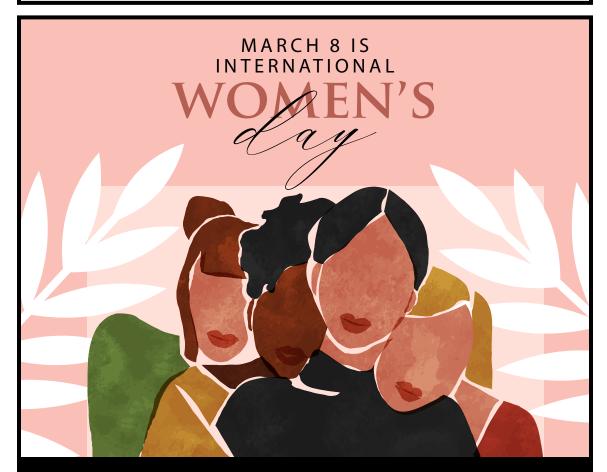


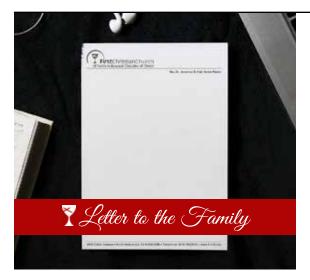
FirstChristianNews

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

March 6, 2024



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>.



Our text for this Sunday - Mark 12:28-44 - ends with the story of the "widow's mite" who gives a significant portion of her salary to the benefit of others. Just prior to that portion of the text, we hear about how our treatment of widows is one of the rubrics through which we can gauge how we are doing as a society.

For some, the health of our culture and society is based upon our gross domestic product. For others, it is based on a variety of economic factors. The Bible invites us to see things differently. For much of the biblical text, the way in which we gauge how we are doing is based upon how the widows, orphans, and refugees or "strangers/aliens" are doing. However, at this moment, as Jesus sat near the Temple in Jerusalem, He uplifted the widow who was in front of Him.

How do you choose to grade the success of our community, nation, and world? Oftentimes, those factors can seem distant and therefore can make us wonder how much of an impact we can make. I propose that we join the Bible in grading how successful we are by looking at the widows, orphans, and refugees around us. We may feel as if we cannot help all of the widows, orphans, and refugees. What if we started with the widow right in front of us, as Jesus lifted up in our text? What if we began with the orphan in our neighborhood? What if we started with the refugees who are looking for a better life down the street?

If we take the Bible seriously, we may end up helping Jesus in these moments. I write these words to not simply be provocative, but to take Jesus at His word in Matthew 25:37-40. I also share these words because Jesus was, in fact, a refugee Himself (Matthew 2:13-23).

As many children bring home their progress reports this time of year, I wonder what ours would say.

Together,

Pashe Jath



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING • MARCH 17

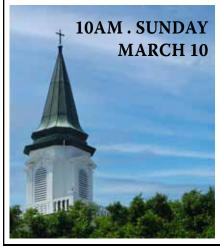
During our upcoming congregational meeting, we will be voting on the following items:

- I. 2024 Plan for Ministry and Mission (AKA the budget)
- II. Nominations for new church leadership
- III. Creation of guidelines for an endowment at our church (four documents correspond with this act)
 - 1. FCCNH Gifts Policy and Gifts Commission,
 - 2. FCCNH Endowment Bylaws,
 - 3. FCCNH Endowment Investment Policy, and
 - 4. FCCNH Endowment Structure

IV. Amending our by-laws to include permanent Pastoral Relations Committees for all pastors on staff

All members of our church are invited to be part of the governing process of our church. After the meeting, we will have a special Meet & Greet with music by Larry Brown's Banna Beag Mall Band in honor of Saint Patrick's Day! Copies of these documents can be found in our narthex, in the copier room, and via this link - http://tinyurl.com/FCCNH2024.

Additionally, minutes from our previous board meeting can be found in the narthex, in the copier room, and via this link - http://tinyurl.com/FCCNHMinutes1-24.



"Disagreeing Without Losing Our Humanity" TEXT: MARK 12: 28 – 34 Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Hall, Senior Pastor

Many of us know what it is like to disagree with someone on social media. It is easy to hide behind a keyboard and tell someone how they are wrong (to put it nicely). We do not have to see how it hurts them. It is something different to try to understand the other person. In our text for this Sunday - Mark 12:28-34 - Jesus and a legal expert (whose group Jesus had often been in verbal sparring matches with) can show a better way forward. Perhaps, we can see a better way forward instead of sparring with other people. Pastor Jonathan's message is entitled "Disagreeing Without Losing Our Humanity."



REGISTRATION OPENS THIS FRIDAY • MARCH 8

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.

06/17/24-06/21/24 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 into 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.

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06/24/24-06/28/24 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."

07/01/24 - 07/05/24 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.

