



## Church of the Foothills April 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  
[reverendjfdouglas@gmail.com](mailto:reverendjfdouglas@gmail.com)

**Craig:** Mon, Wed & Fri 9a-2pm  
[admin@foothillschurchinventura.com](mailto: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](http://www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org)

Sower Editor: Linda Marsi

## April 2022 Calendar

Sunday, April 3  
 Every Thursday  
 Every Thursday \*  
 Every Friday  
 Tuesdays, April 5 & 12

Sunday, April 10  
 Tuesday, April 12  
 Tuesday, April 12  
 Thursday, April 14  
 Friday, April 15  
 Sunday, April 17  
 Tuesday, April 19  
 Thursday, April 21  
 Tuesday, April 26

Communion Sunday  
 Choir Practice, 7pm – Sanctuary  
 Men's Book Study, 6:30pm (\* Note: May change to Wednesdays)  
 Friday Book Study, 10am – via Zoom (until further notice)  
 Lessons & Practices of Revolutionary Love, 5:30pm – Zoom  
*(weekly class during Lent; Tuesdays at 5:30pm)*  
 Palm Sunday, 10am – In-person & Online  
 Council Meeting, 7pm  
 Men's Monthly Breakfast, 8am - Danny's Deli  
 Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm – In-person & Online  
 Good Friday, 12:00 noon – Online Only  
 Easter Sunday, 9am & 11am – In-person & Online  
 RISE Meeting, 5:30pm in the Teen Room  
 Drop-off Food, Books & Clothing, 9am-12noon – Church Parking Lot  
 Men's Monthly Lunch, 11:30am – Main Street Steakhouse

### 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



### *Remember in Prayer*

Jack Hewson, Jan Osborne, Irma Plate,  
 Nancy Rakow, Bobbie Wilson  
 Greg & Lori Frank on the death of Greg's sister, Pam Seabert  
 Alexandra (friend of Sarah Dinkler)  
 Tatiana & Sergii Kuksa (Judi Balcerzak's in-laws)  
 Judy Allen (Wendell & Denise Allen's cousin)

### **Prayers for peace in Ukraine**

RISE April Grantee: Second Mile, Haiti

### Pastor's Column

Quite a few years ago, Ben and I learned to make Ukrainian Easter Eggs (psanky) from a friend who had lived in Ukraine. You can see some examples of these intricately decorated eggs in the Holy Week announcement at the bottom of the page. Psanky are made by alternatively "writing" on the egg with melted black bees wax and dyeing it darker and darker colors. With each round, the egg becomes more and more covered in wax. Until you finish and the egg is completely covered in black wax. That's when the fun part comes... you hold the egg over the flame of a candle, melt and wipe away the wax, and reveal the intricate design that's been hidden under the wax surface the whole time. Making this traditional Ukrainian craft this year will be particularly poignant as it will be a tangible way of offering prayer for the people of Ukraine.

During the season of Lent, we have been talking about the practices of Revolutionary Love and the power that love has to connect us to one another and to change the world. I wonder how these practices have been drawing new patterns of love on our hearts? How has the Spirit been moving in our hearts and in our world to create beauty and new life? Like the Ukrainian Easter Egg, what are those things that need to be wiped away so that we can experience love more fully?

Holy Week and Easter are quickly approaching. We will begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday and the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday, we will gather at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary to remember Jesus' command to love one another and to experience Jesus being left alone, arrested, and crucified. At noon on Good Friday, a meditation will be posted on Facebook and YouTube for you to pause and reflect at home, at work, or wherever you may be.

On Easter Sunday, we will have two identical services at 9AM and 11AM. Coffee Hour and an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids will take place between the services. The Nursery will be open during both services, and Sunday School will take place during the 11AM service. I hope you'll plan to be here and maybe even invite someone to join you!

Blessings as we continue through this season together.

John Forrest



### Choir News

After two years of zoom choir and outside rehearsals, things are becoming more normal for the choir.

Choir practice has returned to 7pm on Thursday evenings, and our location is now inside the sanctuary for practice.

We sing at a distance of six feet from one another in the congregation seats, and masks are optional.

Due to the improving COVID numbers in our community, we will soon be able to sing from the choir loft during Sunday morning services.



## April Birthdays

Dustin	Allison	April 01
Sophie	Dawes	April 03
Jonah	Billings	April 06
Lydia	Dawes	April 07
Joan	Marten	April 07
John	Everton	April 11
Vernon	Verdades	April 11
Nancy	Morgan	April 15
Athena	Neumann	April 17
Laura	Gulovsen	April 20
Juergen	Ohr	April 21
Keri	Prout	April 24
Kris	Bergstrom	April 29



If you have not given Craig Rhea your birthday to list in the monthly Sower, please provide it to him at:  
[admin@foothillschurchinventura.com](mailto:admin@foothillschurchinventura.com)

or 805.644.3036

## Easter Lilies



The board of deacons will be offering Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday for a suggested donation of \$20. You may specify if you would like to take the plant with you after the service or if you would like to have it donated to someone in the community. You may also choose if you would like to have it listed "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone with your name printed in the bulletin for Easter Sunday.

**The deadline to order will be Sunday, April 3, 2022.**

Please email Ben West at [benmwest@gmail.com](mailto:benmwest@gmail.com) or stop by the table set up after service on Sunday.

## **APRIL RISE GRANTEE**

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 19 at 5:30pm  
in the Teen Room***

Everyone welcome - New Guests, please contact  
Linda Marsi or Candace Reynolds.



