



*Church of the  
Foothills  
April 2019  
Sower*

**Church Staff & Leadership**

Elizabeth Helms	Music Director
Karen MacConell	Accompanist
Craig Rhea	Office Administrator
Marie Stauffer	Bookkeeper
Steve Treanor	Moderator
John Martin	Pastor Emeritus
Lena Martinez	Office Assistant
Jim Harris	Facilities Manager
Johnny Martinez	Facilities Assistant

**Church Office Hours:**

**Craig:** Mon, Wed, Friday, 9am to 2pm  
[admin@foothillschurchinventura.com](mailto:admin@foothillschurchinventura.com)

**Marie:** Tuesday – Friday, 9am to 11am  
 6279 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003  
**(805) 644-3036**

**After-hour emergencies:** (805) 420-7748  
[www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org](http://www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org)

**Calendar**  
**APRIL 2019**

Every Sunday (830am) and every Friday (10am) - Book Study  
 Every Wednesday (6pm) – Men’s Book Study  
 Every Thursday (7pm) – Choir Practice

Friday	5	Quilt Ministry – 11am
Sunday	7	Communion Sunday
	7	Board Meetings - after church
Tuesday	9	Men’s Breakfast Group, Danny’s Deli - 8am
	9	Dining for Women – Denice Barr’s - 6pm
Sunday	14	Palm Sunday
	14	Council Meeting - after church
Thursday	18	Maundy Thursday Supper & Service – 6pm
Sunday	21	Easter Services – 8am and 10am
Tuesday	23	Men’s Lunch Group, Main Street Steakhouse - 12noon
Thursday	25	Food Share Volunteer Opportunity – 12noon to 2pm
Sunday	28	Carbon Footprint Workshop – after church

**FOOD SHARE Dates**

Th. April 25, Noon-2pm  
 Th. May 23, Noon-2pm  
 Wed. June 19, 1230-230pm

**CARE CARD SIGNING** for our beloved church family will be on April 14<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday, after service. Stop by the Agora Room to send a special note of thanks to our Pastoral Search Committee.

Editor: Linda Marsi

## **New Minister Called!**

**Judi Balcerzak, Chair, Pastoral Search Committee**

**With great excitement, we are pleased to have called our new pastor. This past weekend was a busy one with many activities around getting to know our chosen candidate. A small dinner gathering on Friday, March 29, for Council, Search Committee, and staff was hosted by the Merrick/Lairmore's and the Marsi's. The event involved good food and a delightful evening with our candidate. The March 30 all-church potluck attendance was high, and we enjoyed another great COTF feast! Our candidate gave an overview of his life and ministry, fielding many, many questions from the congregation. We observed firsthand how quick he is on his feet and what a fun sense of humor he has!**

**On Sunday, March 31, our candidate presided over worship and communion and gave a thoughtful sermon. Attendance this day was excellent, so we easily met the required quorum for holding a congregational meeting. Gary Lairmore shared a brief summary of the compensation package previously negotiated with our candidate and approved by both our Association and by Church Council. We are pleased to share that an overwhelming majority of congregational members voted to call this candidate to serve as our Senior Minister. Delicious cakes were enjoyed after the service to celebrate this joyous moment in time. (Note the theme of food involved in all our events!)**

**Although all those attending the weekend's events *do know* our called pastor's name, we are *withholding it from the newsletter*, pending our called pastor giving his required 90 (ninety) day notice to the church he currently serves. He will be starting his ministry at Church of the Foothills on July 19, 2019. We look forward to welcoming him. A formal "installation service" will be held in the fall when everyone returns from summer travels.**

**In the meantime, what a gift to have Rev. Jonipher Kwong as our sustaining pastor for the next few months!**

**Special thanks to all those involved in finding, screening, interviewing, recommending and calling this talented young man to minister to us. Watch this space for updates.**

## A Note from our Sustaining Pastor



Dear COTF:

Thank you so much for welcoming me with such open arms my first month here. I began right after returning from a ten-day trip to Egypt and was admittedly a little jet-lagged when I met with the newly-formed Worship Committee, but our time together was so rich--planning and envisioning what the next four months would look like—I forgot all about my jet lag!

We experimented with the idea of having a theme for each of the three months I'll be with you, beginning with April, which is where Easter falls this year. How behooving, therefore, to be talking about Death, Grief, and Resurrection! We look forward to seeing you in church. We need one another during these challenging times.

Blessings,  
Rev. Jonipher



Our next Church Potluck will be between services on Easter Sunday as we again recognize the efforts of our talented choir. Be on the lookout for sign-ups!

