

First  
Congregational  
Church  
of Glendale  
UCC

2001 Canada Blvd  
818-243-2100



Light Love Truth  
Hope Peace Justice  
Faith Life Unite  
TOGETHER

**April  
2012**  
**“Look where  
we’re heading!!”**



**thoughts from  
Rev. Rudolph Van Graan**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

I am you, you are me  
We are one, don't you see?  
One undivided body  
God in me, God in you, all in God!  
The same Spirit  
Dwelling in each of us  
As we worship here as One

Greetings to all our Members and Friends!

We have just completed a blessed Lenten Season starting with Ash Wednesday on February 22 through Good Friday during which time we explored the topics of Spiritual Disciplines. Our challenge was to explore and find alternative ways of celebrating our human condition. We realized how spectacular we as human beings are, that each one of us is unique, beautiful, and indeed a reflection of the Divine Creator. We looked at the practical disciplines of prayer, meditation and centering, and searched for meaningful ways of expressing our spirituality. We even looked at the practical side of being human, by celebrating our bodies (you will remember Sneaker Sunday when Jeanette Mendia invited us to exercise, do yoga and eat healthy). We took responsibility for our community by offering our facility as a Red Cross shelter for when disaster strikes. On March 25 Barbara Miner took us on the path of resting and presence by introducing some ideas and practices that are critical in spiritual development but rarely used in Christian circles. Throughout this period we engaged in ONA conversations where we explored the inclusive love of God in different ways.

The “next big thing” is concluding the ONA process with the vote that will take place on April 29. On page 3 you will find an update from the ONA Task Force. Again, I encourage you to participate in conversation and the process in general, so we have a well informed Congregational vote on April 29.

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team has been meeting on a regular basis and will soon share more about this new and exciting ministry. Two of our members, Linda Conover and John Greenwall have been nominated to serve on the Committee for Church and Ministry of the Central Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference, UCC (SCNCUCC). Let us also not forget Jackie Rader and Mitchi Reyes who both serve on the SCNCUCC Conference Board and other boards. Our thanks go to all our members who are actively involved in our church, whether in FCC Glendale or in the wider UCC.

I would like to remind you of the **Annual Gathering of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC, on June 8 and 9 at Chapman University in Orange, CA.** As part of the planning committee, I can share the scoop that this year will be an awesome gathering. Read about special workshops that will be presented by Barbara Miner and Joel Rieke on page 6.

Folks, we are still running the office without an office manager, and I would like to thank all the volunteers who step up and help wherever there is a need. May I recognize the services of Liz, Susan, Mitchi, Lillie, Judy, Al, Joel and each one who works hard to make our church what it is. Thank you all!

Easter Blessings,  
Rudolph

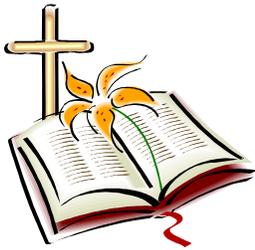
**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon: 11am – 3pm  
Tue – Fri: 10am – 4pm

**CHURCH NUMBERS**

Office: 818-243-2100  
Rudolph's cell: 818-317-4202  
E-mail: [admin@fccglendale.org](mailto:admin@fccglendale.org)  
[www.fccglendale.org](http://www.fccglendale.org)

# Celebrate EASTER!



## Easter Sunday, April 8

- 8 am Sunrise Service in the Glen,**  
**9 am Brunch**  
**10 am Celebration Service in the Sanctuary,**  
**11 am Children's Easter Egg Hunt & Fellowship**

The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone who contributed toward Easter Flowers.

### GIVEN BY:

Jim & Liz Dowd  
 Judy Gorham  
 Lillie Kraut  
 Laurel & Joe Pavone  
 Lois Svetich

### IN MEMORY OF

Archie McMullan, Kay & Jim Dowd, Scott Rader  
 My Son, Darrell Gorham  
 Gladys Niedrich, Donald Kraut, Steve Kraut, Barbara Kraut  
 Marge & Gary Wade, Tom & Emily Pavone  
 Charles & Seba Kehr, Roy Svetich

### TO CELEBRATE

Linda Conover  
 Jan & Jim Drugan  
 Myrna Hase  
 Barbara & Noel Miner  
 Susan Rosenberg  
 Rudolph van Graan

Mindfulness  
 Doug's college graduation in May  
 My Loving Daughter, Donna  
 Mrs. Veola Cornick's long & sweet life  
 Easter  
 The ONA process

### IN HONOR OF

Jim & Liz Dowd

Betty McMullan

## APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All the Sundays in April will be focused on the theme of **The New Me – Revealing the True Self**. One can see this in a narrow view, following the Lenten Season where we explored various spiritual disciplines. In a broader view, “Revealing the True Self” also links our diverse spiritual expressions with the process of preparing our church for voting on the ONA statement (draft on page 3)

The worship planning team, with the blessing of the Deacons, invites participation “from the floor”. On Easter Sunday, April 8 and the following Sundays, we would like to give individuals the opportunity to do exactly that; giving a chance to share one’s faith journey/ be honest as to who one really is/ reveal the true self.

