

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

First Congregational Church of Reno  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation



**May 1**  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9  
*Disciples Together*

**May 8**  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
John 17:20-26  
*Breaking Chains*

**May 15**  
Pentecost Sunday  
John 14:8-17, (25-27)  
*Gathered and Scattered*

**May 22**  
Trinity Sunday  
John 16:12-15  
*Wisdom Calls*

**May 29**  
Ninth Sunday in Ordinary  
Time  
Luke 7:1-10  
*Faith of an Outsider*

May 2016 *Interim Pastor: Reverend James Kosko*

## *A Note From the Pastor*

### **"5 for 5"**

It has happened a few times over the last couple weeks: Someone would tell me they had no idea what OCWM or **Strengthen the Church is. I'm here to remedy that!**

In our denomination, the United Church of Christ, there is a label some congregations wear proudly and that is **being a "5 for 5" church. What this means is that a "5 for 5" church participates in the four special offerings of the UCC and it makes a donation to the wider church.**

The four special offerings are *One Great Hour of Sharing* (usually in March during lent), *Strengthen the Church* (usually in May), *Neighbors in Need* (October, on World Communion Sunday), and the *Christmas Fund* (December). These offerings come from your direct donations and are treated as **"in and out" by our treasurer...what you give is sent directly to the Conference.**

**The fifth of the "5 for 5" offerings is *Our Church's Wider Mission*, also known as OCWM. This donation is a budgeted line item of the church. Your weekly contributions help us make this offering on a quarterly basis. So you may know the purpose for these special offerings, here is a quick summary of each as presented by the UCC:**

### INSIDE:

- 3 In our Church Family
- 4-5 Council and committees
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- 8-9 Circle, Missions
- 10-11 Kids Korner

*Continued...*

The One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering of the United Church of Christ supports disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. Through OGHS you engage in development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-**financing and women's empowerment**. **The UCC works in** mutual partnership with churches and organizations through Global Ministries and other world-wide networks to help the most vulnerable.

Strengthen the Church is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

The Christmas Fund provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

**Our Church's Wider Mission** (OCWM) funds the work we do in the Associations, Conferences and in the national and global church. OCWM funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and growing. OCWM helps provide pastoral placement (*that's US!*) and education for church leaders; worship materials and theological interpretation; resources and training for stewardship and fundraising; and so much more. As these offerings come up during the year, I hope you will see the need and be generous.

We are one church—a united and uniting church. We are the United Church of Christ.

Blessings on your journey,

*Pastor James*



## *In Our Church Family*

### *News! Birthdays and Anniversaries Ad- ditions Updates Corrections*

Whenever you have news to share, please let us know in the office:

775-747-1414 or email us at

fccreno@sbcglobal.net

### *Deacon of the Month*



*Elizabeth  
Tiffany-Jones*

I was born in Providence, RI. My family then moved to Connecticut for a short period of time. The family moved to Port Clinton, Ohio in 1958, my father being hired priest of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. I graduated in 1971, followed by graduating in 1975 (Bethany College).

I started my teaching career in Middlefield. I moved to Reno in 1995 and resumed my teaching at that time and acquired my Master's degree in Literacy Studies.

I serve as deacon, and also sing in the church choir.

I enjoy gardening, biking, walking the dogs with my husband, Marc, and winter sports (cross-country skiing and snowshoeing).

Please include in your prayers:  
Heinen Family and Friends as they grieve the loss of both Arlene and Harold.  
The Crist Family as they celebrate the birth of their first grandchild, Cecilia.

### *Continuing Prayers:*

June Rivers  
Allan and Janet Bruner  
Ruth and Loren Hart  
Bob Kurvers  
Eric Johnson  
Carol and Bob Lindsay  
George Noble  
Ken Rickett  
Jean Spiller

### *Praise and Thanksgiving:*

- \* Lake Tahoe is above its natural rim; thanks for all the rain and snow that made that happen.
- \* For the 109 pounds of Peanut Butter we delivered to the Food Bank in April, bringing our year to date total to 442.5 pounds!



In nursing  
facilities:

homes or care

Jack & Laura Dunn, 2360 Wingfield Hills Road  
#225, Sparks, NV 89436

## *Council*

Council met April 12th, reports were received, no new business. The next Council Meeting will be May 10th at 7:00 pm in the Manley Room.

