

First  
Congregational  
Church of Glendale, UCC  
2001 Canada Blvd.  
Glendale, CA 91028  
818.243.2100  
office@fccglendale.org  
www.fccglendale.org  
**An Open & Affirming Congregation**



Light Love Truth  
Hope Peace Justice  
Faith Life Unite  
**TOGETHER**

**THE TOWER**

**December 2012**



### **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

### **December 2012**



**thoughts from  
Rev. Rudolph van Graan**

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mon: 11a.m. – 3p.m.  
Tue – Fri: 10a.m. – 4p.m.  
Office Manager: Jackie O'Sullivan

#### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

Office: 818-243-2100  
Rudolph's cell: 818-317-4202

E-mail: [office@fccglendale.org](mailto:office@fccglendale.org)  
[www.fccglendale.org](http://www.fccglendale.org)

### **The Year 2012 In Review**

No, I am not trying to give you the Top Ten-list of events of 2012, but looking at the past year, I think we have lots to be grateful for. 2012 was a fast year, faster than previous years, I should say. However, each one of you may identify the one or a few things that really stood out for you. Perhaps it was a beautiful song performed by the choir, or a great meal prepared by one of our talented cooks, or a worship experience that transformed your life in a way that only you would know. Perhaps most importantly was that we survived another year as a church in spite of many challenges. It was a year when we found the time to shower one another with love and compassion, and journeyed together as a family of faith. For that we are extremely grateful.

2012 offered great challenges. One challenge was the successful completion of the Open and Affirming (ONA) process. We are happy to be church No. 1020 of UCC churches, taking a public stance in expressing our inclusivity and welcoming people from groups that might have been previously excluded. We continued on the path of seeking meaningful worship experiences, and more than ever in the past, FCC Glendale members have been active in the Conference/ Association and wider church context. Thank you for all your many efforts. Did I mention that I had lots of fun as Pastor@Camp during the first week of Summer Camp 2012?

We will soon gather on Christmas Eve and remind each other of the momentous event when God became present to us in Christ. And our hearts will overflow with wonder and thanks. Jesus had only one value which he constantly pushed and prodded his disciples to embrace: *love*. Let's be intentional, Friends, in sharing that love. Embrace the goodness of the world with its beauty and promise to sustain us, and give thanks! For some of you, 2012 might have been a difficult year. May this time of Advent and Christmas be your reminder that God binds up the wounded, forgives us our transgressions, restores our brokenness, and calls us to live fully.

My prayer is that the love of Christ may invade your life yet again, through the story of the birth of the Christ-child. May you encounter him again this year as you have all the other years of your life and may you feel your heart leap with joy as you sing the familiar carols, share your gifts with others, and polish off yet another unfortunate turkey. A merry Christmas and a hope-filled New Year to you, each one!

*Rudolph*

# 'Tis The Season

*Bring some holiday cheer to a young person at Covenant House*



Opening Doors for Homeless Youth

## **In Kind Donations**

*Put your gifts in  
the big red box in  
the Fellowship  
Hall*

Covenant House California regularly accepts in-kind donations for our youth. We heavily rely on the kindness and commitment of companies, community businesses, and private donors to meet these needs that are often beyond our budget constraints. Please view our list of essential needs listed below.

## **For more information, please contact:**

### **In Los Angeles:**

Jody Turken, Manager of Stewardship and Donor Relations at (323) 461-3131, ext. 253.

### **In the Bay Area:**

(510) 379-1010

### **Donations can be delivered at anytime to:**

1325 N. Western Ave., Hollywood, CA 90027.  
200 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

### **Gift Cards**

Visa, American Express, Target, Payless shoes, Ross, etc.

### **Linens**

Bath towels -white or any colors  
Wash cloths- white or any colors  
Bed sheets-fitted and flat  
Blankets- twin or double  
Comforters- twin-double or any size

### **Food Items**

We definitely accept food items. Extra caution should be taken with perishable goods. They must be at their proper temperatures when delivered to CHC to prevent food poisoning.

### **Personal Hygiene Products**

Shampoo, conditioner, bath soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant sticks, shaving creme, disposable razors, skin lotion, foot powder, sunburn and lip remedies, combs, brushes, feminine hygiene items, hair grease, hair gel, etc.

**Los Angeles Program and Administration**  
1325 N. Western Ave. • Hollywood, CA 90027  
Telephone (323) 461-3131 • Fax (323) 461-6491  
[www.covenanthousecalifornia.org](http://www.covenanthousecalifornia.org)

**Bay Area Program**  
200 Harrison St. • Oakland, CA 94607  
Telephone (510) 379-1010 • Fax (510) 379-1036



# UCC News from the Conference

## Have We Got a Deal for You!



It's bargain day at the SCNC. Give us four hours of your time and talent and enjoy soul-stirring worship, service, discovery and community with your UCC family at General Synod 29 in Long Beach. We'll also waive the \$75 registration fee. How's that for a deal!

It's easy, too. We're building a database of volunteers for the 2013 Synod (June 28 – July 2) and there's a place reserved just for you. All we need to get things started is your name, email address and phone number, along with the name and location of your church.

Are you already planning to attend? Considering it? Looking for an opportunity to serve your church? Do you wonder what Synod is all about, think it would be fun to check it out? Are you a youth hoping to become more deeply involved with the church?

