



UCC
Petaluma

A Ministry of Hope | Open & Affirming
Servants of the Just & the Good.

Sun. Sept 26, 2021

9:30am

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*To Heal, Inspire and Empower in the Way of Jesus
So that all people may create lives of deeper meaning and greater value.*

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES for Sunday and Beyond...

This Sunday We conclude a six week series exploring the possibility that Forgiveness is not a product or commodity but a State of Being that is accessible to us regardless of our circumstances. We've placed the state of Forgiveness at the center of a path forward with all people to heal the Planet in response to the UN's recent Climate Crisis Report. Please see the Worship Materials that follow for a complete listing of the six states. We hope that you found this series to be deeply aligned with our missional vision to heal, inspire, and empower in the Way of Jesus so that all people lay create lives of deeper meaning and greater value.

UPDATE: Imagine! A Campaign to Rejuvenate our Church Campus

We have received the Feasibility Study from Rev. Andy DeBraber who spent a week in Petaluma compiling a report to identify opportunities and concerns for our hope to make substantial improvements to our campus. His report revealed many helpful opportunities for us to realize what arose as the highest value amongst us:

To welcome and serve the greater community, continue to be radically inclusive, and through the growth of our congregation, become a financially viable church.

For the last many months, a diverse team of church members including: Janet Talamantes, Mark Reischling, Diane Ruddell, Barton Smith, Heidi Jones, Helen Heal, Dorothy Wilcox, Keenan Foster, Patty Foster, Virginia Breedlove, Al Martin, and Dana Lee has worked to explore the deepest values supported by our physical spaces. They then imagined the improvements necessary to support us thriving in our mission to heal, inspire, and empower in the Way of Jesus. It is these improvements that we believe will make it possible for our campus to be a welcoming and relevant community to a next generation and fulfil of our highest values for us all as we move into the years following Pandemic.

Celebrate World Communion with UCC Global Ministries 9/29/21 11am

The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and keep our communal identity in the Way. On that day, we remember that we are part of a larger body of. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. We will be celebrating communion together so please have something to eat and drink ready. It can be whatever you have on hand, not necessarily bread and juice. [Click Here](#) to register to join in the celebration Wednesday, September 29, 2021,

Come Out to Support Una Vida Free Clothing Give Way 10/3 and 10/9

Una Vida asks for our help in receiving and sorting clothing after church Sunday Oct 3 in preparation for a Free Clothing & Sundries Give-Away which is just now being announced to the public. We expect hundreds of attendees here at church Saturday Oct 9 from 10am-12pm. We need your help throughout the day on both 10/3 and 10/9 to make this valuable event a success. [Click Here to SignUp](#) to choose your day and time to help! Let's show up for faith in action together!

California is First to Measure LGBTQ+ violence/death with AB1094

Known as the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data Collection Pilot Project, the program will teach coroners and medical examiners how to identify and compile information about a victim's sexual orientation and gender identity in cases of violent death, including suicides and homicides. This is a critical step forward in bringing awareness to the problem of violence in one of our most marginalized communities. [Learn more about this good news by Clicking Here.](#)

Take Just Action for Healthcare Justice for All!

The Women's Health Protection Act will enact protections on the federal level to safeguard access to high-quality care and to secure constitutional rights by protecting patients and providers from political or religious interference. It would bar state and federal legislation that imposes medically unnecessary regulations on access to abortion services including medication, mandatory waiting periods, or out and out abortion bans. The full range of reproductive health care for all is an imperative rooted in our deeply-held beliefs in social justice, moral agency, and religious liberty for all. [Click Here to contact your member of Congress](#) to support passage of the Women's Health Protection Act. It takes less than a minute!

A Virtual Biblical Study on Sexuality and Gender

Two progressive Santa Rosa churches are hosting this study intended to engage LGBTQ+ identity in the bible from an inclusive perspective. The group will gather on Zoom for 4 Thursdays, 10/14, 21, 28, and 11/4, at 6:30 pm. They will be using the book, *Reconciling Scripture*, by Austen Hartke and Emmy Kegler which takes into account biblical integrity and knowledge and the diverse experiences of the LGBTQ+ community. The book is available from ReconcilingWorks.org. You are not required to purchase the book to attend the zoom meetings. Pr Jason does not know the ministers leading this or the book, but discovered this offering from a reputable progressive source. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85956367457?pwd=MzNvUo9RVmxicoDWEw2R1FrNo5uZz09>

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

1: Jennifer Yount
6: Ann Feaver
13: Betty Spamer Hubbard
14: Marilyn Larsen
19: Lucille Battison
24: Marv Ashman
24: Linda Nakagawa

SEPT ANNIVERSARIES!

7: Mark and Terri Reischling
16: Paul and Sherry Eklof
30: Barton & Kirsten Smith

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1: Helen Heal
3: Mike Moore
5: Patty Jane Chapman Foster
6: Daniel Carballal
17: Tom Brandal
18: Bob Larsen
22: Bev Hughes
25: Michelle Giacomini
28: Betsy Ashman

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2: Lynn Berard and Judy Frankel
30: June Goudey and Ann Feaver

WORSHIP – Sunday Sept 26, 2021

Preparation

This week, we conclude a six-week Series connecting the Science of Climate Change to the spiritual practices of Elul (a.k.a. *the Harvest Festivals*). In particular, we are exploring the spiritual arts of Forgiveness in response to the UN report on Climate Crisis.

