



Church of the Foothills August 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:

Rev. John Forrest: Tues-Fri & Sunday
reverendjfdouglas@gmail.com

Craig: Mon 10a-2:30pm, Wed & Fri 9a-2pm
admin@foothillschurchinventura.com

Marie: Mornings, 9am to 11am (days vary)
6279 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 644-3036

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

August 2021

Sunday, August 1	Communion Sunday
Every Thursday	Zoom Choir, 7pm
Tuesday, August 10	Men's Monthly Breakfast, 8am - Danny's Deli
Tuesday, August 10	No Council Meeting this month
Thursday, August 19	Drop-off Food, Book & Clothing Drive, 9am-Noon
Tuesday, August 24	Men's Monthly Lunch, 12noon – Main Street Steakhouse
Wed, August 25	Together Women Rise, 5:30pm – Judi Balcerzak's (details p. 3)
Sun, October 3	Blessing of Animals, 5pm

After Church Lunch Bunch – every Sunday (See Jack Hewson for details)
Group Walks in East Ventura have been discontinued.

Please continue to practice all COVID-19 guidelines and stay well.
See update from our Covid-19 Advisory Team on page 2.

Please help Church of the Foothills expand our digital reach by subscribing to our church's YouTube channel. When we reach 100 subscribers, we will be able to select a custom channel URL that will be easier to remember. Click the following link to visit and subscribe to our channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClo3OOHn-7rMvwhlk1SPOhQ>



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

Sandy Case, Claudia Hoffman,
Janet Kessler, Jan Osborne,
Irma Plate, Bruce Strathearn
Judy Allen (Wendell Allen's cousin)
Mary Darby and family (Nancy Rakow's sister)
Rose (Bobbie Wilson's Daughter-in-law)
Trice Padecky (Sarah Dinkler's Aunt)

Pastor's Column



“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.”
Psalm 1:3a.

In July, the National setting of the United Church of Christ did a new thing. For the first time ever (because of the continuing pandemic), our denomination’s biennial General Synod was a fully digital experience. The work of the denomination took place while people sat behind their computers at home. You can read about the work of General Synod using this link: <https://www.generalsynod.org/news/>. The theme for this gathering was *Rooted in Love*. I appreciate this theme because it helps me remember how important it is for all of us to remain rooted in our love for God and one another in this continuing time of transition.

As I talk with people these days, many are feeling some sense of “normalcy” creeping back into their lives. Some have excitedly told me “Everything feels normal again,” while others are remembering that there were things about the Before Times they don’t want to return to. Those who live with unvaccinated or immunocompromised family members often tell me “normal” still seems like it’s off on the horizon and not here yet. Many of us are still very aware that the pandemic isn’t over and that we cannot simply gloss over the immense grief and losses the world continues to suffer. And even those who are enjoying a return to some normalcy tell me it’s all quite an adjustment.

I imagine that we will continue to live in the tension of this transition as a congregation as well. I’m so glad that we are able to continue to expand the ways that we are able to be together in person. It’s so good to have worship in the sanctuary AND on the patio AND online. We’ve been pushed and pulled in ways that we would never have imagined, but all that pushing and pulling will help us be even more flexible as we continue to respond with courage and compassion to the needs of our community and our world.

As much as we might like to be done with this season, we know that the pandemic isn’t over yet. What helps you to feel deeply rooted in love in your life? What are the deep wells of strength you draw on when times are rough?

Let all we do be rooted in love.

Blessings,
John Forrest

Covid-19 Team Update

Dear Friends,
Church of the Foothills continues to ask that those attending Sunday service in the Sanctuary wear masks. This is based on July 19 recommendations from our local county health department in which they stated the following:

Ventura, CA - With cases of COVID-19 rising locally and increased circulation of the highly transmissible Delta variant, the County of Ventura Public Health Department strongly recommends that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks indoors in public places. This serves as an extra precautionary measure for those who are fully vaccinated and will further limit spread of the Delta variant in the community at large.

