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Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingeran

March
2010

Return Service Requested

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS March 14, 2010

Move your clocks: **“Spring FORWARD one hour”**
before going to bed Saturday night, March 13th.

Easter Lilies & Floral Cross

On March 21st and March 28th, a representative of the Board of Deaconesses will be taking orders for Easter lilies. A price for the lilies will be published at a later date in the bulletin. Easter Lilies are purchased by members and friends of our church in memory of or in honor of loved ones. They are placed at the Altar to adorn our Sanctuary during the Lenten Season. The lilies may be taken home after Worship Service on Easter Sunday. All remaining flowers will go to homebound members & friends of the church.

We will also present our Floral Cross to Christ on Easter Sunday, adorning our sanctuary alongside the lilies. We ask you to bring fresh flowers from your garden to place on our floral cross. Paul Moore will assist you, as he has done so faithfully for many years. We appreciate your heartfelt gifts to the Christ in His risen, living spirit! Thank you, Paul !

A St. Patrick's Day Event

You are invited to attend a
St. Patrick's Day Party
on March 20, 2010.



We have planned a wonderful evening
of food and entertainment.
Assemble your own masterpiece:
A Large Irish Baked Potato
and an array of delicious toppings
will make this creation your own.
Salad and dessert will complete your meal.



The Chapter 4 Quartet
will entertain us by singing Irish Ballads.

Theme: **“The Wearing of the Green”**

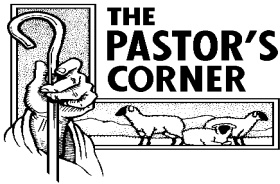
Cost / Donation: \$5.00 per person

Time: Social: 5 pm Dinner - 5:30 pm

Bring your appetite and come and join us—
Bring your family, friends and neighbors.

(Last day to purchase tickets will be March 17th.)

In God's Love find your true joy and center.
In Christ's spirit find the holy door and enter!



What's the Plan ?

“I know your works, your labor and your patient endurance.” (Revelation 2:2)

“Behold, I make all things **NEW**.” (Revelation 21: 5)

“The wind blows where it chooses,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do NOT know where it comes from
or where it is going. So it is with everyone
who is born of the Spirit. (John 3: 8)

I had a friend who very often said to me, “Hal, what’s the plan?”

I have to admit that I very often do not know what God has in mind.
Yet, I try to “show up” each day with the intention of doing whatever I can, lovingly,
to collaborate and serve the Highest in every possible way.

In these times of increasing complexity, too many distractions may take us off course.
It is very good and wise to plan our day with intentionality, but often the day might turn out quite differently.

It is good to organize and begin to take steps forward, but **BE ALERT** and listen carefully;
sometimes God has other plans. What we thought would happen, **doesn't**.

Our response can be frenzied and fearful, impatient and irritable,
or we can say, “O God, I am giving You my best. Show me Your best way.
Be with me and take me along Your highest Path.
Show me how You want me to proceed - or wait for further direction. Your Plan is always for my highest good.”

Did the Christ know everything ahead of time about going to the cross?
It is unlikely that even in His deep communion with the Highest,
the Way of Heaven was completely revealed to our Lord beforehand. What made Him embrace the way
of suffering and complete sacrifice? Somehow, He felt the call of God's Love, and He was obedient.

We all move in Mystery. The more we learn, the less we know.
What the Christ teaches us, however, is to give our best, **BE ALERT**, listen carefully
and know that Divinity intends us **ONLY** good. God's Plan for us is always larger than just our own intentions.
The cross, no matter how painful, always leads to the open door of resurrection:
Earthly births and deaths always end in commas, leading us into new chapters and heights of Spirit ahead
on our surprising, continuing, expanding, incredible life journey in God.

The Christian faith has survived and flourished because the Christ has demonstrated
that life always survives out of births and deaths. Energy cannot be created or destroyed, only re-shaped and re-directed.
The path of life is always an ascending spiral, lifting us through our suffering and ignorance
through the open door of Radiance. Each of us is wondrously made and is a miracle in the making.
The Living Christ is the Lord of all religions and humanity, one Who embodies the completely awakened human being,
the Lord of Earth, Who welcomes and lifts up **all** living beings into the greater Love and Light of God.

Although our choices and plans may not always come to fruition, a greater Presence awaits us, fills us and invites us.
The destiny of awakening our own Christhood is God's gift to us, even though the details of our journey
are often filled with surprises. However, when one door closes, another will always open to us.
No life is omitted or left behind, except by its own choosing. The Great Spirit moves within us
and all around us, blessing us and leading us Home: right here and everywhere - now and forever. Pastor Hal



Moderator's Message

I would like to thank Art Peterson for his outstanding job as our UCC Moderator in 2009. Financially, it was a rough year, and it took someone like Art, with his leadership and creative skills, to guide us, spiritually and professionally, through the year.