## *Buildings and Grounds*

### ROOF LEAK SOAKS CHOIR MUSIC

During the last heavy rain storm the sky lights in the main sanctuary building developed a leak which dripped water onto choir music up on the speaker beside the piano. We have known that our roofs were at the end of their useful life, 53 plus years old, but we were expecting the CE Building to need replacement first. Buildings & Grounds requested proposals from two roofing contractors, D&D Roofing and Scott Roofing in 2014. We have been working with D&D Roofing on making intermittent repairs. In D&D Roofing opinion they do not recommend attempting any repairs due **to the "poor condition of the shingles"**.

The estimated cost to re-roof the sanctuary building is approximately \$35,000.00. This assumes that the roof decking, the material upon which the roof shingles is placed, will not need any repairs, which is probably likely. Please consider making additional contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund.



## *Communications & Media Team*

Paul Urban and volunteers will be looking into revisions to the web site, including making online donations to the church and revising inaccurate information on the web. Our goal is to create an exciting, invitational and engaging introduction to FCCReno through electronic and printed media. If this interests you, please contact Paul Urban.

## *Deacons Dialog*

### Worship Team

What do I do if I Volunteer as Head Usher?

Think of the position of head usher as that of the host or hostess of the Sunday morning worship service.

It is his/her job to arrive by 9:30 to make sure everyone has what they need so that the worshiper can focus on the message.

The usher provides bulletins to worshipers, a cup of water for the pastor, and puts the portable mic into the hands of whoever might need it. If the children are not serving as acolytes, the head usher lights the candles. The usher guides worshipers into the sanctuary and to the front when communion is served. The usher gathers a team to collect offering and peanut butter. Then when the service ends, the head usher sees that everything is once again in its right place.

For more detailed information, pick up a description of the head usher's responsibilities from the envelope on the bulletin board near the Worship Team sign ups. If you are new to the job, the deacon of the month or any of the deacons would be delighted to provide assistance.

### Prayer Chain

The First Congregational Church of Reno has an active prayer chain. Each week, and more often as needed, an email is sent those who have asked to be a part of the prayer chain.

This communication provides information about people or situations that we want to lift to our God in prayer. Anyone is welcome to become a part of the prayer chain. No email?

No problem. You can still be a part of the prayer chain. Phone calls are made to those on the prayer chain who do not have email. Please contact Martie Tracy if you would like to be added or deleted from the prayer chain communications. You can reach Martie at

[tmartie1@gmail.com](mailto:tmartie1@gmail.com) or 476-8805.

Debbie Crist 345-0751 [debcris@charter.net](mailto:debcris@charter.net)

Kay Kurvers 786-4452

[kaykurvers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaykurvers@sbcglobal.net)



## Stewardship

Hey Septuagenarians!

Are you older than 70 1/2 years? If so, you know that at this age you must make mandatory minimum distributions from your IRA annually. These contributions were considered income and were subject to taxes. A law was signed which allows you to transfer up to \$100,000 every year from your IRA to your favorite charity. Our church is a qualified charity for these distributions. Thank you for considering this option as a way of giving to our Church. Consult your tax professional for additional guidance.



### *Spiritual Formation/ Adult Christian Ed Educational Series*

Wednesday Study, 2:00—3:30 pm in the Annex

**“Exploring Islam” begins April 20 through June 1.** Meetings are at 2:00 pm in the Annex. Join us anytime; books will be available. For more information, see Bob Kurvers.

Thursday Night Live Supper and Study, 5:30—7:00 pm in the Manley Room. *Footsteps of the Apostles: The Early Church* began April 7th and will continue through May 12th. All are welcome. For more information, contact Marc Ullom.

# May 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1	2 <i>Laura Dunn</i>	3 <i>Fred Crist</i> Deacons 7 pm, Manley Room	4 Roundtable , noon, M Adult Study, 2:00 pm
8 Worship, 10 am Fellowship following worship Buildings & Grounds	9 Yoga with Jim, 5:30, Annex	10 Council 7 pm, Manley Room	11 <i>Lynne Kyle, George</i> Roundtable , noon, M <b>Women's Connection</b> Adult Study, 2:00 pm Room
15 Worship, 10 am Fellowship following worship	16 <i>Brooke Hanselman, Jonathan Moser</i>  Yoga with Jim, 5:30, Annex	17	18 Roundtable noon, M Adult Study, 2:00 pm
22 <i>Debbie Crist</i> Worship, 10 am Fellowship following worship	23 <i>Don Busick, John de Boer</i>  Yoga with Jim, 5:30, Annex	24 <i>Starla Schellhardt</i> <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Folding party</i> Noon, Manley Room	25 Missions, 11, Pastors Roundtable , noon, M Adult Study, 2:00 pm
29 Worship, 10 am Fellowship following worship	30 <i>Kaynen Hanelman</i>  Yoga with Jim, 5:30, Annex	31	<i>Happy Anniversary</i> Neil & Kay Sanders Craig & Gwen Curtis