<u>Date</u>		<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Head Usher</u>
<b>Apr 8</b>	EASTER		Laurel	Erwin Lutz	Erwin Lutz
8 am Outside	SUNDAY		Pavone	Liz Dowd	
10 am Inside		Celeste & Al Lepe	Laurel Pavone	Susan Rosenberg Jim Reichgelt	
<b>Apr 15</b>	ONA Educational Conversation	Carol Lutz	Laura Russell	Myrna Hase Donna McClelland	Erwin Lutz
<b>Apr 22</b>			Linda Conover	Ernie & Mitchi Reyes	Erwin Lutz
<b>Apr 29</b>			John Greenwall	Mary & Joseph Rodrigues	Erwin Lutz

# Conversations and Discussions

## An Update on ONA

Dear Members and Friends,

We have completed four of the five planned educational discussions which we hope have been helpful to you as we explore the possibility of becoming an Open and Affirming (ONA) church. We have been pleased with both the attendance and the level of participation in these discussions.

We have had a lot of feedback which, in turn, has helped us to recognize and address your concerns. As a result of this feedback, we are modifying the topic for the final discussion to be held on April 15 to include both how to talk to others about our church becoming ONA and what kinds of changes, if any, we might expect if we become an ONA church. This should be a particularly interesting discussion, and we hope you will be able to attend.

As you know, a Special Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, April 29, at which time you will be asked to vote on a statement declaring ourselves to be ONA. Following is a *draft* of that statement.

***“As an Open and Affirming member church of the United Church of Christ, First Congregational Church of Glendale purposefully strives toward cultural diversity of all persons with full inclusiveness of race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, expression of spirituality, and any other way of describing people. We embrace diversity in our members, our leaders, visitors, clergy and staff. We embrace diversity in our polity, practice and expression of spirituality. All are most welcome.”***

The ONA Task Force -- Barbara Miner, Susan Rosenberg, and Pastor Rudolph -- is anxious to talk with anyone who has concerns that have not been met, either individually or in groups. We want to be sure you have every opportunity to be heard, to express any concerns and to ask questions. We hope for a vote on the 29th that will reflect strong support from a unified congregation on the prospect of going ONA.

The ONA Task Force  
Barbara, Susan and Rudolph

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:  
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2012 11:15 AM  
Agenda—Vote on Opening & Affirming Statement**

# FCC Happenings

## ***Make a Connection this Summer!***

Pilgrim Pines is looking for volunteers to serve as counselors for the 2012 youth summer camp. Please consider making a valuable contribution for some amazing kids this year by volunteering a week as a camp counselor for UCC youth. Pilgrim Pines needs counselors for grades 1-12 as well as activities coordinators, nurses, assistants for kids with special needs and anyone willing to pitch in, lend a hand and have a great time. For more information, please contact Jackie Radar.

See article on page 6.

## ***Each One Reach One***

March 18<sup>th</sup> marked our first worship service dedicated to outreach by bringing in our own friends and family. Our friends included Jeanette Mendia, who instructs our Saturday morning yoga class and who shared a holistic approach to worship by adding uplifting movement to our music. We were also happy to welcome three new friends, Brittney Williams, Courtney Smith and Taylor Judkin, 8<sup>th</sup> semester students at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Their performance illustrated the dangers of eating disorders and the pressures of society that can distract us from wholly loving and caring for ourselves. It was a day to value our health and focus on the spiritual discipline of caring for our bodies, as Rudolph's sermon helped to remind us. Let's keep this new tradition going as we share a variety of topics with our friends and family on the third Sunday of every month- Each One Reach One Sunday!

## ***Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Rudolph!***

...or Reverend Van Graan as some of us may have called him for that first week. So much has happened in two years! On March 18<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Rudolph's 2<sup>nd</sup> year as minister of FCC Glendale! Thank you so much, Rudolph, for all of your dedication, spiritual guidance, leadership and passion. You have brought and continue to bring life to our community and your anniversary is truly a reason to celebrate. Lucky for you, there is still a ton of work left to do!

## ***Taking Shelter at FCCG***

FCC Glendale is now an official Red Cross emergency shelter! We are blessed to be able to make our building available to those in need in the event of a disaster or emergency. It's an opportunity to provide a valuable service to our community and reach out to others in a time of need. Special thanks to Ms. Osas Otasowie, Faith Based Coordinator for the American Red Cross for helping us to coordinate this arrangement and for joining us for worship on March 11. Her joyful presence was a welcome and fitting way to celebrate serving our Glendale community!



