

June 2023 | www.iucc.org | Join us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING · JUST PEACE · GLOBAL MISSION · CREATION JUSTICE/GREEN FAITH



**Pancakes for Pentecost on May 28 -
Happy Birthday, Church!**



More Pancakes for Pentecost Photos!

Photos courtesy of Tricia Aynes, Renae Boyum, Alex Ingal, & Steve Goetz



Many thanks to our hard working pancake chefs
(Debra Banwell, Alex Ingal, & Greg Guth)



Alex Ingal & Greg Guth don their chef's hats while Kathy Guth looks on



"Passing of the Torch" (the pancake torch, that is!)
L to R: Outgoing Moderator Tricia Aynes, Incoming Moderator Connie Jones, Incoming Ministries Board Chair Karolyn Fencil, & Outgoing Ministries Board Chair Felicity Figueroa



The Aulenbachs get ready for 2nd Service



Our ever-faithful sound booth crew
(L to R: Jerri Davenport, Craig Tyrl, & Donnie Mineo)



Hello Everyone!

Did you just finish looking at posts on Facebook or watching a video short? How about visiting www.iucc.org? Probably didn't do that last one, did you. Did you know that if you visit www.iucc.org once a day like you do with everything else, you will triple our regular viewership? This means that Google is more likely to suggest IUCC to others. Our website is updated weekly before Wednesday morning with new events. Yes, these events are in the eblasts but sometimes you miss them - so check them out on the website instead!

How often do you search for something using Google? When was the last time you searched for IUCC? If no one is searching for us and clicking on our website, our position will be lower. I just searched IUCC Progressive Church and on my PC it is number one. This wasn't so a few weeks ago, but when you search "Churches of Irvine" we are number 11. Take time out of your June (you can even do it weekly) and think of different ways you can try and find IUCC through Google search and try to find us. Once you do, regardless if it is on the first page or the 20th, please click on the website. This shows Google that you are indeed interested in this website when searching whatever term you used. That will raise our standing.

How much time do you spend on Facebook? An hour? Two? 20? How much time do you spend on iucc.org? Try 1 minute and 12 seconds. Did you know that 48% of you then close out of the website right after that? While you are visiting iucc.org, go take a drink break then come back and go click on another page, like the NEWS section or the What's Happening page. How about checking out the Youth Program page, as MYP did some impressive work designing it. Hang out with us for a little while.

Google has no way of knowing your physical dedication to IUCC, only your digital one. With some conscious effort on your end, we can make IUCC go viral, but in a good way. Don't forget to locate IUCC on your social media platforms of choice and like, comment, and subscribe. We can only be popular with assistance from you!

J. Alex Ingal (he/him/his)
Communications Chair



Join us for OC Pride in Santa Ana on Saturday, June 24th, 2023, as we come together to celebrate and empower the vibrant LGBTQ+ community in Orange County. This event is organized by Orange County LGBT Pride, whose mission is to strengthen the identity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community within the region.

The festivities kick off with a lively parade from 10:30am to 12:00pm, showcasing the diversity, resilience, and pride of the LGBTQ+ community. The parade will traverse the streets of Santa Ana, creating a colorful and joyous spectacle that is not to be missed. We invite you to march alongside us and show your support for equality and inclusivity.

After the parade, the celebration continues with the OC Pride Festival, which runs from 11:30am to 10:00pm. The festival will be a hub of excitement, featuring live entertainment, music, dance performances, art exhibitions, and a variety of food and beverage vendors.

IUCC will have a booth at the festival, where we invite you to volunteer and help spread our message of inclusivity and acceptance. Go to <https://iucc.org/events/oc-pride> to volunteer! We are seeking volunteers who can dedicate an hour of their time to sit at the booth and engage with festival-goers. Your role will be to inform visitors about IUCC and the services it provides to the LGBTQ+ community. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to distribute free items that promote inclusivity and raise awareness of IUCC, the best kept secret in Irvine. This is a fantastic chance to make a positive impact, connect with like-minded individuals, and contribute to the spirit of OC Pride.

