



Church of the Foothills June 2019 Sower

Church Staff & Leadership

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong	Sustaining Pastor
Elizabeth Helms	Music Director
Karen MacConell	Accompanist
Craig Rhea	Office Administrator
Marie Stauffer	Bookkeeper
Judi Balcerzak	Moderator
Rev. 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

Marie: Tuesday – Friday, 9am to 11am
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(805) 644-3036

After-hour emergencies: 805-420-7748

Website:

www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org

Sower editor: Linda Marsi

Calendar JUNE 2019

Every Sunday (830am) and every Friday (10am) - Book Study

Every Wednesday (6pm) – Men’s Book Study

Every Thursday (7pm) – Choir Practice

Sunday	2	Communion Sunday
Sunday	2	Homosexuality in the Bible, Rev. Jonipher, 11:30am, Agora Room * *Note: Rather than meet in a restaurant, the after church lunch bunch is encouraged to bring a sack lunch to this workshop.
Sunday	9	Board Meetings after church – Confirm with Chairpersons
Sunday	9	Card signing in Agora Room, after church
Tuesday	11	Men’s Breakfast – Danny’s Deli, 8am
Saturday	15	Ladies’ Lunch – DV Mexican Grill, 3845 Telegraph Road, 11:30am
Sunday	16	<i>Happy Father’s Day!</i>
Sunday	16	Council meeting after church
Tuesday	18	Dining For Women – Teresa Bothman’s home, Santa Barbara, 6pm
Wednesday	19	Food Share – 1230p to 2:30pm
Tuesday	25	Men’s Lunch Group, Main Street Steakhouse, Noon
Sunday	30	Homosexuality in the Bible (part 2), Rev. Jonipher, 11:30am



FOOD SHARE Date
Wed. June 19, 1230-230pm

What the Bible Says – and Doesn’t Say – About Homosexuality

Workshops on Sun, June 2 & Sun, June 30
Agora Room, 11:30am

At the request of COTF church leadership, Rev. Jonipher Kwong will lead workshop participants in discussions of how we read and understand the Bible, the passages on homosexuality in particular. We will start with an overview of how the Bible can be and has been interpreted, and move more specifically to the passages relevant to homosexuality. This workshop will provide a rich opportunity to study the Bible in the spirit of loving fellowship that COTF always seeks to provide its members and friends.

**A Monthly Message from
Rev. Jonipher Kwong**



For the month of May, we've been exploring "Memory and Hope." We started by making a distinction between history and nostalgia. We also went down Memory Lane for Mother's Day to take a look at its origins as a day proclaiming peace, thanks to a courageous woman from the 19th century named Julia Ward Howe. We began delving deeper into hope by first analyzing whether there is a purpose to hopelessness or not. I used Miguel De La Torre's work called "Embracing Hopelessness" as a launchpad to this conversation and Victoria Safford's definition of hope as a place to discover not just the struggle, but joy in the struggle. We ended the month by reclaiming the word evangelism and how we can spread our hope with the world.

It's hard to believe, but June was supposed to be my last month with you all as I wish you the best with your new ministry with Rev. John Forrest Douglas. It's also Pentecost and the Worship Committee came up with the appropriate theme of "Opportunities and New Adventures." However, I will be back for three more weeks in July—the third being the official "handoff" and saying goodbye to each other. Until then, I look forward to seeing you at church and if you're traveling this summer, may God's blessings go with you!

In Faith, Hope, and Love,
Rev. Jonipher

DINING FOR WOMEN

Our next dinner will be at member Teresa Bothman's home in Santa Barbara. Please contact Candace Reynolds or Linda Marsi for information. We are totally excited to share DFW's mission.

A snapshot from last month's meal together.



**Featured Grantee
for June**

*Kenya, Africa
Kakenya's Dream*

Education, Health, Leadership,
Safety and Security
Dinner will be at member
Teresa Bothman's Home,
Santa Barbara
See Linda Marsi for details

**Sustained Grantee for June
MALAWI, AFRICA**

Changu Changu Moto Project

***RIPPLE Africa:
Featured (2015),
Sustained
(2019-2021)***



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

You may have noticed recently that several members of the congregation have read the scripture. We would like to have more people participate!

We would also like to encourage people to volunteer for the children's message. This is a wonderful way to contribute to the Children's faith formation. Anyone who is interested may contact Pastor Jonipher at jonipherkwong@gmail.com. So COTF...let's see some new faces up front!

INVITING ALL WOMEN TO THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT....NOVEMBER 1,2,3.

This year's gathering will be at Mt. Calvary Monastery, 505 E. Los Olivos St. in Santa Barbara...so close.

Deposit of \$50 now due in the office. Questions? Ask, Cheryl Bruckner or Sigrid Wong.

Please note that the price goes up as of Sept. 1st, from \$240 to \$250

Our next card signing
June 9 after service.

MESSAGES FROM O&B:

Special Offering: *Strengthen the Church* Sunday, June 9th

A special offering will be collected during our regular offering time. Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to *Strengthen the Church*. This special mission program supports the expansion and growth of ministry and local congregations to re-imagine and build the future of the UCC. Your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

A Can a Week.....That's All We Ask!

Project Understanding collects food for their food pantry to distribute to the needy. Church of the Foothills has been collecting and donating your generous contributions for years. Every Sunday, there is a blue or green plastic crate outside the Sanctuary for any food or other items you'd like to donate. Picking up one extra can or box of food when you do your regular shopping is much appreciated! Thank you in advance.

New Volunteer Opportunity – Showers for the Homeless

One of the most difficult of basic needs to obtain for our area's homeless is a shower. Without this basic necessity, health is negatively impacted, it can be difficult to look for and find work, and more. Ventura Church of Christ provides badly needed shower facilities to Ventura's homeless population. In order to offer this vital WATERS & HOPE program, volunteers are needed.

Address: 5401 N. Bryn Mawr Street, Ventura

Contact to volunteer: 805-642-2343

Hours: Weekdays from 2:45-4:45 PM

For more Information contact: Nuni Mederos 805-368-8606

or Nunila_mederos@hotmail.com

New Minister Called!



Our Pastor-Elect, John Forrest Douglas, will begin his ministry with us July 19. We look forward to welcoming him and his husband, Ben. The weekend of candidacy was an exciting one, filled with meaningful conversations and good food. Pastor John Forrest led us in a spirit-filled worship service on 3/31, delivering a very good sermon and presiding over communion. After, the congregation voted by an overwhelming majority to call him to ministry with us. Over the next few months, Pastor John Forrest will be finishing his ministry at the UCC church in Long Beach as he and Ben prepare for relocation to our fair community. A formal “installation service” will be held in the fall when everyone returns from summer travels.

Special thanks to all those involved in identifying, screening, interviewing, recommending, and calling this wonderful young man. A special thank you, to those involved in preparing and serving food for all the events of the candidacy weekend.

Special thanks, also, to Rev. Jonipher Kwong for his sustaining ministry until Pastor John Forrest arrives in July. Bringing his wisdom, his kindness, and a keen sense of humor, Pastor Jonipher has given generously of his time and talent. He has been a blessing to Church of the Foothills during our extended time of transition.

Watch this space for updates.

Judi Balcerzak, Chair, Pastoral Search Committee