

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

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JOIN US IN PERSON OR WATCH SERVICES ON <u>YOUTUBE</u> OR <u>FACEBOOK</u>. Check out recent service streams and more at <u>www.fccnh.org</u>.



One of the redeeming aspects of social media is that some of the sites will let you see what you posted a year ago, three years ago, etc. In that way, it serves as a photo book that I remember from my youth where I could place printed photos on a sticky paper sheet and then cover it with a corresponding clear plastic sheet. Last week, our oldest boy, Malachi, turned eight. Therefore, on social media, I got to see all of the posts that I previously did on his birthday.

Wow, kids grow up way too fast! It is amazing to see how they change from year to year. My first thought is that he is one year away from being halfway to graduating from high school. Yikes!

One of the many ways that I understand God is to

be a Divine Parent. Thus, I imagine God looking back through the years with me. I hear that I grew up fast. In fact, I grew so fast during my freshman year of high school that I had some faint stretch marks on my lower back because - apparently - my skin could not keep up with my growth! Still, throughout the years, I felt God in those moments and now (looking back) cheering for me as I was on my journey.

Most of the folx who I meet who do not go to church talk about an understanding of God that is foreign to me. It is an understanding of God as judgmental, vengeful, petty, etc. I try to share what it means to know God as the One going through the sticky papers, corresponding sheets, and printed photos with names and dates on the back while proclaiming "This is my beloved child!" Of course, I need to be willing to share this story - my story. I think that people in your life need to know about the God who loves to reflect upon your journey--not just on your birthdays, but on each day. We may grow up too fast. We may outpace our skin and wisdom at times. Yet, our God still cheers us on! May you join me in sharing this beautiful story with our neighbors!

Together,

Senior Pastor

Pashe Jath

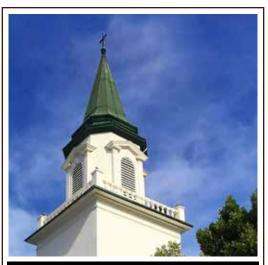
Senior Pastor

Dear Church Family,

As we say goodbye to our beloved, multi-talented Music Director David Rigsby, we must look ahead to the next chapter in our music ministry. Please give us your valuable input by taking a brief survey. Print copies will be available in our narthex and office. The survey will be available until Tuesday, May 21st. We look forward to hearing from you!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FCCNHMusic





10AM • SUNDAY • MAY 12

"Relating to Others: Bodies Matter" 1 Corinthians 15: 12-23 Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Hall

Our text on Sunday is 1 Corinthians 15:12-23. Paul seems to care a lot about our bodies. At first glance, it is a complicated read. However, what if Paul is correct? What if our bodies matter? What if our experiences matter? What if the experiences of others who differ from us matter? It opens us to some interesting invitations if we take these words seriously! Pastor Jonathan's sermon is entitled "Relating to Others: Bodies Matter."

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



THIS SATURDAY



Celebration of the Life of SUE MALOTTE

Celebration of life service for Sue Malotte is scheduled for this Saturday, May 11, at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary. Reception to follow in the Social Hall.



Our church has had 3 refugee sponsorships through Church World Service since World War II. The Ngu family from Vietnam was one.

Forty-six years ago, the Bon Ngu family, an ethnic Chinese family consisting of 7 adults and four small children left Vietnam in a small boat loaded with 287 people. They had become "Boat People" spending days and nights on the open seas without food or fresh water. They found themselves landing at Bidong, a Malaysian island that had opened up as a refugee camp in 1978, the year the Ngu's arrived, and by June 1979 there were 40,000 refugees crowded in an area not much bigger than a football field.

While the refugee camps are part of the jurisdiction of the United Nations, it is various religious groups and non-secular groups which distribute food and necessities provided by the UN, the host country and their own organizations. Health care is at a minimum.

Church World Service distributes the applications of the refugees seeking their relocation to the United States to potential congregations willing to accept a family to sponsor for resettlement here. It took the Ngu's 2 years before being able to get accepted here because of a special needs child.

Some of our church family representatives such as Sue Malotte, Margaret and Bert Wilkes, Ethel and Janet Bruce and more got to work quickly after a family was chosen and approved for us. Once a family was approved, the congregation usually had 4-8 weeks to get all the items organized and in place to create a potential relocation success.

Tasks that are potentially needed are finding possible employment; locating a doctor or clinic to oversee inoculations; arranging housing, furnishings, utilities and food and clothing. Refugees arrive with little more than what is on their backs.

