



# Spire

September 2020

First Congregational Church, UCC Tulare  
An Open & Affirming Church

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## Just Janice...

What a time we are experiencing. Does it help to realize we're all struggling together? Maybe not. But I do want to clear up a meme I've seen on Facebook stating we're all in the same boat. THAT IS JUST NOT TRUE! We all may be in the same storm but many of us have yachts while others have rafts. An ocean liner versus a kayak. I have air conditioning, a computer, a TV, a cell phone, choices of what I'll eat, what I'll wear, people who love me and whom I love, a faith family who supports and encourages me, a car, ability to put gas in my car, a vocation that I'm passionate about – yep, I'm pretty sure I'm in a yacht. How often do we [I] fail to consider how many blessings we have? Of course, we know there are those who have no idea where their next meal will come from, how they're going to pay their rent, but do we really stop and think about what WE can do to help those in desperate need? Let's pray about the BEST way to support those who are struggling through this STORM – Pandemic, Fires, Job loss, No health care ...

We continue to try to stay connected to our folks. If you want to listen to the prompting, we can make it happen. Want to know more about the service [announcements, communion, music, etc.]? Let us know what YOU need, and we'll do our dead level best [Texas phrase – not sure exactly what that means except we will make it happen if at all possible] to meet your needs. Do you believe we mean it? Try us, test us, see if we're sincere or not. [You know we are!]

I miss everyone!!! How I'd love to be in our little sanctuary looking at all your lovely, smiling faces. When will that happen? Not soon enough for me. However, I wouldn't be part of any decision to put anyone at risk – the church continues. We are NOT limited by buildings or walls. As someone said, we're not closed, we're deployed! Did you like the drive-by communion? Want more opportunities to do drive-by activities? Again, let us know. And even though we can't meet face to face, I continue to be so happy to be your pastor!

till next time ...



## Bible Study

We meet every Tuesday at noon for an hour via Zoom. If you would like to join us, let Pastor Janice know. She will send you the information for Zoom. And, if you are unable to join using a computer, you can call in just using your telephone. I think you'll find these enjoyable.

## New Mailing Address:

First Congregational Church, UCC  
P.O. Box 2045  
Tulare, CA 93275

For Packages:  
P.O. Box 2045  
340 E. Tulare Avenue  
Tulare, CA 93275

## Prayer Church of the Month

Community Congregational Church UCC

9637 Channing Row

Kenwood, CA 95452-9085

Mailing address:

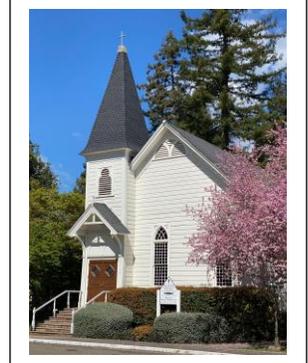
P.O. Box 46

Kenwood, CA 95452-0046

707.833.1087

Email: [kenwooducc@gmail.com](mailto:kenwooducc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.kenwoodcommunituchurch.info](http://www.kenwoodcommunituchurch.info)



## September Celebrations

6 John Mansell

10 Kay Conard

14 Brook Hillman

16 Irma Gaytán

21 Gloria Hamilton

22 Karen Arend

23 Kathy Hughes

23 Alexandria Elliot

Bonnie Thiele

29 Charlie Phelps-Ramos

30 Bob Hughes

## September Word of the Month

Each Month we will have a new word to focus on. This month our word is **“COURAGE”**. Pray about this word, look it up, think about the various ways we use it; its importance in our lives.

If you have any “ah-ah” moments, share with someone, since we all have the same word. As you think about the various words, I think you’ll find staying positive makes you happier and less stressed.

With so much negativity all around us, it becomes increasingly important to be intentional about our thoughts. This will take discipline, but the rewards are worth it. The next word of the month will be in October and it is...Stay tuned.



# August Events



Banners hung by Gloria Hamilton and Terri Leetch.



Drive by Communion  
Rev. Janice Hill and Gloria Hamilton  
on August 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Emilio & Grammie & Cool Cow Give Back!

