

July - September 2019

THE CHURCH CRIER

Desert Congregational Church

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Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

I was thinking about the concept of hell, the final destiny of those who reject the love of God and refuse his forgiveness.

Hell is not a punishment imposed externally by God, but the condition resulting from attitudes and actions which people adopt in this life. It is the ultimate consequence of sin itself. Scripture uses many images to describe the pain, frustration and emptiness of life without God. More than a physical place, hell is the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God, who is the source of all life and joy. Eternal damnation is not God's work, but it is actually our own doing. Christian faith teaches us that there are creatures who have already given a definitive "no" to God. These are the spirits which rebelled against God and whom we call demons. They serve as a warning for human beings: eternal damnation remains a real possibility for us too. The reality of hell should not, however, be a cause of anxiety or despair for believers.

Rather, it is a necessary and healthy reminder that human freedom has to be conformed to the example of Jesus, who always said "yes" to God, who conquered Satan, and who gave us his Spirit so that we too could call God "Father".

In our world today there are many who don't believe in the reality of hell. For them the very idea of a place of eternal torment was and is immoral. God is a God of love and it would be immoral for God to punish people simply because they made an error in beliefs. They believe that they are taking the higher ground and they dismiss a more traditional belief in regard to this issue.

What I find interesting is that there is a complete lack of understanding in regard to this issue. For those who hold a position of universal salvation there is no compulsion to evangelize; for the evangelical there is great urgency because of the plight of the eternally lost. In the end one observes, the Universalist embracing everyone and the evangelical holding to the Scriptures.

Being the practical person that I am I can't help but ask, what if the universalist is wrong? Then there will be people who have been deceived (because they believed what they were taught) who will spend eternity in hell. Now on the other hand, What if the evangelical is wrong? We will all be in heaven anyway so who cares.

So you ask me why I am an evangelical? Because there is a hell and I care about those who could be eternally lost.

In His Love,
Pastor Allan



Upcoming Events

July

- Jun 30 – Jul 5 Youth Camp
- 4 All Church Cookout
- 21 **Trustee Meeting**
- 27 Street Clean-up
- 27 Men's Breakfast

August

- 4 **Deacon's Meeting**
DCC Outing

September

- 1 **Trustee Meeting**
- 9 Women's Fellowship
- 9-13 Church Cruise
- 29 **Church Council Mtg**

COME SAIL WITH US



September 9-13

**Catalina Island and
Ensenada, Mexico from
Long Beach, CA
on
Carnival Cruise Lines**

BOARD BRIEFS

Trustees – Nancy Lake, Chairman

Trustees have been doing inventory of the church property. If anyone has a key, please let Jean know as soon as possible. We have a new retaining wall in front of the church. Thank you to Ed Kuhlmeier and his crew. You did a beautiful job.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let the trustees know. Yours in Christ.

Christian Ed – Tim Perez, Chairman

Hello all and greetings from your Christian Ed Chairman. We continue to push to make Christian education a top priority for our youth.

Yes, Christian Education should always be a top priority for our youth. We are in a desperate need of adult volunteers to assist in our Sunday School teachings. This will give the other adults the opportunity to sit in church and listen to Pastor Allan's sermons. We will continue to pray and be hopeful for assistance.

Please keep in mind that our youth are our future leaders for both our church and this country.

This past June, during one of our Sunday morning church services, we recognized two of our youth who graduated from High School as well as six to Jr. High and two to High School. Let's remember to keep them in our prayers, for guidance and success during their road to a more advanced education.

As the 4th of July approaches, our church is looking at having a cookout here on the church grounds. This will give the congregation the opportunity to have fellowship and enjoy the fireworks later on that evening, and yet being safe as well as avoiding the crazy traffic at Luckie Park. We will have more information as the planning for this event is currently ongoing.

We also have a new curriculum for the summer and early fall Sunday School group. It is entitled, "The Non-Avengers", and the overall theme is Bible heroes who chose to forgive rather than get revenge. There are eight lessons based upon significant scripture and well-known persons in the Bible, such as Esau, Joseph, David, Jesus, and four others. We hope our youth will participate regularly, bring a friend, and have fun with these stories. There are four crafts being planned to go along with some of the lessons, too. We can use help from anyone who is willing to help out with the teaching of the lessons and/or the crafts. Please consider helping our children to grow in their faith. You will learn right along with them and share their enthusiasm!! If you can help, please talk with Laure Morrow.