Whether you want to **participate in the parade** or **volunteer at the IUCC booth** (or both!), we encourage you to sign up now and secure your spot by going to this link: <https://iucc.org/events/oc-pride>. Together, let's celebrate the LGBTQ+ culture, uphold the values of respect and equality, and foster tolerance, awareness, safety, and support!

From the Senior Pastor

by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano, Senior Pastor



I hope that with all this May Gray we have paid our dues so June Gloom keeps away! I'm ready for more sunshine and opportunities to celebrate outside in Creation as the days linger longer. I know we have all appreciated the rain, but I'm waiting for our iconic So-Cal sunny days to kick in!

Even with all those gray days of May, we had our own sense of vibrancy! Our calendar was packed full with lots of opportunities to connect meaningfully with one another and our community. We did a lot of standing and connecting in solidarity, celebrating and deepening bonds within our faith community and beyond. In worship we celebrated Mother's Day, uplifting women and holding the space for the pain and grief the day often holds. We reflected on our call as church as we worshiped together in preparation for our congregational meeting, electing new leaders among us. We celebrated Pentecost with its bold call for us to recognize the gifts of the Spirit among us: the greatest birthday gift of all - the very birth of the church and what that means to be in this together.

We participated in several events with and for the larger community. One of my favorite things to do is host a worship service for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. Connie Jones played songs from the forties, and we sang some familiar favorites in our worship service. Several of us joined with the South Asian Network to hold an interfaith roundtable discussion on hate towards the Asian community. Gathered at table, we broke bread (naan) together and shared stories about our faith communities and then received bystander training so we would know what to do if we witnessed a hate crime. Several of us gathered at the Irvine City Hall for a Pride Festival on Harvey Milk Day to raise the Progress Flag. It was important that IUCC was represented, since we were the first Open and Affirming congregation in Orange County. And one of our most unique events was to gather with the Jewish Community HaNefesh at the Congregation Ale House in Santa Ana for "A Rabbi and A Pastor Walk into a Bar"! We had a lively Bible Study on the book of Ruth in celebration of Shavuot, the barley festival. It was a fun way to get to know members of their synagogue as we all learned together.

A packed May paves the way for a busy June as well, offering us many opportunities to connect with one another both through worship and throughout the month. We're kicking off the first day of Pride month with a Pastor's Potluck under the sails. Bring a dish to share and something to BBQ and we'll enjoy an evening conversation as we break bread together. We're kicking off the month and ending it celebrating Pride because on Saturday, June 24, we will be marching in the OC Pride Parade, then celebrating our own Pride Sunday here at IUCC. I'm looking forward to learning more this Pride Sunday as we invite our own Christine Roy to share in a panel with drag queen Cucu Chanel as we address the nationwide attacks on trans people and drag queens while learning more about what it means to be non-binary. I think having this holy conversation will deepen all of our understanding and commitment to the queer community as we live out our call to be an Open and Affirming church.

Additionally, June brings us Juneteenth, an opportunity to celebrate African-Americans as we observe Emancipation Day, a commemoration of when enslaved people in Texas were finally set free on June 19, 1865. Our sister church in Laguna Beach, Neighborhood Congregational Church, has invited us to a Juneteenth Jubilee, a celebration of history and culture as they partner with the Laguna Beach Cultural Arts Center offering a number of activities on June 19 and throughout the week.

I hope you'll feel the sunshine this month, even if it's simply the light we share when we gather together. May you find moments where you can step outside, take advantage of the longer evenings, break bread, engage in conversation, and feed your spirit throughout the month. I invite you to intentionally join us as we continue to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space for you and everyone else to thrive and grow in their faith in community.

Hope to see you at IUCC!

Pastor Sarah

STEPHEN MINISTRY PRESENTS.....

by Bil Aulenbach, retired Episcopal priest



Stephen is best known as the first martyr in the early church (still within Judaism). The Stephen Ministry is named after this saint because as Acts 6:5 states, Stephen was “full of faith and the Holy Spirit” - a great role model.

In 1975, Kenneth Haug, a Lutheran (Missouri Synod, very conservative) pastor and his wife, a nurse, developed this program to help enrich the lives of people in his church. It was a well-designed program and soon other people were clamoring to do the same in their churches. Today the Stephen Ministry is found in over 13,000 churches (with very diverse theologies), synagogues, and even mosques.

