Farewell, Pastor Paul!

There were musical tributes, toasts, gifts, laughter, and tears on Sunday, May 19, as IUCC bade farewell to our beloved pastor of 13 years, the Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström. He and his partner Carl have inspired us and enriched our lives in so many ways, and we are sad to see them go. We wish them all the best in the next phase of their journey.

Photos courtesy of Ben Allen
More photos of our farewell to Pastor Paul

Photos courtesy of Ben Allen
This is a final note of gratitude to you all.

On May 19, Carl and I felt showered with love and affection as we said our “Good-byes.” I hear the service and special music came in at two hours together, but it really flew by for me.

I am grateful for the gift that was made for me by Dave Fisher, the woodworker who also created the bowl with the words from Micah 6:8 that was given to me for my tenth anniversary. Here is a photo of this new piece, with the words, “Pastor, Teacher, Mentor, Friend” carved around the base. This fits beautifully into our love of the Arts and Crafts Movement that has shaped our home.

I am grateful for the outpouring of lovely thoughts and wishes that graced each card that was placed in our bowl. It took two nights for Carl and me to take turns reading them out loud to each other. They were strong reminders of the community we built together.

Between the strains of beautiful music, there were kind and gracious words from Rabbi Arnie, Conference Minister Felix Villanueva, and Renae Boyum. I remember a heartfelt presentation from my friend Dave Schofield, after a framed piece showing our work together in creating a building was given to me with beautifully crafted words from Anne Rosse and Mark Allen. Irma and her teachers were united in good wishes and bearing another lovely gift. A video? A slideshow? A generous gift from you all? Carl’s “Final Word” after being my cheerleader most every Sunday? Can you understand why I was overwhelmed? On top of that, a campership in my name announced by Sarah, surrounded by our young people blowing bubbles?

But, in a program filled with highlights, Daniel Blackburn presented me with the resolution making me a “Pastor Emeritus.” I want you to know how much this means to me. Carl and I will keep our membership here and support the church from afar.

As your newest, “Pastor Emeritus,” let me leave you now with my wish for IUCC. Stay with it. You have something here that people need—love, warmth, acceptance, quick wits and high intellect. Yours is a unique mix of faith, friendship, and a desire to move this world and your corner of it to be better than it is right now by being exceptional followers of Jesus.

This Sunday you met the pastor who is going to help set the path for the future, as I now represent a piece of IUCC’s past. Please introduce yourself and make the pledge to support Pastor Dave by continuing to give your time, talent and treasure to this unique church home. He is there with special skills that I don’t possess, in order to help you in a number of ways as the church discerns where it wants to go next, assisted by the best church staff with whom one could hope to work.

I leave you with the first words I brought you from David Ray: “A church that knows who it is and why it exists, will find the means to become the church God is calling it to be.”

Be that church.

Shalom,

Paul
Meet our interim pastor, the Rev. David Pattee

From Pastor Dave

One of my favorite characterizations of the interim minister’s role is, “Faster Pastor.”

Indeed, there is an agenda for interim ministry and only a little time to get it going. With these few months we have a special opportunity to expand our horizons, to look at ourselves and our ministry with fresh eyes, to make new friends and together explore the exciting ways that God is moving in our world and calling us to service.

Think of the interim like taking an adventure vacation, risking a different culture or a challenging terrain, some new perspective that asks us to question what we usually assume, and invites us to grow in ways we may not have expected. It’s a chance to unchain from our routines in pursuit of fresh insight and wisdom, re-engaging with that Spirit in whose love we hear the promise, “Behold, I make all things new.”

I am excited for the adventure with you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave’s Bio

A minister of the United Church of Christ for more than 30 years, the Reverend David Pattee has served as pastor with congregations in Connecticut, Ohio, and Illinois, and in the leadership of Chicago Theological Seminary where he was vice president for advancement and continues as a member of the Board of Trustees.

David is also active as a consultant with churches raising funds and organizing for more effective ministries, and he has served as a designated interim minister.

A native of Portland, Oregon, David graduated Northwestern University in 1978 (BA History) and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1986. He was twice awarded the seminary’s Albert W. Palmer Fellowship.

