

Volume LXV No. 28

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

November 15, 2023





I overheard the Gospel on Sunday. It happened to me a few times, actually. I want to highlight one of the times that it happened because it caused me to physically turn around to the point that I may need to go see my chiropractor.

My family and I love to serve during the Feeding in the Park Ministry at our church. We talk about it as a family throughout the week ahead of the event and the night after the opportunity to serve our neighbors.

There was a man who is *normally* on the outside of the tables. He *normally* comes through the line to be fed - physically and spiritually. *Normally*, his plate is overflowing with the panoramic options of food. However, this moment was not going to be the *norm*. Instead, it was going to be an exception. Please forgive me, I do not know his name. Perhaps that is the point - that person could be any of us. I share this because - this time - the man wanted to be on the inside of the tables. He wanted to feed others - physically and spiritually. He wanted to help others experience the overwhelming love of God and his neighbors.

It was fun to hear his friends comment about how he was on the other side of the table. He was proud to serve. He seemed to love it. I wanted to ask him about it. However, before I could talk to him, he was gone. Perhaps, I will get the chance to talk to him on Sunday, November 19, when we do the Thanksgiving in the Park event.

Here is the point - many of us live one incident away from being on the other side of the table. It could be losing our job due to things outside of our control. It could be an unexpected medical bill or one that is not covered by insurance. We may be on the other side of the table because our car breaks down, which causes us to struggle to make it to work. I could go on and on. Then, we may be on the other side of the table. Part of why I appreciate this ministry is because I realize that I may be on the other side of the table one day because of something out of my control.

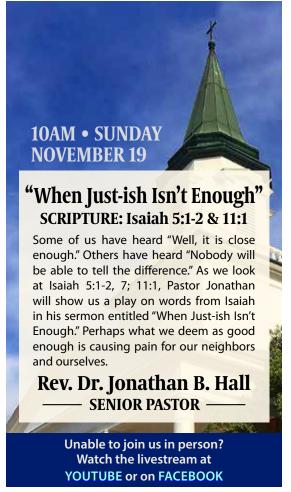
The tables that are set up in the park are communion. Pure and simple. Sometimes, we are on one side. Other times, we are on the other side. Sometimes, we serve. Other times, we are served. Regardless of the side of the table that you find yourself on at the moment, I hope that you will support this ministry of our church. *Normally*, you can overhear the Gospel!

Together,

Pashe Joth

Senior Pastor







in support of the interfaith food pantry

Every third Sunday is "Ingather Sunday" in support of North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. NHIFP serves roughly 5,000 people each month and we are in need of wholesome, health-giving food. In addition to typical donations, we've created a handy wallet cutout reminder of special needs. Our next Ingathering is **THIS SUNDAY, November 19**th. Please bring your donations to the Narthex or the Church office. Thank you!



chili · ravioli · non-condensed soups

Remember, November 19th is Stewardship Sunday

As you may know, it helps our stewardship committee plan for the upcoming year if you are able to notify us of your Intention to Give in 2024. This amount can, of course, be adjusted later, if needed. If you need an Intention to Give card, they can be found in the narthex. You can mail it to the church or turn it in via the offering plate. You can also submit this information confidentially and securely via our website at https://www.fccnh.org/Intentions-to-Give. We would greatly appreciate knowing this information by November 19 as we look to start implementing our Plan for Ministry and Mission (budget) for 2024!

A LOOK AT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 ★ ★ ★ ★

We give thanks to our Men on the Corner group who helped us to have a meaningful Veterans Day Celebration after worship on November 12. We want to give a special word of thanks to Ne'e and Cole Le'au alongside the color guard from Cub Scout Pack 209!

Pastor Jonathan







THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT ARE: The American Flag at the welcome table • Pastor Tau and Sunday's acolyte, Austin Alexander • Color guard members of Cub Scout Pack 209 salute the flag. OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP LEFT: A photo of Eleanor Roosevelt pictured with Martha Ann Armantrout, Byron Armatrout's mother, and others during WWII, taken at the American Embassy in Havana, Cuba • Members of the congregation stand for the Pledge of Allegiance • Honoring Richard Follett, Marine • Honoring Kenneth Aldrich, father of Jay Aldrich • Color guard members of Cub Scout Pack 209 hold the American Flag and the Christian Flag. Event Coordinator, Ne'e Le'au, is pictured in the background.











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Do Jesus' work this holiday season for those less fortunate! The local homeless population has doubled in the past few years and they are really suffering. The Human Needs Committee is looking for help feeding the homeless of North Hollywood on November 19th – the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We plan to feed at least 130 people. We request that if you donate a turkey or ham that it be COOKED.

Drop off the following prepared foods on: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th • 10:30am-1:00pm or

*SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th • 8:30am-11:00am

*PLEASE HEAT SUNDAY MORNING DROP-OFFS BEFORE BRINGING TO THE CHURCH.

