



Church of the Foothills
October 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, 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

Sower Editor: Linda Marsi

October 2021
Calendar

Sunday, October 3
 Sunday, October 3
 Sunday, October 3
 Every Thursday
 Tuesday, October 12
 Tuesday, October 12
 Saturday, October 16
 Thursday, October 21

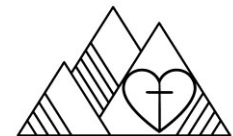
 Tuesday, October 26
 Wednesday, October 27

Communion Sunday
 Special UCC Mission Offering – Neighbors in Need (NIN)
 Blessing of the Animals, 5pm
 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm (*contact Elizabeth Helms if interested*)
 Council Meeting, 7pm
 Men’s Monthly Breakfast, 8am - Danny’s Deli
 Northern Association of the UCC, Fall Meeting (*via Zoom*)
 Drop-off Food, Book & Limited* Clothing Drive, 9am-Noon
 (* *see page 3 for most immediate clothing needs*)
 Men’s Monthly Lunch, 11:30am – Main Street Steakhouse
 RISE Meeting, 5:30p – Location TBD

Please continue to practice all COVID-19 guidelines and stay well.

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/UCl03OOHn-7rMvwHk1SPOhQ>



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, Janet Kessler
 Jan Osborne, Bruce Strathearn
 Dottie Gragg & family on the passing of Newell Gragg
 Linda Marsi family on the passing of brother-in-law, Mike Weems
 Lou & Rosemary Vigorita on the passing of their nephew
 Sandy Artman’s sister
 Trice Padecky (Sarah Dinkler’s aunt)
 Judy Allen (Wendell & Denise Allen’s cousin)
 Nashulai Maasai Conservancy – Kenya, and
 HealthRight International, Global Mental Health - Uganda
 (*Together Women Rise ~ October Grantees*)

Pastor's Column

Dear Church,

What an exciting September we have had! Many thanks to our Board of Fellowship for the delicious and fun Aloha Sunday! It was a blessing to gather around picnic tables together. What a gift it has been to celebrate Sunday services in person again and to maintain our services live streaming online.



I wanted to say a special thank you to those who filled out the questionnaire after my sermon on September 12. Your feedback will provide important data as I continue in my doctoral work. One of the books I read as a part of my coursework this year was called "The Jazz of Preaching." The author talks about the connections between the improvisational (yet technically complex) nature of Jazz and the ways the preacher is called to play and improvise with the Biblical text in preaching. I think maybe there's something about life that's like jazz too. As much as we plan—life rarely plays out exactly the way we imagine it. Perhaps the art of life, like the art of jazz, is about meeting the unexpected with improvisation. And sometimes making beautiful music!

This has been a season of improvisation for us as individuals and as a community. Out of necessity, we have learned to play the songs of life and church in more than a few different keys. I pray that the spirit of courage and creativity travels with us when we cross over from this season into all that is ahead.

Blessings,
John Forrest

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Colleagues from other congregations have informed me of a scam that targets church members. These scammers send emails from email addresses that look like those of real pastors. The scammers then ask for money or gift cards. Please know that I will never ask you to send money, cryptocurrency, or gift cards through email. If you receive a suspicious email, please delete it and reach out to me or the church office to ask about it.

MERCY HOUSE HYGIENE DRIVE

How can you help? We continue to be a generous and giving church. Each month we collect food and clothing that is distributed to various non-profit organizations. These items make a difference and provide HOPE to those less fortunate. The Mercy House has reached out and requested our help. The following items are needed during the Fall Drive:

- Toothbrushes and travel-sized toothpaste
- Travel-sized shampoo and conditioner
- Bar soap and travel-sized body wash
- Razors and shaving cream
- Menstrual products

This collection will be on-going through the month of October. Let's help the kids fill up the bucket and watch as the bucket grows!! The above items can also be dropped off at the church on Thursday, October 21st during the Clothing and Food Drive from 9am to 12noon.

...thanks for your support!!

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is starting the process of filling board and committee positions for 2022. Please contact a committee member (Sandy Artman, Candace Reynolds, or Valerie Husbands) if you have an idea about how you would like to serve the church next year. Church members may expect to be contacted by a committee member, as well.

Happy October Birthdays!

Daniel	Widney	October 03
Judy	Seawright	October 07
Brian	Osborne	October 08
Claudia	Hoffman	October 09
Scott	Groeneveld	October 17
Nancy	Sharp	October 17
Tanner	Shelton	October 20
Virginia	Weber	October 31
Tuni	Wilbur	October 31



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

admin@foothillschurcheinventura.com

or 805.644.3036

TOGETHER WOMEN RISE (or RISE)

Wednesday, October 27, 5:30pm

Agora Room

Everyone welcome - New Guests, please contact Candace Reynolds.

