



Church of the Foothills
May 2022
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:

Rev. John Forrest: Tues-Fri & Sunday

pastor@venturafoothills.org

Craig: Mon, Wed & Fri 9a-2pm

admin@venturafoothills.org

Marie: Mornings, 9am to 11am (days vary)

6279 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 644-3036

After-hour emergencies: (805) 228-4167

www.venturafoothills.org

Sower Editor: Linda Marsi

May 2022 Calendar

Sunday, May 1	Communion Sunday
Every Thursday	Choir Practice, 7pm – Sanctuary
Every Wednesday	Men’s Book Study, 6:30pm
Every Friday	Friday Book Study, 10am – via Zoom (<i>until further notice</i>)
Tuesday, May 10	Council Meeting, 7pm
Tuesday, May 10	Men’s Monthly Breakfast, 8am - Danny’s Deli
Saturday, May 14	AIDS Walk, 9am – Plaza Park, Downtown Ventura
Sunday, May 15	Homeboys Presentation during Worship Service, followed by lunch on the patio
Thursday, May 19	Drop-off Food, Books & Clothing, 9am-12noon – Church Parking Lot
Tuesday, May 24	Men’s Monthly Lunch, 11:30am – Main Street Steakhouse
Tuesday, May 24	RISE Meeting, 5:30pm, Linda Marsi’s home

COTF YouTube Channel – For Sower

Now that we have over 100 subscribers to our YouTube channel, here is our new URL:

<https://youtube.com/c/churchofthefoothillsventura>

Please click on the above link to visit our channel



CHURCH OF THE FOOTHILLS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

Recordings of our past services can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/foothillsventura or on our YouTube channel.

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

Remember in Prayer

Irma Plate, Nancy Rakow,
Bobbie Wilson, Dixie Zimmer
Judy Allen (Wendell & Denise Allen’s cousin)

Prayers for peace in Ukraine

RISE May Grantee: Yamba - Malawi

Pastor's Column

Dear Church,

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

No, I'm not late to the Easter Egg Hunt. Believe it or not, it's still Easter. Technically, Easter is a season that lasts for fifty days until we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. So, I'm going to milk it for all it's worth and continue to wish you a Happy Easter!

The scripture readings we will hear during this season of Easter are full of stories of the Risen Christ showing up to his followers: along the road to a place called Emmaus, in an upper room, and walking along the seashore. Maybe you think the stories really happened exactly as they are written, that they are one big metaphor, you think something else altogether, or maybe you haven't really thought much about it. No matter who you are, you're welcome here... We mean it.

These stories provide opportunities for us to ask where we see signs of resurrection and new life in our lives. Maybe you see it in a relationship that has been mended, a new relationship that's being formed, or in the care and compassion of a community during a difficult time. Maybe you see new life springing forth in your garden or while creating a piece of artwork. Maybe you see resurrection power in the brave and resilient ways the Ukrainian people are standing up against those invading their country. There are numerous examples big and small. Where do you experience resurrection? I'd love to know what you're thinking, [zip me an email](#) and tell me.

I have experienced new life and resurrection power in the faces of the many newcomers who have joined us for worship in the past few months. It has been a joy to meet individuals and families who are looking for a welcoming and progressive community of faith. I hope you will join me in providing a heartfelt and warm welcome to these new faces. Newcomers often tell me that they first found out about our congregation online through our online services and our website.

Speaking of things being made new, I'm happy to report that our church website has gotten a much-needed update. Our new web address is www.venturafoothills.org. The church office staff will also have new email addresses attached to this web domain. You can see these new email addresses in the box to the right. You can start using those email addresses now. Please be patient with us as we make this transition from the old email system to the new.

As we continue through this season of Easter, let us live with the ever-present hope and reality of resurrection in our lives.

Blessings,
John Forrest



Special Prayers of Deep Sympathy

Brian Osborne & family on the
passing of Jan Osborne

Clay Patterson & family on the
passing of Josephine Patterson

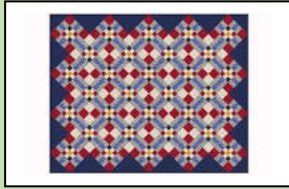
Sigrid Wong & family on the
passing of daughter, Lisa Wong

New Staff Emails:

John Forrest Douglas -
pastor@venturafoothills.org

Craig Rhea -
admin@venturafoothills.org

Marie Stauffer -
finance@venturafoothills.org



All quilt-creators are invited to join the **Quilt Ministry's** next meeting on Wed, May 18th at 11:30am in the Agora Room.

