



FirstChristianNews

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

REV. RANDY SPLETH, INTERIM PASTOR

JENNIFER LE'AU, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

LUIS OLIART, INTERIM YOUTH DIRECTOR

ALFREDO GOMEZ & LOYDI RIVAS GOMEZ, PASTORS, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION

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*I came that they
may have life, and
have it abundantly.*

– JOHN 10:10b

IN PERSON OR CATCH THE 10AM LIVESTREAM ON [YOUTUBE](#).
Check out recent service streams and more at www.fccnh.org.



I'm getting notices for work. I don't know what to make of it. My email is flooded with ads for new jobs. These five notices along came in just the last three days.

Looking for a new high-paying job? Your next job is just around the corner.

Apply now and enjoy perks like flexible shifts, competitive salaries and more. We've got your next job.

Just Posted. Your next job. Multiple Vacancies! Positions Available: Full-Time, Remote Working, Part-Time, Warehouse Jobs & more.

Randy, we've found these jobs which fit your skill set.

Randy, this is your next job.

Who among you is responsible for these solicitations? Many of you have expressed concern. "What are you going to do now that your job is finished?" It has been asked many times. One said Sunday, "You can't stop working!" Did one of you, worried that I need to find a job, send these recruiters my way?

Stop! I'm good. I'm going to re-retire. I failed miserably the first time. I was retired for exactly 105 days before God decided I'd had enough time off. While I didn't want to do an interim ministry and said so to many, I am grateful that you

and God got my attention.

What are we going to do? We will return to Indianapolis to a wonderful home in which we've lived for 30 years. We are eager to see life-long friends and neighbors in our community. We plan to travel with a trip scheduled soon after our return. Ann will teach for Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and consult with and encourage local development officers. I will read and, according to my editor, write. I'll play golf; tee times already booked. Our fall calendar is filling up fast.

Most of all, I will listen. It served me well when I began retirement. I listened and God said, "There's this group of people you are just going to love." God was right. So, I'll never stop listening. I encourage you to keep an ear open too because you just never know when God might say, "this is your next job."



Blessings, Randy

**In everything
give thanks.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:8

Celebrating Pastor Randy & Ann for Their Care and Friendship

SAVE THE DATE – SPECIAL MEET & GREET SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th



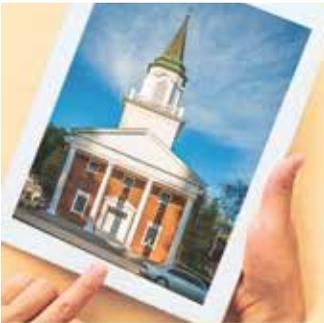
Did you know that Pastor Randy and Ann Updegraff-Spleth are HUGE Dodger Fans!?! Well, they're rounding third and heading home soon - **Time to Thank Them and Wish Them Well!!**

Wear your Dodger Gear and Bring the Whole Family on **Sunday, September 4th** for a Fun Meet & Greet to show our gratitude for taking care of us this past year!!

“ In the year of the improbable, the impossible has happened... ”

— VIN SCULLY

Thank You Randy & Ann



MEN'S GROUP MEETING

Coffee on the Corner Men's Group meets online weekly at

7PM WEDNESDAYS

Interested in joining?

For Zoom info Email: menoncorner@gmail.com



MEN ON THE CORNER SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST
Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. – ROMANS 12:12

24th REPORT FROM THE pulpit committee



PASTOR JONATHAN STORY *written by* Nola Sarkissian-Miller

You could say a punishment ultimately led Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hall – or Pastor Jonathan as he likes to be called - to the ministry.

Born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama with his older sister, Melissa, Hall, who is the current Senior Pastor at First Christian Church in Colorado Springs, grew up in a church-loving family. His mother, Jill, helps older church members transition to assisted care communities, and his father, John, chairs the church's daycare and nursery committee and is currently rebuilding the play structure, The Ark. As a punishment one weekend, when Pastor Jonathan was about 10 years old, his parents forced him to work the Salvation Army soup van that traveled the community. Instead of hitting the roller-skating rink that Friday and Saturday night, one of his favorite activities, he was doling out soup for the needy and unhoused.

Despite the van flipping over in an accident and covering Hall in tomato soup and chili, he loved the experience of connecting with others. "You could say I was making deposits," Hall says. You could say the punishment worked. Along with his parents' encouragement to attend youth group, which the basketball-baseball-soccer playing youth often protested, he suddenly found himself in the epicenter of love and support, a place where he could truly blossom.

