

First Congregational Church of Santa Ana
United Church of Christ
2555 N. Santiago Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92706

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

 **THE GOOD NEWS LETTER**

AUGUST 2018

First Congregational Church of Santa Ana

*A diverse Christian fellowship open to all and dedicated
to singing God's praises, learning God's word,
and loving one another on our journey of faith.*



Lisa's Letter

Days of Awe and Wonder

This is the title of a new book that compiles spiritual author Marcus Borg's greatest works. As I reflect on my 8 years as your pastor, I could use this same phrase to express my time with you. These last 8 years have truly been filled with days of awe and wonder for me.

On September 1, 2010, I began what was to be a 6 month call as your supply pastor to help you determine what direction you might want to go as a church in ministry, following Pastor Larry Grim's sudden and unexpected passing. My last day with you will be August 31, 2018, exactly 8 years later.

There have been many days of awe and wonder during our time together, even though we may not have thought

they were filled with awe and wonder at the time! Our church looks very different demographically from when we started together. We lost many beloved friends who left this world, while we welcomed many new friends into our congregation as well. We had many times of struggle, such as when we lost all 3 of our major tenants at once, and many times of high celebration, such as our wonderful Christmas Eve and Easter services, weddings, baptisms, and those fun Blessings of the Animals.

But those events were not what filled our time together with awe and wonder. What filled our days together with awe and wonder was God: God's unceasing, unwavering work through our lives, both individually and collectively.

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Now, the time has come for us to say farewell. I will cherish my memories of our time together forever. I will continue to hold all of you and the First Congregational Church of Santa Ana in prayer as you search for your new Pastor.

May God bless each of you!

Pastor Lisa Maddox

Borg, Marcus. (2017). Days of Awe and Wonder: How to Be a Christian in the 21st Century. New York: HarperCollins.

FCC Breakfast Club

Hello early birds! Have yourself a hot cup of Jo with your church family. Come to the FCC Breakfast Club on Wednesday, August 1st, at 7:30 am. We meet at Polly's Pies Restaurant on Main St. Everyone is welcome!

August Hymn Sing

Our Annual August Hymn Sing is back! Think of your favorite songs to be played during the service. Bring the name and number to Worship every Sunday throughout the month of August.



Pick One Up



The new July-August Upper Room booklets are here! These booklets contain inspiring stories, scripture, thoughts for the day, and a small prayer to carry you through every day of the month. They're free and for everyone! Pick one up in the sanctuary.

Coyoma Craft Class

Bring a friend to this month's Coyoma Craft Class on Tuesday, August 7th, at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP with Sheri Sanders if you plan to attend (714) 878-3885. She will supply you with everything you need.

FCC Pool Party



Celebrate the joy of summer with your church family by joining us on Saturday, August 18th, at the home of our devoted member Sheri Sanders. Swimming & Fellowship will start at 3:00 pm followed by dinner at 5:00 pm. We invite you to bring a dish of your choice to share. Please RSVP and don't forget your towel!



August

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

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of Santa Ana**

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Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

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A verse a day...

Scripture readings:

- August 5: 2 Sam 11:26-12:13a
Ps 51:1-12
Eph 4:1-16
John 6:24-35
- August 12: 2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Ps 130
Eph 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51
- August 19: **1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14**
Ps 111
Eph 5:15-20
John 6:51-58
- August 26: 1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11, 22-30, 41-43
Ps 84
Eph 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Harvest Time!

With harvest underway or imminent, fields of ripe grain, tall cornstalks and soybeans turning brown recall Jesus' words to the disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;



therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38, ESV).

Nowadays farmers use fewer laborers and bigger machines than in decades past. But what about harvests of faith? Leading people to know God's love can't be done "mechanically." Studies show that newspaper ads or door-hangers left anonymously are less effective at bringing people to church than a warm personal invite.

Right after urging his disciples to pray for harvest workers — in a classic instance of "You might be God's answer to your own prayer!" — Jesus sends them out as those very laborers! How will they work the harvest? Not by guiltting people into faith. Not by pronouncing judgment or biblical law. But by using Jesus' authority to counter evil, illness and brokenness among those they befriend.

Ponder and pray about where Jesus is sending you as his laborer to cultivate and reap Christian faith and assurance of God's love.

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Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, August 27th, at 7:00 pm.

Out of the Darkness Walk

We are walking it again FCC! We will be participating in the *Out of the Darkness Walk* at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley on Saturday, September 22nd. This walk is sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, a cause very dear to our hearts.

You'll need to register individually at this website: <https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=4602>

A sign-up sheet is available in the Fireside Room for anyone who wants to walk from our church.



Holy Action/Council

The Holy Action/Council meeting will be on Sunday, August 19th, following Worship.

Looking Up

World-renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawking (1942-2018) stated: "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." His sentiment is especially fitting for August, when many people try to count the falling stars of the Perseid meteor shower.



As a self-proclaimed atheist, Hawking relied on science to answer "what makes the universe exist."

Yet many Christians believe that while science shows how things happen or were created, our faith tells who made them so.

Deuteronomy 4:19 (NIV) declares: "And when you look up to the sky and see ... the heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to

all the nations under heaven." We can be grateful for the work of scientists and the wonders their study reveals, but instead of "bowing down" to nature, we worship its Creator and Ruler — the Lord of heaven and earth.

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OCWM– Changing Lives!

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) funds the work we do in the Associations, Conferences and in the national and global church. OCWM funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and growing. It helps provide pastoral placement and education for church leaders, worship materials, resources and training for stewardship and fundraising, and so much more!



Gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission benefit the full range of the United Church of Christ mission across the

country and around the globe. This offering is coming to FCC on August 19th.

August



Mark your
calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30 am FCC Breakfast Club	2	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour Annual Hymn Sing Begins!	6 Happy Anniversary Suz & Jim Stewart!!	7 7:00 pm Coyoma Craft Class	8	9	10 Happy Birthday Rev. Lisa!! 	11
12 <i>Hymn Sing</i> 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour	13	14	15	16	17	18 3:00 pm Annual Pool Party
19 <i>Hymn Sing</i> 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour 11:45 am Holy Action/Council Mtg. OCWM Offering	20	21	22	23	24	25 Happy Birthday Thomas Stewart!! 
26 <i>Hymn Sing</i> 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Coffee Hour	27 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.	28	29 	30	31 	

September

- 4 Coyoma Craft Class
- 5 FCC Breakfast Club
- 9 **Fall Joint Service**
- 16 Holy Action/Council Mtg.
- 22 **Out of the Darkness Walk**
- 24 Trustees Meeting

October

- 2 Coyoma Craft Class
- 3 FCC Breakfast Club
- 7 **World Communion Sun./Neighbors in Need Off.**
- 14 **Service Starts at 11 am**
- 21 Holy Action/Council Mtg.
- 22 Trustees Meeting
- 28 **Stewardship Begins**

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Do you have a life event that you would like to share with your church family? If so, please contact the church office at (714) 639-0311, or office@firstchurchsa.org