Members await evite.

October Grantees



Featured:
**Nashulai Maasai
Conservancy**

Kenya



Sustained:
**HealthRight International
Global Mental Health**

Uganda

Aloha Sunday – September 12th

Mardi Treanor, Fellowship Chair



Our Aloha Picnic Party was a lot of fun! It turned out to be a beautiful blue-sky day, not too warm or windy on our beautiful patio. Tables were covered with red & white checked tablecloths reminiscent of an old-fashioned picnic. 105 people were served by Fellowship with choices of hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, green salad, potato salad, watermelon and chips. Everyone seemed happy. The only disappointment was the unfortunate softness of the ice cream bars. (Oh freezer, not now!).

Thank you everyone for all the monetary donations and to the Fellowship Team, grillers & COVID “security” team for your service. Let’s do this again!

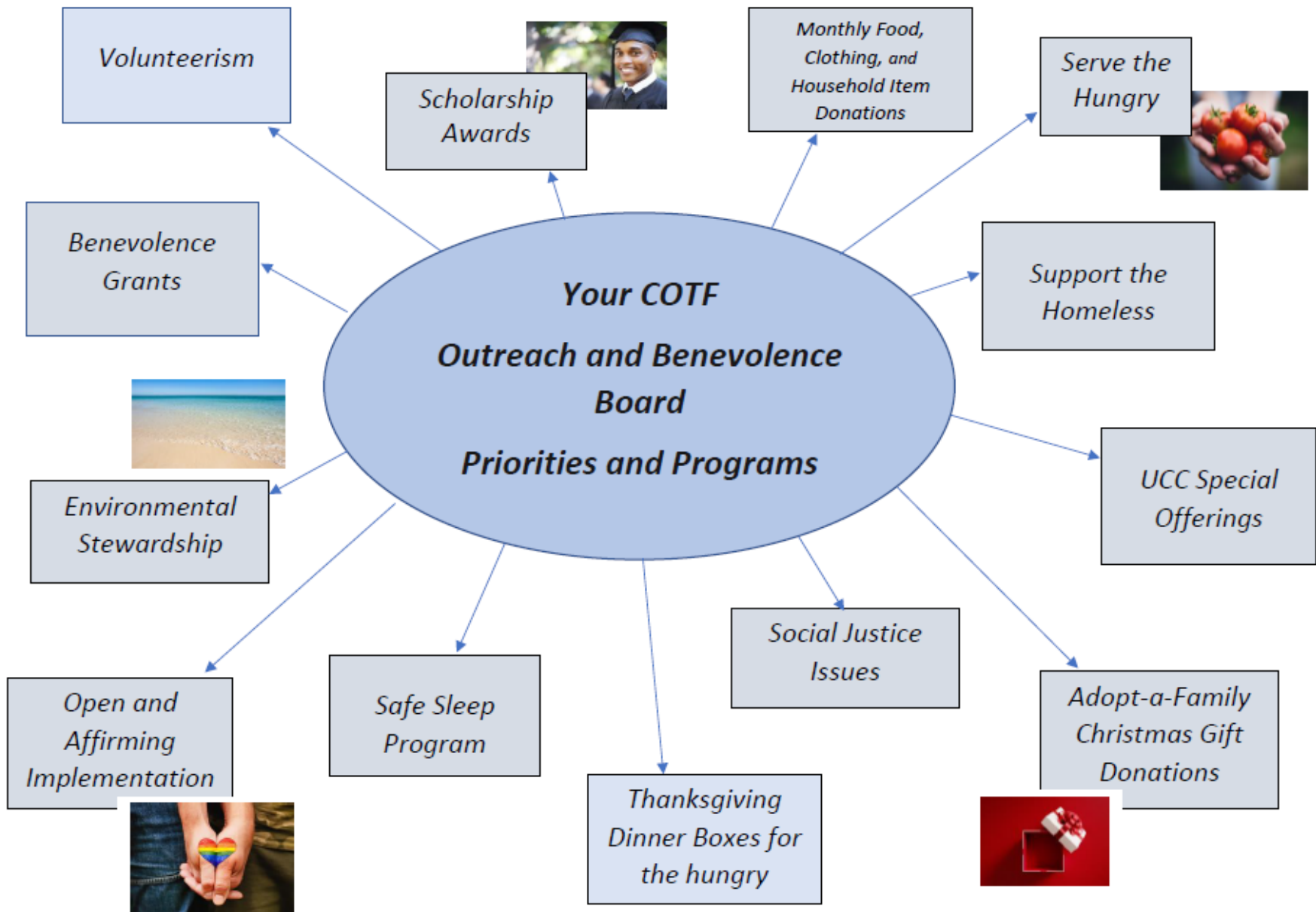
New Clothing Collection Guidelines

Several of our clothing donation sites have now reached capacity. For the next several months, these are the most immediate needs:

- *Gently-used* jackets, sweaters or coats (including rain gear)
- **New** men’s or women’s cotton underwear
- **New** men’s or women’s cotton white, sports socks

Hangars are no longer needed by any organization as of now. Personal hygiene items are also in high demand (*see page 2, Mercy House*).