**Second Mile  
Haiti**

## ***Volunteering at Food Share***



This group of hearty souls helped pack 1,000 Disaster Boxes that will be distributed out in the community at various pop-up drive by events within the week. The boxes contain a variety of food, including tomato sauce, tuna, canned veggies, milk, peanut butter, rice, beans, etc. We can only imagine how difficult it is to be hungry and not know where your next meal will come from. Food Share is connecting with thousands of folks each week making a difference and spreading the LOVE.

It is always such fun to meet new people at a Food Share event, but also fun to have a group of COTF friends to spend a few hours giving back and enjoying a laugh together!!

Please stop by the Outreach & Benevolence table on the patio after church if you are interested in getting involved.

## **A Special Thank You for One Great Hour of Sharing And Ukraine Emergency Relief**

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the 2022 **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This special Lenten offering collected March 27<sup>th</sup> raised **\$2,789.12** as of this printing and will be used to support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within the Wider Church Ministries. Your dollars will support people in need all around the world.

With the current Russian invasion of Ukraine, the refugee crisis in Europe is unimaginable. 100% of our cash offering during the month of March will be donated to the UCC's Emergency Appeal for Ukraine. Our congregation raised **\$3,104.00** to send toward the fund. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for putting love into action. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, ***love remains....***

## ***Another Special Thank you***

The Ventura Friends of the Library would like to thank all the book people who have donated books and those who bought books at our sale March 19. We had a very successful sale raising over \$1,400. Ventura libraries are better because of you.





### ***Your Generous Spirit Continues to Shine***

Our Third Thursday Donations/Collections continue during 2022 AND Church of the Foothills congregation continues to show up and donate. Our collections in February and March remain on target. During **each** of these months, we collected approximately 20 bags/boxes of food and hygiene products, 18 bags/boxes of clothing including new socks, 6 bags of household items and 16 boxes of books.

As of the printing of this Sower edition, we have no new special requests from our recipients. We continue to accept non-perishable foods including pet food, heavy-duty plastic bags, hygiene products, gently used men's and women's clothing including NEW socks and underwear and household products. The Outreach Board appreciates your continued giving spirit. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our local neighbors in need.

Our next drive will be:

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Church parking lot in front of the patio between  
Sanctuary and Church Office

Just drive up and open your trunk or doors and we'll do the rest!

### ***ONA News and Updates***

Fresh new plans are taking shape to spread the word to Ventura County that we are open and affirming and that we extravagantly welcome all -- regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, culture (or anything else you can think of). Here they are:

- 1. COTF Lapel Pins are on their way to you.** John Forrest has artfully taken our foothills logo with its heart center and added rainbow stripes to create a dynamic lapel pin. We will be able to wear these pins while out in the community and be able to explain when asked -- that the pin stands for our church that welcomes all.
- 2. Flyers** are being created to invite people to attend COTF services - a church that welcomes and is a home for anyone. These can be placed in coffee shops, malls, etc.
- 3. Outreach to area colleges and universities.** Efforts are underway to identify LGBTQIA groups at area schools to provide flyers and possibly refreshments for their meetings provided by COTF.
- 4. A COTF Booth at the annual Pride Day in August.** We'll also be looking for other fairs or festivals that might be a good fit for a COTF booth.
- 5. Media Ads** – to be determined
- 6. AIDS Walk 5/14** - A COTF team will be put together to march and raise money for the Aids prevention and education program. We will wear our COTF tees and lapel pins and carry signs identifying us.

**If you have any more ideas or have connections to any of the above-mentioned organizations, please contact Marianne Norton at [ma4mail@aol.com](mailto:ma4mail@aol.com)**

## Scholarship Program Kicks Off!

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the O&B Board will kick off the 2022-23 Scholarship Program. The Board oversees a special offering in support of scholarship awards. Although donations can be submitted by check or the on-line portal throughout the year, a special effort will be made from April 15<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the application process.

The Scholarship funds are awarded to deserving students to assist with post-high school education or vocation/technical training and supports the Board's priority for educational opportunities. Last year the Board awarded 4 scholarships to the following individuals:

- Grace Wagner – currently at Ventura College with plans to transfer to a 4-year university to obtain a BA in elementary education.
- Wednesday George-Lively – sophomore at UC Davis majoring in Human Development. She had participated in the AVID program at her high school.
- Vashti Nahabedian – freshman at Ventura College completing pre-requisites with plans to attend Radiology Technician school.
- Kitty Wagner – freshman at Humboldt State, currently undeclared but has a wide area of interests.

All 4 recipients demonstrated financial need, strength of character based on obstacles overcome, and academic achievement.

The current 2022-2023 Scholarship Program Guidelines and Application are now on the church's website: <https://www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org/ministries>

Applications will be accepted between April 15<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>. If you know anyone who may be interested and meet the criteria and qualifications, please direct them to the website. Candidates must be either members, immediate family members or extended family members of the Church; clients of agencies supported by the Church; or someone sponsored by a church member and at the Board's discretion.

The O&B Board will review all applications after July 15<sup>th</sup> and make determinations for awards by mid-late August.



All quilt-creators are invited to join the **Quilt Ministry's** next meeting on Wed, April 6th at 11:30am in the Agora Room.  
Please bring a sack lunch and come see what is happening.



Registration is now open for 5-18 year olds for Pilgrim Pines Summer Camp. Info can be found at [www.pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://www.pilgrimpinescamp.org). Camperships are available for campers from COTF.