

# The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove



2019

*Walking in Faith, Living in Hope, and Acting in Love*

Sunday Worship  
9:30 am

11832 Euclid Street  
Garden Grove, CA  
92840

office (714) 534-2269  
www.fpcgg.org  
church email:  
fpcgg@fpcgg.org

Transitional Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Jack Loo  
949-444-1028

Business Administrator  
Denise Cerince  
denise@fpcgg.org

Music Director  
Marilyn Stiltz

Shower Plus Ministry  
Coordinator  
Tom Windhausen

Custodian  
Mike Hudson

Editors  
Sharon and Wayne  
Wolfe  
wayashar@aol.com

## *From Pastor Jack's Study:*

### **A FATHER STORY (A Personal Father's Day Remembrance)**



I was born in Tallinn, Estonia, in the middle of a war zone. Six weeks after my birth my father announced he was leaving and walked out of our family. During the years that followed, his name rarely came up in conversation. It seemed to be the Estonian way of dealing with the painful and the personal. Then in Helsinki, Finland, after forty-seven years of not knowing where he was, I was given the opportunity to meet him.

Of course, I had no memory of him, but as I entered the agreed upon restaurant, I recognized my father immediately. His facial features were amazingly familiar. His eyes were very much like the ones I saw regularly in my own mirror. I gave him my hand and said, "Hello, I am Jaak (Estonian for Jack) Loo." Endel Loo gripped my hand, nodded, and smiled.

As we sat down, he was understandably nervous. I am sure he wondered why I had asked for this meeting after all these years. Once I assured him that I had not come to unload any old family pain or to collect any back allowance, he relaxed and began to talk. He talked first about my mother and their short-lived marriage. He described his early drives to be a performing artist, a star, and how his selfishness drew him away. His recording of four albums and his love for the theater overruled his love for my mother and for family. He painfully confessed his immaturity and irresponsibility and his guilt, not only for leaving his family but for leaving his family in an intensifying war zone. Perhaps I was reading too much into the moment, but I sensed he was using this invasion of mine to deal with some deep and painful emotional rubble not touched in a long time.

His sincere repentance reached my heart and at one point moved me to say, "On behalf of my mother,

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**The Messenger** is published monthly to inform members and friends of church news, upcoming events, and "food for thought".

**Deadline** for contributions is the **10th** of each month.

Contributions are subject to editing with regard to subject matter, space requirements, and *timely* submission. The Editors and Staff appreciate your kind and thoughtful cooperation.

For weekly updates, please come to Worship Service each Sunday morning to receive your copy of the Bulletin with announcements.

## A FATHER STORY (continued from page 1)

who is now with the Lord, on behalf of myself, and on behalf of God, if you choose to accept it, you are forgiven.” At that point all conversation stopped. It was as if those words needed a few moments of sacred silence to find their right depth. Their power was revealed at the end of the evening when he returned to those words and said, “It is as if God is giving me one more chance to get my life right.”

Thirteen years passed before I saw him again. During that time, he had moved back to Estonia and was now living on Saaremaa, the largest of Estonia’s islands. I had an opportunity to return to my birth country, and this time I took my family with me. And, of course, the expected highlight of the trip for Linda and the boys would be meeting my father.

If meeting me in Helsinki made my father nervous, I wondered how he would handle the invasion of more members of the distant Loo tribe. There was no need to be concerned. The welcome was warm, and the conversation flowed freely. My father loved to tell stories, and I had brought him an appreciative audience.

Among the sights my father wanted us to see, he was most eager to take us to the church he was attending. I think he wanted me to know that the spiritual path we had briefly stepped on in Helsinki had led him to deeper faith. It was a weekday, and we entered an empty church building that was showing its age. But the altar had an inviting beauty that was framed by a sparkling white railing and a complementary kneeling bench that circled the whole chancel.

While my father was showing the rest of the family the features of the entry hall, I was drawn to the altar. Standing there I felt compelled to kneel. I wanted to pray that God would bless my father and the people who worshiped there. I lowered myself onto the kneeling bench and then sensed someone moving next to me. My father had seen me at the altar and quickly came down to kneel beside me.

He looked at me and said, “May I pray?” “Of course,” I replied, completely surprised by what was happening. Then he prayed these words, “Dear God, thank you for your love and for your forgiveness that cleanses my dark soul. Thank you for life’s fresh starts and the renewed relationship with my son. Bless us all. Amen.”

