

Worship Service

We welcome visitors to our Worship Services on Sundays at **10:30 a.m.** Children attend the first 15 minutes of our Worship and then are guided to their Sunday School classes.

Activities Held at FCCSA

- ◆ Bumblebee Pre-School
- ◆ Santa Ana People's Garden
- ◆ Golden State Square Dancing
- ◆ Retrouvaille
- ◆ Western Service Workers
- ◆ Registrar Voters
- ◆ CA Rare Fruit Growers
- ◆ Mommy & Me Day Care
- ◆ Craft Classes
- ◆ AA (All Women) Meetings
- ◆ Prayer Ministry
- ◆ Breakfast at Polly's Pies Restaurant
- ◆ Boy Scouts
- ◆ Girl Scouts
- ◆ Weddings

“Never Place a period where God has placed a comma.”

-Gracie Allen

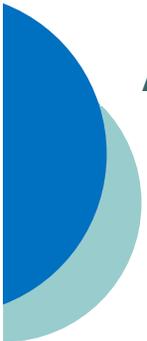


No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here. Come and shine with us!

God is still speaking,

I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.

-John10:10



An Open & Affirming Church

First Congregational Church of Santa Ana, UCC



**2555 Santiago St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706
(714) 639-0311
www.firstchurchsa.org**



We are 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.

Message from Our Pastor

Welcome and thank you for learning more about The First Congregational Church of Santa Ana, United Church of Christ.

The United Church of Christ was formed in 1957, a joining of four different denominations, including the Congregationalists (of Mayflower fame), Reformed Church, the Evangelical Church and the Christian Church.

Our United Church of Christ's motto comes from John 17:21; "That we might all be one." As Jesus spoke of justice and equality for all humanity, we indeed try to carry out His vision.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) has always been in the fore-front of bringing equality to all. Our history speaks for itself; We shut down our General Synod Conference to support Cesar Chavez for Farm Workers Rights in Northern California, we ordained the first African-American in 1785, the first female minister Antoinette Brown was ordained in 1853, and the first gay man in 1972. We passed the Equal Marriage Resolution for LGBT in 2005 which the Supreme Court eventually passed in 2016.

Transgender acceptance is another bastion we must overcome. Bruce Jenner, famous Olympic athlete, was the most prominent person to go through the transgender process with much pain but hopefully now with acceptance. The work continues.

People often ask me, "what does God think about all this coming out stuff that seems to be so prevalent?" My answer has always been that when we look at the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, nowhere does Jesus condemn people with a different sexual orientation. He does condemn divorcees, drunkards, prostitutes, judgmental attitudes, unforgiving people and those who take no time to pray.

In the very first book of Genesis, God creates humankind in His image, and it was good. I can say that all the LGBT folks that I have talked to, have shared that they knew they were different from an early age. Know that it is "not a choice."

Our niece Jennifer came to visit. She is now 44 years old. She told us when she was 12 that she sensed she was different. I prayed every night to God to please "make me straight." For 20 years "I was on my knees" until one day she walked into a Sunday Worship Service and it was filled with gay people, singing and praising God! It was that moment when she stopped struggling with her identity. God loved her just as she was!

It is my hope that all of us Christians and all others can give support to our transgender youth – God loves them and so do we!

Faith on the Journey,

Rev. Dr. Norma DeSaegher

About FCCSA

First Congregational Church of Santa Ana was founded in 1889 and will celebrate 130 years of Christ Ministry in 2019. We became part of the United Church Of Christ in 2005 and became an Open and Affirming Church in 2013.

We embrace Christ's teachings and seek to be 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. We are an **open and affirming church**, honoring the spiritual gifts of each person regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity and expression, age, race, mental and physical ability, or social-economic background. We welcome all to the blessings and responsibilities of participation in our congregation.