

Notes and News for the Week of July 20, 2020

Kenwood Community Church

United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome in this place.

Sunday, July 26: Online Worship Service –
with guest vocalists Kay Oppenheimer and Brenda Roberts
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC62hz0uSRRhj8YNWkxxMdjq>

Sunday, July 26: Zoom in for Fellowship Time at 11:30 **Guest Speaker Jenny Froyd**
Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 880 2395 8063
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5591020829?pwd=TKRYU0lvTzNSRXNoeIVrNIR5ZkY4QT09>

Monday, July 27: Lectio Divina at 10:00
Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 880 2395 8063
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5591020829?pwd=TKRYU0lvTzNSRXNoeIVrNIR5ZkY4QT09>

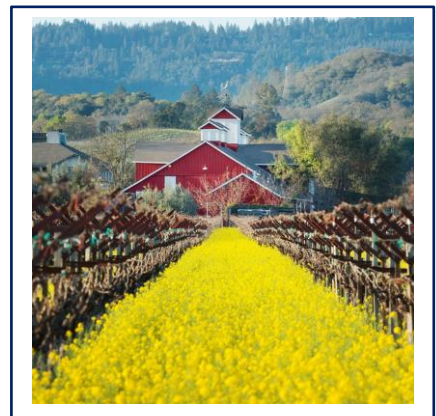
Wednesday, July 29: Bible Study at 10:00
Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 756 1990 6945
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75619906945?pwd=UGhCV2JBOFdhSnowWIIDZDJPTnpkZz09>

Wednesday, July 29: Board of Trustees Meeting at 3:30 **CHANGED DATE**

FROM YOUR PASTOR

The gospel reading for this week includes the parable of the mustard seed. In his ongoing parables of sowing, Jesus tells the story of a person who sowed mustard seed, saying, *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”*
— Matthew 13:31–32

Much has been said about this parable over the years in terms of how it provides shelter for the birds. What starts out as the smallest of seeds grows and yields great things. In Sonoma County, mustard plays a very large role and yields great things, as well. As one online site stated:



“Whether it's growing wild or planted by thoughtful vineyard managers, mustard is more than just a feast for the eyes, it's a feast for the vines. It thrives just until bud break, when it is turned under to mulch and provide valuable nutrients and phosphorus to the emerging grape plants. The practice holds deep roots in wine country. According to legend, a Franciscan missionary first spread the mustard seed while landscaping church properties throughout California. Planting was simple – these early world gardeners carried the mustard seeds in a sack slung over their backs, and each sack had a small hole in it, so as they walked, the seeds would scatter.

“Mustard also thrives wild in meadows, laying a luxurious blanket under live oaks. It's beneficial on sloped grades, since the plants hold soil in place during winter rains to protect against erosion. Finally, mustard growth helps suppress nematode population (microscopic worms that can damage vines), because mustard contains high levels of bio fumigants.”

Jesus may have been referring to a different type of mustard in his day, seeing as how those seeds grew into small shrubs, even trees, to provide shelter for the birds. Nonetheless, he called attention to the symbiotic relationship that all of nature has in life. “Symbiosis” derives from a Greek word meaning ‘living together.’ Each facet of nature is dependent upon and helps support other aspects. Mustard seeds and grapes, bees and flowers, sea anemones and crabs—there are countless examples throughout nature that show how interdependent life is.

Now, if we, as human beings, allegedly the smartest and most developed of all species, could just learn this lesson, in terms of living together and working for the common good, think of what a better place the world would be. Jesus’ words still ring true; we just need to hear them again, believe in their worth, and begin to live them anew. The peace of Christ be with you all.

Pastor Larry

PRAYERS

Please Remember the Following Church Members and Friends in Your Prayers:
Bob and Marilyn Carrel, Josi Frommel, Kent Fuller, Ceal Geurts, Donna Gondola, Pat Hansen, Dale McCoy, Eleanor Nixon, Roger and Lyn Phelps, Jerry Sibbald, Donna Thompson.



A Prayer for Healing

Eternal God, we ask for your healing and your grace for all those in need. Thank you for reminding us how much we need you, above everyone and everything else. We lift up all those who are hurting, sick, depressed, discouraged, alone, sad, broken-hearted, or in any way alienated from others or from you. May you restore them to health in mind, body, and spirit, through Jesus Christ, the great healer of our souls. Amen

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

Our Zoom Fellowship Time on Sundays at 11:30 will now include a church member sharing their faith journey, or their mountain-top experience, or some other fascinating aspect of their life. They will share for about 10-15 minutes which will still allow everyone else who has gathered for fellowship to check in, say ‘hello,’ and perhaps even offer a comment on the guest speaker’s sharing. All are welcome to join! Hope to have you on the call this and every Sunday.

This Sunday, Jenny Froyd will be our brief speaker.

UNEXPECTED VISITORS **to Kenwood Community Church**

Brendon and Hanna Houston with their daughter Tilly, stopped by the church while we were filming the YouTube service last week.

They were married at KCC June 17th, 2000 by Carolyn Woodson the pastor at that time.

Daymon Doss snapped a picture.

It's always a beautiful thing when we have return wedding couples drop by to enjoy the beauty of the church and a warm reminder of their special day.



FROM BENEVOLENCE

Recently, \$500.00 was sent to Catholic Charities in Santa Rosa from the Benevolence budget.

