

RBMCC's New Worship Program

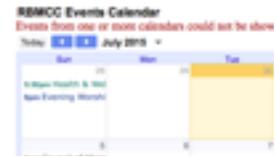
WE'VE MADE A COUPLE
CHANGES WORTH
CHECKING OUT
PAGES 2-3



4TH FRIDAY FIRES
JULY 24
AUGUST 28
SEPTEMBER 25



SUNDAY SCHOOL
BEGINS IN AUGUST
PAGE 4



NEW CALENDAR
ON RBMCC.ORG
STAY ON TOP OF
WHAT'S HAPPENING

GOOD NEWS



Council of Ministries Begins Leadership Role

Congregation approves new structure in which 8 lay leaders will work with teams of members & friends to guide and grow our church.

Earlier this year, the congregation met to approve a new Operating Procedure to ensure that our church remains vibrant and strong after our Pastoral Leader, Ty Bradley, began his new phase of ministry in July. This new leadership structure is based on pairing people with different gifts but similar passion for various areas of the church, and charging this pair to build and lead a team that is focused on Kingdom Building here at RBMCC.

Each of the eight leaders appointed by the congregation will work in two ministry areas with a different member of the Council of Ministries, and will co-lead ministries with people not in their same household.

1. Christian Education & Leadership Training (Andy V & Karen)
2. Fellowship (Louise & Jason)
3. Congregational Care (Freda & Dale)
4. Outreach & Communication (Jon & Andy V)
5. Community Service (Dorothy & Louise)
6. Worship Service Planning (Dale & Jon)
7. Church Facilities (Karen & Dorothy)
8. Fundraising (Jason & Freda)

The Council of Ministries will be meeting monthly to review the work of all the ministries and plan church activities and worship themes 6-9 months out from their scheduled times. Finalized plans will be presented to the Board of Directors to ensure transparency and to give everyone a chance to comment / ask questions before these events or programs go live.

In order for us to truly grow in the Spirit as a church, the Council believes that we have to plan, prepare and set goals, yet remain flexible enough to allow the Holy Spirit to intervene when God's plan differs from ours.

This structure promises to increase accountability and improve communication. An example of this is in your hands right now... our new quarterly newsletter is a direct result of our Council of Ministries' efforts to improve communication and our connection with members, friends and visitors to the church. We want to ensure that all are welcome to participate in these teams and that everyone knows in advance when special events will be occurring.

Highlights From Our New Worship Format

If you've attended church during the past few weeks you may have noticed some changes to the order of worship that have been designed by our Council of Ministries' Worship Service Planning Team. For the benefit of all, we'd like to call out a few important aspects of these changes as well as highlight a few things that haven't changed.

First of all, we're planning ahead. That means that church bulletins, slideshows, music rehearsals, everything needed for the service in fact will be completed before Sunday even comes; meaning, as often as possible, we'll be starting promptly at 6 pm.

This is something that a number of people have provided feedback about and we want you to know that we hear you. And while we cannot predict tech-gremlins or last minute arrivals of special people whom we haven't seen in a while, we can do our best to start at 6 pm by making sure we are prepared to do so.

To help us out, we want you to do your best to arrive early too. And now you have 3 reasons to come earlier:

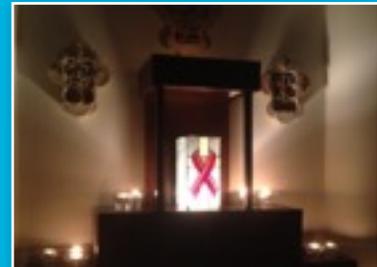
- 1) Sunday School.**
- 2) Pre-Service Worship Time.**
- 3) Prayer Circle.**

New Worship Service Structure

Sunday School 4:45p

Candlelight Worship 5:20p

Prayer Circle 5:50p



30 minutes of pre-service worship by candlelight starts in August, all are welcome

Service Starts 6:00p

Order of Worship:

Opening Prayer / Candles

Opening Song

Welcome & Announcements

Ministry Minute

Our Offering to God

Reading of The Word

Praise & Worship

The Message

Community / Family Prayer

Communion

Closing Song

Benediction

Extending the Hand of Fellowship

Potluck Fellowship 7:20p



Mark Your Calendar

OC Pride Planning Jul. 26

OC Pride Aug. 1

SFTJ Camp Aug. 3-7

4th Fri. Fires Aug. 28

Arise! Saturday Sept. 5

MCC Southwestern
Cluster Meeting Sept. 12

4th Fri. Fires Sept. 25

Camping, Oct 2-4

4th Friday Fellowship
Murder Mystery Night
Oct. 23

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 4:45 PM

(see our article on page 4 for more on this exciting addition to our Sunday line-up brought to you by our Christian Education & Leadership Training team)

WORSHIP BY CANDLELIGHT @ 5:20 PM

Some were saddened when we stopped our Friday Night by Candlelight service. It was worshipful, meditative, healing and uplifting. Well, we're bringing it back, sort-of. Beginning in August, we will be hosting 30 minutes of worship by candlelight from 5:20 - 5:50 PM, giving all a chance to center themselves before church.