If you have any ideas, or suggestions, for Christian, Ed, please feel free to approach us or put the ideas on paper. We are grateful for the continuous support of our congregation and Pastor Allan.

**THE YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH.
INVEST IN OUR FUTURE!!**

Women's Fellowship – Barbara Hinderliter, President

Women's Fellowship is on summer break until September and then we will address the rummage sale, and the annual tea. In the meantime we voted to pay Sonny's Cleaning until December Once a month at the rate of 200.00 per cleaning. At that time we will address the issue and see if the Trustees and/or Men's Fellowship will assist in the payment of same. In the meantime if you see something that needs to be addressed, such as bathroom cleaning, trash removal, sweeping of Fellowship Hall, Please take the time to address same or take some action to correct same.

Until September, stay well, have a safe summer and remember we love you as God does.

Men's Fellowship – Rew Hennessy, Chairman

In the Men's breakfast/fellowship, we discuss any serious issues in church policy. But first things first; there are sausage patties, bacon strips, potatoes, biscuits, eggs, gravy, oatmeal, fresh fruit, and coffee served.

Someone usually brings Tobasco Sauce and this makes the potatoes a little more lively. The coffee is hot and you can enjoy it black or with some “dampeners.”

We are fortunate to be able to fund some of the church needs out of the overflow of our coffers. We have provided flowers for funerals, paid for custodial staff, food for families in need, flowers for the widows on Valentine’s Day as well as various other items.

The Pastor reminds us that we need to use our spiritual gifts and be workers, not “shirkers.” Please pray that we continue to run smoothly.

The Men’s Breakfast is held the last Saturday of every month and we welcome any and all newcomers to our group.

Music – Rew Hennessy, Music Director

The music team is doing well and we are happy to announce that we have a new mixing board in the sound room! We now have a lot more channels to work with and this is good for everyone. We will be experimenting with a drum machine and other new things to fill out the sound. Please let us know what you think.

The choir will be taking a break during the summer and some of our folks will be going out of town. I think they did a great job learning new songs over the winter, and on the Easter program. This is a time where I look for other people to step in and do something during the choir’s absence. Do you have a song to sing? Talk to me and you can be included.

I have been asked if we can sing a communion song or two during communion. Yes, we can and we will.

Let me encourage you now with Psalm 113 : “Praise the Lord. Praise, O servants of the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the LORD, from this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting The name of the LORD is to be praised. The LORD is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God. Who is enthroned on high, Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in heaven and in the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, With the princes of His people. He makes the barren woman abide in the house as a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!” Enjoy your summer. – Rew

Cruise with us!

On September 9 – 13, the church will leave Long Beach for a 3 day, 4 night cruise to Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico. Get off the ship at both ports and enjoy excursions (at your expense) or stay on the ship and enjoy the amenities there. Either way, you’ll have a great time. Getting to know others in the church is the best of all. It’s not too late. Call Charlene Reisler at Carnival Cruise Lines – 800-819-3902 ext 82937. Be sure to give her this number - #3PLW47 – when you make your reservations.

Hymn Sing Sunday

We still have Hymn Sing Sunday. Every third Sunday at Desert Congregational, we sing your favorite songs. Thumb through the hymnal and let us know the song(s) you really like to sing, fill out the form that’s on the information table in the Foyer and put it in the offering plate any Sunday. That’s all you have to do – we’ll do the rest. In the future, all songs requested for Hymn Sing Sunday will be designated in the bulletin with an **(R)** beside the song.