While serving as senior pastor of Kent United Church of Christ, Pattee was a member of the adjunct faculty at Kent State University, teaching an introductory course on world religions. He was also an advisor to LGBTQ students and students from India on the KSU campus. He was a regular op-ed contributor to The Record Courier, a columnist for the Kent Patch and, upon return from a study tour in Israel, Palestine and the Occupied Territories, he organized a series of popular public programs in Kent featuring Muslim leaders in dialogue with Christian communities: Allahu Akbar - God Is Great: Christians Engaging Islam. In 2015, Pattee was invited to Australia to lecture in an annual symposium on society, law and religion sponsored by the University of Adelaide and the Pilgrim Uniting Church. His address, Queering the ‘Holy Estate’: Political and Theological Reflections on Just Marriage, can be viewed on YouTube (Rev David Pattee-2015)

David was an American Field Service student in Cyprus and served as a missioner (through UCC/DOC Global Ministries) with the United Church of Zambia. He has traveled widely in the U.S. and extensively in southern and central Africa, the eastern Mediterranean, and India. Among his many interests, David is an amateur hymnologist and has contributed to two anthologies of Christian hymnody from around the world.

Biography & photo courtesy of the Rev. David Pattee
June - the end of a school year - graduations - end of the school year concerts and programs - celebrating Father's Day - weddings and anniversaries!

June - the beginning of summer - staycations and vacations - visits with families - relaxation - time at the beach - barbeques in the backyard!

Yes, June is a time for both beginnings and endings in our lives.

That is true here, too, at IUCC. In May we marked the end of our time with Pastor Paul. We celebrated and thanked Paul for his wonderful gifts to us all! But now we look forward to a new beginning with the Reverend David Pattee. On June 2, Pastor Dave was with us in worship and was part of the Spring Congregational meeting. On June 9, he will lead us in worship and preach his first sermon here at IUCC. I hope you can join us for this important beginning as we enter a period of change, transition and opportunities.

In the evening on June 9 at 7 p.m., our incredible choir will enthrall us all with soaring music directed by Dr. Chris Peterson and accompanied by Josh Chandra. The theme for the concert is “You Raise Me Up! - Honoring our Sources of Inspiration.” There will be special music, special guests, and truly a wonderful way to mark the beginning of summer.

Another important beginning is the start of the search process for IUCC’s next permanent pastor. At the June 2 Congregational meeting, the congregation elected the following members to serve on this committee: Keith Boyum, Craig Tyrl, Connie Jones, Ken Wyant, Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi, Tricia Aynes, and Aidan Mitchell. They will meet with UCC Conference representatives to learn about the “search and call process” and to learn about the ways they will offer support to IUCC as we move through the next 12 to 18 months. The Search Committee will begin to gather information for the congregational profile which describes to interested candidates who we say we are and what we are looking for in our next pastor. I hope you will offer them your prayers and your words of support as they begin and move forward through this lengthy process.

At the June 2 Congregational meeting, we approved the slate of candidates who will offer leadership to IUCC beginning on July 1 and continuing over the next 12 months. We are blessed to have so many talented members who will devote many hours discussing, planning for the future, solving problems and issues as they arise and implementing programs and ideas that will benefit us all. I hope you will give them your thanks and support as they lead us through a time of opportunities and challenges.

Yes, June marks endings and beginnings. I will be ending my fourth year of being Moderator here at IUCC and in July will begin my 5th year. Through these years, there have been moments of great joy and occasionally sadness. Both have helped me to grow and change. One truth that keeps me grounded is the knowledge that by being connected by faith and working together in community, we be able to meet all that lies ahead of us boldly and with confidence. I so look forward to that!

In faith and community,

Renae
Adult Education
by the Rev. Steve Swope

Adult Education has lots of summer options, starting this month with Adult Sunday School! Bil Aulenbach began a 4-week series on the life-events and (connected?) ideas of two Episcopal theologians, Bishops John Shelby Spong and Gene Robinson. He’ll finish on June 16.

Then Jim Martin will share his research about the influence of Greek culture and thought on early Christianity, June 23 and 30. And I’m hoping to have a new DVD series on environmental issues to take us into July and August! Stay tuned for more on that…. And Bil Aulenbach will also be offering a weekday series during July – 4 Wednesdays at either 9:30 a.m. or 7:15 p.m. starting July 10. His topic: Motorcycle Accident 101 – what he learned after a collision with a fire truck in 1958. Bil always makes plenty of space for discussion! Read more on page 7.

Ken Wyant continues his Tuesday afternoon Bible Study discussions, leading us through the New Testament book of Acts – we’re in the second half now! Join us for stimulating conversation, eye-opening ideas – and post-study fellowship at Square One Pizza down the street.

In case you’ve missed it – John Dominic Crossan is returning to IUCC on October 26 & 27! Watch for details in the next month or so.

