

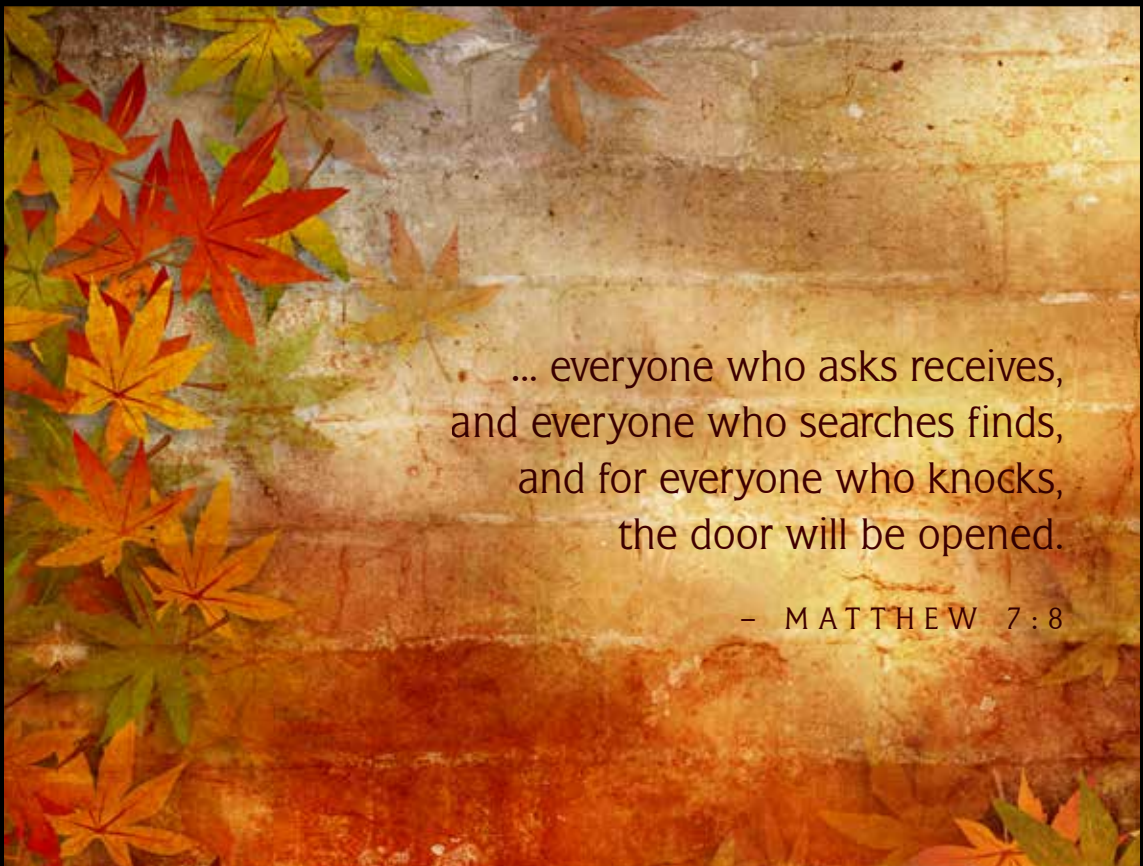


FirstChristianNews

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
REV. DR. ROBERT M. BOCK, SENIOR PASTOR
LOUISE SLOAN GOBEN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
JENNIFER LE'AU, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
JEREMY GILLETT, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
ALFREDO GOMEZ & LOYDI RIVAS GOMEZ, PASTORS, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION

Volume LXIII No. 67

October 7, 2020



... everyone who asks receives,
and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks,
the door will be opened.

— MATTHEW 7:8

**JOIN US ONLINE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP — PLUS BIBLE STUDIES,
GROUP MEETINGS & MORE — ALL ONLINE AT WWW.FCCNH.ORG**

LETTER TO THE FAMILY



Our good friend Christian Sorensen is the senior pastor of Seaside Center for Spiritual Living in Del Mar. Each day he sends out a positive thought and affirmation to his congregation. Earlier this week he shared the following thought which I felt was something I wanted to share with our church family. He started by quoting the late Steve Jobs.