Lots of COOKED AND CARVED Turkeys and Hams; Side Dishes: cornbread stuffing, rice stuffing, vegetables, mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes, yams, rolls, butter, mac & cheese, soup, pies (store bought ok), whipped cream, sodas & bottled water — or cash to purchase needed items

<u>Please call us and let us know what you are donating – this will help us to plan any shopping we may need to do in order to fill the gap in supplies.</u>

Call Deborah Luster at 323.854.6707 or email <u>diluster@yahoo.com</u> so we can add your item to our list, or with any questions.



HUMAN NEEDS BLANKET DRIVE THRU DECEMBER 10th

The need for warm blankets and clothing is increasing as the weather turns cold. The Human Needs Committee regularly distributes donations at our *Lunch in the Park* events to those in need but the need often exceeds our supply. Please consider donating warm blankets or gently-used winter clothing by dropping off at the church during business hours or on Sunday mornings before the service. *Thank you!*



GIVING BACK WITH HOME AGAIN LOS ANGELES

On Sunday November 12, 2023 the 2-5th grade Sunday school classes assembled 100 after-school snack bags and 31 backpacks filled with school supplies, candy and toys as Christmas gifts for Home Again LA. Every November, our Sunday school participates in some type of philanthropy project that gives back to those in our community. We are thankful for the blessings we have, and are grateful to be able to give back to others. Thanksgiving is two parts: being "thank"ful, and "giving" back. I asked the kids how they felt while they were assembling the gifts. They said it made them feel, "Happy." I asked them how they thought the kids receiving the gifts would feel when they received them, and they said,"Happy." I said when you give to others, it makes everyone HAPPY, the person receiving the gift as well as the one giving the gift. Sometimes just a kind word or a hug is enough to help someone out. I think it was a great hands-on lesson for the kids to experience. We had a merry time working together to help those in need.











Home Again LA's mission is to end homelessness one family at a time. They assist families experiencing homelessness gain independence by transitioning into permanent housing and employment, with the support of our community. Since opening their doors in 2010, they have operated a 90-day shelter for homeless families with children. The program works in partnership with 27 local congregations as they focus on temporary shelter, meals, case management and housing. Families are provided up to 12 months of rental subsidies. Case managers work alongside families to set benchmarks that focus on stability. They offer community workshops focused on job development, financial planning, and life skills. Since 2010, Home Again LA has helped over 2,000 individuals that were living in their cars or on the streets get into permanent housing.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP JEWELRY BOUTIQUE SUNDAY • DECEMBER 10

The Ladies of the Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) are excited to announce the return of our Jewelry Boutique! But we need your help.

If you, or any of your friends, are downsizing, please consider donating jewelry you no longer want or wear to our Boutique. If you have small gift bags/boxes, those would be greatly appreciated too.

You can drop off items in the Narthex at Sunday Services or the Church Office on weekdays from 9am to 3pm. You can also contact Mary Heiss (tauruscook@aol.com) or Linda Wolf (lindawolf1516@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

So, save the date of December 10 for our amazing Christmas Bake Sale and newly revived Jewelry Boutique in the Social Hall during Meet and Greet. See you there!!

First Christian Church of North Hollywood

PRESENTS

IMAGO DEI



an inspirational multimedia video

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 5:30pm

in the Social Hall
written and performed
only once in 1985,
IMAGO DEI is a
contemporary Christian
mass for the Christmas
season. IMAGO DEI:
Latin for "the image of God"

SPONSORED BY: Roz Noziska, Ted Mantz, and Richard Follett as a Christmas gift to the members and friends of FCCNH. Refreshments to follow. In the tradition of Ken Burns and with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the 46-minute IMAGO DEI now has 373 glorious visuals giving it a new breath of life. Join us to be imbued with this Holy Wonder!

www.lmagoDei1985.com





by Rodney Gould, Elder on 12 November 2023

I give to this church out of a very selfish reason. Because I need each of you.

30 years ago on November 8th, in Washington, DC, my first partner died of AIDS. It was decided to remove him from life support on a Monday morning. That Sunday, from the pulpit, Rev. William Howland, the senior minister at National City Christian Church, asked for prayers for me and Domenic Spagnola because he would likely be facing death the next day.

After the service I was overwhelmed by people who I knew and who I didn't know who came up and said they loved me and were praying for me and for Domenic. It was at that moment that I really understood how important it is to be in a loving faith community. To be engulfed by such warmth is something I will never forget.

So, I give to this church so that I will be here for you and that you will be here for me. Because when the chips are down and your back is against the wall, there is nothing better than someone saying they love you and they are praying for you.

James 5:16 says the prayers of the righteous can do a lot. I know it to be true.



Once again you can order poinsettias to help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas! The cost of a plant is \$20, and they will be supplied by our awesome florist Katie Hartman at Floral Crush Studio.

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia as a remembrance, please do so by **SUNDAY**, **December 11**. We will print acknowledgements and dedications in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday bulletins.