And Comma Groups will “wrap up” on June 16 or 30 (we’re such busy people, we had to offer two dates!). Whether or not you’ve participated in Comma Groups in previous years, I hope you’ll definitely plan to be involved in the coming year or two! Sharing in Comma Groups will help all of us navigate the unknown territory ahead in safe spaces and with shared support. Look for sign-ups in August!

For the summer, Kelly Garrity’s Yoga group will meet on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. in Wisdom Room 108 (closest to Alton). Al Gumb’s TED Talks discussions will also keep going – the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings at 10 in June and August, afternoons at 4 in July.

I also want to highlight the wonderful arts opportunity we have in late June and early July. Jenna McCarty will be sharing some of her recent artwork with an installation in Plumer Hall, beginning Sunday, June 23. After worship that day, Jenna will talk briefly about her art and the theme of the works you’ll see on an experiential path she’s designed utilizing the Plumer Hall space.

In order to make the “gallery” available during the week, we’re looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve as docents in Plumer Hall, answering questions about the art and keeping the space safe. Please contact me in the church office! The project is called “Emergence,” and we hope it will offer you a new way of looking and seeing. Read more about the exhibit on page 7.
MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT 101
The many lessons learned when a fire truck broadsided Brad and me in the fall of 1958.

4 Wednesdays in July at either 9:30 - 11 a.m. or 7:15 - 8:45 p.m.

July 10 THE ACCIDENT
Who designed this horrific event? God? Why Brad and not Bil? Where is Brad? The motorcycles? The fire truck driver?

July 17 PASTORAL CARE 101

July 24 WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS?
Was Jesus demoted or promoted? Where did his Father go? Is Easter real or a metaphor? How do we know if “she” was a virgin? Did Paul destroy Jesus?

July 31 WHERE IS THE KINGDON/KIN-DOM?
Is Brad there? How about his “soul”? Will Brad be on board for the “Second Coming”? Will Bil? You? Will I be involved in the Apocalypse? Do I want to be?

For this exhibit, she will be creating a yurt to contain the primary work.

Enter to be transformed, meet your own contained self to be set free.

Emergence: Tour of Transformation
As part of its increased attention to the Arts, this month IUCC will host an art exhibit of one of our own artists.

Through her work, Jenna W. McCarty explores darkness and light, delves into the deep, exposes her own healing journey. Torn paper becomes her paint in a new modern exploratory art form.

For this exhibit, she will be creating a yurt to contain the primary work.

Enter to be transformed, meet your own contained self to be set free.

June 23: Exhibit Opens (Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
12:30 p.m. - Opening Talk
3 p.m. - Opening Talk, reprise
1-5 p.m. - Exhibit open

July 3: 6-9 p.m. - A Night with the Arts: Delve in and Create your own Collage.
A Meditative and Creative Workshop.

RSVP to ensure space and materials: jenna@juvenation.com

July 5: Exhibit Close
7 - 9 p.m. - Closing Celebration

Open Exhibit hours: Monday thru Friday, 6 to 9 p.m., from June 24 thru July 5.

Additional hours may be added, dependent on volunteer availability.

Hosted by IUCC as part of its increased attention to the Arts

Everyone is invited, member of IUCC or not.
Discussion is open. No holds barred. Provocative.
IUCC Adult Education at its best.

Questions? Call or email Fr. Bil (949) 240-2933 or bilaulenbach@yahoo.com

------------------------(TEAR HERE)------------------------

Name(s) ____________________________
Phone ______________________________
Email ______________________________

Which session? 9:30 a.m. ______ or 7:15 p.m. ______
Great turnout & fundraising by our IUCC team at AIDS Walk on Saturday, June 1!

Show Your Pride!

Show your pride in both IUCC and the LGBTQ community by participating in the OC Pride Festival and Parade on June 22. Sign up to participate in the parade and/or help at the IUCC table.

This year we’ll be handing out temporary tattoos of rainbow commas and offering crocheted/knitted hearts attached to cards offering support and information about IUCC. Find out more here: https://iucc.org/iucc-in-action/

Look for sign-up sheets on the patio!

Youth Photos
Photos courtesy of Sarah Averette-Phillips

On May 26, the youth hosted Coffee Hour!

STRETCH OUT YOUR HANDS WITH PRIDE!

Universal Church of the Christ
ucc.org
Our Choir Concert is on Sunday, June 9 - don’t miss it!

Our Women’s Retreat was a great success - look at all the happy faces!