We had a special fundraiser for Salt + Light. Special thanks to all who supported this endeavor and to Emilio/Grammie/Cool Cow for their consistent support of our outreach efforts! September 1 we will be supporting Encore Theatre



## Shannon Rollicheck's Baptism at Shaver Lake



## Christian Fellowship

*We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. Proverbs 16:9 NLT*

I don't know about you, but my plans have gone completely out the window this year. As your president I was supposed to:

1. Create a new Fellowship Yearbook with planned meeting and speakers and events. And a theme - "How to hold down the fort (the church) with God's direction, when our normal plans get thrown out the window".
2. Have an installation tea for our new officer (we also should have nominated and voted in new officers).
3. Have a mountain retreat, (that turned into all of us retreating to our own homes).
4. And now I am supposed to be getting ready for our first meeting of the year that is normally around the middle of September.

Our officers have pulled together and made the decision that we will hold the same offices for this new year.

Our church could write the book on this one. We have such awesome people in our church that step up every day to keep things running. I feel the Lord is guiding our steps. Maybe not in the direction we had in mind but guiding us to think outside the box and try new ways and opportunities.

So, the Christian Fellowship is going to try a new way to meet – a zoom meeting. We will supply you with all the details soon.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Hamilton,  
Christian Fellowship, President

*Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of troubles and never stop praying. Romans 12:12 CEV*

### Moderator's Update – August 19, 2020



I am sure that most of us are longing for a time when we can meet together.

I hope that more of our Congregation is able to access our virtual Sunday worship services through our various electronic devices. Our virtual services are feeling more and more like they did prior to the pandemic shutdown. The incredible dedication of our

Worship and Music team is making a huge difference. What a blessing that we have so many talented and giving individuals in our little church. Pastor Janice's weekly promptings are just a phone call away for those who do not have internet service. Please reach out to Pastor Janice or me if you need help in accessing our services.

I also want to give a pitch for our Tuesday noon Bible Study. We have started a study of Abraham and it has been fascinating getting into the nitty gritty of this bigger than life Biblical character. The

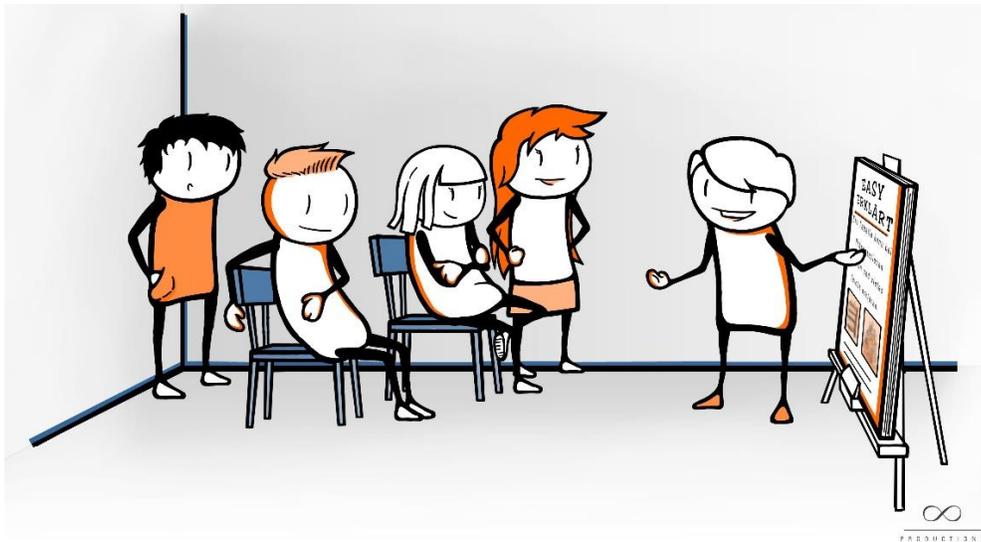
historical and spiritual context of Abraham is an important part of our Christian heritage as well as the other major world religions of Judaism and Islam. You can join us through Zoom or by simply phoning in. Again, please contact Pastor Janice or me if you need any assistance.

Here are a few updates on our monthly Council meeting and our Forecast Team meetings.

