

# THE CONTACT

OCTOBER 2009

Congregational Church  
of Chico  
United Church of Christ  
1190 East First Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926

530-342-4913 – Office  
530-342-4906 – FAX

Email:  
church@chicoucc.org

## CHURCH SCHEDULE

### Sundays

Sunday Worship  
10:30 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Shalom Free Clinic  
1-4 P.M.  
Mental, Physical,  
Spiritual Help

### Council Meeting

Held on third Sunday of  
the month after church

### Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday  
11-5 PM

### Pastor's Hours

Tuesday-Thursday,  
9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.  
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to  
12:00 noon

### Bible Study

Friday at noon  
In the church library

## NEXT CONTACT

### DEADLINE

**OCTOBER 19,  
2009**

## A morning prayer, by John Calvin

John Calvin (1509 - 1564) served as the pastor of Protestant congregations in Strasbourg, France, and Geneva, Switzerland. He is considered the founder of the Reformed Protestant tradition of which our United Church of Christ is a part. The language is unaltered.

My God, my Father and My savior, since it has pleased thee to preserve me by thy grace through the night just ended and until the present day,

**grant that I may use it entirely in thy service**

and that I may think, say, and do nothing but to please thee and to obey thy holy will, so that all my actions may redound to the glory of thy name and the edification of my neighbors. Just as in this earthly life thou causest the sun to shine on the world to give physical light.

**let thy Holy Spirit illumine my mind to guide me  
in the way of thy righteousness.**

Thus in everything I do, let my goal and intention always be to walk reverently and to honor and serve thee, relying only on thy blessing for my well-being, and undertaking only what is pleasing to thee.

Grant also, O Lord, that as I labor for my physical needs and for this present life, I may lift up my soul to that heavenly and blessed life which thou hast promised to thy children.

**And since to begin well means little unless one perseveres, I beseech thee to  
be my guide not only today but for all my life,**

daily continuing and increasing thy grace in me until thou has brought me into full union with thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the true Sun of our souls, shining day and night forever.

Amen.

## FALL SCHEDULE

### WORSHIP LEADER

### USHERS

### COFFEE SERVERS

#### OCTOBER SCHEDULE

10/4	Lorna Benge	Terri/Nicolai Landry	Margaret/Richard VanLaanMartin
10/11	Debbie Bartel	Maria/Samantha Landry	Jane Bracamontes/Mary Gibson
10/18	Bruce Grelle	Martha/Lee Atkins	Kathie Leeson/Diane Lambly
10/25	Chuck Fullmer	RJ Muhlheim/Pravda	Joyce Mann/Lee Bonneau

#### NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

11/1	Chuck Fullmer	Gabriel Fairchild/Matt Haskell	Jane Bracamontes/Debbie Bartel
11/8	Lorna Benge	Dianne West/Tom Schultz	Bruce/Debbie Grelle
11/15	Warren Haskell	Maria/Samantha Landry	Linda/Luck Klaus
11/22	Bob Ropp	Joyce Mann/Lee Bonneau	Marge Fredenburg/Nancy Francis
11/29	Kathie Leeson	Terri/Nicolai Landry	Landry Family/Shalom Free Clinic

#### DECEMBER SCHEDULE

12/6	Dorothy Parker	Caroline Fairchild/Nellie Ponarul	Mary/Gordon Patton
12/13	Klaus Luck	RJ Muhlheim/Pravda	Margaret/Richard VanLaanMartin
12/20	John Best	Betsy/Julian Lorenz	Donna Davis/Dianne West
12/29	Lynn Haskell	Martha/Lee Atkins	Shelley/Caroline Fairchild

**Nancy Francis puts together this list. If you would like to help as a Worship Leader, Usher, or Coffee Server, and are not already on the list, give Nancy Francis a call at 342-7099.**

**Everyone is invited to take a turn. If you are not able to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please find a substitute and then notify the office of the change as soon as possible.**

#### SHALOM FREE CLINIC NEWS

The Shalom Free Clinic will be opening their new Thrift Shop during October. The store is located at 250 East First Street-across from US Bank in downtown Chico. The store will be open 10-6 Monday thru Saturday, and open until 9 pm on Thursday nights while Thursday Night market is going on and while other downtown events are taking place. The shop will be closed on Sunday. Donations may be dropped off during regular hours at the store or on Sunday at the clinic or given to Nancy after church on Sundays. Volunteers are needed to help run the store and to help price and display the donations-we would love to have **your help!** We will accept clothing, household items, knickknacks, and small furniture donations. Time to do that Fall Cleaning! If you have any questions, please call Nancy at 518-8422.

