



# FirstChristianNews

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
REV. DR. ROBERT M. BOCK, SENIOR PASTOR  
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JEREMY GILLETT, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES  
ALFREDO GOMEZ & LOYDI RIVAS GOMEZ, PASTORS, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION

Volume LXIII No. 61

August 26, 2020

"For where two or three are  
*gathered in my name,*  
there am I among them."

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY — PLUS BIBLE STUDIES,  
GROUP MEETINGS & MORE — ALL ONLINE AT [WWW.FCCNH.ORG](http://WWW.FCCNH.ORG)

LETTER  
TO THE  
FAMILY



Pastor Bob's Letter to the Family is on hiatus. Please read his nightly letters. The *Letter to the Family* will be back in next week's newsletter.

## "Just A Thought ..." by Rev. Louise Sloan Goben

The LORD God took the man  
and put him in the garden of Eden  
to till it and keep it.

— GENESIS 2:15 —

The western rim of the United States is on fire. And of course, California is bearing the brunt of it – the smoke and air quality, combined with high temperatures, make me feel even more confined to my home, as if a pandemic wasn't sufficient cause alone. I recall camping at both Sequoia National Park and Yosemite when I was a child. Galen and I have taken our children there, as well as camping in the coastal redwoods around Big Sur and other places. The mighty redwoods are among the oldest known living things in the world, and now they are under siege because of climate issues.

Curiously, the Giant Sequoias are the most resilient when it comes to the fires. The heat from fire actually causes the seed pods to open. The fire itself burns away the detritus that gathers on the forest floor, allowing the seeds to fall into the soil and germinate. These trees are remarkably fire resistant. Not so much the Coastal Redwoods, that to thrive need the moist air from the ocean and abundant rainfall. These trees are some of the tallest in the world and their cones can produce as many as 250 seeds! If I were asked to describe heaven, I think I would envision the mighty Redwood forest.

In 1986 Galen and I drove to our friend's wedding in the Seattle area. On our way home, we decided to stop at Mt. St. Helens, where there had been a devastating eruption of this volcano a few years earlier. The

event made headlines the world over as it was a massive and sudden eruption. Smoke and ash traveled across the western United States. We were curious to see the effects of the volcano, and indeed we were stunned at what we saw. The deforestation was complete! The surrounding forested area was grey with ash and trees lay on the ground like matchsticks for miles around. We may as well have been on the moon as all was monochromatic and lifeless. The forestry service was leaving the area as it was, to learn how nature would handle this desolation on its own.

At one point, we pulled over to the side of the road to just look. And when we paid close attention, we could see that there were places where small green shoots were peeking above the ashes. Then we noticed a ground squirrel poking its nose out of a burrow in the middle of what might have been a meadow at some other time. What we learned is that life has a way of prevailing, even in the midst of the most destructive of circumstances. There was greening and hope. And noticing this somehow lessened the pangs of shock and sadness we were feeling at the loss of so much beauty.

It was an important lesson learned. I know that there are places in our beautiful state in which I have spent time marveling at the beauty around me. And not just in California, but Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah... well just think of the Rockies or the Tetons. I also know that human disregard for the earth and the beauty it contains is part of what is harming all of this beauty today. The devastation of the fires around us is

*Continued—*

not caused by a volcano, but by the fact that human activity is changing the climate. And it is not just our forests, it is also our farmlands and estuaries. As I write this, not one, but two hurricanes are in the Gulf of Mexico, bearing toward Louisiana, and a third is gathering speed in the Atlantic Ocean.

A dramatic and sudden storm called a “derecho” decimated homes, corn fields and grain storage facilities in Iowa a week ago. That is our food folks! Not to mention people’s homes and livelihoods.

The rainforests of the Amazon, known as the “lungs of the earth”, are being cut down and burned at an alarming rate. This is the air we breathe.

According to our faith tradition and our sacred scriptures, God – the first gardener – created humanity to “till and keep the earth.” We are not doing a very good job of being partners with God in this gardening business, and it is becoming clear that we need to step up our game of caring as we are killing the earth, our habitat.

I pray that the beautiful old growth forests of the Coastal Redwoods will not be completely decimated by fires. It takes about 100 years for a redwood tree to produce mature seeds and propagate itself. You and I will not be here to see it if it does return to a pristine state. I have no doubt that the earth will continue to grow, and life will flourish with time. Life is like that.

Pastor Louise



8am Wednesdays via Zoom.

Email: [menoncorner@gmail.com](mailto:menoncorner@gmail.com) for Zoom info.