PRAYER CIRCLE @ 5:50 PM

This is something we've done from time to time. However prayer is vital to our spiritual lives and we need to be intentional about being prayerful regarding our church, spiritually supporting all that we do through prayer. That's why we've made a pre-service Prayer Circle a permanent part of our worship service. Come by the church office at 5:50 if you want to be a part of this. It's open to all and is especially intended for everyone participating in the worship service.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Other changes to the worship service include moving the praise and worship time to the period just before the sermon. This gives the worship team and the speaker a chance to collaborate on theming the music / worship experience with the message, even integrate the two if they wish to do so.

80-MINUTE SERVICE

We know some of you have to go to bed early and we don't want you to miss out on church or fellowship afterwards. As a result, we've added the above-mentioned aspects of our service to provide a longer experience for those who want it, and we are cutting the length of our primary service to 80 minutes... down from 90-110 minutes. Church will start at 6 pm and end at 7:20 so that we can wrap up fellowship around 8 pm for those who might need to head home to prepare for their Mondays.



WHAT'S NOT CHANGING?

Family Prayer... Over the years we've tried different formats of our prayer time, from writing them down and reading them, to simply having a general prayer that covers all. Yet most people seem drawn to the style we've most often used, where individuals have a chance to speak from the pews to voice their prayers directly to the congregation. We like this. We feel it brings us closer and helps build our community. Our Ministry Council had a lengthy discussion on each part of the worship service and we unanimously decided that we need to keep Family Prayer time intact /as-is as a part of our worship experience.

To ensure that as many people as possible have a chance to share, we kindly ask that you remember to keep your request brief... share the important parts and keep the details to share with those who approach you after church to learn more about how they can best pray for you. This way, everyone who needs to share will have a chance to do so, and all of us can be respectful of the needs of some who have a long drive ahead of them or an early start to their Monday.



Jon B leading worship

Sunday School Begins in August

In 2012, our church survey indicated that many wanted a Sunday School. The challenge was, when? We elected instead to have mid-week Bible Studies while we worked on a plan for Sunday School. But the challenge with these meetings is that so many of our congregation live far from church and getting to a mid-week Bible Study is often difficult for the vast majority of our congregation.

Our new worship format is intentionally designed with convenience in mind. We have scheduled a number of activities around our worship service... including for the first time ever: Sunday School. This schedule focuses our leadership energy and transportation needs from 4-8 pm on Sunday, making it more possible for people to attend part or all of these activities.

The format will begin for a 24-week period and will feature the Nooma video series used at the Bible Studies at Andy V's house. Discussions will highlight scriptures used in the videos or personal testimonies that relate to the topic introduced. If you missed the series at Andy's, this is a great opportunity to see the videos and be impacted by the teachings included within them.

Strength For the Journey Camp Aug. 3-7

Hard to believe it's already time for Camp. If you are HIV+ and would like to participate in this year's Strength For the Journey spiritual retreat in the San Bernardino Mountains, please contact Dale or Freda who head up our Congregational Care Team. They will connect you with the Camp. Scholarships are available, so don't let money be the reason you miss out on this amazing experience.

Want to volunteer on staff? It's not too late to get involved. Contact Louise or Dorothy.



Camp

OC Pride Booth Aug. 1

RBMcC will once again be hosting a booth in August at the OC Pride Festival in downtown Santa Ana. We'd love to have your participation. We will be meeting on Sunday, July 24 at 4:45 pm to put our final plans in place for the booth activity.

Your Testimony is Needed

Later this summer, RBMCC's Outreach Team will begin filming and editing short videos that will appear on our website. These videos will feature people from our church, expressing in their own words and voice, what RBMCC has meant to them. These videos will also stream on a special YouTube channel that will represent the presence of RBMCC to the world. Not comfortable appearing on camera? We have some creative ideas in mind to include your testimony without putting your face or your voice on camera... so reach out to Andy V or Jon if you are interested in being a part of this dynamic and impactful ministry.



Karen is one of RBMCC's volunteers for Strength For the Journey

RBMCC Awarded Honorary Membership in Christ Chapel MCC for 5 years of partnership in Community BBQ for Homeless & Hungry



Dorothy, Lola & Cynthia preparing nachos at the Christ Chapel MCC Community BBQ

MORE THAN 20,000 MEALS SERVED!