CHOIR NOTES

We all especially enjoy the special Christmas music, and therefore, we are planning two choirs for this advent season, one adult and one young people. Anyone interested in joining the adult choir, please contact Rosie Potestio. Anyone interested in joining (or your children joining) the young people's choir, please contact Shelley Fairchild. Meeting dates and times have not been set yet. We will work this out before practice begins.

Rosie & Shelley

**Moderator's Report**  
**September 20, 2009**

I keep trying to come up with an exciting opening for these monthly council reports but find reports are not as exciting as the actual programs.

We of course meet monthly to assess our needs, to review our ongoing church life and to ask "what else would add to the life and growth of our church?"

Spiritual growth always comes first. Physical needs are of course necessary to maintain our buildings and grounds and to provide a safe and pleasant place to worship and work-that's called church life, guys!

So our efforts continue. Our Christian leaders are now successfully meeting the needs of the children of the church which the pundits of the church are quick to point out is our future. There are no end of ways we can add to this effort.

First, we would like to add an infant care component so parents will feel comfortable attending service. Just organizing the basics of a nursery would be a beginning. This could be as simple as a playpen and a space organizer in a refurbished corner of the library; perhaps with speakers for parents and nursery attendants so could hear the service. If you would like to be a part of this effort, let's meet and discuss the needs of such a program. Call the office at 342-4913 or me at 343-0411.

What about being a little selfish and a starting a discussion group for our selves, say on social issues, peace, the Chico Book in Common-or other ideas you might have. Just one Sunday a month? Or would you like to sometimes just discuss the sermon after church? Again, let us know if you would be interested.

"SpiritWorks... for the Future", Saturday, Oct 17, 9am - 3pm might be just the place to build on these and other issues. See you there!

Our yearly Fall Election Meeting will be November 15 after church when we adopt a budget and elect officers for the 2010. Jim and I will be calling to ask your assistance on the nomination, stewardship and budget committee.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marge Fredenburg  
 Moderator

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

**The Women's Saturday Breakfast group is meeting October 3, at 9:30 at Italian Cottage. All women of the church are invited to attend. It is a great way to visit and catch up on news of family and friends. Please invite a non driver in the congregation to ride with you. Questions call Nancy 342-4913.**

## WORSHIP IN OCTOBER AT CCC, UCC

### **October 4, 2009 -- World Communion Sunday / 18th Sunday After Pentecost**

Communion

Bible Readings: Job 1:1, 2: 1 - 10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1: 1 - 4; 2: 5 - 12; Mark 10: 2 -16

Sermon: Old Ways of Thinking, New Ways of Living

Today, on World Communion Sunday, we are especially mindful that we are united in Christ with all those throughout the world who seek, like us, to trust him and follow his teachings. Prayers and music today will celebrate this "one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth."

### **October 11, 2009 -- 19th Sunday After Pentecost**

Bible Readings: Job 23: 1 - 9, 16 - 17; Psalm 22: 1 - 15; Hebrews 4:12 - 16; Mark 10: 17 - 31

Sermon: Tough Going

### **October 18, 2009 -- 20th Sunday After Pentecost**

Bible Readings: Job 38: 1 - 7, 34 - 41; Psalm 104: 1 - 9, 24; Hebrews 5: 1 - 10;

Mark 10:35 - 45

Sermon: Just When You Start To Think Too Highly Of Yourself

### **October 25, 2009 -- Reformation Sunday / 22th Sunday After Pentecost**

Bible Readings: Job 42: 1 - 6, 10 - 17; Psalm 34: 1 - 8, 19 -22; Hebrews 7:23 - 28;

Mark 10: 46 - 52

Sermon: Shush! Don't You Know Better Than To Bother Jesus With Your Troubles?