## 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 • Steven 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.*

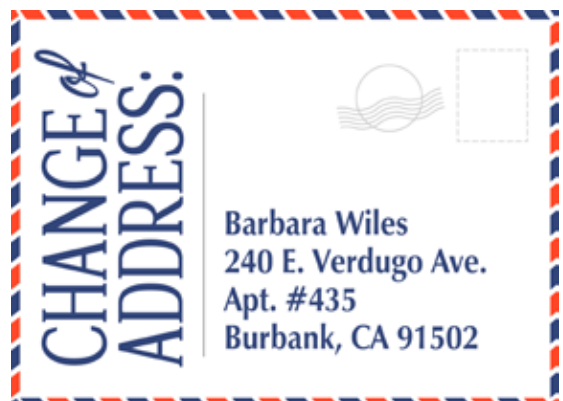
## WOMEN 2 WOMEN NEW ONLINE WOMEN'S GROUP BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> • 8:00 PM

**Hosted by:** Sheryl Fitzpatrick, Jenny Harris,  
Trudie Kirkland and Diane O'Brien

**For more info email:**

[W2W.FCCNH@gmail.com](mailto:W2W.FCCNH@gmail.com)

(ALL CAPS - Case sensitive)



# youthink

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

We had two delightful speakers join the high school Zoom call this past week. Our special guests were none other than our very own Pastor Bob and Mrs. Peggy. It is a tremendous feeling to see Pastor Bob and Mrs. Peggy connect with the youth group. It was a gathering of young people eager and willing to connect with their Pastor and First Lady. They loved seeing his face and they felt spiritually connected to the man that guides our congregation. They enjoyed hearing from Mrs. Peggy as well. They know and I've learned, that Mrs. Peggy loves them and considers each one of them a gift from God. I'm grateful for the investment they make in all of our youth and especially grateful that they stop by to share with our high school students. They don't just talk about leadership; they demonstrate leadership by making themselves available to our young people. Pastor Bob and Mrs. Peggy, thank you for your continuous support of the youth group.

This week will conclude our final week with Sheri Werner. Her leadership in the Community Circle has been fruitful. Our goal was to provide our youth with concrete tools to navigate these most unusual times and I believe we did. I encourage all of us to remember her words of wisdom, "acknowledging your fears helps you conquer them." Remember "For God has not given us the spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)." We appreciate you, Sheri, and hope to see you again soon.

Food for thought...

Faith is defined as: What is hoped for but not yet seen.

I'm sure we hope for different things as individuals. But are our hopes in accordance with our faith? Are our hopes and dreams parallel to our Christian faith and beliefs?

Matthew 22:36-40 says:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"  
Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart

and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Does your faith hang on these two commandments?

With Love,

Jeremy Gillett - Director of Youth Ministries



**EVERY TUESDAY  
ON ZOOM**

**6:00pm CHILDREN'S GAMES  
(10 & under)**

**6:30pm ALL AGES GAMES**



**EMAIL JASON PETERSON AT  
[MEMBERSHIP@FCNH.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@FCNH.ORG)  
TO JOIN IN ON THE FUN**



Join us for our Weekly Service of  
Healing & Meditation  
Wednesdays . 7:00 pm

For details on joining this Zoom service,  
please email [Louise@fccnh.org](mailto:Louise@fccnh.org).



## 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 in any way please contact the church office during normal business hours for information.



## zoom Bible Study

**TOPIC:** Bible Study with Rev. Louise

**TIME:** Tuesdays at 10:00am (PT)

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING AT:**

[www.us04web.zoom.us/j/495908947?pwd=UWFKWUNlclVzZS9GcldLa09qZ3ZuZz09](https://www.us04web.zoom.us/j/495908947?pwd=UWFKWUNlclVzZS9GcldLa09qZ3ZuZz09)

**MEETING ID:** 495 908 947

**PASSWORD:** 014283

**ONE TAP MOBILE:** 16699006833,,495908947# US (San Jose)

**BY LOCATION:** 1-301-715-8592 US • 1-253-215-8782 US [www.us04web.zoom.us/j/495908947?pwd=UWFKWUNlclVzZS9GcldLa09qZ3ZuZz09](https://www.us04web.zoom.us/j/495908947?pwd=UWFKWUNlclVzZS9GcldLa09qZ3ZuZz09)



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Did you know FCCNH has a Facebook page? Please check it out and Like us on Facebook. It is a great way to keep up with what is going on in the life of the church.