**Council Meeting Update:** Our Church Council continues to meet monthly via Zoom. All church members and friends are welcome to join by Zoom or phone. Please let me know if you are interested in participating. The issues we have been addressing include the following:

- We discussed “Drive By” Communion and it is still under consideration.
- The concrete/drainage project in our parking lot will be completed soon. This work will help alleviate the algae/moss problem during the rainy season and make the parking lot much safer.
- There has been a significant enhancement to our virtual worship service over the past several weeks as mentioned above. Thank you to everyone who has participated in performing, reading, recording and editing the service that is reaching beyond our own Congregation. Since we are on YouTube, we are essentially available to anyone in the world.
- The monthly Council Meeting will be moving from the second Monday to the third Monday of the month. Our next Council meeting will take place on September 21st at 6:30 pm via Zoom. There is a call-in number for those who do not have internet access.
- The aging piano cover will be replaced with donations and Memorial fund.
- The Memorial Fund checking account has been moved to another bank. Thank you, Gloria Hamilton, for doing the leg work to make this happen.

**Forecast Team (formerly COVID-19 Task Force):** The Forecast Team met on July 15th and will only meet on an “as-needed” basis.





- **Do you have an old iPad, tablet or laptop. We are trying everything in our power to get people connected and able to be part of our virtual worship services. If you would be willing to let us have an old one or donate to let us purchase a used one, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Pastor Janice [559.656.7944] or Bill Phelps-Ramos [661.304.2772] for more details or to donate.**
- **Would you consider being part of our Sunday Morning virtual service?. Give me a call if you'd like more details. Pastor Janice**

*Believe in yourself and all that you are.*

*Know that there is*

*Something inside you that is*

*greater than any obstacle.*

Christian D. Larson

# LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Immigrants and refugees

Those impacted by Natural Disasters, Pandemic,  
Violence, First responders, Medical Personnel

Jennifer Allen – Terri Leetch

Yvonne Arend – Karen Arend

**Perla Arredondo** – Norma Lovelace

☺ Tamika Blackston – Terri Leetch

Judy Bennett – Janice Hill

**Roxanna Cardenas** – Susan Burley

Cherry Chandler – Janice Hill

Chantel DiCapo – Terri Leetch

Tim Dole – Randy Phillips

Gary Dunn – John Mansell

George Fry – Fran Lillyman

Diane Gregory – Peggy DeMuth

Amanda Griego – Fran Lillyman

David Hamilton

Steve Heilemann – Bill Phelps-Ramos

Sunny Hillmer – Ann Hillmer

Nancy Hoyt

Heather Jenkins – Erin Davila

Heather Jerent – Heidi Clark

Penny Lamonoca – Tonya Pedro

Julie Leighty

Fran Lillyman

Phyllis Lillyman – Fran Lillyman

Rudy Marquez – Terri Leetch

Ken Nicholson – Fran Lillyman

Allene Parker – John Mansell

Phyllis Parker – John Mansell

Charlie Phelps-Ramos

Mick Putman – Peggy Wahlstrom

Caity Rooney – Fran Lillyman

**Mary Salazar** – Fran Lillyman

Nina Samoiloff – Heidi Clark

Rose Shaghoian – Susan Burley

Teri Sigley – Bill/Cookie Whelan

**Ed/JoAnn Snell** – Norma Lovelace

Amy Stills – Janice Hill

☺ = improved

**Bold** = new

Underline = condolences

Underline = updates

## Shut-ins

Kay Conard, Twin Oaks

Billie Lou Easter

Lou Tidwell, Quail Park

## Our Church's Ministers

Rev. Janice Hill, Pastor

Rev. John C. Dorhauer, GMP

Rev. Diane Weible, CM

Rev. Davena Jones, ACM

Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones, ACM

## Our Elected Officials

President, Congress, Governor,  
Mayor

Lou Tidwell – Barbara Montgomery

Peggy Wahlstrom – Jean Kirkbride

Geneva Whelan – Bill/Cookie Whelan

Jordan Williams/sister – FCC Selma

Jonathan Zela – Peggy Wahlstrom

# Lectionary Readings

## **September 6**

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20



## **September 20**

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

## **September 13**

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 103:1-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 20:1-16

## **September 27**

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 25:1-9  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 2045  
Tulare, CA 93275

*Prepared especially for*

**YOU!**



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