



FirstChristianNews

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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JENNIFER LE'AU, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
TAULAU TUPUA, ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND MISSION
ALFREDO GOMEZ & LOYDI RIVAS GOMEZ, PASTORS, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION

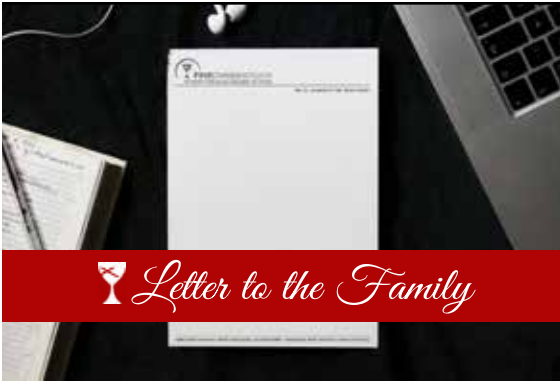
Volume LXV No. 37

January 17, 2024

FINALLY, ALL OF YOU, HAVE
UNITY OF MIND
SYMPATHY
BROTHERLY LOVE
A TENDER HEART
A HUMBLE MIND

1 Peter 3:8

JOIN US IN PERSON OR WATCH SERVICES ON [YOUTUBE](#) OR [FACEBOOK](#).
Check out recent service streams and more at www.fccnh.org.



Annie and I recently went to a musical with some friends from church. We had a marvelous time. The musical was the best show that I have ever seen. Or, perhaps, I should say, the best show that I have ever heard. Or, better, the best show that I have ever witnessed. Darn, none of these words seem to convey the experience. Oh, that is it, the show was the best that I have ever experienced.

I am not satisfied with the word “experienced.” Actually, we did not just see, hear, witness, or experience the show. We became participants in the show. We did not act as if we were flies on the wall. Instead, to borrow a line from the drama world, they broke

the fourth wall multiple times! I did not realize at first a few times until we were about five seconds into the experience. Then, I became emotional because I realized that I was not just there watching, hearing, witnessing, or experiencing something. Unbeknownst to me, I was being invited into the show. I loved it.

Of course, these sorts of things get me thinking. Where do I just watch life pass by? Where might I just be hearing what is happening around me? When am I simply being a witness to my loved ones? I think that the questions should come to all of us.

As I reflect upon the ministry of Jesus, He was always calling people to be participants in the new thing that God was doing. He called people to come down from the trees (Zacchaeus). Jesus called people out of the tombs (from our text this Sunday). I wonder where Jesus is calling you by name to join in the movement for wholeness in a fragmented world!

Together,

Senior Pastor



10AM
SUNDAY
JANUARY 21

Leaving Closed-Mindedness Behind

Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Hall, Senior Pastor

As one reads Mark 5:1-20, we may think “What in the world?” or “This is weird in multiple places!” Yet, there are layers in this story that invite us to join Jesus on the other side. We need to leave destructive thoughts behind. We need to move past closed-mindedness. On Sunday, Pastor Jonathan will share his sermon entitled “Leaving Closed-Mindedness Behind,” which is based on Mark 5:1-20.

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INGATHERING SUNDAY IS JANUARY 21

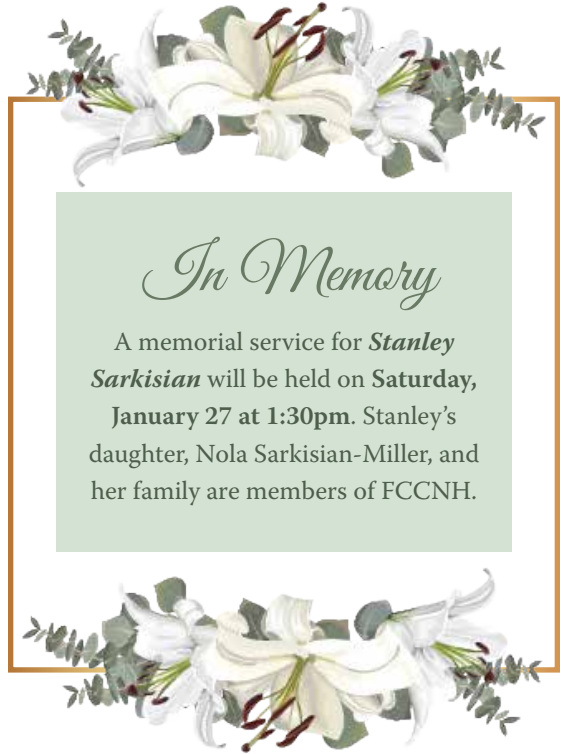


The North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry serves roughly 5,000 people each month and this month we are especially in need of complete canned meals (ravioli, chili, etc.). Our next **Ingathering Sunday is January 21st**. Please bring your donations to the Narthex or the Church office.

