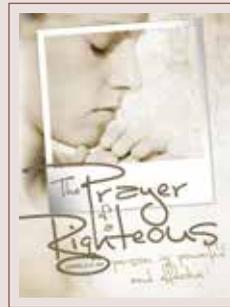
I'm curious as to the steps you might have taken to find shelter in your storm. I'm curious as to the path you might have taken to successfully navigate in the extreme weather. Did you pray more? Did you talk to friends? Did you seek help? How did you get through your storm? How did you continue to approach each day while in your storm? Did you do all of the above? I know I did!

In the Kentucky rain, I carried an umbrella. In the bitter winter of the Windy City, I wore multiple layers of clothing. In the sandstorms of Arizona, I learned to trust my GPS and pull over. On this journey I have learned that I will be tested. I will encounter difficulty and I will face the unexpected. I imagine we will all have a bad experience. I have learned that I don't need to go through the storm alone. I can pray with others, talk with others and call for help as the situation demands. But most of all I have learned to believe the words "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

It is my prayer that as they encounter the storms of life that our young people will gain strength from our victories, reach out for support and carry with them the promise of the Creator to be with them always. We will not be forsaken; no matter the forecast, no matter the storm, no matter the situation.

Best,
Jeremy Gillett
Director of Youth Ministries

PRAYER is always there



Our Prayer Group prays on Monday mornings at 9:30 am and on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. We pray for those of you who have written on the back of one of our prayer cards, prayers forwarded to one of the members of our prayer group via email, in person, or submitted via our website (www.fccnh.org).

Don't forget that there is a prayer cabinet in the area outside the Chapel and the office next to the drinking fountain. You may take a beige card and write down your prayer, then put it through the slot of the locked cabinet, and the Prayer Group will be your prayer support. It will be completely confidential. This cabinet is available any day of the week to receive your prayers and will be checked throughout the week.

To the NHIFP Family,

We want you all to know how the Pantry is being affected by the virus.

1. We have implemented protocols at distribution including gloves, hand sanitizer, and no clients entering the distribution site, to maintain the 6 ft distance.
2. Clients are served OUTSIDE, with the clients picking up bags from the table.
3. We are NOT distributing food that has arrived in bulk any longer, i.e., no breaking down of sweets and bagels.
4. We have cancelled all volunteers except those actually needed at distribution - and have enlisted other community members to help fill the gaps.
5. All transportation teams have been cancelled.
6. We will be bringing all the bags that we can to distribution and storing bags in the van and truck, as needed as the Temple is pretty much shut down.
7. We appreciate our long-time core volunteers and hope that they will return when the crisis abates.
8. For those who are packing volunteers, we have new protocols and restrictions at Temple Beth Hillel. Please contact Barbara or Jane with regard to that area.

Please keep yourself and your loved ones safe and know that we intend to continue to serve the community unless the Regional Food Bank, a Federal Government agency, changes that policy.

Please be aware that things could CHANGE on a daily basis.

If anyone needs to discuss anything, we are at your disposal.



Sincerely,
Barbara Javitz and Jane G. Poole

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!

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>).

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Transportation Teams:

Maggie Talton taltmaj@gmail.com

Congregation Representative:

Rae Eiklor sscarrot@dslextreme.com

ON HIATUS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



A STUDY OF
PAUL the APOSTLE
10:00–11:30 AM . *in the Annex*

BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

10:00 AM Worship Service	70
5:30 PM SpiritSong Service	21
7:00 PM Evenlight Service	2
Wednesday Service	2
Sunday School Children	6
Youth (morning)	--
Youth (evening)	--
10:00 AM Worship Service	\$1,578.25
5:30 PM SpiritSong Service	\$460.00
7:00 PM Evenlight Service	--
Ash Wednesday Service	--
Sunday School Children	\$1.00
<i>TOTAL GENERAL OFFERING</i>	<i>\$2,039.25</i>
Week of Compassion	\$35.00
Easter Homeless in the Park	\$20.00
Easter Breakfast	\$40.00



**CONGREGATIONAL
SUPPORT TEAM
FOR SENIORS OR DISABLED**



During this ongoing health crisis, several members of the congregation have organized a team of volunteers available to pick up groceries, prescriptions, medical supplies, etc., for our elderly, at-risk, or disabled FCCNH Family. For information, assistance, or to volunteer please contact Shane G. at 818.760.2551 (landline only -- no texts), or the church office during normal business hours.

For those who would like to help support these efforts financially, donations may be made online or in the church office. Please indicate "SUPPORT TEAM" in the memo line of your check or online donation.

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- Luis Oliart
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IN MEMORIAM

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





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A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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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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