



FirstChristianNews

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
REV. DR. JONATHAN B. HALL, SENIOR PASTOR
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. 33

December 20, 2023



Merry Christmas from the FCCNH staff and clergy!

CHRISTMAS EVE at 10am (Worship) • 5:00pm (Live Nativity) 5:30pm (Family) • 11pm (Candlelight)

JOIN US IN PERSON OR WATCH SERVICES ON [YOUTUBE](#) OR [FACEBOOK](#).

Check out recent service streams and more at www.fccnh.org.



Letter to the Family

One of my favorite memories as a child was passing the light to my sister at the candlelight Christmas Eve service. That moment - year after year - is chiseled into my memory.

At my home church, we used to have clear plastic candle holders. Then, I think for storage purposes, we switched to paper guards. They worked well for the first year. However, after a few years, the wax seeped through the space for the candle. I recall the wax getting all over my hands. It turned into a bit of a scene.

Eventually, because the wax was getting everywhere, I blew out the candle. I was frustrated because, for me, holding a candle on Christmas Eve is one of the highlights of the year! I looked around for the box of unlit candles, but to no avail.

After the initial frustration passed, my sister put her candle in her hand which was closer to me. She

whispered, "You can help me hold mine."

Sometimes, we need help holding the light. For a myriad of reasons, including wax, we can't hold the light by ourselves. We need community! We need each other to better hold the light for the world!

I hope that - as you read these words - you will take a moment to invite someone to our Christmas Eve services. Perhaps you will need help holding the light!

Finally, because we want to ensure that all have the opportunity to hold the light, LEDs will be available for those who prefer to not have the chance of getting wax on them.

Together,

Pastor Jonathan

Senior Pastor

The CHURCH OFFICE will be CLOSED
 from noon **Friday, December 22nd** until 9am **Tuesday,**
December 26th IN CELEBRATION OF *Christmas*
 AND
 from noon **Friday, December 29th** until 9am **Tuesday,**
January 2nd, 2024 IN CELEBRATION OF THE *New Year*



CHRISTMAS EVE AT FCCNH

10:00 AM • WORSHIP SERVICE

**"Standing on the Shoulders
of our Ancestors"**

TEXT: LUKE 1:5-13, 57-63

Pastor Tau Tupua, preaching

A good prequel brings depth and richness to stories. We would not be where we are today without the love, kindness, and support of someone. This week, Pastor Tau will take us into a story before the birth of Jesus. We will explore the birth of John the Baptist. His role in the ministry of Jesus was profound but did you know his birth was equally important? As we celebrate the birth of Christ this holiday season, let us also remember the stories and experiences that led to that moment in Bethlehem.

5:00 PM • LIVING NATIVITY

*5:30 PM • CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICE

Music by youth and adult soloists
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hall preaching
Lighting candles and singing Silent Night
Communion served in the chapel

*11:00 PM • CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION

Music by the Chancel Choir/soloists
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hall preaching*
Lighting candles and singing *Silent Night*

— 5:30PM & 11PM MEDITATION —

"Can You Hear the Good News?"

LUKE 2:8-18 • REV. DR. JONATHAN HALL

As we think about the birth of Jesus, it is easy to think of loud trumpets and proclamations from the skies. However, the Good News was first heard by people who lived on the margins. Later, we hear about others believing the people who lived on the margins and - often - were viewed with suspicion.

For us, we may miss the Good News because we only listen to people who we deem as experts and powerful. Pastor Jonathan's Christmas Eve meditation is entitled "Can You Hear the Good News?" It is based on Luke 2:8-18.

Celebration of Life



Mary Ann Steuterman

7/15/29-11/26/23

Sunday, December 31, 2023 • 1:30 PM

Reception following in Social Hall

Please send donation to

<https://nhifp.org/> in lieu of flowers.

Longest Night service



7 pm TONIGHT
december 20

Take time to remember loved ones who are no longer here on the longest day of the year during this quiet candlelight service.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH TURNS 100 YEARS OLD ON JULY 27, 2024



Our church is nearly 100 years old! With God's blessings we're making plans for a year full of events and special memories to propel us into celebration.

We're excited to unearth FCCNH's archives in boxes and boxes filled with memories and traditions and moments we've shared together as a community. Now it's time to take these memories and shape them into celebratory ideas for a 100th Anniversary Master Plan that will include festivities as well as beloved events to honor our centennial year. Since we are a family, we would like your ideas too, so we've devised a method to include our church family in the planning process!

On Sundays, December 24th, the 31st, and January 7th, we'll place an anniversary suggestion box for your ideas to be included: a box will be located in the Narthex. Please offer your creative suggestions for events and church services

that you'd like to see. Online, you may send them to glenda@fccnh.org.

