

March 2018

MAUNDY

THURSDAY

REMEMBER HIS SACRIFICE



March 29th
at 7:00p.m.



Palm Sunday March 25th

9am, 10:30am & 4:30pm

Egg Hunt after 2nd Service

Easter Sunday April 1st

9am, 10am & 11am

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Stories from our friends and members about how God's loving through this church is

Making a Difference

My husband and I will be celebrating our 16th wedding anniversary on March 1st. This upcoming date has stirred a contemplative mood within me. I have been thinking about various things that have occurred during our years together -- the death of my father-in-law, the birth of our son, the marriage of my dad, our move from Poway to Ramona, the marriage of my sister, the death of my brother-in-law, the death of my dad's wife, my dad's moves (to Tennessee, back to California, then to Maryland), my dad's re-marriage and now another move for him back to California (scheduled for April 2018). We have also dealt with my breast cancer diagnosis, surgeries and chemo treatments in 2011/2012 and a most unexpected and unwelcome recurrence in September 2016. Throughout all of these events, many good and some not so good, we have been supported and comforted by our church family and the spirit of God. There has been a stalwart consistency that has proven the deep caring and compassion of the fine people of FCC Ramona. Together, we have been through ups and downs, sickness and health, better and worse. We are blessed to have this church, each other and to be provided with the opportunity to make a difference each and every day by living a life of love.

~ ~MARNA CLARK

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CHOIR SAN DIEGO

**Performing here at FCC March
11th at 1:30 in the Sanctuary!**



Since 1997 the MLK Choir has been performing gospel concerts to raise funds for educational grants to give to San Diego County high school seniors pursuing a college degree in visual or performing arts. They have had three concert tours in Europe and have performed twice at Carnegie Hall. Their music is inspirational and uplifting, and celebrates the history of the negro spiritual. They will be performing a concert here at FCC Ramona on Sunday March 11th at 1:30pm. Come hear beautiful and uplifting music while supporting community arts and charity. All are welcome. Invite a friend!

Children's Ministry

Sunday School: Our memory verse for this month is, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).

March 4th - While King Solomon is dreaming, God offers him anything. Solomon needs God's help to lead, so he asks for wisdom. God gives him wisdom, plus riches and a long life! With God's help, Solomon makes a difficult ruling and writes many wise sayings. God knows we need his help, too.

March 11th – Elijah wants to prove that Baal isn't a real god and that only God is real. He issues a challenge to see whose god can light an altar on fire. The prophets of Baal build and dance around their altar for hours, but nothing happens. Elijah pours water on his altar, and God still lights it on fire.

March 18th – A creditor is threatening to take away a poor widow's sons. Elisha tells her to borrow as many jars as she can and pour the little bit of oil she has left into the jars. She has enough to fill every jar! She can sell the oil to pay off her creditors because God gives us what we need.

March 25th – Jesus takes on the punishment for everyone's sins and dies on the cross. But three days later, he comes back to life! Jesus came back to life so we can live forever. When we accept his gift of forgiveness, we can have eternal life with him.

Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic: Please join us Palm Sunday, March 25th at 11:30 a.m. as we watch the kiddos hunt for eggs and then enjoy some family time as we picnic in our Picnic Area! Don't forget your Easter Egg & packed Picnic Baskets for this fun event!

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 16-20! If you are interested in volunteering for this exciting event, please contact Rebecca or Robin. Please call the church office, e-mail at cmdirectors@fccramona.org, or catch us on Sundays!

Youth Ministry

March 2018 Youth Events

March 4th All Youth Group 4:00-6:00

We will meet at the Youth Building evening of games and a devotional.

March 11th All Youth Group 4:00-6:00

We will meet at the Youth Building evening of games and a devotional.

March 18th All Youth Group 4:00-6:00

We will meet at the Youth Building evening of games and a devotional.

March 25th – Palm Sunday AM—Please be at church during the 10:30 service so we can assist with the Easter Egg Hunt. All Youth Group 4:00-6:00

We will meet at the Youth Building evening of games and a devotional.

Summer Camp!

This year Summer Camp is July 1st - July 6th. I will be taking deposits for Summer Camp spots March 25th. The deposit is \$50 to secure your child a spot. Spots are limited but I can obtain more spots if needed but I need to know you want to attend camp. If you are interested in being a chaperone for the youth group boys, please contact Brittany. If you have any questions, please email Brittany at ymdirector@fccramona.org.

Missions

Come join us Saturday April 14th to build a home for a deserving family in Mexico all in one day, albeit a very long day. Those who have participated previously need little encouragement as many have considered this a life changing experience. It certainly can be, both for those who help construct the home and those who are the recipient of this gift. We sometimes forget that many in the congregation have not experienced this and/or know very little to nothing about it. So, allow me to elaborate. FCC Ramona has partnered with Corazon, an organization based in Orange County, for over 25 years building more than 40 homes. Our church provides the funds and the bulk of the workforce; while Corazon identifies the site, pre-delivers the materials, pours the slab ahead of time, and provides project coordination. Recipients are required to participate in Corazon projects even beyond the homebuilding. This allows them to both earn their home as well as develop useful construction and carpentry skills.

