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
Website: www.kenwoodcommunitychurch.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 2nd

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 Rolicheck’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 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 an 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
Bold = 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!*