

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

## First Congregational Church of Reno United Church of Christ An Open and Affirming Congregation



**September 2019** Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kate Lambertson

**September 1**  
**12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

**September 8**  
**13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Philemon 1:1-21

**September 15**  
**14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
1 Timothy 1:12-17

**September 22**  
**15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
1 Timothy 2:1-7

**September 29**  
**16th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Luke 16:19-31

### *From the pastor's corner*

Ted Owens, our wonderful Director of Music, posted something to his Facebook page just a few days after the massacres that took place the week-end of August 3-4, when 31 people were killed and 50+ injured at two separate mass shootings. It listed by date mass shootings that have occurred since January 1, 2019. It took me a while since there were 7 pages of single spaced notations by date, but the total was, as of Monday morning, August 5, 255 mass shootings in the U.S. A mass shooting is generally accepted as an incident in which at least four people are shot. There have been 275 fatalities so far this year, and 1,067 injured in these mass shootings. And every day, one at a time, we continue to lose an average of 100 lives to gun violence — disproportionately in black and brown communities — all around the country. Shootings have become so common that many incidents receive little or no media coverage.

*Enough!* It appears that thoughts and prayers are no longer enough!

Weapons like those carried by our military have no place on our streets or in our schools — least of all in the hands of white nationalists.



#### **INSIDE:**

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*Continued...*

When hate speech and racists rhetoric is seen as common place and just another 'day in the life' of America society I believe we have lost a goodly amount of our humanity. A humanity that I see mirrored in the life of the one I call Christ. A life that demonstrated that ALL are beloved by God; a life that showed loving the "least of these" is not a weakness but a strength; a life that revealed that you have to stand against something as strongly as you stand for something – even if that means death. Today I take my stand to stand with the principles of Christ – love of God and love of neighbor – no matter what. And I accept that that might mean I alienate my gun owning friends who see my opposition to you and I having the ability to purchase and own assault weapons and high-capacity magazines as an infringement on their rights. Need I state the obvious? Were the rights of the young couple killed while doing school shopping, leaving behind 3 children - one only months old, infringed on?

In the two decades since Columbine, America has barely changed its national gun laws, besides letting an [assault weapons ban](#) expire. Military-grade weapons have no place in our neighborhoods. The same is true for high-capacity magazines, some of which can hold up to 100 rounds of ammunition and significantly increase a shooter's ability to injure and kill large numbers of people quickly without needing to reload. We've already decided that certain weaponry — like tanks and rockets — are unaccepta-

ble in civilian hands. America should similarly reinstitute a federal assault weapons ban and ban magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

That being said – I don't have all the answers.

But I do know one thing: "Jesus loves the little children; all the children of the world; red and yellow, black and white they are precious in his sight; Jesus loves the little children of the world." Isn't it time we do too?

*Pastor Kate*



### **Please include in your continuing Prayers:**

Henry deWyk  
Cinda deWyk  
Mike Hill  
Ed Cobeen's Family  
Jane Constantino's Family



## God Sew Loved the World

Sewing has begun. Each new set of pieces that come together present an amazing surprise that never existed before. Please join us on a sewing day to help, or just observe. You are welcome. Our gatherings for September will be Wed. the 4<sup>th</sup>, Sat. the 7<sup>th</sup>, and Wed. the 25<sup>th</sup>. It is always in the Annex and always from 1-3. We now have some packets, complete with directions, for those of you who would like to contribute by sewing at home. We are into the fun part! Call Debbie Crist, 233-0671, if you have questions.



### **HAIL TO OUR RISE N DINE HEROES!!!**

**Look at those smiles! Join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Our next assembly day will be September 21st. We meet in the CE Building at 2:30 pm. There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. It feels SO good to do this work!**



## Deacons Dialogue

As September approaches...so will exciting new opportunities for your participation in the life of the church.

The choir will resume singing on September 8. In addition to the anthem, the choir will be leading the congregation in song each Sunday before the service as a way of bringing into focus a spirit of worship. The prelude will then be presented. Later on in the service, the choir will sing the anthem. As the spirit moves you, please wave your hands or say "amen" at the conclusion of the anthem. And, more music to enjoy as you are seated during the Postlude!