So how can you take part in this life changing event? First step is a passport or passport card. You don't need it to get into Mexico but very helpful on the return trip. Listen for upcoming announcements and sign-up at the table after any service on the Sundays leading up to our trip. If you are comfortable driving sign-up for that as well and be sure to get 1-day Mexico insurance coverage minimum. We also have a cast of regular drivers for those who would prefer not to drive. Bring a tool belt, hammer, tape measure, snacks, water, et al or just yourself...and meet at the church at 0500 Saturday April 14th to car pool safely across the border and to the job site. Prepare to potentially return to church as late as 9:00 p.m. It is a day you will forever remember, and it certainly exemplifies our church mission statement "Live a life of love". For additional information or for questions you might have please call Hal Mortier (619) 921-2330

Memories From Our Church Historian

...Thankful for our FCC's Beginnings and Remembering Our Centennial Weekend.

It was just 120 years ago next month on April 24th in 1898 that there were eleven men and women who arrived in wagons and buggies for a church service in a one room school house on Mussey Grade Road (it would still be 26 years before the road was paved) and began the formation of the First Congregational Church of Ramona. Nine years later, in Feb. of 1907, this Sanctuary with its foundation of rocks from our members fields and farms, with redwood walls, scissor beams and metal fasteners made by the towns local blacksmith was dedicated. On the last weekend in April a mere twenty years ago we celebrated our 100th anniversary with a special Centennial Weekend. We began with a Friday evening organ and candlelight service of thankfulness in the Sanctuary. During the day on Saturday the Fireside Room was the center of attention with an open house for the community. It was there that the wonderful grand ladies of the congregation like Gertrude Wilson Page, Lucille Kunkler Hager, Otila Woodward Woodall, Mary Elizabeth (Melisse) Ely and Ruth Ransom Froiland were hostesses with displays of the many bride/groom wedding photos, our first Communion Set, many documents and photos of our beginnings and of course the ladies were serving Otila's Wedding Punch, too. A gala Saturday evening began with a catered dinner, some speeches, and then a band, musical entertainment, and dancing all under an enormous white tent in the parking lot. At the Sunday service Rev. Alex S. Dreese officiated, the Chancel Choir sang an Oley Speaks song to Harriet Beecher Stowe's words "Still, Still with Thee", and following the worship time we all stood around and watched as two high school youth from the congregation with gold painted shovels buried a time capsule to be opened in 2023. That's just five years from now! That afternoon we gathered in the grassy area out behind Pilgrim Hall for picnic, visited, and relaxed. Pictures will circulate soon!.

Susan H. Ruputz, Church Historian

News & Upcoming Events

CCC BUTTER BRAID BREAD FUNDRAISER! Back again, by popular demand, and just in time for Easter gatherings! The Children's Center will be taking orders for delicious Butter Braid Bread. Butter Braids are delicious pastries that you thaw overnight and bake up fresh in the morning. There are assorted flavors from which to choose, last up to a year in the freezer, and are great to have on hand for company, or to take to an Easter gathering. CCC Board will be taking orders after morning services on March 4th to be delivered March 13th.

SENIOR SINGLES' LUNCH BUNCH The "Bunch's" next meeting is at the Senior Center on Tuesday March 13th at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Ina Lowe at 760-789-4798 before noon on Monday so that she can have an accurate count for the reservation.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP will next meet at 8:00 a.m. on March 17th in Pilgrim Hall. Come and join them for a great devotional, a scrumptious breakfast and warm fellowship. If you have an idea for a men's fellowship breakfast or would like to take a turn cooking, please contact Hal Mortier (789-1835).

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER Saturday, March 17th, the Scholarship Committee will host a delicious Potato Bar dinner to benefit our 2018 graduating seniors. The cost is \$10.00 per person and includes a large baked potato, lots of toppings, Caesar salad, drinks and ice cream and cookies. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner service will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale February 25th, March 4th and March 11th. Please join us as we raise funds to help our 2018 Seniors.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING "Sharing Resources. Changing Lives." With One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed in 138 countries daily. On March 11th, when we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, we help families and villages around the world to build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable. Sharing our resources really changes lives!

STEPHEN MINISTRY Spring is a wonderful time of renewal. We discuss Christ's re-birth, celebrate it, and the world around us seems to join us with the green plants and new baby animals. Let yourself be re-born, let this be the season that you accept the companionship of a Stephen Minister and feel Christ's love through the warm hearts around you. May God bring blessings on you this season, and may you feel his love surround you always.