Please join us and bring a sack lunch.

May Birthdays

Amy	Bujold	May 04
Kami	Weeks	May 05
Ben	West	May 08
Bill	Martin	May 16
Camryn	Hardy	May 18
Jeff	Dinkler	May 23
Karol	Valenzuela	May 23
Betsy	Chess	May 24



If you have not given Craig Rhea your birthday to list in the monthly Sower, please provide it to him at:

admin@venturafoothills.org

or 805.644.3036

Donations Thank You!

Thank you, dear congregation, for your continued participation in our monthly donations/collections. On April 21st, we received 14 bags of food, 24 bags of clothing and 10 bags of household goods. In addition, the Friends of the Library collected 9 boxes of books. Your donations are sorely needed and much appreciated by our less fortunate neighbors. Our next collection date will be Thursday, May 19th, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

RISE MAY GRANTEE

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 24th at 5:30pm
Linda Marsi's Home. Await personal Evite***

Everyone welcome - New Guests, please contact
Linda Marsi – lhmarsia@aol.com or
Candace Reynolds – candace.reynolds@gmail.com



Yamba – Malawi

Meeting Needs of Young Mothers and Ending Childhood Poverty

Please visit togetherwomenrise.org



Ventura County AIDS Walk 2022

YOU ARE NEEDED

Walk, Donate, or Cheer for our COTF Team from the Sidelines

COTF will walk to end HIV & AIDS on Saturday, May 14th, at 9am at Plaza Park in the City of Ventura. We've pledged that our walking team will meet a \$1,000 goal that will be used to support HIV programs and services, such as: free anonymous HIV testing, safe sex kits, PrEP and Pep navigation, community outreach and more.

WALKERS: Agree to walk the less than 2-mile distance on May 14. Sign up for the walk on the O&B Announcement Board on the patio after church or email Marianne Norton at ma4mail@aol.com. Walkers will be encouraged to donate or solicit donations from friends to meet our pledge.

DONATIONS TO MEET OUR PLEDGE: If you are unable to walk the walk, consider donating! A small amount goes a long way. Donations in support of Team COTF can be made on-line at: <https://aidswalkventuracounty2022.funraise.org/fundraiser/marianne-norton>

CHEERLEADERS: If you are not a walker, please attend the event to cheer and wave on our team. It's a good way to show everyone we are an Open and Affirming Congregation and that we want to support Ventura County's AIDS Programs and Services.

**On the day of the walk, let's meet afterwards for lunch (Dining spot TBA)
Ventura AIDS Walk is presented by the Diversity Collective Ventura**



Registration is now open for 5 to 18 year-olds for Pilgrim Pines Summer Camp. Info can be found at www.pilgrimpinescamp.org. Camperships are available for campers from COTF.

A few words about Pilgrim Pines from a camper long ago:

It was a June in the late 1970's and school had just let out. As a 12 year old, I was dreaming of summer: beach, biking with friends, playing at the boys and girls club, watching TV's Bonanza, Big Valley, and Days of Our Lives. Then it happened, Mom announced that my brother and I were going to a week-long church camp. Seriously, Mom? A church camp? This was a disaster and sure to ruin my life. My pre-teen summer aspirations did not include a sleep-away camp in the middle of nowhere and not one where church was involved. Alas, Mom prevailed and before we knew it, a 2.5-hour drive to the mountains, full of dread and dismay.

Approximately 40 years later, memories of my week-long stay at Pilgrim Pines stay with me. Those memories are more than fond. Sunny days filled with splashing in the lake, canoeing, swim races, sun-bathing at the end of a rickety wooden dock that jettied into the lake. When we weren't in the lake, we were playing field games. I was amazed at wheelbarrow races. BBQ's and craft-making provided some down time. I think mom still has our god's eyes and crocheted potholders. A great thrill was to visit the camp store for the best-ever ice cream sandwiches and popsicles ever. Nights included group dinners, star gazing, and campfires. There was a talent show and lip-synching. There were some intriguing pubescent chats across rickety but cozy bunk beds as we settled into sleep after our fun-filled days. And then came the last night of camp. We were rewarded with the much-anticipated co-ed dance, disco ball, and all.