I ran across this Ministry when I, as an Episcopal priest in charge of all pastoral work in that parish, was looking for help in trying to be a pastor in a large congregation. I liked the general concept, but was concerned because the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod was NOT open and affirming. But when I talked to Ken, he assured me that my gay and lesbian candidates for training would have no trouble at their training facility in St. Louis, Missouri. When the six of us returned from our 5-day training, our Stephen Ministry program was off and running. It was an immense success.

When Annie and I joined IUCC in 2008, during our annual AIDS Walk, I was walking/talking with Pastor Paul and brought up the fact that I was a Stephen Ministry Leader. Paul liked the idea, and in 2010 the Stephen Ministry program became a reality at IUCC. It's still going and, because the national Stephen Ministry program revamped its entire training, IUCC decided to revamp and sharpen its program.

On May 20, 2023, we began our new training class with 6 new trainees...all men. (We are in a very different and interesting world.) This is exciting because I consider Stephen Ministry to be one of the best Jesus/Christ-centered church programs with which I have ever been involved in 65+ years of pastoring. I call it an “Easter” (transforming) opportunity.

If you are interested in finding out more, please call me at (949) 240-2933 or any Stephen Minister for more information.

Peace Love Joy Hope - Bil

Please welcome our NEWEST MEMBERS (joined April 30)

Photos courtesy of Tricia Aynes



Setayesh Karimi



Rachel Humphreys



Setayesh Karimi was baptized by Pastor Sarah on May 21, 2023

Tom Silk Memorial is June 3



A Rabbi and a Pastor Walked Into a Bar" on May 25, and it was a hoot!



What happens when a Rabbi and a Pastor walk into a bar? Well, it turns out that people from their two faith traditions gathered together to listen and enjoy a wonderful discussion about the Book of Ruth and celebrate Shavuot together. We learned of Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law Naomi from the perspective of these two engaging faith leaders who brought the story to life. Pastor Sarah and Rabbi Heidi Cohen led the discussion at the Congregation Ale House in Santa Ana, and it was a really unique place for such an event. We hope to do it again!



6/14 Jennifer Blackburn
6/19 Howard Emery
6/20 Rachel Gregory
6/10 Reefa Hanenberger
6/08 June Kenny
6/06 Eric Lutz
6/06 Rachel McCallum
6/30 Sylvia McDonald
6/21 Lester Ricks
6/10 Cara Ruiz
6/19 Joan Thompson
6/15 Cheryl Trobiani
6/17 Emily Wetherby
6/26 Lesley Wheland
6/09 Ken Wyant
6/02 William Zane

Interfaith Roundtable on Anti-Asian Hate had a good turnout on May 18

It was a fascinating evening on May 18 as IUCC partnered with SAN (South Asian Network) on an Interfaith Roundtable on Anti-Asian Hate. We shared ideas with members of other faith communities on how to stop AAPI hate as well as learned various bystander intervention techniques. It was a great opportunity to get acquainted and do some team-building!



*Top two photos courtesy of Tricia Aynes
Bottom photo courtesy of Cynthia Chockalingam*



From the Moderator - Change is in the Air

by Tricia Aynes



It has been an honor and a privilege to be your Moderator for the past three years. Thank you for trusting me with this leadership position and for giving me room to learn and grow.

Even though I will not be “re-upping” in this position, I will continue to serve our church in various ways, including as Clerk

of the Administration Board. I’ve served as Admin Board Clerk before, so the position is comfortable and familiar to me. I think it’s really important that we maintain a reliable and complete account of the administrative decisions we’ve made, so this job will be a good fit for me.

Changes in Leadership

As Moderator, it was also my privilege to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee as we contacted members to form a recommended slate of IUCC church leaders for the July 2023 – June 2024 term. As you may know, a number of our most stalwart leaders were termed out after serving 5 years in their respective positions: Felicity Figueroa (Ministries Board Chair), Daniel Blackburn (Admin Board Chair), Steve Goetz (Mission & Service Chair), and Pat Sauter (Music Chair). Please be sure to show your appreciation to these longtime leaders who have served our church so faithfully! Please also thank those who served for one or more terms but are not seeking another term (some are stepping away from leadership, while others are taking on a different leadership role). We are very grateful to those who agreed to continue for yet another term as well as those who were willing to tackle a job that was brand new to them. Many thanks to all of you for your generosity of spirit and faithfulness!