SENDING A CARING MESSAGE Each Monday, our Care Ministry Board arranges flower bouquets using the Sunday altar flowers that have been donated by a member of the congregation. They are then delivered to those that may be homebound, recovering from an illness or hospital stay, someone that may have lost a loved one, etc. The Care ministry would like to be made aware of anyone in the Ramona area in need of comfort, whether a church member, a member of your family, a friend, a neighbor, etc. If someone there is someone that has touched your heart, you can either call the church office, or there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board located in the Narthex.



MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 Order your Butter Braid today after morning services! 10:30a.m. Scholarship Meeting 4:00p.m. Youth Group</p>				<p>1 No Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6 4:00p.m. Children's Choir-Minor Miracles 5:30p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>7 4:00p.m. Jr. Choir-Heaven Bound</p>	<p>8 5:00.m. Emmaus Road 6:00p.m. Gospel Choir 6:30p.m Combined Choir 7:00p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>10 8a.m. Men's Breakfast 5p.m. Scholarship Dinner</p>	
<p>11 11:30a.m. Diaconate Meeting 1:30p.m. Martin Luther King Choir 4:00p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 11:30a.m. Lunch Bunch—Senior Center 4:00p.m. Children's Choir-Minor Miracles 5:30p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>14 4:00p.m. Jr. Choir-Heaven Bound</p>	<p>15 5:00.m. Emmaus Road 6:00p.m. Gospel Choir 6:30p.m Combined Choir 7:00p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 1:30-2:30 Free Farmer's Market</p>	<p>17 8a.m. Men's Breakfast 5p.m. Scholarship Dinner</p>
<p>18 11:30a.m. CE Board Meeting 4:00p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>19 7:00p.m. Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>20 4:00p.m. Children's Choir-Minor Miracles 5:30p.m. Bell Choir 6:00p.m. Mission Board Meeting</p>	<p>21 4:00p.m. Jr. Choir-Heaven Bound</p>	<p>22 5:00.m. Emmaus Road 6:00p.m. Gospel Choir 6:30p.m Combined Choir 7:00p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23 1:30-2:30 Free Farmer's Market</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25  PALM SUNDAY Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 service 4:00p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>26  HOLY WEEK</p>	<p>27 4:00p.m. Children's Choir-Minor Miracles 5:30p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>28 4:00p.m. Jr. Choir-Heaven Bound</p>	<p>29  MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00p.m.</p>	<p>30 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>31  Easter SUNDAY</p>

A Message from our Treasurer

There was a request for information on the 2017 P&L statement at the Annual Meeting. Here is a summary of the income and expenses for the year. If there is anyone who would like to have more information, please let me know.

Jerry Edge, Treasurer

	2017 Actual vs. Budget	
	2017 Income	2017 Budget
General Operating Income	\$428,025	\$420,904
Congregational Childrens Center	\$245,913	\$248,004
Rental- E Street	\$15,042	\$13,200
Non Budgeted Income	\$2,930	
Gross Profit	\$691,910	\$682,108
	2017 Expenses	2017 Budget
Expenses		
Fees	\$86	
Connecting Ministries	\$162,580	\$146,282
Growing Ministries	\$238,604	\$259,468
Becoming Ministries	\$259,519	\$270,028
E Street Property	\$4,973	\$3,912
Non Budgeted Expenses	\$21,102	
	\$686,863	\$679,690
Net	\$5,047	\$2,418
	2017 Actual vs. Budget	
	2017 Income	2017 Budget
Gross Profit	\$691,910	\$682,108
Expenses	\$686,863	\$679,690
Net	\$5,047	\$2,418

Sunday worship is one of the most important things you will ever do for yourself or your family. Worship changes us. It helps us to grow by opening us to the life-changing reality of God. Join us to be encouraged, to be refreshed, and to get excited about the good things God has in store for you!

9:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School

Our 9:00am and 10:30am services are an inviting traditional worship experience featuring choirs, hymns, beautiful organ music, and a positive message from God's Word.

4:30p.m. Alternative Worship & Sunday School

Our 4:30pm service is an alternative worship experience—informal and featuring acoustic guitar music, candle lighting, prayer, meditation, and the same positive message as our morning services.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC



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Dated Material

Return Services Requested

Live a Life of Love

Church Staff

Senior Pastor – Rev. David Auten

Pastor Emeritus – Rev. Alex Dreese

Interim Sacred Arts Director – Ratko Filipovich

Children & Youth Choir Director – Cassi Nelson

Organist – Rev. Dr. Floyd Ellison

Children's Ministry Directors –

Robin LeBrun & Rebecca Volosin

Interim Youth Ministry Director – Brittany Volk

Children's Center Director – Mindy Tretera

Administrative Assistant – Marni Jackson

Live a Life of Love