Photo courtesy of Cindy O’Dell
**Concert:**  **You Raise Me Up**  
*Honoring Our Sources of Inspiration*

Join us for our Spring Concert which celebrates in song all those people, and other sources, which have inspired us and have raised us up.

Honored guests will include the Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström and Carl Whidden, along with past Directors of Music at IUCC.

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**World Premiere:**  **Love is**

The IUCC choir will sing the world premiere of a piece written by John Muehleisen in honor of Dr. John St. Marie’s tenure as our Director of Music from August 2010-July 2018.

This piece is based on an ancient poem written by Rabia of Basra, who was a female Sufi mystic and saint, c. 717–801, as translated by the composer.

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**Meet the Composer:**  **John Muehleisen**

John Muehleisen will meet the public at 12:15 p.m. in the IUCC Sanctuary on Sunday, June 9th. Join us as he, along with Dr. John St. Marie, discusses the creative process behind our newly commissioned piece, *Love is*.

John Muehleisen’s more than 150 vocal and choral works have been variously described as “masterful writing...imaginatively harmonized...beautifully realized...and brilliantly crafted.” He has been Composer-in-Residence for several groups including Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble, the Dale Warland Singers and for Choral Arts Northwest. Choral Arts Northwest commissioned the oratorio, *Pietà*, and, as part of a consortium, they also commissioned John’s oratorio, *But Who Shall Return Us Our Children – A Kipling Passion* to commemorate the Centennial of World War I. Between them, Muehleisen’s two oratorios have received nearly 25 performances over the course of just six years, and in April 2019, Choral Arts Northwest’s recording of the *Kipling Passion* was released internationally on the prestigious Gothic label. Most recently, the Great Bend Center for Music and DCINY (Distinguished Concerts International New York) commissioned the cantata *Borders*, which received its world premiere in Carnegie Hall on May 24, 2019 to a standing ovation and enthusiastic response from both the audience and the reviewer.

His works have been performed throughout North America, Europe, and Asia by various choral groups including the John Alexander Singers. More than 80 of his works have been commercially recorded, and his compositions were featured at the Sixth World Choral Symposium; the 2007 NEA American Masterpieces Choral Festival in Austin, TX; at multiple ACDA conferences, and at the 2013 Chorus America Conference.

Awards include the 1988 Louisville Orchestra Composition Award, Third Place in the 2013 American Prize in Professional Choral Composition, and the 2014 Dale Warland Singers Commission Award. Granting agencies include the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, the Jerome Foundation, New Music USA, the Distinguished Concerts International New York Premiere Project, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
IUCC to host homeless families  
August 11–18

Please join the Mission & Service Ministry in providing shelter and hospitality to homeless families from the Family Promise program. They will be with us from Sunday evening, August 11, until the next Sunday morning, August 18, at 8:00. The adults and children will arrive each evening, stay overnight in Plumer Hall, and leave after an early breakfast the next morning.

Volunteers are needed to:
- Help with setup and/or take down on Sunday (8/11 or 8/18)
- Stay overnight in the church with the participants
- Provide evening meals
- Shop for breakfast items
- Help provide a Big Saturday Breakfast!

Please watch for sign-up opportunities after Sunday services OR contact Sharon Lynn to volunteer (571-236-9517, Sharon.lynn15@outlook.com).

This is your opportunity to directly help these struggling families. Love and kindness always make a difference!

A Comma Group might wish to provide an evening meal during the week. Think about which day would work best for you or your group!

For more information about Family Promise, go to www.familypromiseorangecounty.org

IUCC Mission & Service Ministry Projects

Food pantry donations needed  
- please donate through June

The harsh reality of hunger in Orange County is that 1 in 5 children are food insecure, unsure of where their next meal will come from.

Currently, the Families Forward food pantry serves over 7,000 low-income individuals each year relying on community donations. Let’s help to fill their shelves with the basic necessities.

We will have a bin on the patio throughout May and June to support their efforts. The items most needed are (LS – low sodium/low sugar):

- Peanut butter
- Canned fish and chicken
- Plain rice, 2lb. bags
- Cereal
- Canned pasta sauce
- LS - Canned beans, canned chili
- LS - Canned fruit and applesauce
- LS - Canned vegetables
- LS - Hearty canned soups
- LS - Canned tomato products
- Canned pasta/stew
- Pasta (dried)
- Chili, stews
- Fruit juice, boxed juices
- Baby food and baby formula
- Diapers (size 4, 5, and 6)
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper or paper towels

Families Forward celebrated its 8th year as a 4-star rated charity with Charity Navigator, placing them in the top 2% of ranked charities nationwide and IUCC is honored to support them each year. Thank you.

