



Church of the Foothills
June 2021
Sower

Church Staff & Leadership

Rev. John Forrest Douglas	Pastor
Eleanor Wilson	Moderator
Rev. John Martin	Pastor Emeritus
Elizabeth Helms	Music Director
Karen MacConell	Accompanist
Craig Rhea	Church Administrator
Marie Stauffer	Bookkeeper
Lena Martinez	Office Assistant
Jim Harris	Facilities Manager
Johnny Martinez	Facilities Assistant

Church Office Hours:

(Note: Our campus is reopening and staff is in the office several days a week)

Rev. John Forrest: Tues-Fri & Sunday
pastor@foothillschurchinventura.com

Craig: M, 10:30a-2:30p; W & F, 9a to 2:30p
admin@foothillschurchinventura.com

Marie: Tues & Thurs, 9a to 12noon
6279 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 644-3036

After-hour emergencies: (805) 228-4167
www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org

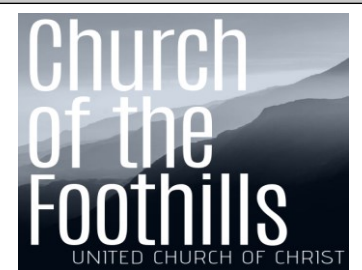
June 2021

Please make note of these special dates:

Saturday, June 5	Church Work Day, 9am-12noon (<i>details p. 6</i>)
Sunday, June 6	Drive-Thru Communion, 1-2pm (<i>details p. 2</i>)
Every Thursday	Zoom Choir, 7pm
Tuesday, June 8	Council Meeting, 7pm, Sanctuary
Sunday, June 13	Return to in-person Worship in the Sanctuary, 10am
Thursday, June 17	Drop-off Food, Book & Clothing Drive, 9am-Noon <i>(Note that clothing has been included again)</i>
Wednesday, June 23	Together Women Rise, 5:30pm – Denice Barr’s (<i>details p. 3</i>)
Friday, June 25	Group Walks – last Friday of each month, 4pm (<i>details p. 3</i>)

As of this printing, Ventura County is still in the **ORANGE** tier of COVID Restrictions.
Please continue to practice all COVID-19 guidelines and stay well.

The Church Council would like to remind you that the **Pastor’s Discretionary Fund** will be used to address financial needs within our community as they arise. If you feel led to give in this way, please feel free to donate to the fund either online or by mailing a check to the church office.



Recordings of our past services can be found on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/foothillsventura
and on our website:
www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org/
under the “Worship” tab.

You will find previous editions of the Sower on our website, as well, under the “Church Life” tab.



Remember Dad: Sunday, June 20



Dear Church,

We have been through a difficult year (plus) together. This time last year who could have imagined that our services would be affected by the pandemic for over a year. It has been quite a year. While the past year has been difficult, it has also forced us into a place of adaptability and creativity— qualities necessary for our growth as individuals and as an organization. I am grateful that we have been on this journey together. On June 6, we will celebrate our last fully online service. During that service, we will look back at our journey during the pandemic and celebrate the ways we have been together through it.

We are now entering a new transitional phase of our life together. On June 13, the congregation will be welcomed back into the sanctuary for in-person worship. There will be space for 75 individuals in the sanctuary. If you do not feel comfortable or if you do not make it early enough to sit in the sanctuary, seating will be available on the patio. A TV will be set up so that those on the patio will be able to participate in the service. We will continue to wear masks during services and while on the church campus. For those who feel uncomfortable or are unable to attend the service in person, the service will continue to be streamed on our church Facebook page and YouTube Channel. More information about the livestream will be sent out prior to the service.

Many teams are working to make sure this transition back to in-person services goes as smoothly as possible. Even so, I am certain that there will be hiccups along the way. That is how it goes when we do new things. Let us offer one another a measure of grace and patience as we all learn to navigate these waters together.

I cannot tell you how much I look forward to seeing you again in person on June 13.