Committee Work

Another part of my role as Moderator was to participate on various ministry committees in an ex-officio capacity:

- It’s been a pleasure to collaborate with the Fund Development Committee to help create strategies to enhance stewardship and launch the Legacy Circle.
- My work with the Child Care Committee was very fulfilling as we brainstormed ways to assist the preschool with promotions and ways to increase enrollment.

- I’ve been excited to work with the Membership Committee (also known as the “Originators”) to help develop new ways to welcome, recruit, and involve new members in the life of the congregation.

While I’ll be stepping away from those committees (at least for a while), I’m hoping to get more involved with the Communications Ministry in a more active way. I’m excited about Alex Ingal’s work on the new IUCC website and hope to assist in any way that I can. I’ve started out by designing a new church brochure and will soon embark on rewriting the “Our History” section of the website. I’m hoping to provide a clearer and more comprehensive history of how our congregation came to be and how it has changed and evolved over the years. I’m really looking forward to it!

Newsletter

I’ve been editing and producing the IUCC newsletter for over 10 years now. It has been a true labor of love, and I’ve enjoyed doing it. That being said, I’ve started to wonder if it’s still viable in a changing congregation like ours. Craig Tyrl does such a beautiful job with our twice weekly e-blasts, and they cover many of the same events the newsletter does. In addition, our newly redesigned website offers fresh opportunities to access up-to-date, time sensitive information there as well. Many churches are phasing newsletters out in favor of e-blasts, because e-blasts are able to be far more nimble and flexible than a monthly newsletter can possibly be. We’ll be looking into the newsletter’s “metrics” (a term used to determine how many people are opening/reading it) to see if it’s still being read and enjoyed or if it’s time to let it fade off into the sunset.

Welcoming Connie Jones as our New Moderator

Connie will soon be taking the helm as Moderator, and she will be writing this column starting in July. I tried to warn her about all the responsibilities involved, but she took the job anyway! Bless her for her courage and willingness to take this on. She has been “stretching her wings” for some time now, serving as a member of the Pastoral Search Committee, as past Chair of the Music Ministry, as pianist extraordinaire, as a member of both the Chancel Choir and the newly minted Praise Choir, and as a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee. She’s been around a long time, and she’s a seasoned veteran. I have every confidence she’ll do a great job!

Tricia

Don't Miss the IUCC Ministries Fair on June 4 Between Services & After 2nd Service!

You can learn about ALL of our Ministries in a special one-stop-shopping opportunity by coming to the IUCC Ministries Fair between services and after second service on Sunday, June 4, to speak directly with members of each ministry/committee to find out which one(s) are best suited to your time, interests and talents. Don't miss it!



MINISTRY FAIR

▶▶▶▶▶

Looking to get more involved?
Attend the IUCC Ministry Fair
and learn all about the
different ministries. Find a
place where you can flourish.
God is still speaking!

- SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023
- Following both services
- Under the Sails

JOIN US

Adult Education, Advocates for Peace and Justice, Choir, Congregational Care, Communications, Deacons, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion, Fellowship, Green Faith, Hospitality, Membership, Ministry with Young People, Mission & Service, Stephen Ministry, Prayer Shawls, Worship

The Ministry of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion would like your feedback! Please take our Survey

The Ministry of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion would like your feedback! Please take our survey and let us know what you are interested in. You can access the survey by clicking here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LMMLRH9> or scanning this QR Code:



DEI invites you to attend a Zoom discussion about gender pronouns

IUCC's DEI Ministry is proud to have Roger Gawne as our speaker on Zoom on June 25th, 2023, from 1-2:30pm. Roger will present on the subject of pronouns.