For the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?" And whenever the answer has been 'No' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

Then Christian went on to write:

I was in junior high school the first time I heard the phrase, 'Today is the first day of the rest of your life.' I noticed that for some people this saying became a bit of a platitude, like 'Have a nice day,' and it lost its deeper meaning. For me, however, it was a clarion wake-up call! Each day is the only day that I can live my life. If I keep waiting for something to happen to change, I could be waiting a long time. This belief has been a cornerstone of my journey in this lifetime, and it has kept me awake to my choices in ways nothing else ever has.

I have often been asked by colleagues why I have continued to actively work after all of my contemporaries have retired and moved on to a more relaxed lifestyle. Congregants have also often asked why I have remained at FCCNH all these years. The answer is relatively simple – every morning, as I have looked in the mirror, my answer was “yes,” and if this was the last day of my life, I would probably do exactly what I have done every day for the past 51 years.

Working in our church family is something I have always loved. You are one of the most creative groups of people I’ve ever known. Our children and our youth are among the finest I’ve ever met anywhere. Ministry in our church has afforded me opportunities I would never have had in any other church. It has always been an honor and a privilege to be one of your pastors.

It has been said that a crisis, such as the pandemic we are living through, either brings out the best or the worst in people. It has been thirty weeks since the first “stay-at-home” mandate was given. During that time we have probably all experienced fear, frustration, anger, bewilderment and a concern over what our future holds – what our “new normal” will be. But during that same time we have also experienced growing friendships, opportunities to help others, new forms of worship – study – meetings – work and opportunities for families to be together in a way never before experienced. In other words, the pandemic has given us a mixed bag of emotions and opportunities.

According to most calculations the pandemic is going to continue for several more months. I think it is a good time for everyone to take stock of whether this crisis has brought out our best selves or our worst selves. If it is the former then, by all means, keep doing what you are doing and expand the positive. However, if it is the latter then perhaps it would be a good thing to ask a different question than Mr. Jobs – “If this was the last day of my life would I act the way I am about to act today?” If we are going to change the course of our life, there is no better time to do it than today. Today really could be the first day of the rest of your life.

Just a few thoughts on life being lived in a pandemic.

Pergé
Pastor Bob





WOMEN to WOMEN
 Online Women's Group
 Meets Fridays via Zoom · 8:00 pm

Hosted by:

Sheryl Fitzpatrick, Jenny Harris
 Trudie Kirkland, and Diane O'Brien

For Zoom info email:

W2W.FCCNH@gmail.com

(ALL CAPS - Case sensitive)



8am Wednesdays via Zoom.

Email: menoncorner@gmail.com for Zoom info.



5 WAYS TO DONATE TO YOUR CHURCH



PAYPAL

PayPal@fccnh.org



TITHE.LY

First Christian
 Church of
 North Hollywood



VENMO

@fccnh



ONLINE AT

www.fccnh.org



MAIL TO:

4390 Colfax Ave.
 Studio City, CA
 91604

“Just A Thought ...” by Rev. Louise Sloan Goben



My calendar tells me that today is National Teacher Appreciation Day. When I think of teachers that have made a difference in my life, the list grows long. These days, all the teachers I know are earning every cent they receive. We understand that learning is difficult for students. Sitting in front of a computer screen and trying to attend to instruction is a challenge. Young people are missing their friends and classmates. And it is hard to include physical exercise into the mix of learning and living. I also understand that the teachers are looking for ways of making learning interesting and engaging from their end as well. Under the best of circumstances, teachers must be creative.

I learned of the death of one of my favorite seminary professors this weekend. James A. Sanders taught Old Testament at the School of Theology in Claremont, and I enrolled in three classes he taught. Jim was extremely gifted in languages, and he was able to translate into Hebrew or Greek any English text he held in his

hand ... on the spot! He also knew Coptic, Aramaic and several languages I had never heard of. That is because they are “dead languages,” not actually spoken languages of today. I recall being in class with my jaw dropped open as Jim would translate. And I also recall saying something to Jim about how impressed I was at his skill. His response was to say thank you, and then, in all humility say, “On the other hand, I can’t play the violin like you. Or basketball like Galen. I can’t hit a ball or sing in a choir. Everyone has their gifts. This happens to be mine, so I have tried to make the best use of it.”