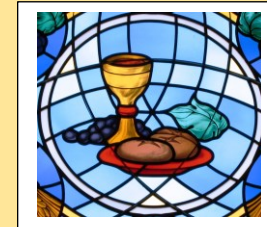
Blessings on the Journey,
John Forrest

Remember in Prayer

Karina D'Arcy
Janet Kessler
Jan Osborne

Bobbie Lehman
(Judi Balcerzak's friend)

Doris Keyes' family & loved ones
on her passing



Join us on **Sunday, June 6**
1-2pm

Final Drive-Thru Communion
Please drive up to the church, roll
down your window, and a
volunteer will give you a sanitary,
disposable, and individually
pre-packaged communion wafer
and juice set.

USHERS, GREETERS & FLOWERS NEEDED!

The deacons have these roles covered for our return to the Sanctuary on June 13th, but we will be working on a schedule for the rest of the summer. If you are interested in serving in this way, please let Craig Rhea know in the office.

For now, we will need 4 ushers per service while we have indoor & outdoor seating, so the need for ushers is great.

Once we return to in-person worship, the bulletin board will be up on the patio, and folks can sign up to bring flowers or to be greeter, as we did in pre-Pandemic times.

In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer for a particular Sunday this summer, please let Craig know.



Friday Group Walks

In light of folks being able to be out and about and catching up on the past due "flapping of wings", the Friday walk will be the last Friday of the month (rather than bi-weekly). Same time (4pm), same place (see below). We will look forward to getting together June 25. We may plan a hike as well. Stay tuned.

Same location: Riverview Linear Park
1950 Montgomery Ave, Ventura, 93004

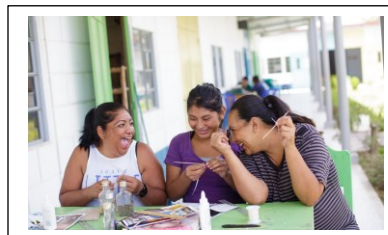
Dining for Women has a new name:

TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

June Grantees

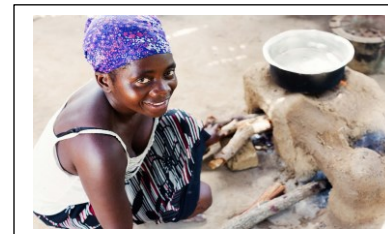
Outdoor Meeting at Denice Barr's, Wed. June 23, 5:30pm

New Guests, please request evite



Creamos Guatemala

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
and Gender-based Violence
(GBV)



Ripple Africa Malawi

Changu Changu Moto Project
Special Cook Stoves

Help Direct Our Actions as an Open and Affirming Congregation

COTF's Outreach and Benevolence Board will be hosting two ONA workshops in June. There will be an in-person workshop in the Agora Room on Sunday, June 27, after worship. For those who are interested but cannot make this workshop, or are not yet comfortable with in-person, indoor gatherings, there will be an on-line workshop on June 16 at 5:30pm.

The purpose of these workshops is to share and prioritize ideas for our congregation to "live into" the Welcoming Covenant that we approved in March. While there may be an emphasis on actions that we might take to improve inclusion and service to the LGBTQ community, it will not be limited to this. We will discuss what we can and should do with our physical church and as a congregation to engage with segments of our community that are discriminated against and whom we can serve.

To learn what other UCC churches are doing, visit the UCC's Open and Affirming Coalition website at: <https://openandaffirming.org/ona/next/> , or <https://openandaffirming.org/ona/next/evangelism/>
If you would like to receive a monthly newsletter from the Open and Affirming Coalition, sign up at: <https://openandaffirming.org/news/subscribe/>

Safe Sleep Update

As you are probably aware, Church of the Foothills became a host site for Ventura's Safe Sleep Program in May. Safe Sleep provides a safe place for people who sleep in their cars and are working with a social worker toward permanent housing.

COTF committed 5 parking spaces to the program. We presently have three of our fellow Venturans - a couple and a single man - utilizing our parking lot at night.

This is just one more way our congregation is striving to be of service to our community. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our participation in this important program, please call Scott Marsi or Pastor John Forrest Douglas.

Outreach & Benevolence Board Update: Support of Our Homeless and Hungry

During the pandemic, we have been holding monthly drive-through donations of food, clothing and other items in support of our city and county agencies for the homeless and hungry. There are many agencies that have benefited from your generous donations. We are pleased to announce that we have established a new partnership with **Mercy House** in their efforts to help our homeless neighbors. This organization operates 3 emergency shelters in the county with the goal of assisting homeless transition to more permanent housing.