Roger Gawne (he/him) came out as a queer trans man in March of 2016, and has dedicated himself to social justice activism in the years since. He has run LGBT+ focused clubs in his schools, and organized several events for the community, including the 2021 Santa Monica Queer Prom and the 2023 UCLA Queer Prom. He has volunteered as a facilitator with the CCEJ since 2018, focusing primarily on racial justice. He has collaborated with the Church in Ocean Park several times, including speaking at multiple services, particularly in Trans Day of Visibility services. Roger is currently pursuing a degree in Environmental Science, with a minor in queer studies, at UCLA.

Time: June 25, 2023 01:00 PM Pacific Time

Every month on the Fourth Sunday, 12 occurrence(s):

June 25, 2023 01:00 PM
July 23, 2023 01:00 PM
Aug 27, 2023 01:00 PM
Sep 24, 2023 01:00 PM
Oct 22, 2023 01:00 PM
Nov 26, 2023 01:00 PM
Dec 24, 2023 01:00 PM
Jan 28, 2024 01:00 PM
Feb 25, 2024 01:00 PM
Mar 24, 2024 01:00 PM
Apr 28, 2024 01:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/tZErF-yqpjgp-G93Nge1dPflf_C7L3QB6s8QN/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqDMvGNyWsxIORpwMBIqgZ-rxiHZeJfoOshjgUiRjZC_wCcEVHu-FOMo7D

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85685283319>

Meeting ID: 856 8528 3319

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85685283319# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,85685283319# US

Craig Tyrl

Journey of the Self, Rediscovery and Recovery of the Sacred Self - Part 1

by the Reverend Doctor Jerry von Talge

Abraham Maslow developed a psychological model for self-actualization, reflecting hierarchical levels of personal development. This psychological construct is seen in the flesh and blood life journey of Craig Tyrl. He is currently enjoying the fruits of his hard work and success in rediscovering and recovering his sacred self, his inner child. Craig is empowered to creatively function at a high level of effectiveness as our Administrative Pastor. His preaching is already excellent, in spite of little experience. The Craig we see today did not exist thirty years ago, though. He relates:

"[I was] a scared little boy who had to run away to find myself, along the way to find sex, drugs, and [learn to] rock love and purpose through artistic self-expression."

Craig found his voice, the essence of who and what he is at the core of his soul, through artistic self-expression in the performing arts. He worked very hard and spent many years developing his talent and skills. Through his thoughts and actions, he created the Craig we know today. He struggled to overcome fear, loneliness, feeling lost and off track, and disbelief in the possibilities for positive change.

Human potential is a wonderful thing. Even more wonderful is seeing the actualization of that potential, the beautiful blossoming of human personhood. Craig's life journey has at times been difficult and painful. He has had his challenges (chapters) in life. The first chapter was being on a "journey to the self," which is ongoing. The second chapter was his vocational pursuit. The third chapter was the devastating end of a five-year marriage, resulting in divorce from his husband. It was incredibly painful. Craig was overcome with shock and tremendous loss.

The direction of Craig's life changed after being cast in the musical *Damn Yankees*. This placed him on the spiritual path to find and release his sacred inner child. The director of the musical, Jim Taulli, with California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), became Craig's best friend. Later, Craig became a teacher of singing and drama at CSUF. He developed his talent and performance ability. Thought by thought and action by action, he self-created himself through artistic self-expression. He became unbound from the things that tie us down and became free to fully express himself.

In 1996, Craig graduated with a Master's Degree in Theology. This degree helped fulfill his desire to become

an Augustinian Friar in the Catholic Church. For two years he participated in a six-year program to become an Augustinian friar.

When Craig was asked what his mission or purpose in life was, he responded, "*The love you leave behind.*" This is agape love, the highest form of love. Bil Aulenbach, a member of our congregation, has talked about agape love for the last few years.

Craig was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 1971. His mother was kind and loving, but his father used physical punishment and Craig was afraid of him. Nevertheless, he loved his father, learned his father's hard work ethic, and enjoyed what he considers a basically happy childhood.

Craig realized he was gay in the 7th grade because he had a crush on a boy saxophone player in the school band. He didn't come out until about age 21, though. Both parents and family were supportive. There was a school incident in the 7th grade that set Craig back about eleven years. There was a discussion in which someone predicted he would be gay in the future. This was very upsetting, and Craig did everything he could to act like he was not gay.