NHIFP WISHLIST

Click here or go to the link below to check out the Pantry's new Amazon Wishlist -- an easy way to donate to NHIFP and be sure the donation is exactly what's needed.

<https://tinyurl.com/yn54xrf3>



In Memory

A memorial service for *Stanley Sarkisian* will be held on **Saturday, January 27 at 1:30pm**. Stanley's daughter, Nola Sarkisian-Miller, and her family are members of FCCNH.



“ ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ”

Please save the date for our next congregational meeting on **Sunday, March 17** immediately after worship.



Memorial Service
FOR
Bill Hayes
Saturday,
February 10, 2024
1:00pm in the Sanctuary
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
in the **Social Hall**



A Celebration of Life for *Rob Koffski* will be held in the Social Hall this Saturday, January 20th at 3 pm.

MLK Jr. Celebration

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

4:00 - 6:00 PM PT

DISCIPLES MINISTRY CENTER

IN FULLERTON, CA

—

IN PERSON AND
STREAMING LIVE



with special guest Justin J. Pearson,
District 85 State Representative
Tennessee General Assembly

"FORWARD TOGETHER, NOT ONE STEP BACK"

HOST A MEET & GREET

**INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES,
STUDY GROUPS, FRIENDS**

Our Sunday morning Meet & Greets are a great way to become more involved with the church and other members— it isn't complicated and the church will reimburse your expenses up to \$150.

If you, your group or family are interested in hosting a Meet & Greet after one of our Sunday morning services, please contact Alberto Sigala for more info at asigala480@gmail.com or 310-569-9908.

A CELEBRATION OF *Ernest Blakely*

Please join us for an informal celebration of the life of Ernest Blakely, a long-time church member we lost during COVID, during the latter part of Meet & Greet on January 28th in the Social Hall. Ernest gave the church a generous bequest and was a dutiful attendee even when it became difficult for him. I hope to see you there to enjoy some of his favorite foods and stories of his life.

— Matt Hunt



HUMAN NEEDS
**WARM CLOTHING
 & BLANKETS**

The need for warm clothing and blankets is increasing as the weather cools at night. The Human Needs Committee regularly distributes your donations at our *Lunch in the Park* events to those in need. Please take a look at the list below and consider donating one or more of these much-needed items:

- jackets
- jeans
- socks
- gloves
- tents
- sleeping bags
- blankets
- sweatshirts/pants
- rain ponchos
- and we're still collecting

hygiene products

Donations can be dropped off at the church office during normal business hours. *Thank you!*



TUESDAY MORNINGS
 10am • via Zoom

If you're interested in joining the Tuesday morning Bible Study with Ed Esau, please contact the church office at 818.763.8218 to be added to the weekly email with topic and Zoom connect info.



W2W
 WOMEN *to* WOMEN
 ZOOM MEETING
 7:30pm FRIDAYS

NEWCOMERS WELCOME

email for Zoom info W2W.FCCNH@gmail.com

Save the Dates



PASTOR'S CLASS

WHAT IS A PASTOR'S CLASS?

Pastor's Class is a 6-week class for youth to connect their story to God's story. The class covers topics such as our local church, our denomination (Christian Church Disciples of Christ), baptism, scripture, and Lent, to name a few. The youth will also have the opportunity to come up with a service project of their very own. At the end of the class, the youth will be baptized and recognized for their commitment.

CLASSES DATES & TIMES

The first Pastor's Class will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, at 5:30pm. Remaining classes will be in the Annex each Sunday, February 18th - March 24th, 11:45am - 2:00pm.

**MORE INFO WILL BE
IN NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER**

APPLY TO BE A 2024 PEACE INTERN APPLICATIONS DUE BY JANUARY 31!