The Bon Ngu family that came to our church was only part of the family that left Vietnam by boat in 1978. An older son with a wife and four children were sponsored by an Illinois church so that he was near his brother who came over 5 years earlier.

Our part of the family hit a number of delays because of their special needs child and his health issues. It was Dr. Hallie Mont, a member of the congregation, who navigated the obstacles for the family.

It was after their final arrival on April 20, 1980, at LAX that the adventure started for the family as strangers in a strange land. The parents were almost immediately given a chance to speak to the oldest children who came before them. One son had been here 5 years and now the parents could hear his voice again.

The family consisted of Bon, the father; Yen, the mother; the older daughter, Muoi, who spoke some English; Khoanh, the younger daughter who spoke English quite well; along with Ha, the special needs son.

Ten days after the Ngu family arrived there was an Indo-Chinese dinner fundraiser to supplement their reserve funds and to meet the family. This type of cuisine was new to a number of the congregation at that time.

Two months after arrival the children and young people of the church had gathered soap/paper products for the family providing even the children a way to be a part of a refugee-supporting community and a way to let the Ngus know that even young people CARE.

The daughters became near and dear to the hearts of the CWF ladies and were invited to presale shop at the "Oldies but Goodies" clothing sale that they had that year. CWF generously allowed them to come in and shop

for the whole family clothing needs as their guests.

It was at this event that the girls tasted hot dogs for lunch with Margaret Wilkes, Ethel and Janet Bruce and Judy deLeuw with "the works" and it was reported that they liked it.

1980-81 The first year here the daughters were in college, learning English and relearning their area of study in English; also working to provide for their expenses while earning awards for outstanding scholarship.

Muoi attended Pierce College and Khoanh attended Valley College and had been accepted to UCLA to continue in a course for medicine.

This first year was celebrated with an Old-Fashioned Pot Luck meal on the usual Wednesday night dinner in the Social Hall.

The 1982 second anniversary was celebrated by another Wednesday night Pot Luck Dinner to celebrate family, fun, food and fellowship. The Ngu family reminisced about how the fear and anxiety in adjusting to a new life had been dissolved by our help and love. We had rented an apartment, furnished it, stocked the pantry and provided for the immediate needs of the Ngu family.

During this year of 1982 Muoi became engaged and wed another refugee, Muoi (unisex name) Truong who had been here 4 years under the sponsorship of the Lutheran Church in Pomona.

In the summer of 1984, we were celebrating the 4th anniversary of the Ngus arrival and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Muoi and Khoanh had graduated from universities –both with honors.

Muoi Ngu Truong graduated from Northridge in Computer Science and awaited the birth of her child that year. Khoanh Ngu graduated from UCLA, Phi Beta Kappa. In the fall she entered the Medical School at Stanford University.

1986 was the year the Ngu family gave a shout out to Margaret Wilkes and Ethel Bruce for having always given them spiritual support and encouragement.

Bon and Yen Ngu (Mom and Dad) were living with Muoi and her husband Muoi Truong. Grandma and Grandpa watched Bonnie when Muoi was employed in the Computer Sciences.

Khoanh Ngu continued with medical school at Standford University.

April 1987, the 7th anniversary, had the news that three members of the family received their citizenship, Khoanh (who took an American name--Lynn Khoanh), Muoi and Richard Muoi Truong.

Khoanh wrote that she used to be confused about her identity. She was not accepted by the Vietnamese community because she was Chinese but also didn't belong to China or Taiwan because she had been born in Vietnam. She stated "This country is where I live, where freedom is and where I am accepted. How wonderful I feel."

1992, twelve years after arriving here, found the Ngu's in a unique situation with the oldest daughter and husband being successful real estate agents living in Canoga Park with three daughters.

Bon, Yen and Ha were living in Santa Clara to be near Khoanh, now practicing medicine at a Kaiser clinic.

With a little digging on the internet, I have found that Lynn Khoanh Ngo (Ngu) MD still practices in the Santa Clara area and has a family. Muoi and Muoi Truong and first child Bonnie AKA Mona and Richard Truong and Bonnie Truong are still associated with the Chatsworth area as successful real estate agents. Bonnie followed in her parents' footsteps.