Steve Schandler was one of my primary professors when I was a graduate student at Chapman University. His first year of teaching at Chapman happened to be my first year as well. Steve was freshly graduated from the Psychology Department at USC, though eventually he rose to become the Chair of the Psych Department at Chapman. Steve had a way of collecting students. It didn’t take long for him to draw us to him with his sense of humor and self-deprecation. Among the classes he taught was the Psychology of Learning. It is actually a fascinating topic! Several of us decided to give a little “love” back to Steve the day of our final in the class. Steve taught us that most people are able recall new learned information when they can utilize the knowledge under the same circumstances in which they originally gained the skill. That meant that we came to class prepared to take the final exam armed with cans of beer or soda, chips, pizza and ice cream. We were simply trying to recreate the environment in which we had studied for his final exam.

Jesus was, and continues to be, an amazing teacher as well. When we read the Gospel accounts of His teachings, Jesus seldom offered simple answers to direct questions. Instead He expected His disciple students to think and reflect about what He shared with them. His usual way of teaching was to use storytelling and parables. The nature of parables is to leave the ending of the story open, such that the listener would need to spend time considering how to resolve the tension present in

“Just A Thought ...”continued

the story themselves. (Don't you sometimes wish Jesus would have just said “Yes” or “No” when a simple question was put before Him?)

The central themes of the message Jesus brought are included in the opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount. I think these simple statements would do very well for the Church of Jesus Christ to adopt as our mission statement. You know them well as it is.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven... — Matthew 5:3-11

We are fortunate to have such a Master Teacher; one who makes us think and offers His own life as illustrative of how we might live ours. I hope we are all encouraged to continue to learn.

Pastor Louise



youthink

I greet you in the Wonderful Magnificent name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we prepare to embrace the fall season and the reality sets in that we won't celebrate our annual Trunk or Treat experience or any other in-person children/youth friendly events, I have decided to dedicate the month of November as a Christian fellowship youth fun month. Each Friday in the month of November the youth will meet on zoom for some fun interactive activities. I alone cannot receive all the credit for these creative ideas, although I wish I could. Jose Pretlow, a long-standing member of FCCNH, offered up some creative youth-themed events that I believe will help keep our youth engaged with their church. Together, we have created what I believe are four fun events. Thank you, Jose, for offering your ideas and helping me execute them for our youth.

NOVEMBER FUN FRIDAY EVENTS

The first event will be a combined middle school and high school gaming experience. Our featured game will be...*Among Us!* For contextual purposes, *Among Us* is an online multiplayer social deduction game. The game takes place in a space-themed setting where players each take on one of two roles, most being Crewmates, and a predetermined number being Impostors. The goal for the Crewmates is to identify the Impostors, eliminate them, and complete tasks around the map; the Impostors' goal is to covertly sabotage and eliminate the Crewmates before they complete all their tasks.

The second fun event will be a *Kahoot* game with the questions centering around FCCNH and Christian general facts. *Kahoot* is a game-based learning platform used as educational technology in schools and other educational institutions. The learning games, “Kahoots”, are user-generated multiple-choice quizzes that can be accessed via a web browser or the Kahoot app. I'll be creating the questions and answers to these questions.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

youthink continued

The first-place winner will get a prize mailed to them! Fun. Fun. Fun.

The third fun event will be *Name That Letter*. This game is pretty straightforward but supremely fun! The moderator (Me) will pick a random letter and our youth must type in the Zoom chat, The name of a famous person, a place, an animal, and a thing. The catch to the game is, each item must correspond with the letter chosen by the moderator. For example if “J” is the letter chosen by the moderator, a winning answer would look something like this:

1. Jesus
2. Jungle
3. Jaguar
4. Jumpsuit

This game will require wit, thinking quickly on your feet, and quick typing. This is going to be awesome! The winner will be mailed a prize!