We know there are differing opinions among our church family regarding mask use, and so we especially thank you for your continuing support. At times like these, we recall that important line in our Church Covenant in which we pledge to “love one another in our differences of belief.” Amen!

Happy Birthday!

Most of us enjoy being remembered on our birthday.

We would like to start listing COTF birthdays in the monthly Sower, hopefully starting next month in September.

Please send your birthday (month, day & year) to Craig Rhea in the office at admin@foothillschurchinventura.com or give him a call at 805.644.3036.

Don't worry ~ we'll only list the month & day in the Sower. We need the year for our database, but we won't publish it unless you ask us to.

Happy Birthday in advance from your COTF family!



Calling All Keys

If you are in possession of any church keys, please contact Craig Rhea in the office to let him know which keys you have. If you are no longer in need of the church keys in your possession, please return them to the office.

Thank you!

Friday group walks have ended.
Enjoy your summer activities.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE (or RISE) **August Grantees**

Outdoor Meeting at Judi Balcerzak's home
Wed. August 25th, 5:30pm
Everyone welcome - New Guests, please email Judi at judibalcerzak@peoplepc.com



Featured:
DREAM –
Girls Empowerment App
Dominican Republic



Sustained:
Garden for Health
Rwanda

Outreach & Benevolence

Thank You for Your Giving Spirit

O & B extends heartfelt thanks to our congregation for your continued generosity. On July 15th, we were able to deliver 22 bags of food and personal hygiene items to Project Understanding. The project coordinator sends blessings to all of you! Additionally, we delivered 20 bags/boxes of new underwear and gently used men's and women's clothing and shoes to Mercy House Homeless Shelter (the Arch). They were especially thankful for the underwear donations as it fulfilled their need. We also collected 10 boxes of household items (kitchen, bed/bath linens, office supplies) for donation to UU's "Move-In" Homeless to Home Transitions program. Your continued giving to those in need is appreciated!

Third Thursday of the Month Collections

Our next food, clothing & book donation collection will be **Thursday, August 19th from 9am – 12 pm.**

Project Understanding appreciates all non-perishable canned goods and used heavy-duty plastic shopping bags.

This month, they need clothes hangers and personal hygiene products. Please keep these items in mind for August.

Note: now that we are back in church on Sundays for worship, if you are unable to make our monthly drop-off, please contact (call or text) Denice Barr @ (805)794-8616 or email:

dbarr49@sbcglobal.net

We can try to make other arrangements for your donations on a case-by-case basis. Thank you!

Food Share Volunteer Update and Need

In the past, many of our congregation volunteered regularly as a group, sorting and packing food at Food Share. Currently, they are unable to have monthly groups for sorting due to the inconsistency of the donated food. Christina Fiorino, Food Share Volunteer Coordinator, will keep us updated as to when this activity may resume.

They have many volunteer opportunities available in other areas of the organization including these two activities:

- Oxnard Pop-up Food Distribution College Park – Oxnard <http://cerv.is/m?0303gPEWSEi>
- Disaster Box Packing <http://cerv.is/m?0303ggoH2bC>

Click on the above links and sign up individually (or with family, friends) for a shift. Or you can click here <https://foodshare.com/volunteer/> to check out other opportunities. **Currently they are requiring mask-wearing inside if you have not been vaccinated or cannot show proof of vaccination for Covid-19.**

O&B will announce our group volunteer opportunities when they become available. If you have any questions, please contact Denice Barr.

Signs of Hope

A group of five church friends (Dixie Zimmer, Nancy Hill, Irma Plate, Nancy Kersnowski and Sandy Case) love to read and meet weekly to share thoughts about their reading.

They recently studied a book by Amy Wolf titled "Signs of Hope," which is the story of how a concerned young family in Oregon felt moved to create yard signs to offer hope for those who might need it.

It has become a global movement called **dontgiveupsigns.com**

A few of these signs (pictured below) have been placed in our church parking lot near the parking spaces designated for Safe Sleep participants.

Please visit the following site for additional information. It includes a 2-minute video called *Our Story*, which provides a good explanation of the movement.

<https://www.dontgiveupsigns.com/>