Now, in addition to Project Understanding, VCMC's One Stop, Family 2 Family, Salvation Army, and the UU's Move-In Program, Mercy House will be recipients of your generous donations. Currently all these organizations are in desperate need of:

- Gently-used men's pants and shirts
- NEW men's underwear and socks
- Non-perishable foods, including individual packaged snacks, fruit cups, etc.
- Personal hygiene products

We will also continue to collect clean, functional small kitchen appliances and dishware, bath/bed linens (marked with bed size) and simple office supplies (pencils, pens, paper, envelopes) for donation to the UU's Move-in Program as they help set-up first homes for homeless transitioning to permanent housing. As our congregation transitions back to the sanctuary, the O & B Board will continue these monthly drive-through collections, occurring on the ***third Thursday of every month***. **Next date: June 17th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.**

For several years, we have been working in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura's Lift Up Your Voice Ministry LUYV). Recently LUYV began a grassroots program to outfit apartment furniture for newly housed people who are moving from cars, a shelter or off the street. LUYV coordinates this effort through case workers with county and private social action providers. The team collects and stores gently-used, basic furniture and appliances, then transports it to the client's new home.

If you have items you would like to donate to help a previously homeless person start a household, please consider donating items listed above. If you have furniture that you would like to donate call Scott Marsi at (609) 713-0254 or scott.marsi@gmail.com. Will check with LUYV for both the need and/or storage of your donated item.

Thanks for Another Successful Drive!

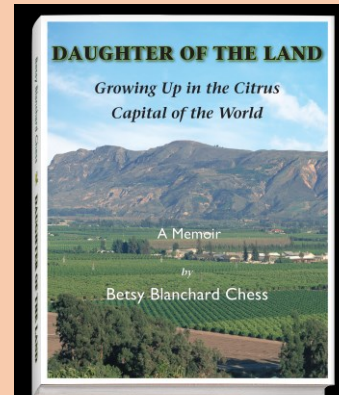
The O & B Board extends heartfelt thanks to our congregation for your ongoing generosity. We were able to deliver over 20 bags of food and personal hygiene items as well as 30 bags of gently used clothing to Project Understanding. We also collected a plethora of small kitchen items and bath/bedroom linens for our collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church and their "Move-In" Homeless to Home Transitions program. We appreciate your continued giving to those in need.

Church Work Day

**Saturday, June 5
9am – 12pm**

The Trustees Board is having a Church Work Day on Saturday, June 5th from 9 AM-12 PM. There are many tasks at hand to prepare the sanctuary and property for our return to in-person worship, so your help is more than appreciated. Please contact either Craig Rhea in the church office or Valerie Allison at (805) 212-0299 or vallison@parker.com to sign up and participate.

Allen Kieffer has offered to provide a boxed lunch of a BBQ Chicken Sandwich & cold salads to all Church Work Day volunteers who RSVP by June 1st. (Sorry, no special orders.)



COTF member Betsy Chess was busy all during the Pandemic Year - she wrote a book! According to Betsy, *Daughter of the Land, Growing up in the Citrus Capital of the World*, is "part memoir, part social history, part agricultural history, especially that of the historic Limoneira Company, and part pledge to my ancestors that I will never take the beauty of this place for granted."

Daughter of the Land recounts Betsy's life growing up as the "privileged daughter of a proud pioneer family" in Santa Paula, the town founded by her great-grandfather, Nathan Weston Blanchard in 1873. Blanchard was one of the founding members of our own Church of the Foothills, as well. Throughout, Chess tells not only her own story, but also family tales, plus offers insight into other area pioneers and the changing face of agriculture in our region.

Daughter of the Land has been praised for its honest storytelling. Former editor of the Ventura County Star, Tim Gallagher said, "No family or person is perfect, and she is unflinching in telling the successes and warts of her family history and her own story."

Local author and lecturer, Ivor Davis said, "It may read like fiction, but it's all true."

You can pre-order the book (which is due out at the end of June) at betsychessbooks.com or betsychess.com