

THE CONTACT

SEPTEMBER 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

SEPTEMBER 21,

2009

A prayer about being ready

God of surprises,

when I think you are not present in my life, you reveal yourself in the love of friends and family and nurture me in your never-ending affection.

GOD OF SURPRISES,

when we think you are not present in our community, you labor to make us of one heart and came to us to share gladly and generously.

God of surprises,

when people think you are not present in our world, you bring hope out of despair and create growth out of difficulty.

God of surprises, you are ever with us.

When days go by and our vision fades, keep surprising us. When our hope dims and our patience wears thin, keep coming to us. Teach us to be prepared, that we may see your loving presence among us. Amen.

written by Francis Brien of the United Kingdom and found in
Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER AT CCC, UCC

September 6, 2009 -- 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Communion

Bible Readings: Proverbs 22: 1 - 2, 8 - 9, 22 - 23; Psalm 125; James 2: 1 - 17;
Mark 7: 24 - 37

Sermon: Do You, With Your Acts, Really Believe?

September 13, 2009 -- 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Proverbs 1: 20 - 33; Psalm 19; James 3: 1 - 12; Mark 8: 27 - 38

Sermon: Making Life More Profitable

Shelley Fairchild and family will be offering music in our worship service today.

September 20, 2009 -- 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Proverbs 31: 10 - 31; Psalm 1; James 3: 13 - 4:3, 7 - 8; Mark 9: 30 - 37

Sermon: These Conflicts and Disputes

September 27, 2009 -- 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Esther 7: 1 - 6, 9 - 10, 9: 20 - 22; Psalm 124; James 5: 13 - 20;

Mark 9: 38 - 50

Sermon: It Is Better For You

FIRST SUNDAY CANNED GOODS REMINDER

Please remember to bring a canned food item or two on the first Sunday of each month. The church maintains a small food pantry to help families in need, often people who come to our attention through the Shalom Free Clinic. The pantry is replenished by your First Sunday donations. Place your donations in the basket by the Communion table before worship. This month, we could use some donations of breakfast bars, energy bars, and cereals.

HAVURAH SERVICES RESUME AFTER SUMMER BREAK

Chico Havurah, the Reconstructionist Jewish community that shares our building, resumes services in September. Regular services are the first and third Fridays. Two important High Holy Days are in September. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is Saturday, September 19. The Havurah will have special services that day beginning at 10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is Monday, September 28. The Havurah will have special services that day beginning at 10:00 a.m. Our friends at the Havurah invite you to join them for regular or special services

Praying PathMarks for September

Here is a daily prayer guide to help you on the Praying Path of SpiritWorks 2009. You can use the general prayer every day. On odd-numbered days, the prayer focus is towards ourselves or own church community. On even-numbered days, the prayer focus is towards the wider church or community.

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.

- Sept 1: Ask God to give you a spirit of expectancy in your praying this summer.
- Sept 2: Face or point to each neighbor's house -- all directions -- and ask God to bless them.
- Sept 3: Pray that you will be alert to the small ways you can care for your family and friends.
- Sept 4: Pray for the students preparing for ministry at our 7 UCC seminaries as classes resume.
- Sept 5: Ask God to show you something you take for granted, then give thanks for it.
- Sept 6: As Imani UCC in Sacramento celebrates it's 2nd anniversary, ask for God to bless them.
- Sept 7: On this Labor Day, touch the wall of your house and give thanks for those who built it.
- Sept 8: Chico Nursery School classes begin. Pray for the journey of learning the children are taking.
- Sept 9: Pray that you will always be respectful of those who practice faiths other than Christianity.
- Sept 10: Newspaper time -- find the name of business person in our community and pray for them.
- Sept 11: Take time to pray for all those who lost loved ones 8 years ago today, who still grieve.
- Sept 12: Pray for those who volunteer with the UCC and other organizations to respond to disasters.
- Sept 13: Pray for those who struggle with addictions of all kinds, that they will find healing.
- Sept 14: Pray that American troops in Afghanistan will treat local folks with respect and kindness.
- Sept 15: Several recovery groups meet in our building. Pray for all who find help through them.
- Sept 16: When you shake hands with someone today, silently ask God to bless them and their family.
- Sept 17: Ask God to help you forgive someone who, years ago, did something that hurt you.
- Sept 18: Friendship Mission in Asuncion, Paraguay, is a UCC mission partner. Pray for its work.
- Sept 19: Pray that God will bless our Jewish neighbors on this holy day of Rosh Hashanah.
- Sept 20: Geoffrey Black, General Minister-elect of the UCC, is in the Bay Area today. Pray for him.
- Sept 21: Pray that God will bless our Muslim neighbors as the holy month of Ramadan ends.
- Sept 22: Ask God to strengthen those in our community who work with people who have disabilities.
- Sept 23: Recall a friend from elementary or high school and give thanks for that friendship.
- Sept 24: Ask God to grant wisdom to our state legislators, especially in how we serve the vulnerable.
- Sept 25: Sing part of your prayer today, even if you think you can't sing, and give thanks for music.
- Sept 26: Pray for the well-being of the residents of Lucian Manor, cosponsored by our church.
- Sept 27: Ask God's help for those things that keep you from having healthy, caring relationships.
- Sept 28: Pray that God will bless our Jewish neighbors on this holy day of Yom Kippur.
- Sept 29: Ask God to forgive you for something you did years ago that broke a relationship.
- Sept 30: Pray for the Native American congregations of the UCC and their pastors.