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Manley Rm , Annex	5 Thursday Nite Live, 5:30 pm, Manley Room Choir, 7 pm, Sanctuary	6 Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel	7 Food Bank Service, 11 am-1 pm; meet 10:15 at Raley's Key- stone to carpool
<i>ia Russell</i> Manley Room n 1:00, Annex , Manley	12 Thursday Nite Live, 5:30, Manley Room Choir, 7 pm, Sanctuary	13 Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel	14
Manley Room , Annex	19 Thursday Nite Live, 5:30, Manley Room Choir, 7 pm, Sanctuary	20 <i>Isabel Starks</i> Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel  <i>Deadline for Newsletter Articles</i>	21 <i>Janis Bruner, Celeste Robinson</i>
Office Manley Rm , Annex	26 <i>Aleni Sofara</i> Thursday Nite Live, 5:30 pm, Manley Room Choir, 7 pm, Sanctuary	27 Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel	28 <i>Martha Jessup</i> Sunny Side Crafters 11:00 am, Annex

to:

## CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS



### JOIN US FOR YOGA! WITH JIM CHRISTIE

When: Mondays,  
5:30pm—6:30pm

Where:  
First Congregational  
Church of Reno, Annex

#### Why:

- \* Improves strength, awareness, and harmony in both mind and body
- \* Decreases stress
- \* Increases flexibility

## Sacramento Valley Association

### 2016 Spring Gathering

What a great time was had by all. The hospitality was extravagant, the food was fresh and plenty of it, and the room looked lovely.

This was all a background, though, to the stimulating and thoughtful presentation by the Rev. Cynthia McCarthy. Cynthia took us through a series of illustrations and exercises to help us deepen our spiritual strategies. What a wonderful resource we have in our friend Cynthia!

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this a truly welcoming and worthwhile day.

## Afternoon Circle

Afternoon Circle Meeting – Salad Bar Luncheon

**The Afternoon Circle's monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at noon. Please note the time change.** Circle meets in the Annex, which is the building located behind the Church.

Salad greens, dressing, and beverage will be **provided. Please bring your favorite fixin's** (tomatoes, peppers, carrots, shredded cheese, avocado, kidney beans, etc) to share and accompany the salad greens. Joyce Linscott will be providing dessert.

Just a reminder: Circle will not be meeting in June, July or August. In September we will have our Pot Luck Luncheon at Jerry and Celeste **Robinson's home.**

Hope you will join us for the Salad Bar.

*Debbie Crist, Kathy Odynski, Celeste Robinson, Lois Stephens and Martie Tracy*



## *Missions Committee*

### Women in Transition

Life Changes, Inc., a facility helping women whose lives are in transition, is in need of household and personal items, especially:

- \* Bedding, sheets, and pillow cases for twin beds
- \* Hygiene items, such as toothpaste and deodorant
- \* Cleaning supplies

They could also use kitchen supplies such as pot and pans, dishes, and silverware.

We will be collecting donations until May 15. Please bring your donations to church and place them in the narthex by the Life Changes sign.

### Strengthen The Church Special Offering

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message. Our congregation will receive the STC

offering through Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016. Please give generously.

Come join in the Fun at the Food Bank!

**May 7, Keystone Raley's**  
Parking Lot at 10:15 am



Volunteers are needed weekly to fill food boxes at Elmcrest School. One person Wednesdays to unload food, 1:00—3:00. On Thursdays, two to three people needed, 1:00—4:00 to fill boxes for individual families. About 30 neighborhood families will be helped by our volunteers. Please sign up

FCCR Polo shirts are available! Place your order now: \$35 for one, or 2 for \$65. Sizes for youth, ladies and men from extra small to 5XL. And the wonderful Tee Shirts will also be available for order, \$15 for one and 2 for \$25. See Liz Knott to place your order.