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Got a suggestion for the Deacons to consider and discuss? There’s a suggestion box on the wall in the Foyer. All suggestions must be signed, however, to be considered.
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JULY

Birthdays

1 – Floyd Carlson; 3 – Loretta Carlson; 13 – Marie Lewis;
15 – Laurel Morrow and Jeanette Carson; 16 – Andrew
Barnett; 18 – Martha Buckles; 20 – Judith Kreger;
26 – SunCha Huffman; 27 – SunRe Renner; 29 – Vivian
Dawson; 31 – Gale Yawn

Anniversaries

17 – Jack & Lorri Conway
26 – Terry & Barbara Hinderliter
28 – Don & SunCha Huffman
29 – Glenn & Peggy Freshour

AUGUST

Birthdays

2 – Laurel Hamilton; 4 – Ashton Martinez; 8 – Dale Lowe
and Christopher Perez; 10 – Louie Kisner; 12 – Blaine
King; 13 – Barbara Kisner

Anniversaries

None

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

3 – Peggy Freshour and Kathleen Kiper; 11 – Ruth Libby;
14 – Clarissa Escareno and Lillian Hull; 24 – Tammy
Sandoval and Rachael Snowden

Anniversaries

27 – Thurman and Jeanette Carson

Meeting Dates to Remember:

- Adult Bible Study = *Sunday @ 9 AM*
- Youth Group = *Sunday @ 6 PM*
- Pioneer Club = *Monday @ 6 PM*
- Adult Bible Study = *Thursday @ 6 PM*
- Worship Team Practice = *Thursday @ 6 PM*
- Choir Practice = *Thursday @ 7 PM*
- Deacons = *1st Sunday of every other month*
- Trustees = *2nd Sunday of every other month*
Christian Ed = *3^d Sunday of every other month*
- Men's Fellowship = *Last Saturday of each month*
- Women's Fellowship Ministry = *2nd Monday of each month*

If you have a birthday or anniversary that isn't on the list above OR if you see an incorrect date, please let us know.

Cracker Barrel Outing

On June 18, eighteen of us met at the church and carpoled to Victorville for a Cracker Barrel lunch. Some had salad, some had catfish, some had chicken, and some had CB's meatloaf, but no matter what we had, it was good and delicious and the fellowship was awesome. Those who went were: *Shannon McWilliams; Ruth Libby; Karen Kluge; Allan & Laurel Morrow; Jessi David and her friend, Hailey; Fred and Dee Robertson; Steve Leazer; Jack and Lorri Conway; Kenny Hill and Sandy Smith and their friends, Kathy and Cindy; and Ed and Jean Hill.* The next outing date will be in August – the date is to be announced later. We hope you'll plan to come with us. If you have a suggestion, or know, of a place that you'd like to go, please let Jean know. She'll be coordinating the event.

SCRIP Program

We have the SCRIP program and the cards are here for Stater's, Walmart, and AM PM. If you want any others that are on the list, let us know. Support your church. Buy a SCRIP card. Today.

Generosity displays confidence in God's loving and faithful provision

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

E T A C O V D A E W H
 R U R E T S A M F O G
 A V R S U S E J L N O
 W R E T M W A Y I C L
 V I N Y D A A K D D O
 R A T S G N I N R O M
 D A Y S T A R C P T S A L D N A T S R I F O R E R U N N E R
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 P H P O C S N D E G E
 E L R L D R S G R H D
 N D O F A E O E R T E
 T R P O I N L V U H E
 E E H D D R A E S B M
 R V E R E O T R E S E
 E O T O L C I L R H R
 V S N L I K O A V E T
 I S G R V V N S A P S
 G A D A E R B T N H I
 W P S D R V S I T E R
 A G S G E V O N O R H
 L O W O R D H G S D C
 N O I T A D N U O F Y

Advocate
 Almighty
 Alpha and Omega
 Amen
 Apostle
 Beloved Son
 Bishop
 Branch
 Bread
 Captain
 Carpenter
 Chosen
 Christ
 Consolation
 Cornerstone
 Counselor
 Day Star
 Deliverer

Door
 Emmanuel
 Everlasting
 Faithful and True
 First and Last
 Forerunner
 Foundation
 Governor
 Head
 High Priest
 Holy and Just One
 Horn of Salvation
 I AM
 Jesus
 Judge
 King
 King of Kings
 Lamb of God

Lawgiver
 Life
 Light
 Lion of Judah
 Lord
 Lord of Lords
 Master
 Master
 Mediator
 Messiah
 Mighty God
 Morning Star
 Nazarene
 Only Begotten Son
 Passover
 Priest
 Prince of Peace
 Prophet

Redeemer
 Resurrection
 Rock
 Savior
 Servant
 Shepherd
 Son of David
 Son of God
 Son of Man
 Vine
 Way
 Wonderful
 Word