



*Church of the
Foothills
November 2018
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
Johnny Martinez	Property Assistant
Jim Harris	Property Manager

Church Office Hours:

Craig: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9am to 2pm (unless substitute teaching)

Marie: Tuesday - Friday 9am to 11am
After-hour emergencies - 805-420-7748
6279 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 644-3036

churchofthefoothills-ventura.org

Calendar

JANUARY 2019

Every Sunday* (8:30am) and every Friday (10am) - Book Study

Every Wednesday** (7pm) – Men’s Book Study

Every Thursday (7pm) – Choir Practice

Tuesday	1	<i>HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!</i>
Sunday	6	Communion Sunday New Members Class after church Board Meetings after church
Tuesday	8	Men’s Breakfast Group – 8am, Danny’s Deli Council Meeting – 7pm
Wednesday	9	**Men’s Book Study reconvenes – 7pm
Sunday	13	New Member Potluck – following church service * Sunday Morning Book Study reconvenes – 8:30am
Thursday	17	Dining for Women – 6pm, Marsi home in Ventura
Saturday	19	Women’s Lunch – 11:30am, Eggs ‘n Things, 4020 E. Main St.
Sunday	20	Annual Congregational Meeting after church
Tuesday	22	Men’s Lunch Group – 12noon, Main Street Steakhouse

We Embrace

**Pastor Joan Ishibashi
for the month of January**





Pot luck to welcome and celebrate our New Members *

Sunday, January 13 after church.

Sign up on the bulletin Board to bring either a main dish, salad or dessert.

The Special Events Committee will provide coffee, tea, water, plates, cups etc.

**If you are interested in joining Church of the Foothills, please contact Rev. Joan Ishibashi or the church office at 805.644.3036. A New Members class will be held on Sunday, January 6, after church.*

HELP US MAKE MORE CARE CARDS!!

Who would like to help follow Sandy Artman's lovely easier design for handmade cards? Our church family members adore receiving these notes of love from many of us. In the Agora room is a box marked CARE TEAM CARDS. In this box are the necessary papers and instructions to fashion some lovely cards. Donna J., Candace R. and Linda M. have contributed in the past. Help yourselves to the supplies. Contact Cheryl B. if interested and need help. 805-701-4653

Homeless Point-In-Time Count

Tuesday, January 22, 2018

Why: This effort helps to better understand who is homeless in Ventura County and gain access to state and federal funding.

What: Volunteers canvass the community in pairs and collect survey data through interviewing homeless persons or reporting observations.

Who: Volunteers must be 18 years or older and have the ability to walk distances in designated locations. A smart phone/device will be needed to download the Counting Us app for the survey. More information will be shared during the training.

Please register as a volunteer online at:

www.volunteerventuracounty.org

For more information, visit www.venturacoc.org

or contact Jennifer Harkey at #805-658-4342 or jennifer.harkey@ventura.org

Shared from the UCC Website:

“We believe in a God that is still speaking, a God that is all-loving and inclusive. We are a church that welcomes and accepts everyone as they are, where your mind is nourished as much as your soul.

We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary, and where together, we grow a just and peaceful world.”

Stewardship Update

Your Stewardship Committee is pleased to report good progress toward our 2019 pledge goal. So many of you continue to support our church community with resources and service through this transition time. For that we remain grateful.

Again, our thanks,
The Stewardship Committee

Men’s Wednesday Night Book Study

A few days after hearing Scott Marsi’s November 25th message to the congregation, I heard the statement, “**We are the ones that we have been waiting for**” - a phrase that first appeared during the Civil Rights movement of the ‘70’s. The phrase seems to be just as relevant today in our community.

Scott’s message celebrated our best efforts and encouraged us to serve others, act justly, love mercy and walk humbly. Reminding us of all we do and what is possible in our efforts to build kinship with those on the margins. The challenge can be to understand the many complex issues.

Some of the men in the congregation will be restarting the **Men’s Wednesday night book study** on January 9 at 7 PM and will study “The New Jim Crow” by Civil Rights Attorney, Michelle Alexander. This book offers a striking account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement.

Any guys that are interested can sign up on the church bulletin board. Books can be purchased on Amazon for about \$14 and the study guide/call to action is available for \$7. If indeed “**We are the ones that we have been waiting for**” this will be a valuable study.

Submitted by Steve Treanor

Dining for Women

COTF is endorsing the start of a local chapter of this organization.

DINING FOR WOMEN IS...

DFW is a global giving circle dedicated to transforming lives and eradicating poverty among women and girls in the developing world. Through member education and engagement, as well as the power of collective giving, Dining for Women funds grassroots organizations that empower women and girls and promote gender equity.

We gather for a potluck meal at members' homes. We dine, and fellowship together and then move into the business part of the evening. We review 2 short video clips of the featured grantees for that month. Upon return home, we each donate to DFW, paying the organization vs. a restaurant.

DFW has more than 400 chapters nationwide and began with four girlfriends going out for dinner. See www.diningforwomen.org for a myriad of details. Also, feel free to discuss details with co-chairs Candace Reynolds and Linda Marsi

First meal will be at Linda Marsi's home on Th. Jan 17, 6pm. Contact her if interested in attending our first gathering. lhmars@aol.com or (609) 558-9049. (Invites are sent out via evite.)



**VENTURE STRATEGIES FOR
HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
(NIGER)**

**DINING FOR WOMEN'S
JANUARY GRANTEE**

Women's Lunch

Sat. Jan 19, 11:30am

Eggs 'n Things

4020 E. Main St.

*(in the Bed, Bath and Beyond
shopping center.)*

Pastor Search Committee Update

The Pastor Search Committee continues its search, took a break for the holidays, and will reconvene after the first of the year. We have met some promising applicants! The committee is energized by our collective goodwill and by congregational support.

Normal recruitment periods range from nine (9) to nineteen (19) months. Although we may be eager to call and settle our new minister, we also want to remain patient and prayerful, trusting God's wisdom and guidance.

We are so happy to have Pastor Joan Ishibashi serving as our sustaining minister for all of December and January. With Pastor Joan leading us in worship and being available for pastoral care, we can all relax, take a deep breath, and feel "secure." Remember that God is in charge of the outcome and the person best suited to assume ministerial leadership for Church of the Foothills is already on the way to us!

Proverbs 3:5-6 reads, "With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgment. Always let Him lead you and he will clear the road for you to follow." (CEV)

Thanks for your ongoing prayers.

*Blessings and Happy Holidays,
Judi Balcerzak, Chair, Pastoral Search Committee*

Habitat for Humanity ReStores

Habitat for Humanity's Oxnard and Simi Valley ReStores would love your tax-deductible donations of gently used furniture and building materials.

They offer free pick-ups for large items.

For more information, including a list of acceptable items, drop-off locations and pick-up scheduling, go to www.habitatventura.org/restore

or call 805-981-2268.

Donate to the store that builds homes!

Mark your calendars!

Ending hunger one step at a time...

The Ventura CROP Walk
(Church World Service fundraising event)
will be **March 17, 2019.**