IUCC Mission & Service Ministry
On June 2, the congregation passed an Advocates for Peace & Justice-proposed resolution about climate change. In its essence, the resolution seeks to raise the priority at IUCC for providing information and for making action plans to combat global warming. Such priority would be justified, says the IUCC proposed resolution, because climate change is an urgent existential threat to God’s creation and to the lives and fortunes of ourselves, of all of humankind, extending unto untold generations.

With the successful passage of the resolution, the Advocates have plans for a presentation here at IUCC after second service on June 30. The topic will be: the Green New Deal. With that in mind, here are a few words about the Green New Deal.

The Green New Deal (the GND):

- Calls for the launch of a “10-year mobilization” to reduce carbon emissions in the United States. It envisions sourcing 100 percent of the country’s electricity from renewable and zero-emissions power, digitizing the nation’s power grid, upgrading every building in the country to be more energy-efficient, and overhauling the nation’s transportation system by investing in electric vehicles and high-speed rail.

You may have seen some of the debate swirling around the GND, introduced by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (Democrat, New York) and Senator Edward Markey (Democrat, Massachusetts). That said, the June 30 session is likely to be informative about the GND, sympathetic to the proposal, and worth your taking an hour or so after second service on that Sunday. Join us!

Some of this information is drawn from a New York Times article published on February 21, 2019, and may be found at: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/climate/green-new-deal-questions-answers.html. For a somewhat critical-yet-supportive take, you can try the Washington Post editorials published on February 24 and on other dates: see https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/want-a-green-new-deal-heres-a-better-one/2019/02/24/2d7e491c-36d2-11e9-af5b-b51b7f322e9_story.html?utm_term=.064298955070
Installing solar panels would help you, and all of us, “go green.” But would it pay off, and how long would the return on investment take to break even? Note importantly: “any solar system installed before Dec. 31, 2019 will qualify for a 30% Federal tax credit, which can exceed $6,000 for an average solar system in Southern California,” according to Max Aram, who is the CEO of a commercial enterprise, Solar.com.

- Well, dear reader, you need to decide for yourself. Neither IUCC nor the writer of this article has an actual recommendation for you, in your own circumstances.
- But there may be some help available, if you would like to move toward a decision.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory is an arm of the U.S. Department of Energy. They do a range of things, but usefully, the Lab has a calculator to assist you in deciding whether to install solar panels on your roof to generate electricity. Find it here: [https://pvwatts.nrel.gov/](https://pvwatts.nrel.gov/) Included below is a demonstration of how you could use it.

**First**, at the URL landing page, you enter your address. Then click on **Go>>**. See an example below.

**Second**, you get a mapping of your location (not shown). Once there, your **Third Step** is: click on **system options**. At that location, you get some default values, including your retail electricity rate. See below.
Fourth, click on the upper right to go to a “Results” page that offers likely energy to be produced for your location, and a dollar value of the energy. See at right a result for Irvine zip 92604.

Fifth and finally, you can find possible local installers using the National Renewable Energy Laboratory web site by clicking the button at the upper right. See an example at right.

Of course, dear reader, the decision is yours. But perhaps this is a way to assist you in moving forward (if you have an interest). At IUCC, both Carol & Tom Getz, and Iris & Don Bjorklund, have put solar panels on their roofs. They have offered to tell you about their experiences, if you ask. Broadly: they are very happy with their choices to install the panels!

GO GREEN!

Keith Boyum for the IUCC GreenFaith Committee
Introducing Melissa Thompson

In this month’s newsletter feature, we meet another dedicated IUCC Early Childhood Center teacher: Melissa Thompson (Miss Melissa as the children know her).

Miss Melissa is a local gal: she was born and raised in Mission Viejo, and after schooling there she went on to win a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies from Cal State Fullerton. She has two sisters, Patty and Jessica, with whom she is close; and Miss Melissa notes that “three nephews are a huge part of my life.”

This summer Miss Melissa will mark her fourteenth (!) year working at the IUCC Child Care Center. A teacher through and through, she reports that her interest in teaching began very early. She has “always” had a passion for teaching. She remarks, “It is extremely rewarding to see how the children develop and learn during their time with me.” And the best thing about it? No doubt in Miss Melissa’s mind. “The best thing about working here is the love I get every day when I walk in the door.”