After meeting and knowing the Ngus for a short while, Sue Malotte, for whom there is a Celebration of Life this coming weekend, stated:

"It is my prayer that we who have such an abundance simply because of the circumstances of birth, will continue to proclaim the good news, as messengers of God, in recognition of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

FCCNH YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



A very big thank you to those who have donated items, some of which include 2 new pool sticks, a football, a basketball, 2 skateboards, and a street hockey stick. I am still in need of items. Please take a look at the list below and let me know if you'd like to donate or know of a connection to someone who can:

- 4 Pool Sticks/Cues
- A Brush to clean the Pool Table
- 1 Air Pump for Bike Tires
- 1 Football
- 1-2 Scooters
- 1-2 Pairs of Roller Blades
- 1-2 Wiffle Balls



Do you have old and used sneakers lying around your house? Could they be donated or handed off to a new home? Look no further! *Gotsneakers* is a great fundraiser that takes those old sneakers and turns them into profit for our youth program!

Check out their website for specific brands, etc.: https://gotsneakers.com/

See Pastor Tau (<u>Tau@fccnh.org</u>) if you have questions or need more info.



SAVE the DATE • MAY 19th

The HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP will meetup with Harbor Christian Church at Blue Theology Site

Checkout their church at: https://www.harborchristianchurch.com/ (see Pastor Tau for more details)



Christian Youth Leadership Seminar is to help high school youth grow into leaders of the church; to help give and mold leadership skills, whether they are using them to plan a camp or taking an active role within the church. ALL high school youth (9th-12th) throughout the denomination are invited to participate!

FCCNH WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS

SUNDAY MIDDAY

WEDNESDAYS

9:30AM-11:00AM Middle & High School 11:30AM-1:00PM High School

3:30PM-5:30PM Middle School

Where is the Land was Poster Toulon

Where is the Love? was Pastor Taulau Tupua's timely message this past Sunday.



Carson Miller, pictured above with Pastor Taulau Tupua, served as acolyte.

photos by Byron Armantrout

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.



Summer Camp will explore Disciples faith practices and equip young people with tools to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ, all while having fun and meeting new friends at Loch Leven's beautiful camp.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT! Register by May 15 at midnight and receive an additional \$100 off a 6-day camp or \$50 off a 4-day camp.

COST: Starting May 16th, our 6-day summer camp sessions are being offered at a discounted price of \$500* per camper. Our 4-day Mini Camp session is being offered at a discounted price of \$300* per camper. Our 4-day Wee Camp session is being offered at a discounted price of \$300* per camper/parent combined. Scholarships are available–please check with me before Registering your youth. The cost goes up to \$600 per camper after the May 15th deadline so please register in advance.

Interested in volunteering as an adult counselor at Summer Camp? Email <u>pswrcampministry@gmail.com</u> or contact Pastor Tau (<u>Tau@fccnh.org</u>).

PHYSICAL ADDRESS FOR DROP-OFF/PICK-UP & SHIPPING UPS/FEDEX is 8171 Mountain Home Creek Road, Mentone, CA 92359



The Advent Theatre will be holding auditions for GODSPELL 2012 on Tuesday, May 28 & Wednesday, May 29 at 7 pm in the Social Hall. There are plenty of roles to fill! Please prepare 16 bars of an upbeat Broadway tune (NOT from Godspell) and bring a headshot & resume. Callbacks will be Saturday, June 1 at 1:30 pm.

Hope to see YOU there!



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.



VBS is looking for volunteer assistants for our *Hero Hotline* VBS Camp this summer. The camp runs from Monday, June 10th to Friday, June 14th. Camp hours are

from 9am to 12pm and will include campers 3-years-old to 6th grade. All information and supplies will be provided.

No cape (or prior camp experience) required. For more information contact

Jen at jleau@fccnh.org.



A LIFE OF SERVICE, LOVE, & SUPPORT ANCHORS AWAY

RICHARD ISAIAS MELENDEZ

3/14/37 - 11/27/23

THE MELENDEZ FAMILY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE A LIFE WELL LIVED.

SATURDAY • MAY 18th, 2024 1:00PM • in the SOCIAL HALL



FREE SCREENING

Sunday • May 19 • 6pm @FCC North Hollywood 4390 Colfax Ave

Q&A to follow the film

RSVP: fb.me/e/3FVcmHkZT

For childcare contact Glenda: 818.763.8218 or Glenda@fccnh.org







THIS SATURDAY, MAY 11th IS THE US POSTAL SERVICE'S NATIONAL FOOD DRIVE

It's really simple -

1) take a grocery bag (the Post Office isn't providing bags this year), fill it with non-perishable food items and

then 2) put the bag by your mailbox and your mail carrier will pick it up. Simple, right?

We want to make sure everyone takes part in this as our own Interfaith Food Pantry benefits from this city-wide food drive. So, please remember to help - thank you.