YourName(s):
Daytime Phone:
Email:
Litiali.
Poinsettia Dedication(s):
(Please check one of the following and write the specifics of your dedication(s) below)
In \square Honor of \square Celebration of \square Memory of
No. of plants @ \$20
Total Enclosed \$

If you would like to take your poinsettia home, they will be available following the Christmas Eve service. Plants remaining after Christmas will be taken to shut-ins of our church family. Anyone who would like to help with taking plants to shut-ins please contact the Elders.



SEEKING MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

Our ministry partner, the Week of Compassion, is looking for a full-time Managing Director of Domestic Operations. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jonathan (Jonathan@fccnh.org).

Meet & Greet



11/19 Sigala Family

11/26 OPEN

12/10 CWF Jewelry/Bake Sale

12/17 OPEN

12/24 OPEN

12/31 OPEN

ALL OF JANUARY IS OPEN

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.





Help Us Reach Our Goal





CNS is starting a See's Candy Fundraiser! Please visit the link below to order some treats! You can also share this link with family and friends, and social media! They can order chocolates and treats and have it sent directly to them anywhere in the United States. The sale ends December 1st! Use the code or go to:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/firstcco_christian_nursery_school66/Ama_Sig3337/

Celebrating One Hundred Years

- $\frac{1}{2}$

FCCNH has had a relationship with Temple Beth Hillel that has lasted over 75 years. Our second church location, at Moorpark and Tujunga, had been used for some Friday night services after the Temple was chartered in 1946. Our location along with other valley sites were used for services until they purchased their Riverside Drive property in 1948. It is a relationship that still continues today. The two congregations continue participating in the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry system. The Food Pantry was formed in 1983 by five women in the valley to help those in the East Valley community with needed food assistance. Temple Beth Hillel continues to be used as the storage and packing facility and FCCNH as the distribution center.

- The 100th Anniversary Celebration Team

TUESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

10am · via Zoom

If you're interested in 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.







Please mark your calendars now and join us for "A Night of Merriment." Donna Loyd and David Rigsby are organizing a night of food, fellowship and Christmas caroling on Friday evening, December 15th. We'll meet at the church for a light soup and chili dinner. But...we need YOU! We're organizing "teams" of drivers and carolers to visit some of our FCCNH church family or friends who no longer get out too much. If you know of someone who could use a visit and a Christmas carol or two, please see Donna or David. We need names of carol recipients as much as we need drivers and carolers. Santa's elves make ALL voices sound like choirs of angels on a night like this. Your presence is needed more than your Carnegie Hall-ready pipes! We hope you can join us! Call the church office if you'd like to drive, sing or both at 818.763.8218, or if you'd like to suggest some names to call upon this year! Merry Christmas!

north hollywoodl interfaith food

NEW 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://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3M15OOOZO59FV?ref_=wl_share





Tai 🦰 Chi

breathing techniques • simple stretching exercises • meditation to reduce stress

Guided Tai Chi Classes

Tuesday mornings at 9:30am • Thursday afternoons at 4:00pm in the Youth Hut CLASSES GUIDED BY BYRON ARMANTROUT • FREEWILL DONATION OF \$10 PER SESSION



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:				
11/19 1/7 Floral Ded	1/14 ication:	12/10 1/21		2/4	2/11
(Please ch specifics o below)			_		
	☐ In Ho ☐ In Cel ☐ In Me				
_	ements a	are supp	ngement (oral Crush	

Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament

We are bringing back the annual Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament, which has been on hiatus since the beginning of the pandemic. As in the past, it will be a scramble format and we're holding it THIS MONDAY, November 20th, at 10 am in Sylmar. We invite golfers of all abilities—men, women, youth (with some experience of the game)—to participate. Please contact Fred Sloan at 818.985.3278 or FRED_TED98@yahoo.com to indicate your interest so he can make the reservation.



BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Sunday Worship 10am	117
Youth Sunday AM	13
Youth Wednesday	12
Sunday School	28

Sunday Worship Donations \$13,734.80

Sunday School Donations \$30.58

SUNDAY GENERAL OFFERING \$13,765.38

Human Needs \$2,075.00

WOC in Honor of Pastor Jonathan's

Iron Man Competition \$150.00

Sunday School Home Again Project \$130.00

CREDIT CARD OFFERING 11/6/22 - 11/12/23

General Offering \$2,665.00

Sunday School Home Again Project \$130.00 Week of Compassion \$100.00

WEEKLY CUMULATIVE GIVING \$16,430.38

WAYS YOU CAN TO DONATE

Now donate with Zelle offering@fccnh.org

Paypal@fccnh.org • Venmo@fccnh.org

Tithe.ly

On our website www.fccnh.org

or scan the



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

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Robert M. Bock

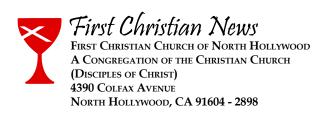
SENIOR PASTOR

Earle Immel

MINISTER OF MUSIC EMERITUS

Merle E. Fish, Jr.

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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