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.

07/01/24 - 07/05/24 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 (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.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

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07/08/24-07/12/24 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.

07/15/24-07/19/24 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, & 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 individuals creative potential, sharpening skills, and encouraging the freedom to express.

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

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







FCCNH celebrates some important anniversaries in March. Longtime members may recall Sunday, March 2, 1969, when Rev. Robert M. Bock stood in the pulpit and preached the sermon that began our 52 years together as a church family.

Reaching farther back in our history, we also celebrate March 5, 1950. That Sunday, the children in our Church School walked with teachers and many parents in a procession stretching from our old church near Moorpark and Tujunga to our new one on the corner of Moorpark and Colfax. Children were excited to leave Army surplus buildings and classes set up on folding chairs in the parking lot and visit their brand-new classrooms in the big red brick church we now call home.

Pastor Bob used to say how right it was that the children in the church were the first to occupy it, since they were the church's future. Today, we

demonstrate that importance with the many parents whose children grew up in the church and who now attend with their own children – or even their children's children.

Practicality was the reason behind the March 5 procession. The new sanctuary was not quite finished, but tax laws required that the church building be occupied on the first Sunday in March, or it would be on the tax rolls for another year. The Church School/Social Hall wing was, if not fully furnished, completed enough for occupancy. As often happens in our church family, people stepped forward to finish getting things ready. Several men banded together to move furniture. Others built and painted new tables for classrooms. Women's Council members made window curtains. Some of the women who scraped paint off and cleaned the windows appear in a newspaper photo presently displayed in our church library just off the front of the sanctuary. We encourage you to visit the exhibit whenever you are at the church.

The average Church School attendance during February 1950 was 261 pupils. That number grew to 385 in March. Teachers and aides had been preparing for the move with curriculum classes and faculty meetings. The children were excited to be in their new church home. When they arrived, all were given a tour of their classrooms and the rest of the church campus. In a luxury of space, most classes met separately according to public school grades. Downstairs classrooms (including a nursery) were for younger children; the older ones met upstairs.

March 5, 1950 was also a day of great anticipation, as parents and children alike looked forward to Sunday, March 12 and dedication services for the FCCNH Sanctuary. Celebrating the reality of years-long dreams, sacrifice and effort by so many people is the subject of next week's 100th anniversary newsletter article.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE















Photos on this page are of last month's Ash Wednesday simple supper and service in the Social Hall—including the communion table, a selection of hot soups shared, and the meditative artwork that was part of the service.

photos by Pastor Taulau Tupua



This past Sunday's Acolyte, Anton Schervakov, and Pastor Taulau Tupua.

photo by Byron Armantrout

MARCH 24 · PALM SUNDAY CWF BAKE SALE

Following the 10am service on PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, the Ladies of CWF will have their semi-annual Bake Sale in the Social Hall. The ladies are busy gathering their most delicious recipes and preparing to tempt your taste buds.

Bring your love of sweets and a little extra cash on Palm Sunday, enjoy the baked goods and support the missions of Christian Women's Fellowship.

We also welcome bakers who would like to donate their baked goods to CWF for sale.



GOOD FRIDAY labyrinth walk MARCH 29 · 12pm - 7pm

The labyrinth is a walking meditation, a path of prayer and an archetypal blueprint where psyche meets Spirit. It has only one path that leads from the outer edge in a circuitous way to the center. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. Unlike a maze where you lose your way, the labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can help you find your way. On Good Friday our labyrinth will be set up in the Social Hall for all who wish to take this meditative walk from 12pm to 7pm.





GOOD FRIDAY service of tenebrae

MARCH 29 • 7:00 pm

A Service of Tenebrae, or "Shadows," is based on a twelfth-century late night/early morning service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ.





HUMAN NEEDS WARM CLOTHING & BLANKETS

The need for warm clothing and blankets is increasing as winter weather is here. 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
- sleeping bags
- ¤ jeans
- men/women underwear
- a socks
- sweatshirts/pants
- a gloves
- a rain ponchos
- n blankets
- and we're still collecting

hygiene products

Due to hygiene issues, please donate only new socks/underwear Donations can be dropped off at the church office during normal business hours.

Thank you!



MEET & GREET VOLUNTEER HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR

MARCH 10 & MARCH 17

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.



Ingathering Sunday IS MARCH 17th

The food pantry is in need of canned proteins (preferably tuna or chicken) and canned dog and cat food (no bagged food please, only cans). Donations can be placed at the front of the church on Sunday, March 17th.

To learn more about the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry and the great work they do go to www.nhifp.org. While you're there click on the newsletter to sign up and get monthly updates.