"I had hearing issues growing up, which caused me to stutter," Hall says. "But, at church camp and in the community, I was able to find my voice."

Deciding to become a minister in middle school could lead to less than encouraging words

from others, but he found nothing but support. His career choice ended up fulfilling a family's member's dream.

"My Catholic grandma wanted a priest in the family," Hall says. "My Dad told her you wanted a priest, and now you've got a minister."

A graduate of Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky., and Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., he pursued a doctorate in spiritual formation at Claremont School of Theology, which focuses on deepening one's relationship with God.

"The doctorate was more about helping people spiritually," Hall says. "We're clay and we're not aware of what's forming us. I wanted to help people in their formation by God."

For him, that means meeting people where they are through different worship styles. One idea he incorporates into worship is prayer stations located throughout the church. One area may be set-up for letter-writing and another with candles for lighting or even Play-Doh.

"It gives an outlet to people for their right brain or left-brain spirituality," Hall says. "I like to create a space of freedom and I don't know what people will get out of it and that's the fun part for me."

So many of his messages also apply to parenting. Hall and his wife, Annie, are intentional parents to Malachi, 6, and Zion, 4, helping them see the world through the lens of God. So much so, that Pastor Jonathan wrote a book on fatherhood with his friend, Rev. Beau T. Underwood, called *Dear Son: Raising Faithful, Just, and Compassionate Men*

PASTOR JONATHAN STORY CONTINUED

which was published this year, discussing teachable moments such as pressures young men face, the purpose of money and being a man of God.

A Senior Minister, a Ph.D. graduate, a published author, a triathlete who has completed nearly 20 races, a husband and father, Hall has accomplished more in his few decades of life than many do in their lifetimes.

How does he decompress? Spending time with his family camping and eating sushi and Mexican and Thai foods along with playing pickleball and gardening with his kids.

"I love, love, love to garden," Hall says. "I can talk tomatoes all day long."

It's a hobby, he says, that helps him see God through creation, a message he likes to impart to his boys. Like the resiliency of a flower growing on top of a rock. Or watching an ant carry something five times its size.

"God speaks to us through nature," Hall says, noting that you need to be available and ready to listen.

Attending a retreat center and going to the beach and running triathlon races also give him space to prevent burnout. His time with weekly prayer partners continues to help him regenerate and stay focused.

"I try to follow the pattern of Moses and Jesus and going up to the mountaintop and having quiet time," Hall says. "I remove myself from everything. It's a mental cleanse and that's good for me. It's a true sense of the Sabbath." 🌻

**"Is anyone among
you in trouble?
Let them pray.**

**Is anyone happy?
Let them sing
songs of praise."**

— JAMES 5:13 —

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

**Our FCCNH Choirs will be
resuming rehearsals after a
much-needed summer break.**

Chancel Choir (ages 16 and up)

begins rehearsals **Thursday, August 25th**,
7:15 PM in the choir loft. Come one, come
all! We can work with anyone, regardless of
talent or background!

Youth Choir (6th grade and up)

resumes on **Sunday, September 11th** in the
Youth Hut at 11:15 AM-12 PM.

Children's Choir (5 yrs-5th grade)

resumes on **Sunday, September 11th** in the
Annex from 9:00-9:50 AM.

**God gave you a voice, so come on out and
use it to bless our FCCNH church family!**

**There's a place for you! Please contact
David Rigsby (brewstty@gmail.com) or
Ty Parr (zongwriter@yahoo.com)**

for more information.



ABOVE: Reading scripture Sunday morning.
LEFT: Wednesday afterschool program is back!

YOUTH PROGRAM EXTENDED HOURS

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30AM-11:00AM

Middle School & High School

SUNDAY EVENINGS

5:30PM-7:30PM

High School

WEDNESDAYS

3:00PM-5:00PM

Middle School



Louise Sloan Goben, Board Chair

NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

We are continuing to grow!

This is always exciting news for any organization, especially a nonprofit. In addition to the regular clientele of the Food Pantry, we have seen a recent uptick in new clients, including senior citizens and families. We are working with other organizations like Hope of the Valley, the NoHo Home Alliance, and Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA) to provide sacks of food to people transitioning from living on the streets to being sheltered. We are also providing food to individuals in a local senior living complex.