**American  
Red Cross**

# Upcoming Events

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sally Willingham	April 6
Bryan Van Wegner	April 6
Monroe Jones	April 23
Mary Ritchie	April 24
Pamela Smith	April 24
Jackie Rader	April 25

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **ELDERS**

Friday, April 6  
9:00 am

### **COUNCIL**

Tuesday, April 10  
7:00 pm

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

To be announced

### **BOARD OF OUTREACH**

Sunday, April 22  
11:30 am

### **TRUSTEES and DEACONS**

Tuesday, April 16  
7:00 pm

### **CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE**

Our calendar is now available on the web site,  
check it out.

**WWW.FCCGLENDAL.EORG**

## **Women's Fellowship Luncheon & Program**

**Saturday, May 5  
11:30 am through lunch**



Program: Silk Scarf Painting, by Rhea Vittal

We will all get a chance to try silk scarf painting and Rhea will give us the background on this art from India. She will also bring some sarees that are hand painted and block printed. She also teaches classes for different groups and at PCC.

Admission: a salad for the salad bar potluck

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall, or email the church so we can know how many will be attending.

More information: Judy Gorham (818) 243-3590

## ***MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC!***

Our annual Memorial Day Hot Dog Fest has become a regular hit!

### **Mark Your Calendars**

**Monday, May 28th @ Noon**

It's a great opportunity to reach out to our community and enjoy sunshine, food and fellowship.

This year we are working with the **American Red Cross** to make the festival more fun and successful than ever. What we need most are donations of picnic food items.



Please contact Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall for more information or to sign up to donate hot dogs, buns, beverages, desserts or to help contribute in any way to this fun and special yearly event.

# UCC NEWS



## **JOIN US FOR SUMMER CAMP 2012!!**

*Secrets of the Kingdom: The Parables of Jesus*

Discover the stories that teach us about what it means to live in God's realm and how we might learn something for our lives today. At Pilgrim Pines, experience the joy and energy from campfires, vespers, hikes, fellowship, and fun! Make new friends, meet up with old friends, and enjoy the environment God created.

Due to budget constraints, Pilgrim Pines will be staffing summer camp with volunteers only this year and we could use your help & talents! Spend a week with some amazing campers and fellow volunteers. To learn more, please visit [pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://pilgrimpinescamp.org) or email Jackie Rader at [Jackie.Rader@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.Rader@gmail.com) for more information.

**Summer Camp 2012 Open House!** If you haven't been to camp before and would like to take a tour and ask questions, join the staff on May 5 or June 2 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Pilgrim Pines.

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## **Annual Gathering of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC**

**June 8 and 9, 2012**

**Chapman University in Orange, CA.**

The following workshops will be presented by our members Rev. Dr. Barbara Miner and Joel Rieke.

**Achieving Presence: The Spirituality of De-Stressing—The Rev. Dr. Barbara Miner and Mr. Joel Rieke**—In the first of a two-part series on Achieving Presence, this workshop offers practical ways of spiritual de-stressing. When your schedule is so busy that you can hardly breathe, how do you cope? Rev. Dr. Barbara Miner will not only talk you through, but also walk you through six easy steps to achieving a higher level of spirituality and consciousness. No matter how busy we get, we can each learn to stay connected to a place of meditative spirit.

**Achieving Presence: The Spirituality of Meditative Music—Mr. Joel Rieke and Rev. Dr. Barbara Miner**—In the second part of the series of Achieving Presence, we focus on bringing meditative spirit into the worship setting. Through group participation we will explore and demonstrate creating personal presence through song, sound and silence. We will also talk about the practicalities of introducing these practices to your congregation and provide some easy starting points. If you join this workshop, it is important that you are interested in sincerely allowing yourself and your congregation to become comfortable exploring this aspect of your spiritual journey.

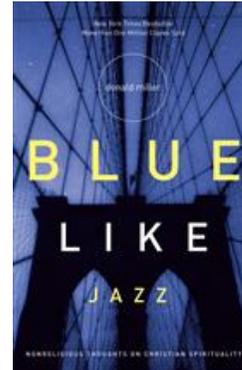
# Weekly Spiritual Practice

## Women's Spirituality Group

Please join us on Friday mornings at 9 am.  
Together we hold discussions about our current reading.

Blue Like Jazz, by Donald Miller  
A book about non-religious thoughts on Christian spirituality.

The movie "Blue Like Jazz" opens in theatres April 13, 2012.  
For more information, visit [bluelikejazzthemovie.com](http://bluelikejazzthemovie.com)



## Choir Rehearsals Wed 7:15pm



Come help us lead in worship and enjoy yourself  
in the process!

All ages and voices welcome.



## Family Dinners

Come join in communion with our church family  
each Wednesday at 6pm (\$7 suggested donation)



**Yoga with Jeanette  
Mendia**

**Saturdays  
11:15AM- 12:15PM**

Join us for an all-levels  
Anahata Hatha Yoga  
Session in the chapel.

Donations are welcomed.

Please bring your own  
mat and a bottle of water.



## Group Meditation

**Saturdays 10am-11am**

Need some quiet time?

Begin your weekends  
peacefully. Help cultivate  
spiritual discipline,  
presence and a quiet  
mind.

All are welcome. Guided  
meditations when  
requested.