\* \* \*

If you are in need of a personal prayer with a deacon, please contact your deacon or meet with one after the service at the Prayer Corner, located by the candle bowl at the front of the church.

\* \* \*

Your deacon will be contacting you with information about joining another flock for a social get-together as a way of getting to know each other:

Kay Kurvers and Jim Christie's flock gathering will be:

Saturday, **September 28th, 4:00 pm**  
at Kay Kurver's home

Chicken and dessert will be provided.

Flock members will be contacted regarding bringing a side dish.

## Mission Committee:

BOOKS! BOOKS! Children need BOOKS!!!



Most children learn to read in school, but their proficiency grows as they read at home as well. Many children, especially those growing up in low income households, do not have books at home! Your Missions Committee is raising enough books to give each child at Elmcrest School 2 books each school year—one at the beginning and one at the end of the year! We've already supplied one book per child in June, and we have *almost* enough for Fall semester. Looking forward to the school year we need more—we're insatiable, aren't we! (There are many places to acquire used books in good condition—check out Grass Roots, Sundance, or even Barnes & Noble.)

First Congregational Church has become a Literacy Partner with Scholastic Books, the same company that has sent home book order forms with school children for decades! As a teacher I used Scholastic to build my classroom library, and as a reading coordinator I ordered books to give to every child in the school! Scholastic paperback books are inexpensively priced and will be available to order through the Missions Committee. To initiate our endeavor, we will be hosting a Bake Sale on **September 22**, with all funds purchasing quality children's books from Scholastic Books. All monies raised will buy quality books from Scholastic Books, our literacy partner—if you like, you may select the books you want to purchase from the catalogs available.

The Missions Committee would also appreciate donated baked goods; although our committee is small but mighty, we could use some assistance baking! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Thank you in advance for eating cookies and putting books into children’s hands! And please come to church hungry on **September 22nd**.

\* \* \*

Methodist Jim Strathdee wrote a song some years ago called “Do What You Can;” It went like this:

“Do what you can to bring in the Kingdom,  
Use what you’ve got for God’s delight,

Everybody here’s got something they can do,  
So do it and it’s all right!

Do it all day and all night.”

Your Missions Committee is zealous about service, trying to come up with ways everyone can participate, BUT—please choose what you are able to do, you needn’t do everything. We shouldn’t be too comfortable sitting in the pews, our faith and works should mature and grow, BUT trying to do it all may cause burnout and stress.

Please “Do what you CAN to bring in the Kingdom!



**AUGUST TREASURER’S REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Bank Balances as of August 9, 2019:**

Checking: \$34,302.73

Savings #1  
(Bldg./Facilities & Reserve):  
\$14,394.75

Savings #2 (CE Roof Fund):  
\$ 7,199.39

**Total: \$55,896.87**

Cornerstone CD:  
\$ 5,496.05

**Operations YTD through July 31, 2019:**

Unrestricted income was \$133,869.37; and unrestricted expenses were \$124,523.34. Unrestricted income exceeds unrestricted expenses by \$9,346.34.

Restricted income was \$16,565.00; and restricted expenses were \$4,356.06. Restricted income exceeds restricted expenses by \$12,208.94.

Overall, YTD income exceeds YTD expenses by \$21,555.28.