Things changed after high school graduation when Craig moved to Atlantic City. There were big city lights, new nightlife, and introduction to gay bars. He worked in a casino. He lived a double life, part straight and part gay. He got involved with drugs, and later had to battle addiction.

In the beginning of Craig's vocational journey, when he was focusing on the performing arts, he was not only extremely uncomfortable with any kind of performing before an audience, but also lacked self-confidence in his basic performing ability. He worked very hard and put in a lot of hours, little by little developing his performing ability. Over time, he improved exponentially. He enjoyed teaching the performing arts, as well as directing. He and Kristen Campbell started *The Wayward Artist* theater group approximately five years ago.

Craig planned on teaching at CSUF, then retiring and living the good life. This all changed when he was invited to become the Administrative Pastor at IUCC. For Craig, this position is a calling. He mentioned interest in the position to Pastor Sarah, and she took it from there. Craig is entering a new chapter in his life, free and unbound, with the flourishing of his sacred inner child, and being our new Administrative Pastor.

In **Part Two**, we will discuss Craig's calling to the ministry, the sacred inner child, self-creation and existentialism, and Craig's responsibilities as our administrative pastor.

The IUCC Legacy Circle

by Duane Vajgrt, Co-Chair of Fund Development

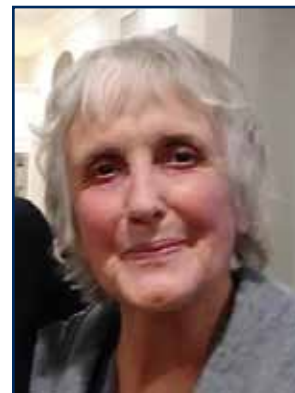


Many of you know one of our Legacy Circle members, **Glenna Matthews** (pictured at right). Glenna was kind enough to record a wonderful video about why she felt it was important to remember IUCC in her estate planning.

You can view her video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgxmxU3gQO8>

If you have questions or would like to participate in the Legacy Circle program, please click on this link for more information: <https://iucc.org/legacy-circle>



The mission of the Legacy Circle is to contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of IUCC

- through will or trust bequests
- designating IUCC as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(K), annuity or other retirement account
- designating IUCC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- through other gifts such as cash, marketable securities and marketable real estate

A gift to the IUCC Legacy Circle by members and friends of IUCC will ensure that the goals and dreams of IUCC continue for future generations!

What is planned giving?

A planned gift can be made to IUCC through your will or trust, retirement funds, and certain life insurance policy arrangements. Planned gifts are almost always funded from accumulated resources or assets rather than income and are typically planned for during the donor's lifetime but not actually received until after the donor's death. Planned giving enables individuals to make sound financial plans that consider their own needs and those of family, as well as commitments to church and charities.

Why are planned gifts important to IUCC?

By including IUCC in your planned giving, your gift will contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of IUCC for generations to come.

What is the Legacy Circle and how can I join?

Anyone who establishes a legacy gift to IUCC and has completed a Confidential Bequest Intention form is automatically made a member of the IUCC Legacy Circle. It is our means of recognizing your lasting commitment to IUCC. If you wish to be an anonymous member, you may do so. If you have already made a legacy commitment to IUCC in your estate plan, we would love to hear from you so we are able to thank you for your generosity, make you a member of the Legacy Circle, and use the information to assist in our long-term financial planning.

What types of legacy gifts are currently supported?

The Legacy Circle currently supports these types of legacy gifts:

- Bequests to IUCC in your will or revocable trust.
- Designating IUCC as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), annuity or other retirement account.
- Designating IUCC as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
- Other gifts such as cash, marketable securities and marketable real estate.