During the 1948 Presidential campaign, candidate Thomas E. Dewey was quoted as saying, “You know that your future is still ahead of you.” Drolly, Harry Truman congratulated Mr. Dewey for his insight.

But former President Truman would be approving of Miss Melissa’s plans. About her future, she says:

I see myself as always teaching. One goal I would like to accomplish in the future is writing a children’s book. Traveling has always been something I enjoy. In the future I would like to travel more. Italy is next on my list.

Well, light the light, and hang out the welcome sign, Italy! But at vacation’s end, dear Italian friends, kindly send Miss Melissa back to IUCC’s Early Childhood Center - because 14 years of dedication and experience from a committed teacher is surely a treasure we will want to keep!
Dear Readers,

June is a lovely month. It starts the summer season. Flowers are in bloom; the fog settles into the land and the sea. My garden will be in bloom. Fruits and vegetables will be planted. Tomatoes are my favorite. I like celery, too.

The birds visit. The hummingbirds abound. The butterflies float over the gardens.

I put on my summer clothes and my summer hat. I stay in the shade. I buy a new pair of sunglasses.

Dear readers, please plant your gardens, and share your harvest.

With love,

Miss Lily

1) **King Lear** (Ned Thanhouser -1916) – It’s silent, so it’s not the Lear Shakespeare would’ve recognized. Still, it abounds in Wagnerian costumes, false beards and blustery emotion. See it on Vimeo.

2) **A Midsummer Night’s Dream** (Max Reinhardt -1935) – This black and white dream features, among others, James Cagney as Nick Bottom, Dick Powell as Lysander, Olivia DeHavilland as Hermia, and Mickey Rooney as Puck.

3) **Henry V** (Laurence Olivier - 1944)

4) **Hamlet** (Laurence Olivier - 1948)

5) **Richard III** (Laurence Olivier - 1955) – Three watersheds in Shakespearean film. Henry V was nominated for the Oscar, while Hamlet actually won the darn thing.

6) **Chimes at Midnight** (Orson Welles - 1965) – The most ambitious pair of shoes ever made by that restless cobbler of the independent film world, Orson Welles. Welles takes on his favorite Shakespearean character, Jack Falstaff.

7) **Othello** (Jonathan Miller – 1981) – Part of the *Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare* series from the BBC. Bob Hoskins’ Iago is the real magic here. His performance has a stink of the London streets about it.

8) **Henry V** (Kenneth Branagh - 1989) – For Olivier, *Henry V* was a fairy tale. For Branagh, *Henry V* was war at its bloodiest and most cruel.

9) **Richard III** (Richard Loncraine - 1995) – Richard III set in a world reminiscent of Nazi Germany. The cast, including Ian Mckellen as Richard, is outstanding.

**Women’s Fellowship**  
*Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 p.m.*  
This will be our usual salad supper and the last one before the summer break. We will continue the discussion begun at the Women’s Retreat concerning the Women’s Ministries at IUCC. Sign-up on the patio or call Pat Sauter, 949 461-0051.

**Yoga of 12-Step Recovery**  
*For the summer, Kelly Garrity’s Yoga group will meet on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. in Wisdom Room 108 (closest to Alton).*

**Isaiah House**  
*Wednesday, June 12, 4 p.m.*  
Volunteers serve a meal to homeless women at Isaiah House on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Call (949) 436-1946 for more info.

**The Seeker’s Women’s Group**  
*Tuesday, June 18, 9:30 a.m.*  
The Seekers meet on the third Tuesday of each month for theological and spiritual discussion. Newcomers are welcome! Call Reefa for details - (949) 859-7091.

**The Green New Deal**  
*Sunday, June 30, after 2nd service*  
Come and hear a presentation from our panelists about the Green New Deal. It is sure to be informative!

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Northwest Boychoir**  
*Saturday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.*  
You’ve heard them on movie soundtracks and on your favorite video games. Now you can hear the Seattle-based Northwest Boychoir live in concert as part of their 2019 Concert Tour in California. The Grammy-nominated Northwest Boychoir will present a concert on Saturday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. at IUCC as part of its two-week 2019 California Concert Tour. A Freewill offering will be collected to benefit the IUCC General Fund. Reception following. Your attendance and support would be greatly appreciated!