Today, on Reformation Sunday, we recall the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a time of great turmoil and change for the Christian Church and for European culture. Our prayers and music today will honor this time, reminding us that our way of being church is rooted in it. We will also acknowledge that the divisions within the "one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth" bring us, and God, sadness even today.

## FIRST SUNDAY OUTREACH OFFERING (INSTEAD OF CANNED GOODS)

On October 4, World Communion Sunday, please make an extra donation to support our ministry of feeding folks at the Torres Shelter. Our funds for this ministry are running low. Make your check payable to the church and note it is for "Homeless Ministry," or put cash in an envelope and mark it the same way. It is our custom to bring canned goods on Communion Sundays, but our food pantry is pretty well stocked. We are asking you to donate to this feeding ministry instead. Gifts will be received anytime in October. If you can help Warren and Lynn Haskell with this ministry of preparing and serving this meal, please contact them.

**CHICO HAVURAH CELEBRATES TORAH ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 16, 7:00 P.M.**

Our friends at Chico Havurah invite us to join them in celebrating the 100th anniversary of their Torah. The celebration will be held Friday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m. in our worship room. This Torah originated in Lithuania, was torn in half, burned, and buried during the Holocaust. Rescued, repaired, and made fully kosher again, it is a symbol of both tradition and rebirth. It has a remarkable story, and it tells a remarkable story. Both stories are worth celebrating.

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**“Sacred Texts in the Life of the Community”**

Presented jointly by the Congregational Church of Chico, UCC,  
and Chico Havurah.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009, 7:00 P.M.**

Worship Room, Congregational Church of Chico, UCC

Jim Peck, pastor of the Congregational Church, will talk about the role sacred texts play in the life of faith communities. His focus will be on the sacred texts originally written in Hebrew that are used today by both Jewish communities and Christian communities, and on the sacred texts originally written in Greek that are used today by Christian communities. (He is trying to avoid using the words “Bible,” “Old Testament” and “New Testament” since those words mean different things to Jews and Christians.)

Ways of interpreting the texts will be presented. There will be some interpretive exercises. These exercises will look at passages from both the Hebrew and Greek collections, but will all be in English. He will share some reflections about how sacred texts shape communities, and how communities shape sacred texts. It will end at 8:30 p.m.

This event was inspired by the anniversary of the Chico Havurah's Torah. Plan to attend.

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**2009 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET COORDINATORS NEEDED**

We are looking for two people to coordinate the creation of an Advent Devotional Booklet for 2009.

This long-standing CCC,UCC tradition was skipped last year. We want to renew it this year.

Are you one of the someones we are looking for to coordinate this project?

We will solicit contributions later. Let Jim Peck know if you are interested.

## IN OTHER NEWS . . .

**New Photocopier . . . .** You may notice there are no unwanted graphic elements to this month's newsletter. That is because a Ricoh Aficio 2045e photocopier arrived in our church office on September 18. It previously helped the folks at PG&E communicate. Now, it is helping us. We are very grateful to Dianne West for arranging for this photocopier to be donated to the church. It's features will improve the quality of our printed materials, save staff time, and, we hope, save paper.

**Kitchen Pantry Status . . . .** Over several days in mid-September, everything in the kitchen pantry was taken out and assessed. The shelves were dusted and cleaned and the floor mopped. Canned goods past their expiration date were removed from the food shelf (thanks to the Haskells for composting the food and Jim Peck for recycling the cans.) Cloth tablecloths were re-folded and re-hung on sturdier hangers. Vinyl tablecloths were checked for tears, cleaned, refolded, and stored in boxes (thanks to Dianne West for tending to them). Various boxes of plastic cutlery were consolidated into three plastic bins. We disposed of many items for which no clear purpose could be found, or which were in very poor condition.

Please do not hesitate to use items in the pantry for events at the church! That's what they are there for! Before buying something such as disposable cutlery, disposable plates and cups, paper napkins, or table coverings and decorations, check the pantry first – we may have what you need! At the same time, please do your very best to keep the pantry neat and orderly. Please think twice about leaving something thinking "the church can probably use it." Thanks.

## Mark These Dates . . . .

**Sunday, October 11 -- Coming Out For Art, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., 1078 Gallery at 820 Broadway.** An art exhibition supporting LGBT youth and allies on National Coming Out Day. Sponsored by Stonewall Alliance Youth. Free.