At our Annual Meeting I suggested to our UCC Council and Board of Trustees that an ad-hoc committee be appointed to provide a priority list of infrastructure projects and needs for our church. These needs would be funded by monies from Anne Edmondson's gift when the funds arrive. This committee will be chaired by our Vice Moderator - Ken Dukes. Committee members will include Richard Westlund, Mary Lou Snider, J. Hisel, Don Ross, Art Peterson, Jim Wilson, Alan Gooding, Jack Young, Pastor Hal and Morris Nyquist. This will be a well rounded committee that can provide much practical experience.

Pastor Lillie, Balm of Truth Church, who used our Chapel on Sunday mornings has moved to the city of Hemet to be more deeply involved in a ministry to the homeless. We welcome a new UCC Latino church with Pastor Luis Ramirez, from Perris, who will now use our Chapel for their Sunday services.

We had a separate meeting with Pastor Garland (HLOTH) and staff to discuss several items: security, landscaping matters, and to update us on their new church status and flexible time frame of when they will be receiving their building permits. Pastor Garland said they felt an optimistic possible completion date would be one and a half years.

Jim Wilson reported to the Council that the Board of Trustees would be having an internal audit to clean up our financial records and to ensure that all income and expenses are put into the correct line items.

We discussed with Pastor Don Vannoy, our Membership Chairman, suggestions for him to form a new committee to come up with suggestions on getting our church members to bring a guest to church on Sunday mornings (hopefully once a month). Our Council suggested it might be an incentive program, a team concept or a stimulating and friendly "competitive" program.

We all have new home owners moving into our communities, so let's reach out to them and invite them to church. We look forward to an excellent new year.

**Gary Tidwell,
Moderator, 2010**

A CONDITION OF COMPLETE SIMPLICITY

There are two ways to get enough: one is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less (G. K. Chesterton). The spirituality of just enough underlies the preparation of the Lenten Season. We prepare for resurrection, rebirth, blossoming like a tree planted near living waters that yields its fruit in due season. Whatever season of life, we have some blossoming to do. And in the winter of life, the task is to wait upon the calling of the season in the day we are given. For me, Lent is about simplicity and spiritual freedom. God has brought me toward something, more or less. Some reality within awaits to be awakened. But what is its name? And when is the fullness of time?

Often the call of God for our present task goes unheard because we cling to attitudes of control and possessiveness. As a people, we do not much value the inner journey. The surface remains just fine. We prefer to do things, achieve something, and a clear pattern of successes. We distract ourselves with many competing appeals. Our inner truth may reflect a fraction of the person each are meant to become. We tend not to be a single self, but a whole committee of selves—professional self, civic self, religious self, social self, and intellectual self. My name is Legion for we are many. And these words are not meant to judge any other person, but only what I find in myself, when I am honest.

The spirituality of “enough” is about simplicity. When I need to rediscover simplicity I usually turn to the writings of the Quakers. Thomas Kelly writes, *Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny...It is a Light Within which illuminates the face of God...* At the difficult edges of life often comes a whisper or a faith call, the still small voice inviting us to a richer living which we know we are somehow passing by. If only we could slip over into that Center, if only. And we can, “if only” our little pieces surrender into the abiding flow of our soul’s holy habitation in God..

We so easily forget the moments when we did slip over into that Center and glimpsed the Holy One within us guiding our ways. Such moments do not originate with our efforts to achieve or produce. God relentlessly grants us the grace before and beyond any efforts of our own doing. Maybe in the Lenten Season, we might reflect on the unforeseeable nature of our path until now. Who could have guessed? How could we have known?

We all have known moments where we experienced an awe inspiring instant of sensing the inexhaustible nature of what is most simple and common place. How have we come to be thus far who we have come to be? We are unable to give an adequate accounting to the why and wherefore of it all. But in the Spirit, we sense the incomprehensible nature of simple things glimpsed at great depth.

These fleeting glimpses stir within us the desire for a more abiding daily awareness of the depths so fleetingly glimpsed. The quiet inner assurance that the present moment, just the way it is, somehow in its deepest reality manifests the grace of God. Jesus not only asks all, but gives all.

What is enough? What is more than enough? And how can I keep alive my inner hilarity in glad abandonment? Says T. S. Eliot, *A condition of complete simplicity (Costing not less than everything)*.

Ken Carlson,
Associate Pastor

Dear Pastor Hal & Congregation,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and clients of Menifee Valley Community Cupboard, I would personally like to thank you for your donations to assist needy individuals in the Menifee Valley area.

The Community Cupboard is a very important part of the Menifee Valley community, striving to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among low-income residents of Menifee Valley. Currently, more than 1100 seniors, families and homeless persons come to the Community Cupboard food distribution facility in Sun City each month when they are unable to provide adequately for themselves and /or their families.

Last year the Community Cupboard distributed enough food to prepare nearly 185,000 meals; an increase of 22% from 2008. In fact, the number of individuals seeking food assistance has nearly doubled since 2007 and we greatly appreciate your support during these difficult times.

Thank you,
Sandra Aldridge,
Executive Director

Mission Board News

Pilgrim Pines Summer Camp

Now is the time to get your reservation in for any of our youth who want to go to summer camp. Packets are available in the office or call Carol Hisel at 672-8436. The Church, through your Mission Board, will pay 50% of the campership fees. Don't delay because the weeks fill up rapidly and you want to be sure to get the week you need.