## DINING FOR WOMEN

Our next dinner will be at Denice Barr's home. Please contact Denice or our chapter leaders, Candace Reynolds or Linda Marsi, for information. We are excited to share DFW's mission.

Featured Grantee for April



**Mauritania, Africa's  
MindLeaps**

MindLeaps uses dance to develop the cognitive skills and social-emotional learning of at-risk youth to ensure that they can succeed in school, enter the workplace and leap forward in life.

Sustained Grantee for April

*Namagumba and Malare,  
Uganda*

**WOMEN'S  
MICROFINANCE  
INITIATIVE:  
FEATURED (2014),  
SUSTAINED (2019-2021)**





***Care for the Environment***

On Sunday, April 28, Nancy Merrick and Scott Marsi will repeat the **Carbon Footprint Workshop**, for those who are still interested in finding out how they are doing in the effort to limit global climate change to non-disastrous levels. The workshop will include a brief presentation of the state of global climate change, and individualized carbon footprint calculations using online tools.

Interested? Contact Scott Marsi, 609-713-0254.

19 things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint for less than \$25

Action	Pounds of CO2 Equivalent Saved per Year
Turn off lights in unused rooms	380
Replace your 10 most-used lights with energy-efficient LED or CFL bulbs	1800
Replace your halogen lamp with a compact fluorescent one	475
Light your Christmas tree with LED lights rather than incandescent bulbs	122
Unplug and recycle your 2 <sup>nd</sup> refrigerator	2500
Line dry your clothes in the summer	780
Run dishwasher only with full load and use energy-saving setting	200
Use a manual push mower	80
Adjust your thermostat 2 degrees warmer in the Summer and cooler in the winter	500
Clean or replace your air filters as recommended	175
Install programmable thermostats to automate temps	600
Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows	1350
Wash clothes only in cold or warm water	500
Install low-flow shower heads to use less hot water	300
Install faucet aerators	40
Wrap your water heater in an insulating jacket	1000
Replace a car trip with walking, biking, carpooling or mass transit once per week	1000
Check your car tire inflation monthly to increase fuel efficiency	250
Change your vehicle's air filter according to the owner's manual instructions	200

To calculate your carbon footprint, go to <https://www.epa.gov/energy>.

## **FROM TRUSTEES: Church Property Inventory and Planning**

There are many great ideas being shared on how we can make the most of how we use our property on the hill. The Trustees are committed to creating a professional, systematic approach to all improvement ideas.

Such an approach requires a clear understanding of the existing status as well as the opportunities and constraints found on our campus. The first step is the creation of a current condition inventory. The inventory will look at such things as landscaping, tree inventory, buildings and usage, play spaces, memorial gardens and even our carbon footprint. Once we understand what we have, we will begin to create a list of opportunities and constraints that will affect future decision-making. This data will help us avoid conflicts and enhance a cost-effective approach for developments and improvements.

Trustees are starting with four primary focus areas for the inventory effort:

- Church Structure & Community Use of Facilities
- Landscape & Memorial Garden
- Playground
- Carbon Footprint Analysis

Two trustees will lead each of the four groups. Participation of the congregation is welcomed and encouraged. Please thoughtfully consider if one of these issues is near and dear to your heart. Trustees would like the input of all who would like to play a role in shaping the future of our place of worship. If interested please call or email Karen Musser at 805.895.3958 or [kmusserrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:kmusserrealtor@gmail.com), and indicate the topic which interests you.

### **New Ministry Opportunity**

Quarters Ministry for the benefit of [Laundry Love](#)

The Laundry Love initiative serves people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry. Laundry Love partners with groups and local laundromats in cleaning clothes and linens of low-income or no-income families and individuals. We see the laundromat as a place where strangers become friends, people are known by name, hope is hustled, and the worth of every human being is acknowledged and celebrated.

Laundry Love is always in need of volunteers and your spare quarters! Drop your spare two bits in the jar at the Outreach table. If you wish to find out more about volunteering, contact

Scott Marsi, [scott.marsi@gmail.com](mailto:scott.marsi@gmail.com).

### **The Ventura Winter Warming Shelter needs donations:**

Men and women's underwear, L-XXL

Men and women's sweat bottoms, M-XXL

Tampons and adult diapers, M-XXL

Drop items off at Outreach table after Sunday services.



Deacons will be collecting donations for **Easter Lilies** for the next few Sundays. Stop by the table on the patio after church to donate in memory or in honor of a loved one.