### *Some Important Details for Sundays*

Worship begins at 10:00 am. The Nursery is open at 9:40 (In the Annex, just behind the Sanctuary) for children four years and under. Older children are welcome to attend **Sunday school following the Children's Conversation**. First Sundays; children start out in Sunday School and join their families for communion.

# Kidz Korner

## Summer's Coming!

Winter hasn't quite let go yet this year, which is a good thing for our forests and lakes! Still, I can't help thinking about the long, sunny days ahead.

One of the best ways to enjoy summer in our part of the world is to go to church camp, and we are lucky to have two church camps within driving distance. If you're interested in camp, you can go to either Camp Cazadero in Sonoma County or Camp Tamarack in the high Sierra's, east of Fresno.

Alysa went last year and she has written about it for this newsletter. Summer camps occur in July; please check in with Saralinda or a Sunday school teacher if you want more information!

*Saralinda*

Last July, I went to Camp Cazadero located near Santa Rosa, CA. It was about a 5 hour drive from Reno but every minute of the drive was worth it. Going to Camp Caz was the most amazing thing that could have happened to me.

At Camp Caz there was a total of about 50 campers. I stayed in a cabin called "Reefe". I had the most amazing girls in my cabin. Every morning we woke up, ate breakfast and had morning circle prayer and meditation. Then we broke into smaller groups and enjoyed workshops such as henna and tie dying shirts.

The sports activities were amazing! All types of sports were offered including soccer, capture the flag, basketball and hiking to name a few. After lunch we had free time for about 2-3 hours. During free time we could either do arts and crafts or go to the pool. The pool was so much fun. Just don't run...I learned that the hard way!

Around 3'oclock we went back to our cabins and got ready for dinner and evening activities such as camp fires and vespers.

The last day of camp was very difficult. The counselors and campers had gotten so close to each other. Packing my things and saying goodbye to everyone was so hard. There were many tears shed but we knew we would all see each other next year. Going to Camp Caz changed me, it made me think of how lucky I was to be there. It's a life time experience that I will never forget.

I encourage all the kids at FCC to join me at Camp Caz this summer.

*Alysa O'Brien*

# The Big Quest!

Where can we find God and the Holy Spirit?

Whether you go to camp or not, we have good stuff planned for kids at church this summer. One exciting activity will be our first-in-a-few-years Vacation Bible School. From June 13-15 from 5:30 until 8:00ish pm, we will host Vacation Bible School at FCC Reno. Kids, ages 5-14, are invited to join us as we explore the many ways and **places we can find God's spirit and strengthen our faith.**

**In 3 fun-filled evenings, we'll look inward, outward and all around to find and celebrate God's grace. Our activities will include music, drama, scavenger hunts, yoga and dance, art, Bible stories and scripture, and (of course) food. I hope you will bring a friend and join your church friends as we party – Vacation Bible School style! I'll keep you posted about how to get involved!**



## Coming Soon:

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming back to FCC! For three evenings, June 13-15, we will host a VBS for our young church members and their guests. Our theme is Summer Seek: Unique and Fun Places to Find God.

Mark your calendar and invite your friends! Food, faith and fun will be provided! Anyone who would like to participate or help with this exciting event, please contact Saralinda!



First Congregational Church of  
 Reno, United Church of Christ  
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 Reno, NV 89503

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May 2016  
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 Office Hours Mon-Fri 9:00-2:00  
 An Open & Affirming Congregation

Return Service Requested



WE'RE ALSO ON THE WEB  
[www.renofirstcongregational.org](http://www.renofirstcongregational.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FCCReno](http://www.facebook.com/FCCReno)



Sunday Worship  
 10:00 am  
 Sunday School for Children  
*Nursery Care Provided*

Study Group  
 Wednesdays at 2:30 pm  
 Wednesdays at 6:00 pm  
 Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Prayer Group, Chism Chapel

Toot! Toot! Peanut Butter!

As Always: Any Sunday you are invited to bring peanut butter for the Food Bank. Pick **up a jar whenever you're at the supermarket!** Your thoughtfulness is always greatly appreciated!



*We are an Open & Affirming congregation, welcoming all persons -- regardless of race, ethnic background, economic status, gender, age, personal ability, or sexual orientation -- into the full life and ministry of the church.*