Here are some statistics from Catholic Charities - between March 1 and May 25:

- found housing for 161 people
- fed 11,022 people 102,529 lbs. of food
- provided \$121,279 in rental assistance
- volunteers made 4,924 calls to isolated seniors

Furthermore, they are a leading immigration services provider in Northern California. Catholic Charities is continuing their work in conjunction with Burbank Housing on an ambitious project called Caritas Village, aimed at making a significant dent in our countywide homeless crisis. Located at their downtown property on A Street, Caritas Village will enable Catholic Charities to increase the number of people moving from homelessness into permanent housing each year.

Other local agencies your Benevolence Committee will be supporting in the next five months include St. Vince de Paul, the Living Room and La Luz. Additionally, in late November we will once again ask for congregational giving to "The Christmas Fund and Emergency Relief" for retired UCC clergy and employees.

Thank you for your continued financial support that makes our Benevolence giving possible.

Jenny Froyd

BIBLE STUDY!! Wednesday, July 29

ALL are invited to come to an Online Bible Study via 'Zoom'!

"From the Book of Genesis: God Relates to His Creation"

Guide: Edward Purkey

Wednesday Mornings, 10:00–10:45, July 22 – August 26 (six weeks)

The "best translation" to use? Easy! Whichever one that you enjoy /can understand the most.

Meeting ID: 756 1990 6945

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75619906945?pwd=UGhCV2JBOFdhSnowWlIDZDJPTnpkZz09>

(If /When you might need one, use this Password: Bible)

LECTIO DIVINA MEDITATION TIME! July 27

Lectio Divina Meditation Time continues on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. Come and join us for about 30 minutes of guidance mediation and reflection upon the word of God.

Scripture for Monday, July 27: Isaiah 40:27-31

Zoom link. Meeting ID: 559 102 0829

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5591020829?pwd=TkRYU0IvTzNSRXNoelVrNIR5ZkY4QT09>

A Prayer about Nature and God's Creation



Loving Creator of all, we come to you deeply grateful for your creation.

As we look around us we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made.

Nature around us speaks of your greatness - the vast expanse of the sky, the mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design.

You have given us such beauty in the colors of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields. Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of all you have created. May we show our reverence and love to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created. We humbly give you praise and thanks this day and always. Amen.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL Available for Pick-Up

Copies of the July-August Upper Room devotionals are available for pick-up on the porch outside the office door at church.

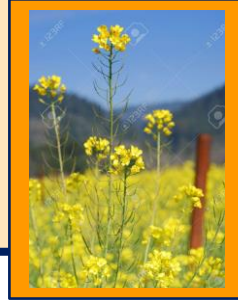
Drive by at your convenience and pick up a copy.

Board of Deacons

ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN UP

If you'd like to provide altar flowers for the upcoming Recording Sessions, contact Dorothy Green (539-2046). She will coordinate getting them picked up by 11:00 am on Fridays.

July 26 – Marcel Coder
August 2 – Bob and Marilyn Carrel
August 9 – Bob and Corrine Whipps
August 16 – Penny MacKenzie
August 23 – Carol Cotton



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our members with birthdays coming up or just past
(if your birthday is missing or incorrect please let us know)

July 3 – Marilyn Carrel
July 6 – Jenny Froyd
July 10 – Max Seabaugh
July 12 – Riccardo Capachilli
July 14 – Betty Freeman
July 18 – Donna Gondola
July 24 – Sarah Lee Gronberg



HAROLD'S MUSIC NOTES for Sunday, July 26

PRELUDE: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Beethoven/ arr. Jerry Nelson

NOTE: Jerry describes his 11 year old experience, similar to myself, when there was a need for a keyboard player at his church and he was called upon. He started playing and he never stopped. Along the way he got into improvisation (contending with several people who were disturbed by his 'non-purist' interpretations) and loved creating 'variations' of hymns. This piece displays his abilities. Note that Beethoven himself used 'variation' in the 9th Symphony where this tune appeared.

INTERLUDE: Shelter Me - Michael Joncas

Duet with Kay Oppenheimer and Brenda Roberts

NOTE: Father Michael Joncas woke up in the middle of the night of March 25th in the midst of the pandemic and composed this hymn based upon the 23rd Psalm. He had been praying about the coronavirus and wondered if music could play a special role in these uncertain times. He is the composer of "On Eagles Wings". The words are, "Shepherd and sheep, my God and I: to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by. You gave me rest by quiet springs and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings. REFRAIN: O shelter me, O shelter me: the way ahead is dark and difficult to see. O shelter me, O shelter me: all will be well if only you will shelter me. Yet now I tread a different way; death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day. I cannot find your peaceful place but dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face. REFRAIN. I will look back in days to come and realize your faithfulness has led me home. Within your house I'll find my peace, trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me. REFRAIN.

PRAYER: Lord's Prayer

- Albert Hay Malotte

Duet with Kay Oppenheimer and Brenda Roberts

NOTE: Today we will have Kay and Brenda sing the familiar version of the Lord's Prayer by Albert Malotte (1894 – 1964). This composer grew up in Philadelphia, studied and concertized in Europe and the US, and played for church and silent movies in Chicago. He ended up in Hollywood and composed movie scores including two for Disney. He is most famous for this piece first heard in 1935.

POSTLUDE: For the Beauty of the Earth

- Conrad Cocher/ arr. Craig Curry

NOTE: I've played some other arrangements by this Kansas based composer, arranger, teacher, and church musician. The pieces he sets to pen are fun to play... well crafted... as they "fit the hand very well" so to speak. I don't know about you, but getting 'out of the shelter in place' into nature... Spring Lake, Doran Beach, Annadel Park, or just a walk around the neighborhood... is a spiritual experience ... allowing one to contend with the anxieties, conflict, and nervousness all around us.

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