He looked at me again and asked, “Would you also pray?” Pray? I could hardly speak. I choked out a few words I no longer remember. What I do remember was the special connection I felt. It was deeper than just a family connection. My father identified it when he stood up and said, “We are not just father and son, we are now spiritual brothers.”

You know, my father wasn’t much of a father, but God made him into a loved spiritual brother. And it all started with three words, three God-inspired words, “You are forgiven.”

Behind us, my wife Linda saw the two of us side by side at the altar, and without intrusion took a picture with her camera. To this day it remains a very prized photo of a cherished moment in my relationship with my father.

Blessings, *Pastor Jack*





WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30 AM

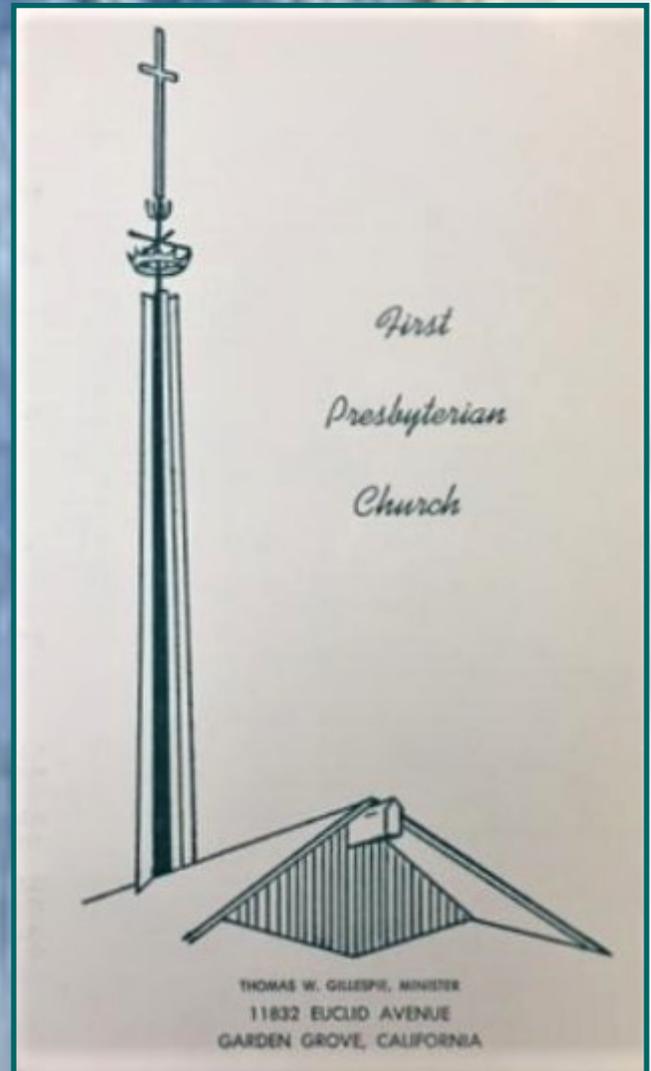
**SUNDAY, JULY 7**  
**COMMUNION**  
**“Wrapped in  
God’s Best Thoughts”**  
Psalm 103:1-5  
Ephesians 1:3-14

**SUNDAY, JULY 14**  
**“Checking for  
God’s Fingerprints”**  
Psalm 145:1-7  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Ice Cream Social after Worship

**SUNDAY, JULY 21**  
**“Now That’s Really Living”**  
Psalm 37:3-6  
Ephesians 2:1-10

**SUNDAY, JULY 28**  
**“Beyond Our Imagination”**  
Psalm 121:1-8  
Ephesians 3:14-21

Rev. Dr. Jack Michael Loo,  
Transitional Pastor



**A PEEK AT FPCGG HISTORY**

by Sharon Wolfe

The sketch above first appeared as a worship bulletin cover on February 24, 1957, and was then used for an extended time each Sunday. The design for the bulletin cover was done by Richard W. Pershing. Depicted is the spire steeple: “the Cross exalted above the Crown of Thorns pointing over the four directions of the world, and over of the Crown of the Exalted Christ.” (This is, of course, the original steeple recently removed from the original building rooftop to solve our leakage problem; that original steeple is currently stored while we plan an appropriate place indoors to display it permanently.)