**Wednesday, October 21 -- Chico Peace and Justice Center Annual Dinner. Masonic Center, 1110 West East Avenue. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:00.** Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. This year's theme is "Beyond War." Keynote speakers are Frida Berrigan and Col. Ann Wright. The "Chico Peace Endeavor Award" will be presented. There will be a silent auction with lots of nifty stuff. The big raffle prize this year is a stay in a cabin in the Sierra Nevada mountains! This event is the Peace and Justice Center's most important fundraiser, and, always, an excellent evening.

**Saturday, October 24 -- Sacramento Valley Association gathering, First Congregational UCC, Reno.** The 20 churches of our association gather twice a year for worship, fellowship, learning, and a little bit of business. Please see Jim Peck if you want to go.

**Thursday, November 12 -- Chico Area Interfaith Council Annual Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church.** The speaker this year is Gerard Ungerman, a documentary film maker whose work explores environmental themes. More information on tickets is coming.

## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

A couple of months ago, I reflected on some of the results of the US Congregational Life Survey report for our congregation. We participated in this nationwide survey in October, 2008. Our results arrived at the end of July. Here are some more reflections on those results.

Question 25 asked: Which of the following aspects of this congregation do you personally most value? (Mark up to three.) There was a list of 14 items to choose from. You value these three the most: 71% – wider community care or social justice emphasis; 50% – sermons, preaching, or homilies; 48% – openness to social diversity. All the others were valued by less than 25% of the respondents. That's actually a pretty high level of consensus on the most valued aspects and provides me with good information about what's important here.

Question 11 asked: Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "All the different religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth?" 31% of you strongly agree; 38% agree; 10% were neutral or unsure; 19% disagree; and 2% strongly disagree. In my time with you, I have learned that this congregation has deep respect for other religions and the people who practice them, as do I.

My challenge back to you is this: What is it that keeps me on the Christian way of finding ultimate truth?

I'm prompted to ask because, on another question, 55% of you said you had had a conversion experience or a moment of decisive faith commitment. 26% said no, 19% were unsure. So, for many of you, there was a time when you made a decision about living a life of faith. What can you recall about that experience or that moment that still has deep meaning for you?

Don Saliers, one of the best thinkers and teachers of today's church, wrote that for all his understanding of the vastness of God's grace to all human kind, there was a moment when he realized God's grace was meant for him. Not just for everyone, but for him.

I have never read a better description of the decisive moment of faith than Don's. God's amazing grace is meant for me, for each of us, for you as a person, a unique person. God's grace is available to any one, but, more importantly, God's grace is extended to each of us, to me, to you.

And God's grace is extended to our neighbors who haven't yet said "yes" to that grace.

So here's a question not on the survey: Do you agree or disagree that a person seeking to experience God's grace could experience it at this church? I am praying 100% of you can agree with that statement. If not, then growing in grace may be one of our challenges.

Blessings on the journey.

Jim Peck

## Praying PathMarks for October

This daily prayer guide to help you on the Praying Path of SpiritWorks. The general prayer at the beginning can be used every day. Generally, the prayer focus on odd-numbered days is towards ourselves or own church community. The prayer focus on even-numbered days is towards the wider church or community. Holy Days or event remembrances are noted on the appropriate day.

**Want to suggest a prayer focus? Write it down and give it to Jim Peck.**

**General Prayer:** Holy One, you alone know what is possible through us for this time and place. Show us what you want us to be and what you want us to do. We trust you to guide us, and we are listening. Receive our trust, and speak to us. Amen.

