

SOMBRA DEL MONTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
THE SHADOW NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2018



Grace

In Christianity, we make a big deal out the concept of God's grace - unmerited favor - whether in our various understandings of Jesus as the Christ or the Hebrew scriptures as Law. Grace, I think, has become so much a part of a weird, metaphysical abstraction related to death and judgment that I think we miss its presence and importance in our here and now. I think the reason we miss it is because in our highly individualist, guilt oriented culture we tend to understand grace only within the context of sin and death, not life.

The sheer fact that we are loved by another person or love another person is a profound and divine aspect of grace. Think about it: there are people who know us, warts and all, who still look at us and say "I love you ... sweetheart, dad, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, friend." Many if not most of these people would literally lay down their lives for us. What an amazing thing! What a powerful knowledge! What a humbling and holy thing.

So, let's stop traipsing out across never-never-land and its unrealized hopes in death, and humbly bow before the presence of those who love us, knowing that the human capacity to love is one of God's most powerful aspects and presence within us. We can only imagine love raised to its exponentially divine level in a time beyond, but we can live in the joy and gratitude of the love of others today.

~Pastor Logan

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

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April
 BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Thomsen, 4-3
 Maxine Garry, 4-4
 Kynde Moon, 4-20
 Don Gale, 4-21
 Alisha Singh, 4-23

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Dianna Coleman, 4-21
 Leon & Dorothy Parrish, 4-27 (**Happy 66th!**)
 Blake & Codi Azuela, 4-30

THIS 'N THAT

Note: In deference to those who have some difficulty with Communion by Intinction, the Worship Department would like to schedule it only once a quarter. The Worship Department invites your comments. Please contact Vicki Harris or Bob Bailey.

2018 Easter Offering

This special offering supports the Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Disciples Mission Fund supports 72 ministries of wholeness throughout the US and reaching around the globe. For more information, visit: www.disciplesmissionfund.org



The **Christian Women's Fellowship** will be collecting the following items for women and children of Barrett House during April and May: paper goods (i.e. paper towels, toilet paper, tissues) instant coffee, tea bags, and toys. Please put your donations in the green box in the church office. Thank you for your generosity!

The Sanctuary flowers for Sunday, March 25, are in celebration of Ben Harris's birthday (3-29)!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Easter Sunday Worship
April 1, 10:30am

Come and celebrate our risen Lord!

Church Women United Gathering

Friday, April 6, at 9:30am

Christ United Methodist Church, 6200 Gibson Blvd. SE.

Dr. Bahati Ansari, the State Coordinator for the Campaign for Healthier Solutions, will challenge us to take personal responsibility for eliminating all categories of toxic chemicals within our lives and community. The Rio Grande Food Project will be the recipient of the canned food and other non-perishable food items collected at the service. Please join us! Questions? Contact Amy Costales at 867-4207.

The **Christian Women's Fellowship** will have their monthly potluck lunch and meeting on Wednesday, April 11, at noon.

The **Christian Men's Fellowship** will have their monthly breakfast meeting on Saturday, April 14, at 8:00am at Vic's Daily Café (3600 Osuna).

WE ARE PRAYING FOR...

Continued prayers for Charlene Bacchus, Floyd Braaten's sister-in-law, who is in hospice.

Prayers for Jim Hackney's sister, Carolyn Tumey, currently in rehab for a broken hip.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jack Eyster, Susan Sawyer & Bill Slough (Charlie Hays' friends), and Fred Shoemaker

Our shut-ins are: **Joanne Colvin and Abigail McVeety**