Think about church events that made an impact on you and your family over the years. What FCCNH gatherings did you enjoy and what kind of celebrations would you like to see included again as we celebrate moving into the next 100 years? As we map out these ideas, we will continue to send updates on the 100th anniversary plans in the FCCNH newsletter in the months ahead. Lastly, YOU are the most creative and loving community, so for now keep your eyes out for the 100th year anniversary boxes. We look forward to reading what you have to say!

Thank you in advance for participating. 2024 will be a magical year at FCCNH and we have much to look forward to and be thankful for.

With Love and Blessings,
Your 100th year Anniversary Team

APPLY TO BE A 2024 PEACE INTERN APPLICATIONS ARE 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 inter-faith/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.



Celebrating One Hundred Years:

THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Our 1954 Yearbook records that, on December 24th, the FCCNH choir "...presented the cantata, "The Christ Child" by Hawley.... This cantata brought another innovation to the Christmas season in our church, the candlelight service on Christmas Eve."

Cantatas played an important part in subsequent candlelight services for years. Particularly interesting was one described in the church's 1967 Annual Report: "In observance of our 14th annual "Service of Lights" on the evening of December 24th, an original Christmas Cantata was given by the Chancel Choir under the direction of Mr. Earle Immel. The lovely music, composed by the choir members, was later recorded and records were made available to members and friends to help defray the cost of additional robes."

Over time, the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service has continued to evolve. Some years ago, to better include children, we added a 5:30 p.m. Family Worship Service, preceded by an outdoor Live Nativity featuring animals in whose stable home the Baby Jesus was born. A donkey reminds us of the one on whose back the pregnant Mary rode as she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.

Music remains an integral part of both services in formal pieces and in the Christmas carols that we sing with such gusto. The sounds of the organ, piano, and other instruments combine with human voices to fill our ears and lift our hearts.

In some ways, however, it is silence more than sound that brings home a deeper meaning of Christmas. Nearing the end of the service, the lights are dimmed. Sometimes, two choir members have stepped forward to light their candles from the ones on the Communion Table, and walked silently up the center aisle, sharing their flame as they went with the candle of the people sitting closest to the aisle. At other times, it may be members of the Diaconate. In turn, each person turns and lights the candle of the person closest to them, one by one, by one sharing the light that reminds us of the true meaning of our Christian faith – that we are here to share the light in us with others – the same Light that began in a far-off stable long ago.

Some say that the cross of darker hair that appears on all donkeys' backs is also a reminder of the donkey Christ would ride on in His final journey to Jerusalem.

— the 100th Year Anniversary Team



Thank you to all who provided the beautiful poinsettias decorating our Chancel this Christmas season. Their dedications are as follows:

Byron Armantrout — *In Celebration of* Pastor Jonathan, Annie, Malachi & Zion Hall; Pastor Tau & LooLoo Tupua; Brother Jimmy, Yesenia, Pablo & Grace Espinoza; Peggy Bock.
In Memory of Pastor Bob Bock; Heather Armantrout.

Kevin, Jenny & Landon Bailey — *In Memory of* my beautiful Mother—Susan Monts. I will love you forever, Mom!

Marti Benton — *In Memory of* Bob Bock; I think of you often and miss talking and spending time with you. I love you so very much. I hold you close to my heart and always keep you in my prayers. Xoxo
In Memory of Gaynelle Bock; you are always in my heart and in my prayers. I love and miss you. XOXO

Peggy Bock — *In Loving Memory of* my Beloved Bob and of my dear friends who have passed away this year.

Sally Blowitz — *In Memory of* Rosemary Smith.
In Memory of Diana Herz.

Judy Clark — *In Memory of* my sister Gloria Jean and my good friend Diana.

Gaye Coffman & Ian Williamson — *In Honor of* Gaye's beautiful mom, Linda, and Ian's wonderful folks, Roy and Hazel and in honor of our beloved kiddos, Rebecca and Carter. Merry Christmas, everyone!!

Amanda & Rod Conti — *In Honor of* our beautiful daughters, Georgi and Goldie.

Irion DeRouen — *In Memory of* Nevers & Lee DeRouen, Billy Simar, Ruth Alexander and Nancy Dorff.

Elliott Family— *In Memory of* Ken Elliott.
In Memory of Ginnie Kiely.

Sheryl Fitzpatrick — *In Memory of* my beloved mother, Eunice Combs.

Richard Follett — *In Memory of* Robert and Waneta Follett.

Mary Heiss — *In Memory of* my parents and Pastor Bob.
In Honor of Pastor Jonathan and the Hall Family.

Julie Houlihan — *In Memory of* Justice Tom Glaze.
In Memory of Amy Glaze.
In Honor of David Rigsby.



Mary Lynn Jackson — *In Memory of* Grandma Mary Cowgill.