Each year Disciples Peace Fellow selects three young adults (21-years-old or older) to serve as Peace Interns. This is a 12-week, paid internship (\$3,000 summer stipend) that will allow you to serve as an advocate for peace and justice in many different ways and in several different formats. The 2024 DPF Peace Internship will be a hybrid model again this summer. That means that Peace Interns will serve at in-person Disciples of Christ Church Camps AND they will have remote work weeks where they work on specific projects with Disciples Justice Ministries groups (like AllianceQ, Reconciliation Ministries, Green Chalice, and more) or interfaith/ecumenical peace partners (like the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, and Blessed Tomorrow). If you are interested, please go to <https://www.disciplespeace.org/apply> or talk to Pastor Jonathan or Ben Bohren.



MEN'S GROUP MEETING

meets online weekly at

7PM WEDNESDAYS

Interested in joining?

For Zoom info Email: menoncorner@gmail.com

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? —ISAIAH 43:18-19



A LOOK AT LAST WEEK



ABOVE LEFT:
Prayer Group luncheon
hosted by Rodney Gould.

BELOW LEFT:
Pastor Jonathan Hall, Glenda
Morgan Brown, and Pastor
Tau Tupia delivered a special
Call to Worship this past
Sunday. If you missed it,
check out the service online
at [YOUTUBE](#).

LOWER RIGHT:
Acolyte, Carter Williamson,
and Pastor Tau.

photos by Byron Armantrout





Back in the mid-2000's, one of our members experienced an unexpected upheaval in his professional, financial & personal life. As he struggled with his situation, he began to take long, contemplative walks in North Hollywood Park. There, he became aware of the growing number of unhoused and hungry people and their struggles.

Rob Koffski, who passed away January 1, 2024, put aside his own issues and went back to our church and recruited other members like Karl Klein and the late Judy McCalla. They began what would become the Human Needs Ministry. They first started with sporadic weekday picnics in the park, bringing sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Then they added donations of cold weather gear and toiletries.

In October 2004, the Church Board of Trustees charged the Human Needs Ministry with dealing with the issues of hunger, homelessness and abuse. The committee addressed the congregation at the Meet N' Greet in November 2004, and talked about serving the least among us. Human Needs grew from picnics for 20-30 clients into a monthly 2nd Sunday afternoon feeding of a full hot meal served by more than 20 volunteers to more than 100 needy "neighborhood friends." Added over the years were the serving of Communion, and the distribution of clothing, hygiene kits & toiletries by Shelley Cherwinski and her partner Chris Qualls. Jay Aldrich later took over that responsibility and continues it along with Mary Heiss to this day.

In 2008, Rob moved away and Deborah Luster stepped up to chair this valuable ministry that has continued with many devoted volunteers. On this past Thanksgiving, the Human Needs Committee served 16 turkeys with all the trimmings and 12 hams plus fruit, desserts, sodas & coffee. The clients said it was the best food ever!

Rob's philosophy was that, while indeed, the meals were designed to bring food to the hungry, it was also a time of camaraderie, sharing laughter, friendship and reflections. It was important to treat these folks with respect and dignity.

A memorial service for Rob Koffski will be held in our Social Hall on Saturday, January 20th from 3 to 5 pm. All are welcome.

– The 100th Anniversary Team

LUNCHEON HONORING OUR PRAYER GROUP MEMBERS



Above left is our beloved prayer group being treated to a delicious fellowship lunch by Rodney Gould. The image on the right is Janet Bruce with the framed gift of a scripture and a small word of gratitude for her faithfulness and leadership with the prayer group.

photos by Pastor Tau

WINTER CAMP

February 16-19, 2024 • Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12)

With this year's theme "Virtual Faith IRL" campers will learn how to activate their own faith in their everyday lives through games, meaningful worship, and group activities. The camp ministry team is working hard to create a program that will explore Disciples faith practices and equip young people with tools to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

Check in on Friday, February 16 at 7 pm. Check out on Monday, February 19 at 11 am.



Scholarships are available--please check with Pastor Tau if you need assistance. Registration fee is \$300.

COUPON CODES • Please remember that the coupon codes are CASE SENSITIVE and do not include spaces.

- If 100% will be paid by the congregation, please use FULLSCHOLARSHIP2024.
- If 50% will be paid by the congregation, please use CHURCHPAY2024.