- Oct 1: Ask God to give you a spirit of urgency in your praying this fall.
- Oct 2: Pray for Geoffrey Black as he begins serving as General Minister and President of our UCC.
- Oct 3: Pray that our worship service tomorrow will be a true celebration of our unity in Christ.
- Oct 4: On World Communion Sunday, give thanks that we are not the only Christians in the world.
- Oct 5: Ask God to help you discern if you are being called to a leadership role in our church.
- Oct 6: Pray for Edith Guffey in her ministry as Associate General Minister of the UCC.
- Oct 7: Even if it's hot today, give thanks for cooler weather and the beauty of autumn.
- Oct 8: Pray for people in The Philippines as they continue to recover from flooding at the end of September.
- Oct 9: Look at the birthday list in this [Contact](#). Pray --by name-- for each person with an October birthday.
- Oct 10: Ask God to give courage to gay and lesbian youth as they come out to family and friends.
- Oct 11: Ask God to guide our congregation as we seek ways to live out our Open and Affirming commitment.
- Oct 12: Give thanks for the contributions Native Americans make to our community and culture.
- Oct 13: Think of a long-time friend. Pray for that person. Then give them a call or write them a note.
- Oct 14: Pray for Cally Rogers Witte, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries of the UCC.
- Oct 15: At the end of the day, reflect on the day and thank God for five blessings you received, even if small.
- Oct 16: Pray for people of Samoa and American Samoa as they recover from the last month's tsunami.
- Oct 17: Pray that our work today in visioning and dreaming for our church will be Spirit-led.
- Oct 18: Ask God's healing presence to be with those in our community living with mental illness.
- Oct 19: Somewhere in our community, someone lost a loved one today. Ask God to comfort them.
- Oct 20: Pray for Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC.
- Oct 21: Somewhere in our community, someone gave birth today. Ask God to strengthen them for parenting.
- Oct 22: Ask God to empower all the churches of our Sacramento Valley Association for vital ministry.
- Oct 23: We're feeding folks at the Torres Shelter tonight. Pray for the guests, the staff, and volunteers.
- Oct 24: On United Nations Day, pray that all world leaders will gain a vision of peace for our planet.
- Oct 25: Today is Higher Education Sunday in the UCC. Pray for church-related colleges and their work.
- Oct 26: Pray for men and women in the UCC who are discerning calls to vocational ministry.
- Oct 27: Somewhere in our community, someone fell in love today. Ask God to keep them patient and kind.
- Oct 28: Pray for Steve Sterner, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries of the UCC.
- Oct 29: Somewhere in our community, someone was hurt today. Ask God to help them forgive.
- Oct 30: Give thanks for the Bible, our sacred text, and the stories of faith it preserves for us to tell.
- Oct 31: Pray that our children will have a safe and fun evening with all treats and no tricks.

**TAMALE FUNDRAISER**  
**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHICO, UCC**

**PLACE ORDER OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> - NOVEMBER 8th**  
**PICK UP ORDER November 13<sup>th</sup> or November 14th**

**TAMALES ARE \$2.00 EACH OR \$20.00 FOR A DOZEN**

**To order: Please call Margaret VanLaanMartin at 520-1900 by the 8<sup>th</sup> of November or leave order with Nancy/Jane before the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.**

**Choose from these delicious choices:**

**Jane's Famous Chicken/Cheese/Tomatillo Tamales**

**Or**

**Margaret's Mexican Grandmother's Secret Recipe Pineapple Tamales**

**Or**

**Dianne's Family Favorite Pork Tamales**

**Or**

**Veggie Tamales with squash and peppers**

**I would like to order the following:**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Dozen Chicken Tamale \_\_\_\_\_ individual Chicken Tamales**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Dozen Pineapple Tamales \_\_\_\_\_ individual Pineapple Tamales**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Dozen Pork Tamales \_\_\_\_\_ individual Pork Tamales**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Dozen Veggie Tamales \_\_\_\_\_ individual Veggie Tamales**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date I will pick them up NOV. 13 \_\_\_\_\_ Nov. 14 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Call the church office 342-4913 with questions.**

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHICO  
1190 EAST FIRST AVENUE, CHICO  
CHICO, CA 95926

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE OUR  
NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH  
OFFICE: 530-342-4913

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Chico, CA 95926

BIRTHDAYS

SPECIAL DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES

**BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

10/3 Adrienne Scott  
10/3 Richard VanLaanMartin  
10/4/ Jake Ferguson  
10/16 Terry Landry  
10/19 Marilyn Carlton  
10/20 Sara Haskell  
10/25 Holly Gabel  
10/26 Morgan Ferguson



**ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:**

10/7/58 Clive/Norma Fairchild  
10/7/06 Nancy/Karen Kushner 2006

