



# Church of the Foothills November 2019 Sower

## Church Staff & Leadership

Rev. John Forrest Douglas	Pastor
Elizabeth Helms	Music Director
Karen MacConell	Accompanist
Craig Rhea	Church Administrator
Marie Stauffer	Bookkeeper
Judi Balcerzak	Moderator
John Martin	Pastor Emeritus
Lena Martinez	Office Assistant
Jim Harris	Facilities Manager
Johnny Martinez	Facilities Assistant

## Church Office Hours:

**Rev. John Forrest:** Tues-Fri & Sunday  
pastor@foothillschurchinventura.com

**Craig:** Mon, Wed, Friday, 9am to 2pm  
admin@foothillschurchinventura.com

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

**After-hour emergencies:** (805) 228-4167

[www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org](http://www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org)

## Calendar

# NOVEMBER 2019

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

Every Wednesday (6:30pm) – Men’s Book Study

Friday – Sunday	1-3	Women’s Retreat (see article below)
Sunday	3	Communion Sunday
Sunday	10	Stewardship Sunday
	10	Board & Committee Meetings (Note – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday)
Tuesday	12	Men’s Breakfast, Danny’s Deli, 8am
	12	Council Meeting, 7pm
Wednesday	13	Dining for Women, Cheryl Bruckner’s home 6pm (see article)
Saturday	16	Ladies’ Lunch, DW’s Country Café, 2855 Johnson Drive, 11:30am
	16	New Members Luncheon, 11:30am-1:30pm
Sunday	17	New Members Welcomed during church
Thursday	21	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Sanctuary, 7pm
Sunday	24	Thanksgiving After Church, Agora Room
Tuesday	26	Men’s Lunch, Main St. Steakhouse, noon

Audio recordings of the weekly sermons  
are now available on our website:

<https://www.churchofthefoothills-ventura.org/>  
under the “Church Life” tab.

You will find previous editions of the Sower  
there, as well.

Sower editor: Linda Marsi



## ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT NOVEMBER 1, 2, & 3

Mt. Calvary Monastery,  
505 E. Los Olivos Street,  
Santa Barbara

Our weekend has arrived! We look forward  
to gathering together for this special time.



DW's Country Cafe  
 Sat, Nov 16, 11:30am  
 2855 Johnson Dr.

### NEW MEMBERS LUNCHEON & SERVICE

On Sunday, November 17, we will welcome new members to Church of the Foothills. The only requirement for membership is a desire to establish a deeper relationship with members of the church and a deeper understanding of God. The day before, November 16, we'll have a new members' luncheon from 11:30 to 1:30. This will be a great time to learn more about Church of the Foothills and the United Church of Christ, and to answer any questions you may have. Please see Pastor John Forrest if you are interested in joining.

## ***DINING FOR WOMEN***

Our next dinner will be at  
 Cheryl Bruckner's home  
 Note: This meeting will be held  
 on WEDNESDAY, Nov. 13  
 We are excited to share  
 DFW's mission.

Please contact Candace Reynolds  
 or Linda Marsi



Our October DFW gathering



Featured Grantee:  
 Young Heroes Foundation  
 Swaziland



Sustained Grantee:  
 Bond Street Theater  
 Afghanistan

[www.diningforwomen.org](http://www.diningforwomen.org)

**From O&B:**

**Special Offering:**

**Christmas Fund** coming Tues, December 24

A special offering will be collected on Tuesday, December 24 during our Christmas Eve services.

**Christmas Fund**, one of the programs supported by UCC, provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

**A Special Thank You for the Special Offering**

Thank you for your generosity toward **Neighbors in Need**. This special offering, collected October 6, raised \$996 in support of the Council of American Indian Ministry and the Justice & Witness Ministry. Your dollars will support justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants.

**“A can a week is all we ask!”**

Just a gentle reminder that COTF collects weekly donations for Project Understanding’s pantry. Help keep their coffers full by donating a non-perishable food item, hygiene item or pet food item every Sunday. Donations are collected in the green or blue plastic crates labeled “Project Understanding” and set out on a table on the patio outside the Sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your contributions.



Dear Church,

It’s hard to believe that it’s already November!

This season of gratitude will bring many special celebrations to our life together at Church of the Foothills. On Sunday, November 3, we will mark **All Saints Sunday** by remembering those in our community and beyond who have died in the past year. These remembrances give us hope and strength for the living of these days. Please email the church office by this Friday morning with the names of loved ones you’d like to remember during this service. Sunday, November 10, will be the kickoff of our **Annual Stewardship Campaign**. I hope that you will prayerfully consider the ways the ministries of this church have been important for you and make a commitment to support this church through the sharing of your time, talents, and treasure. Pledges are particularly important for us as they allow the church leadership to budget with a more accurate estimate of the church’s finances for the coming year. On November 17, we will renew our covenant with one another as we **welcome new members** to join Church of the Foothills. At 7PM on Thursday, November 21, we will host the **Ventura Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service** in our sanctuary. This will be a wonderful opportunity to join together with our neighbors from other faith traditions and share a joyful service of gratitude filled with music and words from those represented. Sunday, November 24, will wrap up this season of gratitude with a **Celebration of Thanksgiving** during our morning worship followed by a community potluck lunch.

I pray that you will find time this November to consider the things for which you are grateful and give thanks. As always, I give thanks for you and the ways you share yourself with Church of the Foothills and our local and global neighbors.

Blessings,  
John Forrest



A heartfelt letter of thanks for the prayers from our COTF family came from former member **Martha Forward** and is in the office for everyone to read.



### **A note from Stewardship:**

Our annual campaign begins on November 10 and Pastor John Forrest and David Crouch will give us a Stewardship message. A time for all of us to think about how we can support our church with our time, talents and resources.

The Stewardship Committee will have your pledge packets available after the service with general information about our proposed church budget and Outreach/Benevolence budget.

Now that we have called John Forrest Douglas as our new pastor, we are ready to serve our members and our community. It is an exciting time in the life of our church.

### **Quilt Ministry**

Will meet on Friday, November 1, at 11am in the Agora Room. These quilts are a special way of showing how our church cares about others. We have lots of fabric available, and we will gladly teach beginners how to make quilts. We bring a sack lunch to enjoy after our work is completed.

For info. See Candace Reynolds

### **Financial Report:**

As of the end of September, we were behind on payments of pledges, as well as meeting the budget estimates for Unpledged Identified (those who did not pledge but contribute by check) and weekly cash church offerings.

Please check your giving statement and bring your pledge up to date.

For full budget charts, stop by the office for a copy.