



Church of the Foothills December 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

Calendar DECEMBER 2019

Every Sunday (8:30am) and every Friday (10am) - Book Study
Every Wednesday (6:30pm) – Men's Book Study

Sunday	1	Communion Sunday
Sunday	1	Alternative Christmas Market in Agora Room after church
Sunday	8	Board & Committee Meetings after church
Tuesday	10	Men's Breakfast, Danny's Deli, 8am
Tuesday	10	Council Meeting, 7pm
Wednesday	11	Special Dining for Women, Agora Room – 6pm (see article)
Sunday	15	Children's Christmas Program
Tuesday	17	Men's Lunch, Main Street Steakhouse, 12noon
Saturday	21	Ladies' Lunch, Hozy's Grill, 1760 Lemonwood, Santa Paula
Tuesday	24	Christmas Eve Services, 5pm & 7pm
Wednesday	25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>

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

Remember:

Alternative Christmas Market
Sunday, December 1st

Agora Room
immediately following Church



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, November 17, we welcomed 21 new members to Church of the Foothills:

Jennifer & Bill Dawes
 John Forrest Douglas & Ben West
 Nancy Kersnowski
 Jeff Klemme
 Gerritt & Melanie Lang
 Nancy & Greg Morgan
 Jan & Brian Osborne
 Mandy Shoemaker & Jenny Tribo
 Jane Van Daalwyk
 Lou & Rose Mary Vigorita
 Stephanie Wagner
 Jim Watkins
 Carol Welle
 Gordon Wilson

A warm welcome to you ALL!

DINING FOR WOMEN

Our next dinner will be a
 Special group gathering in the Agora Room at COTF

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 11 at 6pm

*Please join us for this open group meeting.
 Bring your spouse or friend!*

Please contact Candace Reynolds

Jacaranda Health - Kenya



Bond Street Theatre –
 Afghanistan, Myanmar,
 and Malaysia



www.diningforwomen.org



Hozy's Grill
Saturday, Dec 21, 11:30am
1760 Lemonwood, Santa Paula
Art Museum's
"Art About Agriculture" exhibit
following lunch for those interested

Special Offering:

Christmas Fund coming Tues, December 24th

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

Christmas Fund, one of the 4 special designated offerings of the 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.

Christmas Poinsettias

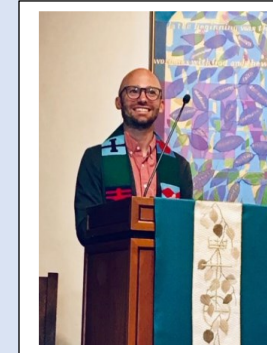
Deacons continue to accept donations for poinsettias December 1st and 8th.

Your \$10 donation may be made in honor or memory of a loved one and will be noted in the bulletin.

The Poinsettias will be used to adorn the sanctuary through Christmas Eve.

A portion of your donation will also assist in paying for flameless candles, which will be used during our Christmas Eve service.

Please stop by our table on the patio after church.



Dear Church,

Have you ever had a dream that keeps coming back again and again? Do you have dreams of flying? Falling? Winning a million dollars? Showing up to church without a sermon? (Maybe only pastors have that last one). Are dreams just our brains cleaning themselves out or do they tell us something about our subconscious? Who knows!

The stories of the birth of Jesus are full of dreams and visions. During the season of Advent (the four Sundays leading up to Christmas), we will take a look at four of these stories of dreams and consider what they might have to do with God's grand dream for our world.

In this holiday season, I pray that your time is filled with happiness and good cheer and not too much stress or busy-ness. And I hope that you will make Church of the Foothills a part of your celebration of the gifts of Emmanuel, God-with-us. I look forward to the ways we will continue to make God's dream of a beloved community a reality on this hillside, in Ventura, and in our wider community.

Blessings for the Season,
Pastor John Forrest



Your Stewardship Committee is pleased to report good progress toward our 2020 pledge goal. We encourage the quick return of outstanding pledge cards to the church office so that the Budget Committee can plan the coming year.



**Let's all get ready for our Annual
Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 15.
Mark your calendars!**

Advent Book Study

For the month of December, our Friday and Sunday morning book studies will be led by Pastor John Forrest.

We will be reading "Light of the World" by Amy-Jill Levine.

Books are available in the church office for \$15 or may be purchased online.

TWENTY ATTENDED THE 2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT!

This year took us to Mt. Calvary Monastery in Santa Barbara. The towering eucalyptus, the charming bedrooms, the house that Ralph Hazard built, the living room where the first AA meeting was held by Bill Wilson, the three Benedictine brothers and the delicious food added to our JOY as we all learned new ways to experience more joy in our lives. Thank you all for coming!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SANDY ARTMAN

As her name implies, she is artistic.
The Care Team wishes to shout out
a huge THANK YOU to Sandy
for supplying us with so many new and beautiful
cards...including the envelopes and stamps!
Many thanks, also for teaching many of us the designs for the
GROUP HUG CARDS.

Financial Report

As of October 31, we are \$7,798.03 under budget on pledged income.

We are currently under on our expenditures by 8%, but do have some budgeted year-end expenses to consider.

Our 2020 pledges are already looking very positive. Please check your pledge and bring it up to date if needed, so we end 2019 strong.

As always, if you would like to see complete financial information, please contact the church office.