**Welcome New Leaders!!
Thanks for stepping up!**



The congregation voted to elect the following slate of leaders at the Spring Congregational Meeting. These leaders will serve from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024:

Moderator

Connie Jones

Administrative Board

Admin Board Chair
Treasurer
Admin Board Clerk
Congregational Reps (3)

Cesar Sangalang, Jr.
Chuck Heath
Tricia Aynes
Jon Ingal
Sarah Wall
August Lobato

Ministries Board

Ministries Board Chair
Ministries Board Clerk
Adult Programs Chair
Advocates Chairs
Communication Chairs

Congregational Care Chair
Deacons Chair
Diversity & Inclusion Chairs

Fellowship Chair
Hospitality Chair
Membership Chair
Ministry for Young People

Mission & Service Chair
Music Ministry Chair
Stephen Ministry Chair
Worship Chair

Karolyn Fencil
Doreen O'Leary
Craig Repp
Craig Repp & Dave Smith
Alex Ingal &
Harley Gimarino

Maria Carrillo
Lesli Mitchell &
Felicity Figueroa
Myrna Bohan
Soo Baghbani
Renaey Boyum
Lauren Louie &
Myrna Bohan
Judy Curry
Mike Wilcox
Cheryl Trobiani
Jerri Davenport

Committee Chairs

Building & Grounds Chair
Bylaws/P & P Chair
Child Care Committee Chair
Fund Development Chairs

Human Resources Chair
Technology Chair

Tom Mason
Daniel Blackburn
Linda Heath
Duane Vajgrt &
Bill Lawrence

Steve Swope

**June 11 is our Joint Choir Concert
with Church of the Foothills**

The Chancel Choirs of Irvine United Congregational Church and Church of the Foothills present an evening of choral music including:

John Rutter's
Gloria
Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Church of the Foothills
19211 Dodge Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705

An inter-church concert of choral music to Celebrate the Joy of Community, Faith, Friendship, and Love. **FREE Admission**
A freewill offering will be taken.

Save the Date! Please plan to attend our upcoming June 11th Joint Choir Concert at 7:00 p.m. at Church of the Foothills. A choir of 45-50 voices will sing Rutter's Gloria, accompanied by organ and other instruments. There will be other anthems on the program sung by soloists and each choir participating. There are no ticket sales, but a free will offering will be split by the two churches.

HELLO THERE!
SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023

**NAME TAG
SUNDAY**

PLEASE EMAIL IUCC@IUCC.ORG TO ORDER YOUR NAME TAG!

Ministry With Young People

by Lauren Louie, Co-Chair of MYP

Upcoming Events at a Glance

June 2

Parents Night Out 6pm - 9:30pm. Take a break! Kids & youth can come to IUCC to play while their parents are away! Come enjoy FUN, games, pizza, and more :).

June 4

Ministries Fair at IUCC after both services. Come visit us for treats and learn about the other groups of IUCC!

June 4

MYP Bowling Time - 1pm at Irvine Lanes. Lanes, shoes, and pizza all included - we just need you!
Suggested donation is \$10 per person (\$25 Max / family). RSVP at www.iucc.org/events.

Save the Date

Summer Spirit Day - 8/5: 12pm - 4pm. A day of fun and meaningful activities together. Learn more or register at <https://iucc.org/myp>

MYP is going Bowling!

Sunday, June 4th - 1pm



Irvine Lanes - 3415 Michelson Dr. Irvine
\$10 suggested donation -
maximum \$25 per family.

Bowling, Shoe Rental and Pizza are included!
Donation is not required to join in the fun!
Please RSVP to Lauren - llouie735@gmail.com
or register online at iucc.org

iucc Irvine United
Congregational Church

Parents' Night Out

**PARENT'S ARE YOU LOOKING
FOR A NIGHT OUT
WITHOUT THE KIDS?**

**Drop them off at IUCC for an
evening of Pizza, Crafts, Activities
and FUN!**

**Friday, June 2nd
6:00pm - 9:30pm**

Please RSVP to Myrna - myrnabohan@gmail.com



Pilgrim Pines Summer Camp



Inclusive summer camp to enjoy nature, crafts, games, conversations, workshops, hikes, & other fun in the local mountains at Yucaipa.

Family / Pod Camping

- July 2nd - 5th / 5th - 8th
- All ages: Camp as a family or household



Camper/Counselor Camp

- Campers stay the week
- 1st grade & older
- Weeks
 - Nature Camp July 9-15
 - Creative Expressions July 16-22
 - Rainbows & Justice July 23-29

More info & Register PilgrimPinesCamp.org/summer-camp

Campships available from IUCC & Pilgrim Pines!