For this month's Ingathering Sunday we're asking for canned dog and cat food (no bagged food please, only cans). Donations can be placed at the front of the church on Sunday morning, May 19th. Thank you!



MEN on the CORNER

TONIGHT, Wednesday, May 8th, at 7 pm is the second in a 6 week series of the Men on the Corner group's 6-week *Greater Things* discussions. Tonight's topic is *Our Role in a Broken World*Our objective is to understand our role as Christians in a broken world and how we can make a positive impact.

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16
Discussion Points: What are the broken aspects of our world today? How can we be salt and light in our communities?
Practical ways to engage with the brokenness around us.

Please join us! For Zoom info email MenOnCorner@gmail.com.







ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

JUNE 10 - JUNE 14 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

At Hero Hotline, kids are invited to learn from the heroes of the Bible! Our team of heroes will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook - the Bible - to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us.

As kids (called Heroes) experience these stories through music, drama and storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they'll learn that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, and Show Grace! And, best of all, they'll be invited to answer this call at VBS, at church, at home, and in every area of their lives.

VBS is open to children who are ages 3+ and potty trained to 6th grade, and runs Monday, June 10th - Friday, June 14th from 9a-12pm. Aftercare from 12-3pm is available.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Le'au has been the director of Children's Ministries at First Christian Church of North Hollywood for the last 8 years. As a teenager, she began teaching music, dance and acting classes as well as helping create and teach Broadway-style shows for summer camps. For over 35 years, she has brought her love of the stage to thousands of kids of all ages and talent levels. Jennifer has also choreographed for many popular TV shows on the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon. A member of SAG-AFTRA, she has a lot of professional work under her belt. She is the proud mother of two adult children. Her daughter Bird, who will be a senior this fall at NYU. will be her assistant.

VBS, Full Week June 10th - 14th • \$120 VBS, Partial Week June 12th - June 14th • \$90

JUNE 17 - JUNE 21 MUSICAL THEATRE

This camp is a place to discover talents, build confidence, and find inspiration. Dance, music, and drama techniques will be introduced, developed, and applied to an original Broadway-style show called "Sweet Dreams"; where dreams are made of junk food cravings, with songs like "Pizza Love", "Gummy Bear", and "Hot Chocolate". This is an intense, exciting and unique experience full of fun and high energy!

Come join us as we sing, dance, and act our hearts out on stage! This camp combines the joy of music, the excitement of dance, and the imagination into a special musical theatre experience for young performers. We will have a performance Friday night June 21. This camp is open to students entering 3rd grade through 12th grade.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

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Musical Theatre Camp, June 17th-21st • \$220

JUNE 24 - JUNE 28 MARTIAL ARTS CAMP

Martial Arts Camp includes athletic development, Taekwondo-based techniques & activities, self defense, board breaks, life skills and more. Not only will it be loads of fun, martial arts increases Self-Esteem and Confidence: When a child masters a new skill or move, it will boost their confidence and give them a sense of achievement. This camp is open to kids ages 6 and up and runs June 24-28th from 9a - 12:30pm. Aftercare is available from 12:30-3pm.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Ms Willis is a 5th degree black belt, Owner and Chief instructor for Vortex Martial Arts, as well as Qualified Instructor with the NMAA, (National Martial Arts Alliance). She is also a competitor and 2023 Shimsan Sponsored Team Athlete. Ms Willis has been training for 24 years.

"Martial Arts is not just something I do, but who I am, and I love being able to share my passion with others through teaching."

Martial Arts Camp, June 24th - 28th • \$120

JULY 1 - JULY 5 COOKING CAMP

A week-long camp for younger kids that teaches how to select and prepare America's favorite comfort foods from scratch. Kiddos will learn basic cooking skills, kitchen safety, and so much more! Each day we will focus on different entrees from baking to savory foods! Cooking Camp (AM) is open to Grades 2-5 and runs July 1st - 5th from 9:30a-12:00pm. NO CAMP ON THURSDAY, JULY 4th.

For younger children, we have designated the morning slot from 9:30 AM to 12 noon. This timing is chosen because younger children often benefit from engaging in activities earlier in the day when they are most alert and energetic.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Hello, I'm Chef Sandra; at my vibrant summer camp, children and teens dive into plant-based cooking, blending culinary skills with fun and creativity under the guidance of a trained chef and experienced teacher. My program is designed to inspire young minds to explore the flavors and nutritional benefits of plant-based foods, all within a lively and supportive camp environment. With a

strong background in culinary arts and education, I bring expertise and passion to every lesson, aiming to cultivate a new generation of health-conscious and environmentally aware cooks.

