



FirstChristianNews

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

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Commit your work
to the Lord,
and your plans
will be established.

- PROVERBS 16:3

JOIN US IN PERSON OR CATCH THE 10AM LIVESTREAM ON [YOUTUBE](#).

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



Some of you have asked me how I am choosing the texts for our current sermon series on the most difficult words of Jesus, which will run through the end of the month. First of all, I appreciate your curiosity! Second, I am looking for the words of Jesus that make us scratch our heads or think “Wow, that doesn’t sound like something Jesus would say.”

As I shared on Sunday, we have evidence of the difficulty of Mark 10 because of the later manuscripts of the gospel showing some alterations (they show up like a tailor working on a suit or dress), we can see how Matthew and Luke later softened the story when they used Mark as the base for their gospel (this is known as Markan priority), and we can see how the story was further softened by later writings such as the Apocryphal Acts of Peter and Andrew (this was written in the third century).

OK, that is enough nerdiness.

My hope, desire, and intention is that we wrestle with these difficult words from Jesus instead of simply trying to change or soften

the harshness of some of them.

All traditions have sacred texts that can be seen as ticking time bombs if they are never examined and then read literally. Instead, as Disciples of Christ, we take the Bible seriously. Taking the Bible seriously means pulling back the layers by looking at the original language, seeing where else the phrase was used by Jesus, looking at the culture and history, and much more.

Of course, for some of our siblings in the Christian faith, this means that we are moving away from the bumper sticker theology of “God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”

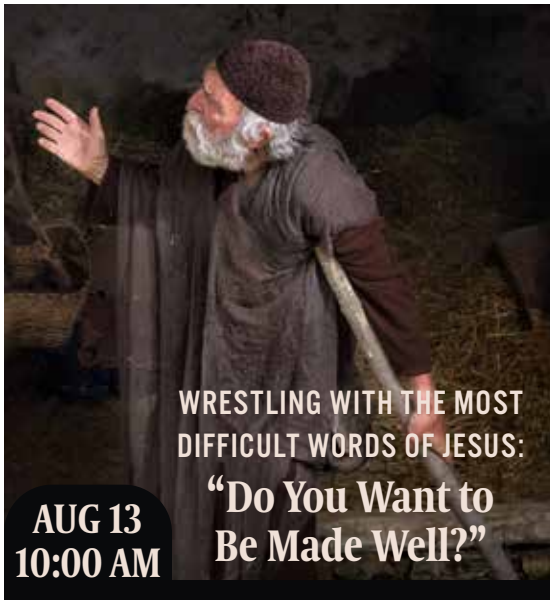
Jesus is still looking for disciples, not parrots. Parrots are beautiful, but they just repeat things that have already been said. Jesus wants disciples, which means students.

For a first-century Jewish person, to follow a rabbi (a teacher) meant to “be covered with the dust of their feet.” We need to follow Jesus closely. We need to follow close enough to be covered in the dust of His feet. For our church, it means being willing to wrestle with His most difficult words, look at the original language, and much more.

Of course, one can be covered in the dust of Jesus by themselves. However, it is always best done in a community with others. Said alternatively, thanks for being covered in the same dust as me - the dust of Jesus!

Together,

Pastor John
Senior Pastor



WRESTLING WITH THE MOST
DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS:

AUG 13
10:00 AM

**“Do You Want to
Be Made Well?”**

Many of us know what it is like to be injured or diagnosed with an illness or disease. We go to the doctor because we want to feel better or to alleviate the pain. When a man has been struggling to enter healing waters, Jesus responds “Do you want to be made well?” It can sound as if it is a ridiculous and condescending question. However, there may be more to Jesus’ words than meets the initial reading. On Sunday, August 13, Pastor Jonathan will share his message entitled “The Most Difficult Words of Jesus: Do You Want to Be Made Well?” which is based on John 5:1-9.

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hall
PREACHING

Unable to join us in person?
Watch the livestream at [YOUTUBE](#)

Meet & Greet VOLUNTEER HOSTS



- 8/13 Craig Harris
- 8/20 Linda Finnell & Jose Pretlow
- 8/27 Sigala Family
- 9/3 Lisa & Christopher Ridenhour
- 9/10 The Board
- 9/17 Deborah Luster
- 9/24 CNS Sunday
- 10/1 OPEN
- 10/8 OPEN
- 10/15 OPEN
- 10/22 Barbara Wiles, Janet Bruce,
Cindy Kaller
- 10/29 Kyla Speakman

**ALL OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
ARE CURRENTLY 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. Thank you!