Ministry With Young People

by Lauren Louie, Co-Chair of MYP



Creating Our Own Congregational Church - it included a trampoline!

Photos courtesy of Myrna Bohan



Bonus photo of Paul Feick and Mark Willcox
hard at work!

Hopeful or Hopeless?

by Vivian Elaine Johnson



Recently, as I turned on to freeway 405, my thoughts fell back to the past when I was driving this freeway for the first time after moving from Minnesota to California. I smiled at my young twenty-five-year-old self, a newlywed full of love and bubbling with hope. My ever-present hopefulness was like my mantra, a chanting of “I think I can. I think I can.”

Now, traffic suddenly stopped and I was jolted out of my thoughts and returned to the present. As I sat and waited to move on, I mused that I was no longer that young woman. I had gained in years, experience, and knowledge. Yet, I admired the hopefulness of my young self. In my senior years, I’m aware of an atmosphere of fear because of multiple problems both national and worldwide. Sometimes it feels unrealistic to be hopeful.

I finally turned off the freeway and arrived at my destination. Yet my thoughts continued to travel. Could the hopeful spirit of my youth return to envelop and sustain me in old age? I desired a hope that would ease my concerns, reduce my fears and disappointment, and keep me free of self-pity. That evening, I sat on my patio and watched the setting sun. A sky of pale pink and baby blue gradually merged into a radiant, deep magenta as the sun lowered into the horizon. I can’t explain it, but that miracle of nature gave me hope. It was as though the rich color and magical movement embodied my spirit.

A friend confided that he didn’t think the word hope was useful. In his thinking, it is non-active, a passive condition. In comparing hope to the active nature of love, he found it lacking. I disagree. I experience hope as being active. Active, largely because an undergirding of hope strengthens and emboldens me, and motivates me to take action. As Emily Dickinson wrote (c. 1877),

*Hope is a strange invention –
A Patent of the Heart –
In unrelenting action
Yet never wearing out ...*

I like Dickinson’s perception of hope as *unrelenting action that never wears out*. Other voices add to an understanding of the importance of hope. William Arthur Ward wrote, *Life without hope is like a year without spring*. (1921-1994) An Irish proverb states that *Hope is the physician of each misery*. Another writer says, *Hope is our friend when every other friend has fled* (Charles Raymond, 1907). Obviously, I’m not the first person to contemplate the meaning and value of hope.

Dictionaries define hope as a feeling of expectation, as the grounds for believing that something good may happen. I need – and want -- to be a hopeful person. How can I continually welcome and acquire hope in my life? I am learning that it takes intentionality, the intentional practice of a positive spirit in the face of difficulties. That seemed easier to me when I was a young woman embarking on life. In my senior years I’ve lived long enough to know a thing or two *about* a thing or two. So, with the knowledge that life is not always kind, consistent, or safe, I want to be intentional at cultivating a spirit of hope. Perhaps one avenue for me is to meditate and to pay attention to nature just as I did the evening when I watched the setting sun.

A couple of years ago my daughter was in a serious car accident on freeway 405. Her embracing of hope kept her focused on healing and full recovery. Hope was valuable for her physical, mental, and emotional health. Her spirit of hope helped her and all of us who love her to deal with a difficult situation. Once again, Emily Dickinson’s words come to mind:

*Hope is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all. (c. 1861)*

May hope perch in my soul, and yours – and never stop at all. I’m comforted that this may be possible because as Alexander Pope wrote, *Hope springs eternal in the human breast*.

GREAT AMERICAN WRITE-IN

On Saturday, May 6, Women For staged the 35th Annual Great American Write-In, a free event at which community members raised their pens to write letters and postcards to legislators and other decision-makers to bring about positive change in health policies, the environment, peace, human and civil rights, and education! There were a number of our very own IUCC activists on hand to promote their causes.



IUCC'S WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women from IUCC attended the annual May 5-7 retreat at Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center near Yucaipa. IUCC member Jerri Davenport offered activities and conversation around "Prayer, Epiphanies and Other Holy Surprises."

Photos from participants