One could receive this information as both good news and bad news. The good news is that we have been able to step up our game and help more people. The challenging news is that we need your continued support.

How can you help?

1. Volunteers are needed during the week to pack the sacks of groceries that we distribute. Our food supplies are warehoused in the basement of the educational building at Temple Beth Hillel. We need over 300 bags each week. If you have an hour available to

give us, it is pretty easy to pack between 20-30 sacks in that time. There are instructions posted at the site that tell you exactly what goes in each sack of food. You can sign up for packing on the Pantry website – www.nhifp.org/volunteer.

2. We need food... always. Please consider helping us fundraise, and food raise! If you are a member of one of our supporting congregations or are connected to an outside organization, please consider hosting a food drive. All non-perishable food items are welcome. Just think about what you would like to eat if you were to receive a sack of food, then include this in your food drive.
3. Whatever we are unable to have on hand to put in our grocery bags, we need to purchase. Your financial donations are always welcome.

Thank you for your continued support of the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry.

Louise Sloan Goben
Board Chair, NHIFP

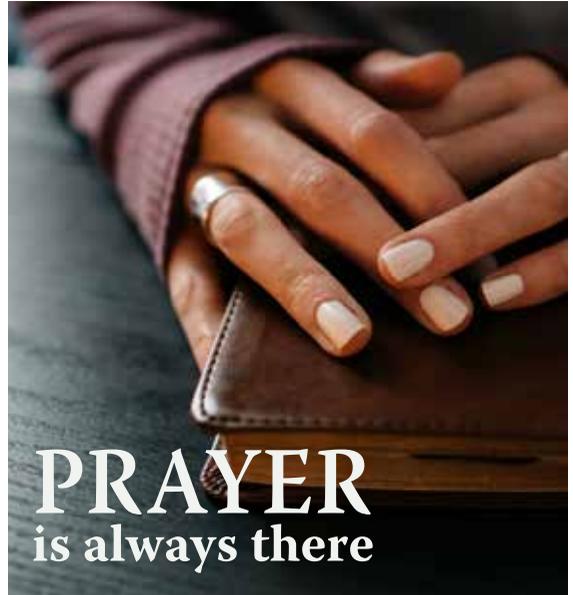
As always, there are many ways to reach us with your prayer needs.

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

Your prayers can reach us in a few different ways:

- Via email on the church website:
www.fccnh.org/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. 🌿



W2W
WOMEN *to* WOMEN
Women's Group ZOOM MEETING
7:30pm FRIDAYS
NEWCOMERS WELCOME
 email for Zoom info W2W.FCCNH@gmail.com



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:

8/28	9/18	9/25	10/2	10/9	10/16
10/23	10/30	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27

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.



WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING A SUNDAY MEET & GREET?

Individuals, families, study groups, friends ... if any would consider hosting a Meet & Greet after one of our Sunday morning services, please contact Alberto Sigala at asigala480@gmail.com or 310-569-9908.

Tai Chi

breathing techniques
 simple stretching exercises
 meditation to reduce stress

Guided Tai Chi Classes
Tues. 9:30am & Thurs. 4:00pm
in the Youth Hut

Classes guided by Byron Armantrout.
 Freewill donation of \$10 per session.

BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2022_____

10:00am Worship	137
Sunday School	27
Youth Sunday Morning	6
Youth Sunday Evening	1
Youth Wednesday	10
10:00 AM Worship Offering	\$2,597.00
CREDIT CARD OFFERING 8/15/22 - 8/21/22 __	
General Offering	\$1,810.00
Food Pantry	\$50.00

CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Randy Spleth
INTERIM PASTOR
- Alfredo Gomez
PASTOR, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION
- Jennifer Le'au
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
- Luis Oliart
INTERIM YOUTH DIRECTOR
- Tyana Parr
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH CHOIRS
- David Rigsby
MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
- Christine Karasseferian
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
- Chris Carson
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
- Gabriela Dorantes
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Glenda Morgan Brown
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Terri Burton
CHURCH PUBLICATIONS
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EVENT PLANNER
- Elmer Maldonado
BUILDING & GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT
- Miriam Mancilla
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- Amanda Sigala
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OF CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL
- Greg Kirkland
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Luis Oliart
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IN MEMORIAM

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

WAYS TO DONATE

1  Paypal@fccnh.org

2  @fccnh.org

3  First Christian Church of North Hollywood

4 On our website at: www.fccnh.org



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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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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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