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Sunday, March 14th**

Once again, it is time for our annual OGHS offering. Part of this offering goes to aid in disasters all over the world—such as the earthquake victims in Haiti. When all UCC Churches join together we CAN make a difference. Also, a portion of this offering goes to aid underdeveloped countries in learning how to improve agriculture to better the diet and living conditions for their families.

This year's theme is "DO YOU LOVE ME? FEED MY SHEEP" Search your heart and give with love.

Carol Hisel, Mission Board Chair



THANK YOU for your much appreciated support. Your church is moving ahead this year, and we hope to reach out to more needy individuals and families in our area.

We have had a very good response in pledges, and again we thank you for your generosity. One of the churches that previously used our facility has now moved to Hemet, so we are looking for a new congregation that may wish to use these premises to worship God and grow in Christ. If you might know of such a group, please let us know.

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Pearl G. Boyd
27601 Sun City, Blvd. # 130
Sun City, CA 92586
(951) 679-6272

Chuck & Eleanor (Lu) Powell
29246 Falling Waters Drive
Sun City, CA 92585
(951) 672-6766

CELEBRATION !

Our very dear friend and member of our church,
**Mamie Jones, will be "105" years young
on March 15th, 2010. Happy Birthday, Mamie!
She won't be at church with us on her special**

**day,
but she will always have a place in our heart.**
We know Mamie would appreciate hearing from
you,

especially at this special time in her life.
What a special person and blessing
Mamie is and has been to each and every one of
us.

Mamie Jones
c/o Harry Jones
26511 Desmonde
Lomita, CA 90717-3613



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

LAYREADERS

3/07 - Betty Bryant
3/14 - James Wilson
3/21 - Donna Goodrich
3/28 - Lucia Gallo

GUEST BOOK

3/07 -Richard & Shirley Goward
3/14 -Jean Jewell
3/21 -Cynnie Vannoy
3/28 -Errol & Muriel Holmes

GREETERS

3/07 - Sarah Mensah
3/14 - Helena Mendis
3/21 - Betty Bryant
3/28 - Marian Thompson

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

3/1 - 3/31 - Carol & J. Hisel

USHERS

Don Ross, Betty Bryant,
Wally Hutchison, Ken Dukes,
J. Hisel & Linda Neidert

SOUND TECHNICIAN

3/07 & 3/28 - Todd Ross
3/14 & 3/21 - J. Hisel

SECURITY

3/01 - 3/15 - Don Ross
3/16 - 3/31 - Wally Hutchison

A Vision of Peace

...nation shall NOT lift up sword
against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own
vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts
has spoken. (Micah 4: 3b, 4)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

DEATHS:

+ Eileen Allison, Aug 7, 2009

MARCH Anniversaries

Ken & Judy Carlson,
(44 years on the 5th)

William & Helen O'Laverty,
(65 years on the 25th)

MARCH Birthdays

Eric Anderson, (1st)
Nathan Espanol, (4th)
Kweku Mensah, (4th)
Christian Frahn, (5th)
Margie Feaster, (6th)
Paul Moore, (8th)
Iris Arthur, (10th)
Amy Frahn, (10th)
Mamir Jones, (15th)
105 years young !
Patricia Yeoman, (17th)
Mary Lou Snider, (21st)
Margaret Chellman, (22nd)
Mary Peterson, (23rd)
Ann Dubois, (25th)
Jim Luna, (25th)

SONSHINER Sponsors

On the back page of the SONSHINER are the businesses that pay for the printing of our newsletter. They are businesses in our area that you may need at one time or another. Please look at their ads and keep them in mind as needed. Let others know how you liked (or did not like) their service.

We send our newsletters to over 350 addresses, 12 months a year. That is a lot of printing that we do not pay for. Please look and utilize our sponsors if needed.

**Thank you, Cheryl
Church Office**

**Lectionary Lessons
for March**

3/07– Third Sunday in Lent
Isa 55:1-9 * Ps 63:1-8
1 Cor 10: 1-13 * Luke 13:1-9
OPEN INVITATION

3/14 - Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12 * Ps 32
2 Cor 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b—32
EMBRACING LOVE

3/21 - Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isa 43:16-21 * Ps 126
Phil 3:4b-14 * John 12:1-8
SOMETHING NEW

3/28-Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm/Passion Sunday
Ps 118: 1-2,19-29
(Liturgy of the Palms)
Luke 19: 28-40
Isa 50:4-9a Ps 31: 9-16
Phil 2:5– 11 * Luke 22:14-23:56
(Liturgy of the Passion)
INTO JERUSALEM

**Remember, I
(the Living Christ)
am with you
ALWAYS,
to the end of the age. (Amen)**
(Matthew 28: 20)

**Treasurer's Report
Month Ending January 2010
General Funds Only**

<u>Jan. Inc</u>	<u>Jan. Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
14,814	16,067	< 1,253 >
Year to Date Totals		
<u>1-Mo Inc</u>	<u>1-Mo. Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
14,814	16,067	< 1,253 >

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Westlund