Since 2010, RBMCC has partnered with our sister church here in Orange County, Christ Chapel MCC, to help prepare and serve over 20,000 meals to the homeless and hungry.

Few ministries have served the dual purpose of both serving our community and serving our MCC family at the same time. Christ Chapel has seen many volunteer groups come and go, but only RBMCC has consistently been

there month in and month out since almost the very beginning of this ministry.

In addition to meals, we've gathered and distributed hundreds of articles of clothing. We're always collecting used clothing, however we ask that you bring items that you would actually wear. This ministry is not just about providing a covering but providing dignity. Items that are heavily stained, for example, are often rejected because they don't serve the more powerful, healing mission that comes with providing dignity and respect to someone who walks this earth ignored, forgotten, even harassed and abused.

We meet at Christ Chapel MCC the last Sunday of every month at 9 am and stay to help clean up, which lasts until about 12:30. See Dorothy or Louise for more information.



Carmen, Zach and Andy V at the Christ Chapel MCC Community BBQ

Arise! Saturday Sept. 5th

No plans for Labor Day Weekend? Consider yourself invited to Arise! A Spiritual Revival afternoon BBQ & evening backyard worship experience.



The "Tent" in the Tent of Nations Revival, June 2014

Last June, Andy V opened his backyard for a revival called "The Tent of Nations." Many who attended were not expecting the combination of atmosphere, food, fellowship and spiritual growth that challenged

people to identify their spiritual baggage, find forgiveness and place their burdens on the cross. Many have asked when we will have another revival... That time has come.

Welcome to Arise! At this event, we will have plenty of good food, fun, fellowship and worship. In addition, however, we will participate in activities that will help identify God's purpose for you and how your part is essential to the work of Kingdom Building.

The backyard will open at 4 pm with the Spiritual component running from 6 pm - 9 pm and lasting into the evening for those who would like to stay.

Our Faith, Our Commitment, Our Community, Our Church

This summer, we are being given an opportunity to become the church God has always intended us to be. When you strip away all the activities, all the services, all the things we have to do, and you focus on what really matters - people - everything we need to do and everything we need to be comes down to one very simple word: relationship.



A good, healthy, strong relationship takes commitment. It requires persistence. It demands forgiveness even when it is not deserved. It needs two

Preaching Schedule

July's Theme:

"Together, In Christ, We Grow"

July 5: Andy V & Dale

July 12: Dale

July 19: Dale

July 26: Andy V

August's Theme:

"God Has Our Back: Proof That God is Faithful"

August 2: Dale

August 9: Celebrating Our Ministries

August 16: Andy

August 23: Rev. Roi

August 30:

Ron Littlejohn

September's Theme:

"All That God Designed You to Be"

September 6: Andy V

September 13: Rev. Barbara Haynes

September 20: Dale

September 27: Rev. Tory Topjian

or more people to want it to succeed in order for it to even exist.

Church is people, not a building. Church is community, not religion. Church is practicing living with God while we are still learning to live with people. We are in training to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the very world that rejected Him and all that He stands for.

No wonder being church is hard. No wonder so many of us... all of us in fact, get it wrong as often as (or more often than) we get it right. We are not perfect and we make mistakes. And sometimes we let our own egos get in the way of what really matters: having good relationships with people.

Our relationships with one another say more about our relationship with God than any amount of money we tithe, any amount of time we volunteer, any number of prayers we pray. For if we cannot honor our commitments to love and uplift and support one another in the tough times, how can we be expected to defend Jesus on the streets, speak on behalf of God at work, or triumph over Satan when we are challenged in our weakest moments?

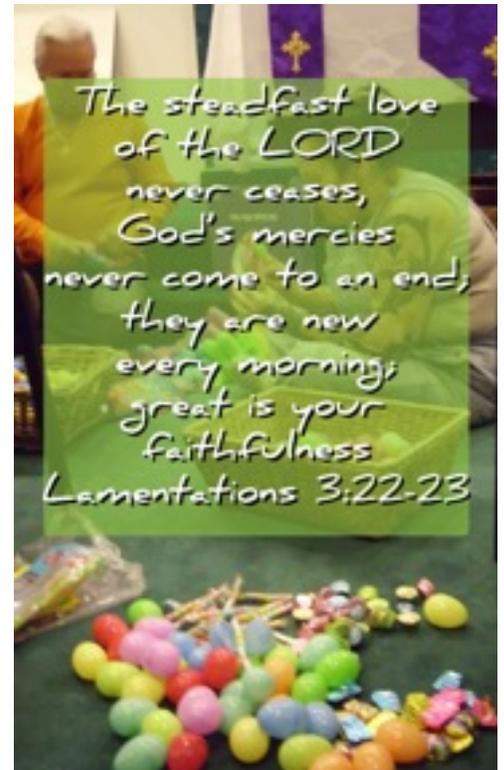
Our church is in a new phase in our journey, and yet, it's in moments like these where God is often most evident and most revealed. We find ourselves re-committing to God's work like never before; finding grace and reconciliation with those with whom we may have struggled in the past; finding new meaning and greater understanding of our own spiritual gifts and how important those gifts are to building Christ-centered community.