Communion Meditation

by RAE EIKLOR, Elder
on 6 AUGUST 2023

I recently went on two walking pilgrimages, one in Spain and one in Portugal. These are ancient paths walked by tens of thousands of pilgrims since the middle ages. These historic paths are called the Camino de Santiago, which translates into English as “the way of Saint James”. This is the alleged burial site of Jesus’s disciple, James. From all directions Pilgrims would make the long journey to the magnificent cathedral in Galicia’s Santiago de Compostela.

On my first camino I was in Spain for two months. It’s hard to imagine leaving all the comforts of home for such a long time. Each item I brought was carefully scrutinized for its ability to be lightweight and multi-purposed. I chose to travel with the bare minimum. I had about 2 outfits, the one I was wearing which I would wash in the afternoons and the one I would wear the next day. Parting with material items for this journey was difficult but living with less was surprisingly easy.

Having so few things felt very freeing!

I never had to ask myself “What am I going to wear tomorrow?” My life on the Camino was so simple. Having so little allowed me to focus on what is truly important. I traversed through vast stretches of rolling countryside; fields of wheat and neatly arranged vineyards created a picturesque and serene setting. When I walked with strangers, I could really concentrate on their life’s stories, which seemed to flow easily. When I was alone, which was often the first 5 miles in the early morning, I spoke more often with God. The feeling of calm in knowing I was right where I was supposed to be each day was life-changing.

Each Sunday at this table we have the opportunity to focus on the peace provided by God’s love. As we remember the simplicity of the bread and cup, savor the quiet of our beautiful sanctuary, feel the peace that we are exactly where we are supposed to be.



in support of the
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 Sunday is **August 20th**. Please bring your donations to the Narthex or the Church office. Thank you!



cutout
wallet reminder
this month
the pantry is in need of:



single serve snacks
(chips, pretzels, granola
bars, raisins, cookies, etc)



For more information or to reserve your place, email Angel Burgess at membership@fccnh.org and he will send you the Zoom login for the games.



HUMAN NEEDS COMMITTEE SUMMER CLOTHES NEEDED

Please consider donating one or more of the following; gently used items okay unless otherwise indicated:

- white/gray socks
- new hygiene bags
- t-shirts/light shirts
- tennis shoes
- tank tops
- pants
- shorts
- sandals

Please contact jaymmouse@aol.com with questions or clothes can be dropped off in the church office between 9:00 and 3:00 Monday through Friday.



MEN'S GROUP MEETING

meets online weekly at

7PM WEDNESDAYS

Interested in joining?
For Zoom info Email: menoncorner@gmail.com

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to Him. — MATTHEW 17:5



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:

8/13	8/27	9/3	9/10	9/17	9/24
10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29	11/5

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.

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.



W2W WOMEN to WOMEN

**7:30pm FRIDAYS
via ZOOM**

email for Zoom info
W2W.FCCNH@gmail.com

BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023 _____

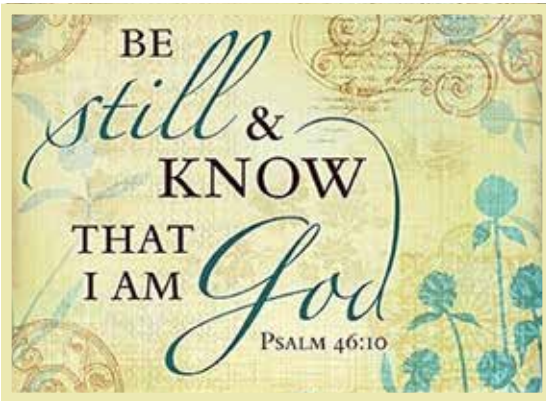
Sunday Worship 10am	145
Youth Sunday AM	15
Sunday School	26

Sunday Worship 10am	\$5,348.50
Sunday School	\$12.00

TOTAL GENERAL OFFERING \$5,360.50

CREDIT CARD OFFERING 7/31/22 - 8/6/23 _____

General Offering	\$3,144.00
Food Pantry	\$20.00



WAYS YOU CAN TO DONATE

Paypal@fccnh.org

Venmo@fccnh.org

[Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)

On our website

www.fccnh.org

or scan the code at right



CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Hall
SENIOR PASTOR
- Alfredo Gomez
PASTOR, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION
- Jennifer Le'au
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- Taulau Tupua
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- Merle E. Fish, Jr.
MINISTER EMERITUS



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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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EMERITUS

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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

