



## Church of the Foothills APRIL 2020 Sower

### Church Staff & Leadership

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

### Church Office Hours:

*(Note: Church offices are closed and staff is working remotely until further notice.)*

**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

## APRIL 2020

### Holy Week Services Online

*(Facebook Live, Zoom or Phone;  
links included in emails sent weekly from John Forrest)*

Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday, 7pm

Friday, April 10

Good Friday, 12noon

Sunday, April 12

Easter, 10am

Recordings of our past services can be found on our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/foothillsventura](https://www.facebook.com/foothillsventura)

and on our website:

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

under the “Church Life” tab.

You will find previous editions of the Sower on our website, as well.

Please email, text or call  
Rev. Douglas with any prayer  
requests that you would like  
included in the  
Prayers of the People  
during our online services.



Dear Church,

We find ourselves in trying times. It seems appropriate that "Wilderness" has been our theme this Lenten season because it certainly feels like we are in a wilderness place. While wilderness brings struggles and hardships, it is also the birthplace of new identity, renewed purpose, and focus on what really matters. This was true for the ancient Israelites wandering in the desert, and I believe it can be true for us too. We have been forced into new ways of connecting with one another and new ways of worshiping. I am so grateful for the ways that you are reaching out to one another and maintaining connection during this time.

It may feel strange to celebrate Easter online, but perhaps this is exactly the moment we need to proclaim resurrection. Perhaps this is the time we need to sing about new life. I look forward to interacting with you online throughout this Holy Week and celebrating together on Easter Sunday.

Let us be gentle with one another and with ourselves.

Peace,  
John Forrest

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CARE TEAM?

ALL NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, would you care to join?

Anyone who prays for or contacts friends and neighbors is doing the work of the Care Team. In the past the Care Team was highly organized and documented.

Today, it simply means being contacted each month by email or phone with current cares of our Church family. Reaching out to aid others is an individual choice of praying for or contacting, and is kept quite low key.

Our arms are open to new help. If you have questions, contact Karen MacConell, Cheryl Bruckner or Denice Barr and we can add you to the email or phone list.

### ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!

The 2020 Annual Women's Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of September 25-27. A planning meeting was held in March. Ten lovely ladies from both our Church of the Foothills and other local churches gathered to discuss this upcoming event.

It was suggested we use a workbook source about the inspiring path of Ruth and Naomi.

The chosen theme for this year's retreat is

***LIFE INTERRUPTED! Love and Trust in times of change.***

Doesn't that just tickle your interest?

Location: Retreat House at Mount Calvary in Santa Barbara.

The cost is \$250 for 2 nights' lodging and 5 meals. If you prefer to commute on Saturday only, the cost is \$60. Space is limited to 25 ladies. We are now collecting mail-in \$50 deposits to the church.

For more details email Cheryl Bruckner  
at [jbincometax@hotmail.com](mailto:jbincometax@hotmail.com).

PSALM 46:1 GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, ALWAYS READY  
TO HELP IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

## PROJECT PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Exciting News!

We are very close to reaching \$10,000!

As of March 29<sup>th</sup> we have received \$9,614.57 towards our \$55,000 goal.

It is wonderful to hear that even during these uneasy times that those envelopes are arriving in the mail to support our future playground.

Thank you,  
Sharon Groeneveld  
Playground Committee Chair