Using these codes will allow Camping Ministries to track payments and dues.



FLOWER DEDICATIONS

To order flowers to decorate the chancel on an upcoming Sunday, please fill out the following form and place in the offering box or drop at the church office with your check for \$40.

Today's Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Available dates:

1/21	1/28	2/4	2/11	2/18
2/25	3/3	3/17	3/24	3/31

Floral Dedication:

(Please check one of the following and write the specifics of your dedication in the space provided below)

- In Honor of ...
- In Celebration of ...
- In Memory of ...

- Check enclosed for arrangement (\$40)
Arrangements are supplied by Floral Crush Studio. Checks should be made payable to FCCNH.



Mark those calendars, families - Our FCCNH Summer Camps for 2024 are back to give your kids fun and educational activities right here on campus

JUNE 10 - JUNE 14
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

JUNE 17 - JUNE 21
MUSICAL THEATRE

JUNE 24 - JUNE 28
MARTIAL ARTS

JULY 1 - JULY 5
COOKING

JULY 8 - JULY 12
ART

JULY 15 - JULY 19
PHOTOGRAPHY

Don't forget Loch Leven Camps too! Located at the beautiful Loch Leven facility in the San Bernardino mountains.

JUNE 23 - JUNE 28
CYF CAMP (GRADES 9-12)

JULY 7 - JULY 12
CHI RO (GRADES 6-8)

JULY 21 - JULY 24
WEE CAMP (AGES 3 - K, WITH A PARENT)

JULY 21 - JULY 24
MINI CAMP (GRADES 1-3)

JULY 21 - JULY 26
JUNIOR CAMP (GRADES 4-5)

Email camps@fccnh.org to be notified when registration opens, or for any questions!

BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

Sunday Worship 10am	124
Sunday Morning Youth	15
Wednesday Youth	13
Sunday School	28

Our apologies, donation information is unavoidably not available at time of print but will be included in next week's newsletter.



WAYS YOU CAN DONATE TO FCCNH

Paypal@fccnh.org

Venmo@fccnh.org

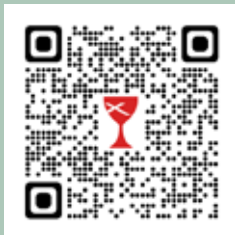
Zelle to

offering@fccnh.org

On our website

www.fccnh.org or

scan the code at right



CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Hall
SENIOR PASTOR
- Alfredo Gomez
PASTOR, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION
- Jennifer Le'au
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
- Taulau Tupua
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND MISSION
- Tyana Parr
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH CHOIRS
- David Rigsby
MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
- Christine Karasseferian
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
- Gabriela Dorantes
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Glenda Morgan Brown
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Terri Burton
CHURCH PUBLICATIONS
- Trudie Kirkland
EVENT PLANNER
- Elmer Maldonado
BUILDING & GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT
- Miriam Mancilla
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL
- Amanda Sigala
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OF CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL
- Greg Kirkland
MEDIA DIRECTOR

VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Ne'e Le'au, Karl Wm. Klein
VIDEO STREAMING
- Jacob Beam, Craig Brooks
SOUND TECHNICIANS
- Luis Oliart
SECURITY

IN MEMORIAM

- Robert M. Bock
SENIOR PASTOR
- Earle Immel
MINISTER OF MUSIC EMERITUS
- Merle E. Fish, Jr.
MINISTER EMERITUS



First Christian News

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
4390 COLFAX AVENUE
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91604 - 2898



THINK GREEN! PLEASE RECYCLE!

NOTE: If you would like to receive this newsletter via Email, which saves on printing/mailling costs and is better for the environment, please contact us. Annual subscription cost for first class mail version is \$24.



First Christian News

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email: fcnh@earthlink.net

PROOFREADING	Glenda Morgan Brown
ART DIRECTION	Terri Burton
PRODUCTION SERVICES	Byron Armantrout

EMERITUS

Robert M. Bock	Mary Ann Steuterman
Billie Kline	Lillian Carlson
Heather Kenney	Margaret Defibaugh
Cathy Melendez	Fern Donald
Chuck Mont	Jean Johnson
Wanda Kanoy	Helen Scarna
Kay Smith	Betty Van Zanten
Shirley McClure	Deborah Wheeler
Virginia Stebbins	Cindy Kaller