Cooking Camp w/Cookin' Kiddos, 1 - 5 • \$140

JULY 1 - JULY 5 COOKING CAMP

A week-long camp for older kids that teaches how to select and prepare America's favorite comfort foods from scratch. Kiddos will learn basic cooking skills, kitchen safety, and so much more! Each day we will focus on different entrees from baking to savory foods! Cooking Camp (PM) is open to Grades 6+ and runs July 1st - 5th from 1-3:30pm. There will be NO camp on Thursday, July 4th.

Older children, specifically those in the higher grades of middle and high school, are scheduled for the afternoon session from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM, allowing for a more focused and mature learning environment conducive to the interests and developmental stages of older students.

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JULY 08 - JULY 12 ART CAMP

Sign your kids up for a creative endeavor this summer. Each day for a week, your son or daughter will have classes in painting, drawing, sculpture and photography. At the end of the week, an art show will display the kids' masterpieces. We are looking forward to having fun this summer. This camp is open to artists in grades 2-12 and runs July 8th - 12th from 9am - 3pm.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

An artist, with a Bachelors degree in Medical Illustration followed by an MFA in painting and drawing, Cheryl Goettemoeller has been directing and teaching art camp for about 10 years at FCCNH. Cheryl has illustrated medical/biological books along with a few children's books over her 25-year career. Every year she looks forward to encouraging artistic development and vision in art camp attendees.

Art Camp Art Camp, July 8 - 12 •\$245

JULY 15 - JULY 19 PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP

Photography Camp is a half-day adventure between 9am-12:30pm. Additionally, campers can enroll in Advanced Photography from 12:30-3pm. All campers have the opportunity to learn the basics of digital photography through daily demonstrations and hands-on sessions in camera operation, composition, lighting, and seeing with an artistic eye, photographing the church campus indoors and out. Also, there will be a stop-motion workshop for those with phones. Campers should plan on bringing their own camera if they have access to one so they can learn its functionality. If not, we have

cameras to share. SD memory cards are provided. Snacks are provided (Plan on packing a lunch IF you are in the advanced camp portion that stays later). Camp concludes with a gallery showing on Friday at 12:00pm. This camp is open to Grades 3–12. Aftercare is not available for this camp.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Scott Lewis has a passion for photography that spans over 40 years. He has worked as a corporate photographer and in the film industry, and has shown in galleries in the LA area. He works year round with other creatives to help advance vision and skills. As a teacher his hope is to help bring out an individual's creative potential, sharpening skills, and encouraging the freedom to express.

Photography Camp, July 15-19 • \$175

DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER AS SPACE IS LIMITED AND SOME OF OUR CAMPS TEND TO FILL UP OUICKLY.



More info and secure registration may be accessed with the QR code above or by emailing Camp Director, Kristina Frost at camps@fccnh.org.



breathing techniques • simple stretching exercises • meditation to reduce stress

Guided Tai Chi Classes

Tuesdays at 9:30am • Thursday at 3:30pm in the Youth Hut

CLASSES GUIDED BY BYRON ARMANTROUT • FREEWILL DONATION OF \$10 PER SESSION



BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

Sunday Worship 10am	107
Youth Sunday AM	15
Youth Sunday High School	2
Youth Wednesday	16
Sunday School	27
Sunday Worship Donations	\$5,578.00
Sunday School	\$12.00

Human Needs \$100.00

SUNDAY GENERAL OFFERING \$5,590.00

CREDIT CARD OFFERING 4/29/24 - 5/5/24

CC GENERAL OFFERING \$3,402.00

CUMULATIVE GIVING \$8,992.00

SAVE the DATE FCCNH TURNS 100!

During the weekend of Sunday, September 8, we will celebrate our church's 100th anniversary. We are still working on the details of that weekend, but we hope that you will keep your calendar clear for this sacred time! - Pastor Jonathan

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE TO FCCNH

Paypal@fccnh.org · Venmo @fccnh

Zelle to offering@fccnh.org give.tithe.ly (First Christian Church of North Hollywood)
On our website www.fccnh.org or scan the code at right



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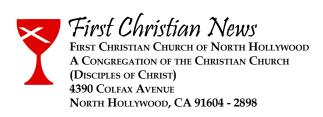
SENIOR PASTOR

Earle Immel

MINISTER OF MUSIC EMERITUS

Merle E. Fish, Ir.

MINISTER EMERITUS





THINK GREEN! PLEASE RECYCLE!

NOTE: If you would like to receive this newsletter via Email, which saves on printing/mailing 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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