Prelude

“You Are the Salt of the Earth o People”

New Century Hymnal #181

You are Salt for the Earth, Oh People,
Salt For the Common Good
Share the Flavor of Life, Oh People
Life in the Culture of God!

Bring Forth the Way of Forgiveness,
Bring Forth the Way of Peace.
Bring Forth the Way of Justice,
Bring Forth a Culture of God!

Six Elements of Being in Forgiveness

We are called to T'Shuva: to Turn & Return to:

Re-alize

What is *really* going on? Moving past denial & othering.
Being curious, courageous - an observer and ally of dignity

Re-sponsible

100% response-able *in* the way things are and the way things are not.
Being a cause in the matter of our Common Life
Practicing Radah, the sovereign-servant power given to each of us at birth.

Re-spect

Honoring both life-giving & destructive human agency above
mere tools/weapons of power which are useless without a shield of dignity.

Re-consider

To turn and return (consider) what the Earth & People are for.

Re-pair

Healing an existing unjust/damaged condition
without the expectation of returning to an imagined better past.

Re-new

To return again into the stream of forgiveness
So that Life might flourish beyond repair.

*For an outstanding article
revealing the practice of Renewal as an
“entering-again into the stream of forgiveness”*

[Click Here.](#)

Poetry

by Lin Cava, abridged

“Renewal”

Mother walked into the Sea this morning.
Harkened to the song of Neptune;
the wail of the sirens. She was called to beauty.
She travelled long and far leaving land behind
as a lost memory, a forgotten effort.

Relieved forever of the weight of the fight, of the blight
She has left us to our own devices.
I cannot even cry, "Why?" For I am aware.

Mother walked into the Sea this morning.
She moved past vast deserts in the Oceans,
fled beyond sea lanes and gulf streams
shedding tears to match the salt of the sea
she cried for the lost coral reefs

She cried for the loss of life
She cried until there were no more tears
...and still she swam to where now she rests.
There is no more she will do. There is no more she can fix.

Renewal.

Mother will rise once more.
And for a while, there will be no callousness
No blight of forgotten crimes against
the lifeblood that sustains her;
Mother Earth.
Only she shall remember that once,
there was greatness in Humankind...

Congregational Singing

“You Are the Salt of the Earth, O People”

New Century Hymnal #181

Music by Carlton Young, Lyric by Brian Wren, adapted

You are Salt for the Earth, Oh People,
Salt For the Common Good
Share the Flavor of Life, Oh People
Life in the Culture of God!

Bring Forth the Way of Forgiveness,
Bring Forth the Way of Peace.
Bring Forth the Way of Justice,
Bring Forth a Culture of God!

You are a seed of the Word, Oh People,
Seed for the Common Good
Seeds of listening for our reNewal
Life in the Culture of God!

Bring Forth the Way of Forgiveness,
Bring Forth the Way of Peace.
Bring Forth the Way of Justice,
Bring Forth a Culture of God!

You are a light to the world, Oh People,
Light that can cast away fear
Light that rises up from darkness
Life in the Culture of God!

Bring Forth the Way of Forgiveness,
Bring Forth the Way of Peace.
Bring Forth the Way of Justice,
Bring Forth a Culture of God!

Today's Teaching Scriptures

Revelation 21:4-5 “See, the home of God is among mortals. The Author of Life will dwell with and in them. They will be God’s peoples, God will be with them. The One Who Heals will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. Mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”⁵ And the one who has been established into Sovereign- Servant power¹ said, “See, I am making all things new.”

Matthew 5: 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate those who are hostile to you².’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies as God loves and bless those who curse you. Do good by those who hate you and offer prayer for those who use you and persecute you 45 that you may be a seed of the One who has given you Life. The Author of Life causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be a grown up, therefore, seeing the Author of Life as whole and complete.

Postlude

Variations on “You Are the Salt of the Earth o People”

New Century Hymnal #181

Arrangement by Al Martin

¹ My translation “The one seated on the Throne” in Revelation as “The one who has been established into Sovereign- Servant power” is a reference to the use of the common phrase “Son of Man” in the Hebrew Bible. Son of Man is not to be confused with the Son of God used in other places in the Greek Testament. Son of Man would have been understood by Jesus who was born, lived, and died Jew as a way to draw attention to the reality that humans are not God. It is a way to point out idolatry and to speak about the reality that all humans may set their life forth in Sovereign-Servant power known in Hebrew as Radah.

² I use “those who are hostile” here rather than “your enemy” as hostility is the deep root of the word being employed. This choice helps us to see that it is hostility, an action, that is really the real focus. We thus avoid the common practice of assuming all enemies are “evil” and “bad” - when this is not the moral category that is being explored. Even friends can be or appear to be “hostile.”