And most importantly, we find ourselves not only believing that our relationships matter most, we actually are finding the conviction to change our relationships for the better. Because God is in that change. God wants us to be in right-relationship with one another because they will know that we are Christians by our love!

Our finances are strained; our hearts have been saddened at saying good-bye to one of our beloved, home-grown leaders; many of us have questioned the ability of this church to survive in the long-term. But one thing is for certain, God has a plan and God does not abandon lost sheep but brings them to the fold.

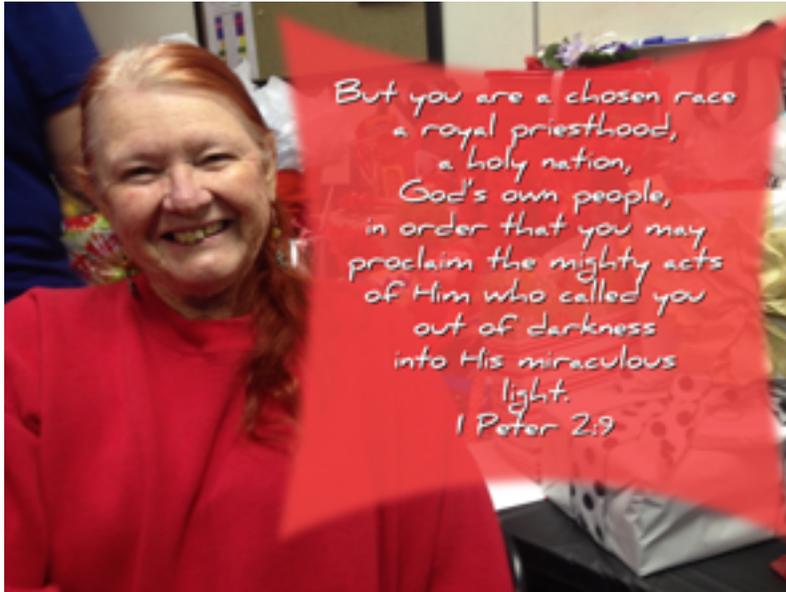
Like Job, our faith is being tested and, like Job, God will restore what has been lost so long as we remain faithful and committed to God's plan for this church and our community.

God's plan is very simple: Love one another and mean it. Believe in that love as firmly as you believe in God. Commit to one another's spiritual prosperity. Go the distance to connect and reconnect with those whom God has placed on your hearts. God needs you to be Jesus in this world. Even Jesus needed a community of faith. You can't do it alone. Right relationship with God requires right relationship with others. In this transition, let's recommit to one another: in love, in faith, in new life, in church!



Living The Word

This is not the first time our church has gone through transition. If you look at our history, it is clear that we have always been a church built upon fellowship, worship and perseverance. It is during those uncertain times that our church has grown, and today is no different. The Board of Directors and the Council of Ministries are in place to lead our congregation during this transition, and we need your help.



To the church of Philippi Paul wrote:

“Is there any such thing as Christians cheering each other up? Do you love me enough to want to help me? Does it mean anything to you that we are brothers in the Lord, sharing the same Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic at all? Then make me truly happy by loving each other and agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, working together with one heart and mind and purpose.” (Philippians 2:1-2 [TLB])

We cannot do that without help from our congregation. To effectively be the hands and feet of Jesus in an imperfect world, we need volunteers to help run our ministries and facilities. There are plenty of opportunities within our church:

- ▶ Audio / Visual Ministry, helping in the sound room during church and help us enhance our worship service slide show.
- ▶ Singing / playing with the Praise & Worship Team
- ▶ Greeting people as they arrive for worship
- ▶ Bringing food to after service Fellowship
- ▶ Helping clean up after Fellowship time
- ▶ Providing transportation for folks from Long Beach and other areas to come to church
- ▶ Visiting folks who are unable to attend or in the hospital
- ▶ Volunteering to feeding the homeless & hungry once a month in Santa Ana
- ▶ Taking photos of special events for our website, newsletter and to help document church history
- ▶ Helping keep the church tidy for the next group that comes to use our space
- ▶ Helping prepare the bulletin for service
- ▶ Be a part of our prayer team
- ▶ Developing and assisting in fundraising events

See Andy or Dale for more information on getting involved in any of these ministries.