Cindy Kaller — *In Memory of* James & Betty Countz.

Larry & Virginia Keene — *In Memory of* Barbara Long, Virginia's sister.

In Celebration of David Rigsby and all the musicians who bring us beautiful music each week.

In Appreciation for our Pastor Jonathan, wife Annie, and sons Malachi and Zion.

In Appreciation for our Assoc. Pastor Tau and wife LooLoo.

In Honor of all our volunteer staff who keep our church running so beautifully.

In Celebration of Jennifer Le'au, our Director of Children's Ministry.

Alice Morris — *In Memory of* Samuel B. Parker.

Ben, Michelle, and Zoey Morris — *In Memory of* Samuel Parker.

Ruth Myers — *In Memory of* Donald Worth.

Niles Family — *In honor of* Jonathan and his family. We are so happy to have you here even if you root for Auburn!!

In honor of our wonderful Goldie who was adopted on June 12. We love her so much.

In loving memory of Debbie Polhemus who we lost in 2023.

In loving memory of Bob Bock who we will always miss.

In loving memory of Wendell, husband, father, grandfather. You are always in our hearts.

Jose Pretlow and Linda Finnell — *In Memory, with love to* our parents—Barbara, Neil, Dorothy and Dick; and Pastor Bob.

Leigh Niles Reason — *In Celebration of* my kids, Nelle and William, whom I love more than they'll ever know. They make me so proud!

Lisa, Chris & Davis Ridenhour — *In Memory of* "Mimi" Russell, Chris's grandma and "Momo" Escobar, Lisa's grandma--who taught us the true meaning of Christmas.

Toni Rossi — *In Memory of* my beloved parents, Anthony and Sybil Drake; my sweet late husband Phillip; and my hero, Pastor Bob!

In Celebration of my family, Daniel & Miray Rossi, Leon Reitgenstein and the Atamians; and to all my friends who are more like family. You are my heart!

Santiago Family — *In Memory of* Jose Ramon Santiago.

In Memory of Karin Claudia Lane.

Gustavo Santin — *In Memory of* my sister Lupe M. Hausfeld, someone who is really missed, not forgotten; who influenced me and who I was blessed to have in my life.

Cheryl Werble — *In Memory of* Richard Link & Ruth Link Snyder.

In Memory of Michael Link.

Linda & Mel Wolf — *In Celebration of* being with our family at Christmas.



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. Penning,
District 86 State Representative
Tennessee General Assembly

"FORWARD TOGETHER, NOT ONE STEP BACK"

HOST A MEET & GREET

Interested in volunteering to host a Meet & Greet after one of the upcoming Sunday morning services? It isn't complicated and doesn't need to be anything fancy. If your family or club or group would consider hosting one of the open dates contact Alberto at asigala480@gmail.com or 310-569-9908 to add your name to the list or answer your questions.

A LOOK BACK AT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th



ABOVE LEFT: The lighting of the Advent candles by Jino Cabrera and Scott Carnwath.

ABOVE RIGHT: Acolyte Stellan Arnold with Pastor Tau.

photos by Byron Armantrout



TUESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY
10am • via Zoom
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

If you're interested joining the Tuesday morning 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.



MEN'S GROUP MEETING

The Men on the Corner men's group will be on hiatus until Wednesday, January 3rd.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

For today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Messiah, the Lord — LUKE 2:11



FCCNH STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY



PICTURED FROM LEFT ARE:
Elmer, Luis, Arlene, Leslie,
Tiffany, Sergio, Amanda,
Lauren, Raquel, Margaret,
Pastor Tau, Jennifer, Maria,
Linda, Dora, Gabriela, Glenda,
Pastor Jonathan, and Byron.

NOT PICTURED: Greg, Trudie,
Ty, Ne'e, David, Sara, Devon,
Sherril, Sergio, and Terri.

youthink

TAU TAPUA, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND MISSION



Pastor Tau and the youth groups have been busy this past month! Above are photos of the tree lot, Thanksgiving in the Park, Operation Santa Claus, the Christmas Pageant, and lots of fun!

BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

Sunday Worship 10am	133
Youth Overnight	14
Youth Sunday AM	13
Wednesday Youth Group	12
Sunday School	22
Sunday Worship Donations	\$3,395.00
Sunday School Donations	\$8.00
SUNDAY GENERAL OFFERING	\$3,403.00
Food Pantry	
in memory of Mary Ann Steuterman	\$50.00
CREDIT CARD OFFERING 12/11/23 - 12/17/23	
GENERAL OFFERING	\$3,800.00
<hr/>	
CUMULATIVE GIVING	\$7,203.00

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

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/yn54xf3>

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

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE TO FCCNH

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offering@fccnh.org

On our website
www.fccnh.org or
 scan the code at right





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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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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