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**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**  
Summer is a lovely time to linger on the patio between services - catch up with old friends, get acquainted with visitors and new members. To take part in enhancing this experience, please consider hosting Coffee Hour during the summer. Go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f45acab2ca5f49-iucc to sign up online, or sign up on the sheet on the Coffee Hour table on Sunday mornings.
The Eight Points of Progressive Christianity:

By calling ourselves Progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. Believe that following the path and the teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of the many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to: * Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, * Believers and agnostics, * Women and men, * Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, * Those of all classes and abilities;
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth;
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion and selfless love.

Janice Johnson

Longtime Pacific Chorale Board member Janice Johnson is retiring from their board at the end of their 2018-19 season after 22 years of service. In recognition of her efforts and support, she has been presented with the Pacific Chorale’s Entrepreneur in the Arts Award and will be honored with the title of Director Emeritus.

A former music teacher, Janice has been an active supporter of the musical arts for much of her life. She served on the boards of the Pacific Symphony (including a term as board chair in the 1990s), the National Symphony Orchestra, the White House Endowment Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition, she was a founding member of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra League and was chair of All Guilds of the OC Performing Arts Center. Her other activities have included the OC Performing Arts Center, South Coast Repertory, Laguna Museum of Arts, and ASF.

Janice sang in our chancel choir for several years and also served on the Music Ministry.

(summarized from a recent Pacific Chorale concert program)

Felicity Figueroa

Community activist Felicity Figueroa was recently presented with MenAlive’s prestigious 2019 Rich Cook Community Bridge Award, which recognizes members of the community who “personify MenAlive’s mission of informing, bringing healing, joy, friendship and building bridges to the public at large.”

Felicity was honored for her huge list of accomplishments, including (but not limited to): chair of the Orange County Equality Coalition; board member of the Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council; board member of Women For: Orange County (where she chairs the Great American Write-In); VP of membership for the OC chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State; Public Relations chair for the OC NAACP; member of the Steering Committee for the OC AIDS Walk; and part of the Organizing Committee for the OC Women’s March.

Felicity chaired IUCC’s Mission And Services Ministry for many years and now serves as our Ministries Board Chair.

(summarized from the MenAlive website)
We spent last month “considering consequences” and will continue for a bit. After being certain that a consequence we are considering for a child is 1) directly related to the preceding behavior, and 2) has the ability to teach them to handle the situation differently next time, we now want to add 3) that the consequence is appropriate for the developmental maturity of the child/teen. I don’t mean mature in terms of their age because there are many factors that make children of the same age differently “mature.” Being “immature” is not a judgment but a developmental fact. All children are immature, or they would be adults.

Some children have learning or other neurological challenges (such as ADHD, or learning disabilities) that render them unable to act in the same way as their peers. Other children just seem to develop a maturity “beyond their years” that defies explanation.

Thinking about the example I used last month about putting a child alone on a chair or in their room and telling them to “think” about what they’ve done: a child with an immature brain may not, on their own, be able to sort out the situation that caused the behavior you want to correct. Rather, they will fret and stew about how you don’t care how foolish you caused them to look in front of their friends instead of what their behavior contributed to your response. Remember that the brain is not fully developed until 18-21 years (I’m sorry, but that’s why children don’t vote and why your driving insurance for your teenager is so expensive). Therefore, to be effective, a consequence has to be designed to make sense to the child, not to you. That is also why more often than not, we have to sit with the misbehaving child and explain why we gave the consequence we did.

Yet another factor to be considered (number 4) is the previous life experience of the child. If you are the biological parent and have raised the child since birth, you have a lot of information (although never as much as you think you do). There are always experiences children have that they do not share with their parents. If you are a step-parent or grandparent or adoptive or foster parent, it is important to consider the child’s environment before they became “yours,” because they may not have learned lessons you would have taught. For example, if a child didn’t learn how to operate within limits and boundaries properly, it is cruel to simply give them a consequence they won’t understand about a boundary violation they were never taught. Different households have different rules. People sometimes say “You know not to do that!” Well, maybe not. In this case, the consequence might have to be to teach lessons (self-control, boundaries, respect, contributing to household chores, bedtimes, homework, etc.) that you wish they would have learned earlier.

I’ve heard adults tell children to “stop acting like a child”! One can only wonder what a child thinks when we tell them to stop acting like who they are. I’ve heard adults ask teenagers “why don’t you grow up?” Really? It takes 18-21 years for the brain to “grow up.” It can’t be done on command. Right after this, of course, we tell them that they are “too young” to do something they want to do. It’s no wonder the relationship between parents and children is, at best, complicated.

Children and teens do not have adult brains in smaller bodies. Children think like children and teenagers think like “young people.” This is a fact, not a fault.