SPIRITWORKS . . . FOR THE FUTURE

A day of conversation, visioning, and planning
about the future of our church and its ministry.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

More details in the October Contact

**PLAN AHEAD -- MARK YOUR CALENDARS --
DON'T MISS IT -- WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!**

MORE SAVEMART S.H.A.R.E.S CARDS AVAILABLE!

**When you use this card at SaveMart or FoodMaxx,
3% of your qualified purchases will be paid to the church.**

**Pick one up on Sunday morning after worship
or call the church office to have one mailed to your home.**

Remember to use them!

CONFERENCE EVENTS IN OCTOBER -- OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, LEARN, WORSHIP

**Two events in October will help us connect with other UCC churches in our
Northern California Nevada Conference.**

**October 3: Church Day, College Avenue UCC, Modesto. A day of worship, fellowship, and
learning. Several workshops will be offered. More info to follow, or go to www.ncncucc.org.**

October 24: Sacramento Valley Association Fall Meeting, First Congregational, Reno.

See Jim Peck if you can attend these events, one or both.

The Women's Saturday Breakfast group is ready to start up again and our first breakfast will be at Mary Gibson's on the 12th of September at 10:00 am. Mary would like some volunteers to help her prepare the breakfast. If you can help on that day please call Mary at 342-9473 to let her know.

Prayers and concerns:

Continued prayers for Ruth Apostolakos She is back in her home at 1572 Filbert, 95926 and would love to have a card or a call.

Tish Gabel is living with Linda now and her address is 9050 Lasell Lane, Durham, 95938. Linda and Tish would appreciate your prayers.

Please keep Mary Patton and her family in your prayers as she continues her treatments.

Prayers for our students as they start a new school year and prayers for the teachers as they begin classes with less resources and more students.

And let us remember in prayer all those with unspoken concerns.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open 11-5 PM Tuesday-Friday Nancy is usually available on her cell phone at 518-8422 other times

Shalom Free Clinic News

Karen Kushner has won the fifth annual **Family Practice PA of the Year Award** from The Association of Family Practice Physicians Assistants and by ADVAVCE for Physician Assistants. Karen will be flown to the annual PA Conference to be held in Phoenix in early November and will introduced during the opening ceremonies of the conference. Karen is being recognized for her devotion to the job, her excellent training, her amazing ability to work with a variety of physicians and for her outstanding work with the Shalom Free Clinic. Congratulations Karen for a job well done and for your many years of devotion to the art of healing. Come and visit the clinic any Sunday and see the healing that takes place there.

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

| | <u>Worship Leader</u> | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Coffee Servers</u> |
|------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9/6 | Margaret VanLaanMartin | Linda/Klaus Luck | Bruce/Debbie Grelle |
| 9/13 | Rosie Potestio | Joyce Mann/Lee Bonneau | Dianne West/Marilyn Kiser |
| 9/20 | Dorothy Parker | Bruce/Debbie Grelle | Shelley Fairchild/Rosie Potestio |
| 9/27 | Joyce Mann | Betsy/Julian Lorenz | Warren/Lynn Haskell |

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 |

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 Morgans-Ferguson a call in the church office at 342-4913. (Nancy Francis is on vacation until Fall) 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.

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

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NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH
OFFICE: 530-342-4913

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BIRTHDAYS

SPECIAL DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

9/1 Shelley Fairchild
9/6 Sarafina Landry
9/20 Ekaterina Landry
9/22 Gordon Patton
9/24 Eric Matlock
9/27 Robert Muhlheim

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

9/1/56 Jim/Barbara Austin