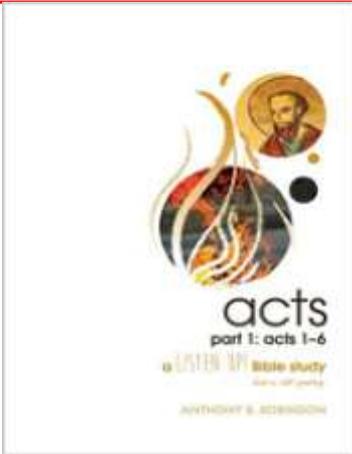
# SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><i>1 Ed Warman Lynn Warman</i> Worship, 10 am</p>	<p><i>2 Cookie Smith Bob Broili</i></p> <p><b>LABOR DAY! OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><i>4 Janet Drozd</i> Adult Study, 10:00 am</p> <p>Quilt Work, 1 to 3 pm</p>
<p><b>8</b> Worship, 10 am Building and Grounds, Annex</p> <p>Yoga with Jim, 4:30 pm, Annex</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>LISTEN UP! Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Manley Room</p> <p><i>Council Meeting, 7:00 pm Manley Room</i></p>	<p><b>11 Phoebe Macauley</b></p> <p>Adult Study, 10:00 am</p> <p>Circle Luncheon, 12:15 pm</p> <p>Confirmation Class, 6 pm</p> <p>Youth Group, 7 pm, C</p>
<p><b>15 Beverly Howard</b></p> <p>Worship, 10 am Deacons, Annex, 11:15 am</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17 Joel Constantino-Smith</b></p> <p>LISTEN UP! Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Manley Room</p>	<p><b>18 Newsletter a</b></p> <p>Adult Study, 10:00 am</p> <p>Stewardship, 11:30 am office</p>
<p><b>22 Joyce Linscott</b> Worship, 10 am Bake Sale for Books, following service Mission Cmt, Annex, following service</p> <p>Yoga with Jim, 4:30 pm, Annex</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>LISTEN UP! Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Manley Room</p>	<p><b>25</b> Adult Study, 10:00 am</p> <p>Quilt Work, 1 to 3 pm</p> <p>Confirmation Class, 6 pm</p> <p>Youth Group, 7 pm, C</p>
<p><b>29</b> Worship, 10 am Fellowship and Growth, Annex, following service</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Anniversaries:</b> <i>Elliott &amp; Debbie Crist Alena &amp; Simi Sofara John &amp; Helen Blanke Dave &amp; Kim Kary Steve &amp; Barbara Rowell</i></p>	

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
n, Annex  n, Annex	<p><b>5</b> <i>Daniel Moser</i> <i>Mary Busick</i></p> <p><b>Choir</b>, 7 pm, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>6 Council reports due</b></p> <p>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>NN Food Bank Service, 9-11am (car pool at Raley's, 8:30 am)</p> <p>Quilt Work, 1 to 3 pm, Annex</p>
<i>Stears</i>  m, Annex  5 pm, Annex  pm, CE Bldg CE Bldg	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Choir</b>, 7 pm, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</p> <p>.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>7 pm Sage Creek Bluegrass Band, Sanctuary</p>
<b>Articles due</b>  n, Annex m, Pastor Kate's	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Choir</b>, 7 pm, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Rise-n-Dine, 2:30. CE Building</p>
n, Annex  n, Annex pm, CE Bldg CE Bldg	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Choir</b>, 7 pm, Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Hannah Huntley</i></p> <p>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Fellowship and Growth



**.What's a *LISTEN UP! Bible Study*, and why is it unique?**

God's word is alive. God will always have something new to say to us. That's why the purpose of the *LIS-TEN UP! Bible Study* series is not simply learning information about the Bible. It is hearing God speak. There is a difference. In these Bible studies, you will be encouraged to listen: listen to the Bible, listen to your own questions and responses, and listen to the honest sharing among participants in your study group. Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that in that mix of biblical text, personal engagement, and honest speaking and listening, God's word may be

heard, speaking words of challenge and words of comfort. This *LISTEN UP! Bible Study* covers Acts, Chapters 1 - 26. Accessible, informative, and thought-provoking, *Acts* encourages creative thinking about the Bible. **This class will meet Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, in the Manley Room, beginning September 10th. ALL ARE WELCOME!!**



**JOIN US FOR YOGA! WITH JIM CHRISTIE**

When: Sundays, Sept 8 and 22, 4:30pm—5:45pm (after September, it'll be on the 2nd and last Sundays of the month)

Where: First Congregational Church of Reno, Annex

**Why:**

- \* Improves strength, awareness, and harmony in both mind and body
- \* Decreases stress
- \* Increases flexibility

Any questions? Call Jim Christie at 775-750-0631

**CIRCLE LUNCHEON!**

Wednesday, September 11th, 12:15 pm in the Annex

Bring a salad to share and everyone is invited!