In celebration of Easter, we will once again place lilies on the chancel for Easter Sunday, March 31st. The cost of the lilies is **\$15** each. If you would care to give a lily, either as a gift or as a memorial, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate with your check marked "Lilies" or send the completed form with payment to the church office. **The last day for orders is Sunday, March 17**th. We will print all dedications received by that date in the Easter Sunday bulletins. Lily plants provided by *Floral Crush Studio*.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Your Name(s)
Email
Phone #
GIVEN IN Memory of Honor of Celebration of
Total number of plants
Check enclosed in the amount of \$





Palm Sunday Floral Procession

MARCH 24, 2024 • 10:00am SERVICE

featuring

The Children of our Sunday School & Youth Groups



All children go into the service as usual, with the exception of toddlers and babies. Dress to make your grandmother proud!

Parents: Please place a piece of tape on your child's flower or bouquet and label it with your child's name. There will be baskets in the Narthex to collect the flowers so the children won't need to hold them during the first part of the service.

Easter Breakfast SponsorshipsCrafted and Served by Our Youth



We Need You! Sponsor Ingredients

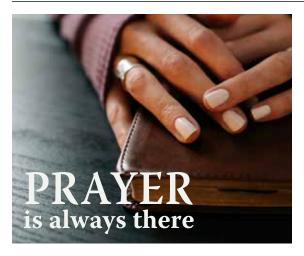
Easter Breakfast has traditionally been a nice fundraiser for our youth! This money has helped them do many trips and activities. One amazing way to help the breakfast be an even bigger success is to sponsor ingredients. We have a wholesale card so we will go buy the items, but if we could get donations of money to cover those items then the breakfast will be pure profit! If you sponsor \$30 in ingredients you get 2 complementary breakfasts! \$15 gets you 1! Plus we will throw in the warm glow of helping our youth for free! (No tickets to bother with, we will keep a list!)

OPPORTUNITIES:

- ☐ Eggs 8 @ \$20 each
- ☐ Blueberries 3 @ \$15 each
- ☐ Sausage 8 @ \$20 each
- ☐ Turkey Sausage 2 @ \$10
- ☐ Milk 4 @ \$10 each
- ☐ Tortillas 2 @ \$10 each
- ☐ Spices Veggies Chilis 6@\$10 ea
- ☐ Syrup 3 @ \$10 each
- Strawberries 4 @ \$10
- Flour & Sugar 2 @ 20
- ☐ Nuts 2 @ \$10

- ☐ Bananas 4 @ \$20
- ☐ Orange Juice 4 @ \$20
- ☐ Whipping Cream 2 @ \$20
- ☐ Butter 3 @ \$20
- ☐ Cheese 3 @ \$20
- ☐ Salsa 2 @ \$10

TALK TO THE OFFICE OR MATT HUNT TO CLAIM YOUR SPONSORSHIP! SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!



As always, there are many ways to reach us with your prayer needs.

On Sundays, there are cards in the morning bulletins. You can write your prayers on the back and put them in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also slide your prayer cards through the slot in the Prayer Cabinet near the drinking fountain outside the Chapel doors.

During the week, your prayers can reach us in several ways:

- · Via email on the church website:
 - www.fccnh.org/worship/prayer-requests
- Via phone call to the church office: 818-763-8218 If you are at the church, prayer cards are available at the Prayer Cabinet outside the Chapel. Fill one out and put it in the cabinet slot, or drop it off in the church office.

Prayers received during the week in one of these ways will be emailed out to Prayer Group members. Unless urgent, prayers received on Saturday or Sunday will be compiled for the list given to members on Monday mornings.

The sole purpose of the Prayer Group has always been to pray for those in need. Prayers are lifted aloud in the Chapel on Monday mornings, and then become part of the daily prayer discipline of our members. As always, all prayers that come to us are kept strictly confidential and are not shared elsewhere.





BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

Sunday Worship 10am140Youth Sunday AM13Youth Sunday PM2Sunday School44

Sunday Worship Donations \$8,441.00 Sunday School \$30.00

Youth Breakfast Fund \$80.00

SUNDAY GENERAL OFFERING \$8,471.00

CREDIT CARD OFFERING 2/26/24 - 3/3/24

CC GENERAL OFFERING \$3,792.00

CUMULATIVE GIVING \$12,263.00

DIACONATE NEEDED

Former / current deacons are needed for the 6:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am for the Easter Services. Please contact Kevin Bailey (Kevin@lakesidegolfclub.com) to let him know when you are available.

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE TO FCCNH

Paypal@fccnh.org Venmo@fccnh.org 7elle to

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



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ionathan 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

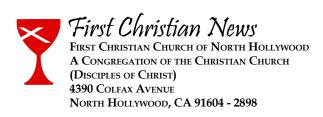
SENIOR PASTOR

Earle Immel

MINISTER OF MUSIC EMERITUS

Merle E. Fish, 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

First Christian Church of North Hollywood 818/763-8218 • FAX 818/763-8457

Website: www.fccnh.org email: fccnh@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