Riddled throughout the week were times of teaching, worship, and peer discussions. This was performed in a nuanced, subtle, and fun way that didn't stop our momentum or dampen our summer fun (and I think it sunk into our cerebrums).

Fast friendships were made, pen pals formed, and memories that literally have lasted decades were made. Thanks Mom, you were right again.

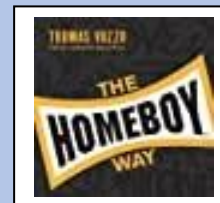
Leigh MacConell

Scouting News

In recent months, COTF and Ventura Scout Troop 155 have been building a partnership. The troop has been meeting Thursday nights in the Agora Room. They asked if we might have projects for them to do on the church grounds. As it happens, we had some brush clearance work that seemed to fit. The City of Ventura is implementing some updated clearance standards and we have been working to meet them. The scouts immediately stepped up.

On April 21, Steve Treanor met with the troop and showed them the needed work. On Saturday, April 23, the troop showed up on the grounds; they demonstrated knowledge and skill and went to work. The troop leaders and scouts completed phase 1 of the clearing work above the church parking lot.

Thank you Troop 155! We look forward to continuing our partnership with you.



The Homeboys Are Coming!

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, May 15th, the Homeboys return to the Church of the Foothills. As part of the O&B “Mission Moments” to highlight an organization awarded a grant through the O&B Board, our regular Sunday service will incorporate an interactive presentation by the Homeboy Industries. Founded by Jesuit priest Father Gregory Boyle, Homeboy Industries is a gang-intervention program based in Los Angeles. The details of the entire service as well as an after-service BBQ are still being worked out as of the printing of this article. Stay tuned for details in the upcoming weeks. This is an opportunity to meet, get acquainted and break bread with these remarkable individuals. Some informational brochures will be available at the O&B table on the patio. If you have any specific questions you’d like to ask our Homeboy guests, please submit them soon to Steve Treanor at stevetrea@sbcglobal.net. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear and see love, kindness, and compassion in action.

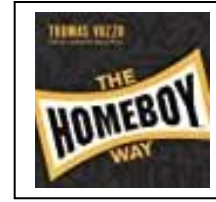


Scholarship Fund Donations Now Being Accepted

Each year our O&B Board invites the congregation to donate to post-secondary education scholarships for our members and friends. These funds have been awarded to people in our congregation, as well as people from underrepresented populations, who need assistance while pursuing post-high school education/training. Donations are now being accepted – either through check with “Scholarships” in the memo line or on the on-line portal (under Scholarship Fund). We thank you in advance. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

****Special Offering: *Strengthen the Church*** Coming Sunday, June 5th **

A special offering will be collected on Sunday, June 5th. Offerings can be sent to the church office at any time. Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to ***Strengthen the Church***. This special mission program supports the expansion and growth of ministry and local congregations to re-imagine and build the future of the UCC. Your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



Gregory Joseph Boyle, S.J. is an American Roman Catholic priest of the Jesuit order. He is the founder and director of Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation program, and former pastor of Dolores Mission Church in LA.

Friday Morning Book Study

We are reading our second book by Father Gregory Boyle, "The Whole Language," and as two participants put it, almost every paragraph has a "Zinger" worth discussing.

We are not just reading, but also learning the **whole language**. Keep your highlighters handy!

Jane van Daalwyk is our able and generous Zoom Master and makes this virtual meeting possible.

We meet on Friday mornings at 10am via Zoom.

All are welcome!

Water into Wine

Water into Wine is an informal, Christian discussion group. We gather for fellowship and to express our faith in a casual setting. People bring a drink and/or snack to share if they would like. We take turns going to different people's homes.

The next gathering will be May 6, 5:30-8:00 pm at Fran Arner-Costello's house, 10677 Inyo Street, Ventura.

The discussion will be on Environmental Stewardship, led by Rev. Diana Hopkins.

RSVP Fran at 805-469-6919, Linda Marsi or Rev. Hopkins.

All are welcome. Come as you are and bring a friend!