Come for the Faith, Fellowship, Food and Fun!!

Call Debbie Crist at 233-0271 if you have questions.



FCCReno's youth group for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> will kick off the year on **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** ALL 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to this time of fellowship and fun – and friends are invited!

Join us for the last concert of the season sponsored by the Northern Nevada Bluegrass Association. Sage Creek will be performing here in the FCC sanctuary on **Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.** Come, bring your friends, and stay after for refreshments and to meet the performers.



On **October 12, 2019**, from 8 am—6 pm, Reno First United Methodist Church will be hosting "Shining Lights on a Guided Path". The keynote speaker is Brian McLaren, a Christian thinker and renowned author. This event will focus primarily on the ideas presented in the book, 'The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better

Way to be Christian'. In fact, one of the breakout sessions will be held here at First Congregational Church. The cost of the day-long event is \$40 per person. To register for this event at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2KWmtxl>.

**If you have changes, additions or corrections to the church directory, please contact Marc Ullom directly. [mfullom@att.net](mailto:mfullom@att.net). 775-**

# Kidz Korner



One of my favorite things about September is tomato vines loaded with perfect red deliciousness. It is a time of harvesting and preparing. As we gather ourselves for fall and school, I have this challenge for Sunday School youth.

I will donate \$1 to the church faith revenue fund for every kid that brings me the book, chapter, and verse of these Bible passages about harvesting, and writes a short statement or drawing about what one of them means to you. I've given you some clues – happy hunting! Love, Saralinda

1. If when reaping your harvest, you forget to bring in a sheaf from the field, don't go back after it. Leave it for the migrants, orphans, and widows; then, the LORD your God will bless and prosper all you do. (Book, Chapter: Verse clues - (Book 5 Old , "the night before..." number: last year of being a teenager)

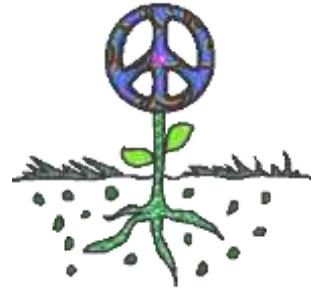


2. "The Harvest is so great and the workers are so few," he told his disciples, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Book, Chapter: Verse Clues – New Book 1, age of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders: last verses)



3. They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; God blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and God did not let their herds diminish. (Book, Chapter: Verse Clues – Old Song, a century plus lemon lime soda name \_\_\_\_ -Up: 30 plus Snow White’s dwarves)

4. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness. (Book, Chapter: Verse Clues – New not John or Jude but other J book, uno, dos... \_\_\_\_: legal age to vote in the United States)



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First Congregational Church of  
 Reno, United Church of Christ  
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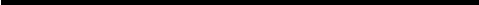
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September 2019  
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 E-mail: [fccreno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccreno@sbcglobal.net)  
 Office Hours Mon-Fri 9:00-1:00  
 An Open & Affirming Congregation

Return Service Requested



**WE'RE ALSO ON THE WEB**  
[www.renofirstcongregational.org](http://www.renofirstcongregational.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FCCReno](http://www.facebook.com/FCCReno)



**Sunday Worship**  
 10:00 am  
 Sunday School for Children  
*Nursery Care Provided*  
**Bible Study**  
**Adult Christian Education,**  
**10:00 am Wednesday**  
**Prayer Group, Chism Chapel**  
**Fridays at 6:30 am**

**We are the Peanut Butter Church!**

As Always: Any Sunday you are invited to bring peanut butter for the Food Bank. Pick up a jar whenever you're at the supermarket! Your thoughtfulness is **always** greatly appreciated!



*We are an Open & Affirming congregation, welcoming all persons -- regardless of race, ethnic background, economic status, gender, age, personal ability, or sexual orientation -- into the full life and ministry of the church.*