[www.facebook.com/pages/First-Christian-Church-of-North-Hollywood/111570318857728](https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Christian-Church-of-North-Hollywood/111570318857728)



## *Birthdays*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Michael Conte<br>Scott Fain  | 13 Atticus Braden<br>Craig Prince<br>Grayson Snider                                  | 26 Marley Capillaire<br>Bettina Diaz   |
| 2 Nicole Arter<br>Nicole Jahangard<br>Anna Kolarova  | 14 Sally Blowitz<br>Jill Groswirth<br>Patty Morgan<br>Helen Spevak<br>Ian Williamson | 27 Michael Hayes<br>Lilah Hiatt  |
| 3 Robert Bock<br>Linus Gaul<br>Steve Johnson   | 15 Collin Glenn<br>Zoie Lee<br>Nicholas Romanose                                     | 28 Caroline Braden<br>David Haworth<br>Ian Kiwan<br>Morgan Stoddard<br>Nathan Vann |
| 5 Connie Isa<br>Carolyn Lombardo<br>Kelsi Werner<br>Noah Zavala  | 16 Julian Corzo<br>Felix Gaul<br>Malia Le'au   | 29 Sandi Patterson<br>Ruth Snyder  |
| 6 Kayla Baltazar<br>Madeline Hicks   | 17 Terry Kanoy<br>Alice Kawan  | 30 Jon Butler<br>Caroline Currin<br>Harriet Peardon<br>Ford Young                  |
| 7 Marilyn Fiddmont   | 18 Joy Brittain<br>Matthew Bulen<br>Tyler Cushman<br>Caridad Koffski                 |  |
| 8 Jennifer Brown<br>Deborah Carson<br>Milana Resta   | 19 Kelly Goldschmidt   |  |
| 9 Ted Sloan  | 20 David Richard<br>Steve Tellez   |  |
| 10 Elizabeth Monsour<br>Charlene Patrick   | 20 Keith Werner  |  |
| 11 Doreen Alderman<br>Chloe Anderson<br>Paula Dade<br>Ava Linyard<br>Stephen Nicassio<br>E.J. Pharr<br>Deborah Wheeler | 21 Barney Amundsen<br>Michael Holzer<br>Hudson Orfe                                  |  |
| 12 Thomas Maseredjian<br>Loralai Milton  | 22 Scot Bowers<br>Elijah Daney<br>Catherine Floyd<br>Norman Furman<br>Don Worth      |  |
|  | 23 Bernadette Batts<br>Eliza Beam<br>Dashiell Hawkins<br>John Wichmann               |  |
|  | 24 Olivia Patsch   |  |
|  | 25 Grace Johnson   |  |
|  | 25 Joaquin Mas, Jr.<br>Claudia Rudolf  |  |



## *Anniversaries*

- |   |
|---|
| 1 Marilyn & Norman Fiddmont                   |
| 7 Jay Aldrich & Bob Dugan<br>Mel & Linda Wolf |
| 10 Brent & Jennifer Strickland                |
| 12 Richard & Harriet Peardon                  |
| 15 Russell & Bobbie Curtis                    |
| 19 Rod & Amanda Conti                         |
| 20 Michael & Tracy Holzer                     |
| 21 Michael & Elizabeth Bax                    |
| 23 Stephen & Lisa Furry                       |
| 26 Kevin & Jenny Bailey                       |
| 28 Lamont Cooper &<br>Tricia Crosby-Cooper    |

## BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

Total General Offering \$4,831.00

Special Ministries \$5,000.00

Newsletter Fund \$50.00

CREDIT CARD OFFERINGS 8/19 - 8/25 \_\_\_\_\_

General Offering \$2,085.00



Did you know a percentage of  
your online purchases can be a  
donation to FCCNH?

Check out our website ([www.fccnh.org](http://www.fccnh.org)) and click on the Donate or Vendor button at the top of the page and select "First Christian Church of North Hollywood" as your designated charity.

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

### FCCNH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MIDNIGHT SUNDAY

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA EMAIL TO:  
[terrib@fccnh.org](mailto:terrib@fccnh.org) or [terriburton@gmail.com](mailto:terriburton@gmail.com)

Articles can also be delivered to the office  
Monday thru Friday, 9am to 5pm.

## CHURCH STAFF

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ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES  
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MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST  
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Jeff McFadden, Denise Ovaldson, Tiffany Tapp  
SOUND TECHNICIANS

Luis Oliart  
SECURITY

## 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)  
4390 COLFAX AVENUE  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91604 - 2898



## 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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PRODUCTION SERVICES	Byron Armantrout

#### EMERITUS

Mary Ann Steuterman	Billie Kline
Lillian Carlson	Heather Kenney
Margaret Defibaugh	Cathy Melendez

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



Praise him,  
sun and moon;  
praise him, all you  
shining stars!

PSALM 148:3, NRSV