Lastly, be sure the consequence you are considering is not downright silly. How does “suspending a child from attending school” teach them to come to school? How does “grounding” a child who did not come home on time teach them to come home? If we don’t let them leave, they can’t practice coming home. Having them come home early teaches them to keep track of time, call if there’s a good reason to be late, and learn to respect time limits (which they will have to do if they ever want to keep a job). The most ridiculous of all, I must say, is hitting children to teach them not to hurt others.

So an effective consequence is a response to behavior that is directly related to the behavior, that is designed to teach a child or teen how to do something more acceptably, and that is suited to who they are. Next month we’ll continue to focus on ourselves as we attempt to clarify our goals for intervention to help us with our conversation with our child, which should be part of every consequence.
My husband and I are elderly. I miss some things from our younger years.

- I miss my husband’s physical strength; his ability to forcefully hit a tennis or golf ball, to lift heavy items, to open impossible-to-get-into-packages.
- I miss his ability to drive, his willingness to spend hours behind the wheel.
- I miss his keen hearing. I can no longer whisper to him in the theater, at church, or even snug in bed in the quiet of the night.
- I miss his sharp eyesight, his voracious reading.
- I miss sharing memories from our almost-a-lifetime together as his recall has diminished.
- I miss how he entered a room and took over. Now, he sits quietly in a chair, a smaller version of his former self, often missing much of the conversation.
- I miss his hearty appetite; three squares and, to top off the day, ice cream at bedtime.
- I miss his sharing of news, his “guess what, honey” as he entered our home and we’d converse about our work day.
- I miss the ease of intimacy when pain and fatigue didn’t thwart desire.

The list goes on. I think about what else changes with time: I love a fragrant orange blossom; however, it fades. I love babies; they grow. I love a sunset; it disappears. Everything has its time of productivity; then fades with age. Do I love a tree less because it is old? No, there is beauty in its gnarled branches, its thick bark, its bent limbs. However, eventually, the tree and everything else fades with age.

Instead of asking “what's missing?” the more positive spin is to ask, “what is?” Like the old tree, there is much to enjoy as we humans fade. Humor is one. In fact, our losses often lead to humor! We laugh at our many foibles. We laugh at how often we misplace things. We laugh at mistakenly wearing our slippers out to dinner. We laugh at our forgetting to put the carafe under the coffee maker, causing a flood of coffee. Poet Emily Dickinson wrote: You cannot fold a flood and put it in a drawer. One look in our cupboard drawer and you’ll see that we proved her wrong. You get the point: there's plenty to give us a good laugh.

Another “what is” is the ability and time to sit on the patio, soaking in the sun, and watching the hijinks of the squirrels, birds, and butterflies. Patio time is a superb pondering time. George often comes in from the patio and asks, “When did we . . .” leading us into conversation. Whether your quiet place is the patio, the kitchen table, or a rock in the park, it is nice, actually it is more than nice, to have the time to reflect.

One of my favorite things about “what is” is the permission we have to set our own schedules and to make our own choices. Well, not completely, but certainly more so than when we were young. If I want soup for breakfast, I have it; nobody rebukes George for eating two cookies for his first meal of the day. I don’t have to take that nasty cod liver oil of my youth: “You must swallow it, Vivian. It’s good for you.” I’d rather have my current cholesterol pill. And don’t you love it that a nap can happen anytime and with any frequency?

“What are you up to on Saturday morning? Think I could stop by?” said the text on my iPhone. If I believed in the “rapture” I would have asked God to hold off; a visit from a grandchild takes preeminence. Grandson Andy, at 23 years of age, spent the morning with us, talking of his life and asking about ours. It was more difficult in our earlier years to take the time for a drop everything visit. I like the “what is” opportunities of being older.

An unknown author captures feelings of sorrow – the “what's missing” - mixed with feelings of hope:

I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.
I believe in love, even when I am alone.
I believe in God, even when God is silent.

These inspiring words were found inscribed on a basement wall written by someone hiding from the Gestapo during World War II.* For this anonymous writer, the sun, love, and God were missing. But yet, he or she believed in them. The losses of aging certainly can't be compared to the horrors of war and the holocaust, yet feelings of loss, no matter the reason, have some affinity in spite of their diversity of situation and degree. What I appreciate about this beautiful writing is the hope that the author captures. Hope in the midst of loss.

Things will not always be as they once were. Rather than responding with fear or anger, I want to hold on to hope.

*(Later, the words were put to music by Michael Horvitz)