The final Fun Friday Event will be “Song Creation.” We are living in the midst of an historic time. Someday in the distant distant future someone’s grandchildren will read about this moment and as a show of fortitude, love, and appreciation they will create a song together. I’ll start with a line and we’ll go around the zoom call and each youth can add a line to the song until it is fully written. This will be our gift to FCCNH. This song can be performed once we open our doors and are operating at full capacity. It will be an original kids’ composition that will live in the Church’s music collection. Our youth will live with the legacy of having written an original composition virtually for FCCNH. The story will live on in the narrative of the congregation. Parents, there is no right or wrong way to do this, we simply want our youth’s voices to be heard.

I am looking forward to November and all the laughs, smiles, and love that will be displayed within our youth group.

With Love,
Jeremy Gillett
Director of Youth Ministries



NHIFP NAMED HONORED CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT 2020

We thought you would be proud to learn that our Food Pantry was named one of the California Nonprofits of 2020!!!

Each year, California Assemblymembers and State Senators are invited to honor a Nonprofit of the Year for their district. Co-sponsored by the Assembly Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector and the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), these awards:

- Bring attention and recognition to outstanding nonprofits — especially in local press where it often means the most.
- Collectively illustrate the remarkable diversity and vibrancy of California’s nonprofit community: big and small we touch Californians every day through health clinics, churches, American Legion posts, choral groups, Meals on Wheels, prison reform organizations, wildfire relief organizations, museums, environmental advocacy organizations, and more.
- Give legislators a way to highlight some types of nonprofits that are often overlooked: all-volunteer organizations and nonprofits based in Black and other communities of color.

District 46 Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian honored North Valley Caring Service, Valley InterCommunity Council (San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council, Inc.) and North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry (NHIFP).



THE PANTRY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

small toothpaste • tooth brushes
small deodorants • chapsticks
boxed cereal (October is cereal month) • canned fruit • peanut butter and BAGS (for food transport)

BY WAY OF REPORT

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020 _____

Total General Offering \$1,850.00

CREDIT CARD OFFERINGS 9/30 - 10/6 _____

General Offering \$3,080.00



Did you know a percentage of
your online purchases can be a
donation to FCCNH?

Check out our website (www.fccnh.org) and click on the Donate or Vendor button at the top of the page and select "First Christian Church of North Hollywood" as your designated charity.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

FCCNH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MIDNIGHT SUNDAY

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA EMAIL TO:
terrib@fccnh.org or terriburton@gmail.com

Articles can also be delivered to the office
Monday thru Friday, 9am to 5pm.

CHURCH STAFF

Robert M. Bock
SENIOR PASTOR
Louise Sloan Goben
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Alfredo Gomez
PASTOR, SPANISH SPEAKING CONGREGATION
Jennifer Le'au
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Jeremy Gillett
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
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
Michele Amundsen
WEDDING DIRECTOR
Elmer Maldonado
BUILDING & GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT
Miriam Mancilla
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL
Greg Kirkland
MEDIA DIRECTOR

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Jacob Beam, Craig Brooks, Janette Jara, Tom Louie, Susan Marble,
Jeff McFadden, Denise Ovaldson, Tiffany Tapp
SOUND TECHNICIANS

Luis Oliart
SECURITY

IN MEMORIAM

Earle Immel
MINISTER OF MUSIC EMERITUS

Merle E. Fish, Jr.
MINISTER EMERITUS



First Christian News

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD
A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
4390 COLFAX AVENUE
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

First Christian Church of North Hollywood
818/763-8218 • FAX 818/763-8457
Web Site: www.fccnh.org
email: fccnh@earthlink.net

PASTOR & SENIOR EDITOR	Robert M. Bock
PROOFREADING	Glenda Morgan Brown
ART DIRECTION	Terri Burton
PRODUCTION SERVICES	Byron Armantrout

EMERITUS

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	



**630PM TUESDAYS
ON ZOOM**

**EMAIL JASON PETERSON AT
MEMBERSHIP@FCCNH.ORG
TO JOIN IN ON THE FUN**