O & B At a Glance



Outreach & Benevolence

The Holidays are Coming!

Although it's only October, the holidays will be upon us before we know it. COTF generally participates in Project Understanding's two holiday programs: Thanksgiving Dinner Box Collection and Adopt-a-Family Christmas Toy/Gift Collection.

- The Thanksgiving Dinner Box Collection provides poverty-stricken clients of the Food Pantry with a festive dinner that they could not otherwise afford. Either a food box is assembled by our congregants and brought to the church on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving (a list of box ingredients is provided) or a check can be written for \$40.00 made payable to Project Understanding with "Thanksgiving Dinner" written in the memo line. Drop in the Offering Box outside the Sanctuary or leave with office personnel.
- The Adopt-a-Family Christmas Collection provides Project Understanding clients with Christmas presents that they may otherwise go without. Congregants can choose a family or families from "Client Information" sheets and shop for items on their list. Client information sheets include clothing sizes and gift suggestions that suit the children's interests.

Stay tuned to next month's **Sower** for more specific details including sign-up sheets, dates, etc. Questions can be directed to Denice Barr at dbarr49@sbcglobal.net or (805) 794-8616.

Calling All Volunteers...

Because of the pandemic, group volunteer opportunities have been limited, especially prior to the rollout of the vaccine and due to an abundance of caution. The O&B Board is considering restarting our monthly group volunteer activity at Food Share this Fall. Although food sorting opportunities are limited, there is availability for Disaster Box packing (similar to Senior Box packing) for the pop-up food distribution centers. If you are interested, please call or email Tuni Wilbur at (805) 321-2484 or twoknees@verizon.net

Food Share is **requiring mask wearing at all times**, regardless of vaccination status. This policy is in line with the most current public health guidelines. You must wear close-toed shoes. Stay tuned for upcoming dates if there is interest.

Also, stay tuned for other opportunities to volunteer at our other community partners.

O&B Scholarship Recipients 2021

Each year, the Outreach & Benevolence board awards scholarships to deserving students for post-High School education and/or vocational training. This year we had four recipients. They are:

- 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 range of interests.

We wish them much success in their endeavors! Thank you to all who donated to the Scholarship Fund. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Faith Formation

Aloha Sunday Fun!

After taking a few weeks off from Sunday School, we were excited to be reunited again for Aloha Sunday - a day for tons of fun. Gathering around our awesome new playground was the perfect setting for games and activities like cupcake decorating, face mask painting and racing marbles on the marble run. On a beautiful, sunny Sunday, everyone stayed busy and had a blast! Special thanks to all those who lent a hand to make this a special memory for the children of our church.

We are geared up to continue the fun and learning throughout the upcoming holiday season. If you or anyone you know may be interested in joining our awesome team of Faith Formation teachers, please contact Lena Martinez.



Outreach & Benevolence Grants

Each year the church budgets resources to support local and global organizations that advocate for life sustaining needs, empowerment/enhancement of human dignity, or structural change to promote long-term social and economic justice.

Grant applications are now being accepted for 2022. If you know of an organization whose mission falls within our criteria (or you would like more information) please download the application and overview from the following link:

<https://www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org/ministries>

Grant applications may also be obtained by emailing Julie Huffman (julieannhuffman@gmail.com)

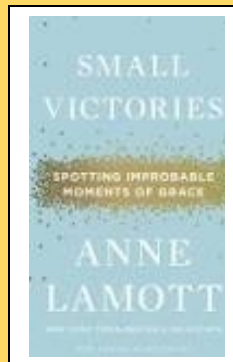
All grant requests must be submitted by 11:00 a.m. Monday, November 29, 2021, to be considered.

SPECIAL OFFERING NEIGHBORS IN NEED ... OCTOBER 3rd, 2021

On Sunday, October 3rd, you'll be invited to give to one of the special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ - Neighbors in Need (NIN). In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. This program offers support to the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM), and is also used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

Offerings can be placed in the donation box on the patio or sent to the church office at any time by check with *Neighbors in Need (or NIN)* written in the memo line or on the church's on-line giving portal available on the church's website.

Please consider giving to this important program. We thank you in advance and appreciate your generosity.



Church of the Foothills Friday Book Club

Friday Book Club is alive and well, and after a survey from our group, we are still meeting in the Agora Room Fridays at 10:00am, masks recommended, and are starting SMALL VICTORIES by Anne Lamott.