Then this message is for you. It brings your opportunity to immerse yourself in the excitement of Synod, to experience the UCC at its most dramatic and worshipful best (think "out of the box!"), to join in the fun of celebrating our past, savoring our "now" and planning our future – **and to save money as you do!**

Ask yourself, "What can I do to help?" and you're on the road to a great adventure. Would you, for example, enjoy registering guests? Welcoming visitors? Providing childcare? Planning programs for youngsters? Working the floor? Assist folks with special needs? These are but a few of the needs you could fill. We'll be telling you more about them as Synod 29 draws nearer.

The co-chairs of Volunteer Recruitment for General Synod are Diana Owings ([diana8856@gmail.com](mailto:diana8856@gmail.com)) and Linda Yao ([lindasyao@gmail.com](mailto:lindasyao@gmail.com)). Feel free to contact us with any questions you have about volunteering. We look forward to hearing from you. And, we promise to stay in touch, to keep you "in the loop."

Let's make a deal!

**Diana**

Diana Owings  
Volunteer Recruitment

# Glendale UCC Outreach

*Dear Friends, Family and Members of UCC Glendale,*

*It is November 14, 2012 and the summer heat has yet to break; every day hovers around 100° F. That said, our second rain has just arrived, and the light browns and reds of the sunburst solare slowly giving way to emerald greens and rich, deep browns. Nyenhe, a local, beautiful type of dragonfly-locust is filling baskets at the market, and tastes pretty good. Not quite as delectable as termites that will come soon, but good :)*

*I am nearly finished with my first term of year two as a teacher, and I want to thank you all for helping make it a much easier experience. My students are using their new books in class and at home on a daily basis! My senior students are making good progress on writing a text-supported essay which was impossible prior to your gracious donations. I am excited to continue refining my teaching skills and expanding my methods to allow for more creative application of their readings. Outside of school, I am farming, playing volleyball, teaching community leaders about medicinal plants, and writing a book/novel!*

*Needless to say I enjoy my life here. Also, to provide a brief antidote for homesickness, I'll be meeting my sister and parents in NYC this December!*

*I miss you all, but there are many reports of our strengthening and growing church community. I will be excited to see how things have changed and grown.*

*I have included a feather from our local guinea fowl as a small token of my gratitude for the care and beauty of you all.*

*Love, light, and laughter,*

*Dillon Miner*



*As Dillon and his family enjoy the holidays in New York, we want him to know that our thoughts and prayers are with him as he continues his service with the people of Malawi.*

# Glendale UCC Odds & Ends

## *~ Thoughts For The New Year ~*

*"Feedback is the breakfast of champions."*

*- Ken Blanchard*

*"A person who does something correctly and receives a positive response will mostly continue that desired behavior in the future. By the same token, a person who receives a negative response for doing something wrong will most likely not repeat the behavior. But what is if someone does something correctly and receives no response at all?*

*The behavior may continue for awhile, but eventually it will decline.*

*Why? Because no one seems to care."*

*Mac Anderson*

### *Towels, Towels....*

Thanks to all who take home our kitchen towels to launder. BUT, please return them quickly. A lot of our towels are "missing in action."

Women's Fellowship

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Laurel Pavone	December 1
Barbara Wade	December 1
Mildred Bugbey	December 2
Myrna Hase	December 3
Susan Lorimer	December 9
Susan Aluzri	December 13
Ernie Reyes	December 14
Frank Lyle	December 18

### **Glendale UCC Calendar**

- Dec. 23 Readings & Carols
- Dec. 24 Office will be closed  
Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25 New Horizons will NOT meet: Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 29 Meditation and Yoga will *not* meet. Happy New Year!
- Dec. 31 Office will be closed
- Jan. 7 Deadline for all Board reports
- Jan. 13 Annual Meeting after the Worship Service

# Spiritual Practice

**Meditation and Yoga will *not* meet on  
Saturday, December 29.  
Have a safe and happy New Year!**

## Women's Spirituality Group

Join us in January when we resume meeting on Friday morning, 9:00 a.m., in the church library.

## 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.



## CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE

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

**WWW.FCLENDALE.ORG**

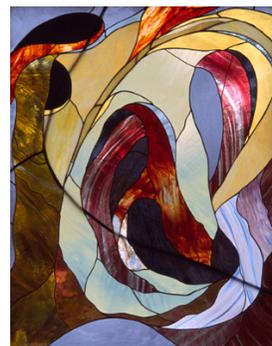
## New Horizons

A place for members, friends and anyone else who wishes, to engage in meaningful conversations on current religious and ethical topics. We gather at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month.



## Whisperings: Conversations about Spirituality

We gather in the Chapel on the first Sunday of every month from 4:30—6:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Barbara Miner.



*"Ruach" (Hebrew for spirit)  
window by John Keegan*

**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.



**Yoga with Jeanette  
Mendia**





FEELING THE NEED TO  
**CONNECT?**

**WELCOME** YOU ARE  
**HERE**

**SUNDAYS** 10:00AM 2001 CANADA BLVD  
GLENDALE, CA 91208 Music - Friends - Exploration - Fellowship  
An Open & Affirming Congregation

Join Us

Sunday Services, Family Dinners  
Choir Rehearsals, Meditation & Yoga

Community Vigils

Volunteer Opportunities, Spirituality Groups  
...and so much more!!



# FCC Glendale

First Congregational Church of Glendale UCC

a different kind of church community



2001 Canada Blvd.  
Glendale, CA 91208

Address Service Requested



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