**MUSIC DURING  
JOINT WORSHIP  
SERVICE  
ON PENTECOST  
SUNDAY, JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>  
First Presbyterian  
Church and  
Vietnamese  
Presbyterian Church**





### Take Note!

by Marilyn N. Stiltz, Music Director, FPCGG

## THE CHANCEL CHOIR

A Short Quiz: *5 points for each correct answer.*



1. What is the official name of the FPCGG choir?
  - a. Chapman Choir
  - b. Chattel Choir
  - c. Chapel Choir
  - d. Chancel Choir
2. What is the purpose / role of the choir?
  - a. Free entertainment
  - b. Give Pastor a break
  - c. Enhance worship
  - d. Follow Biblical tradition
3. What can you accomplish in 30 minutes or less?
  - a. a 3-hour rehearsal
  - b. run a marathon with Stuart
  - c. read the entire New Testament
  - d. go out for a movie
4. How should you respond to the choir anthem?
  - a. whatever
  - b. it's church - remain silent
  - c. yell "Hallelujah! It's over!"
  - d. thunderous applause

**Answer 1: d. Chancel Choir.** Session Minutes from the 1957 archives document that the name of the (formerly) "adult choir" was designated as the Chancel Choir. The Chancel is the part of a church behind the altar, slightly elevated for better sound projection. Of course, in the 21st Century we have the benefit of technology, microphones, monitor speakers, and Stuart, the Super-Cool Marathon Man 'running' the soundboard!

**Answer 2: YAY! Every answer is correct!!** However, it is the goal of the choir to *c: enhance worship*. Our weekly prayer is that our music in some way addresses the spirituality in those who hear us. I've talked with our wonderful choir members, who assert that they get more out of singing the anthem than if they were in the pews. Doing music is spiritually rewarding; it is one of the ways we can give to you and others.

**Answer 3: a. a 3-hour rehearsal.** Most church choirs have a mid-week rehearsal; a few choirs rehearse after Sunday service for a couple of hours. One of our many FPCGG real-life-miracles is that the choir rehearses **ONLY** on Sunday mornings, from 8:30 to 9. Keep in mind, announcements, prayer (¡muy importante!), and warm-ups (also important) are included in this short 30-minute window!

**Answer 4: a. whatever.** This means, *do whatever the Spirit leads you to do!* Shout "Amen!" or "Praise the Lord" or clap or be silent .... The choir does not want you to feel obligated to give an audible response. There are some anthems (the fancy term for the special song that the choir sings) that lead to a profound silence, a magical spiritual moment that lingers in the air. Other anthems are conducive to a "Hallelujah" or Amen, or ... thunderous applause. Look back to answer 2: Our goal is to enhance, strengthen your Sunday morning worship experience.

The Pastor gives the choir director (oh, that's me) an outline of sermon titles and scriptures several weeks in advance. I look through the choral library, collections, and on-line choral works, for possible anthems. The final selection is based on the difficulty of the piece (remember — 30 minutes or less delivery) text, and musicality. We like our music to be nice to listen to.

The choir is a volunteer position; some churches have paid professional section leaders to provide vocal support; many do not (including us). Do you know someone who enjoys singing, and can learn music quickly? New choristers are welcome! I can be reached at 562-397-0849, or e-mail [music1814stiltz@me.com](mailto:music1814stiltz@me.com).

**Next month: Take Note! Song of Preparation**



### Group Outing

## JOIN YOUNG-AT-HEART TO ENJOY *WEST SIDE STORY* On Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

From the first notes to the final breath, *West Side Story* is one of the most memorable musicals and greatest love stories of all time. Arthur Laurents' book remains as powerful, poignant, and timely as ever. The score by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim are widely regarded as among the best ever written. Bernstein's score for the musical includes "Jet Song", "Something's Coming", "Maria", "Tonight", "America", "Cool", "One Hand, One Heart", "I Feel Pretty", "Somewhere", "Gee, Officer Krupke", and "A Boy Like That".

Shakespeare's timeless classic story, *Romeo and Juliet*, is transported to modern-day New York City as two young, idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the American "Jets" and the Puerto Rican "Sharks." The young protagonist, Tony, a former member of the "Jets" and best friend of the gang's leader, Riff, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the "Sharks". In this production at The GEM Theater in Garden Grove, their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence, and prejudice proves to be one of the most innovative, heart-wrenching, and relevant musical dramas of our time.

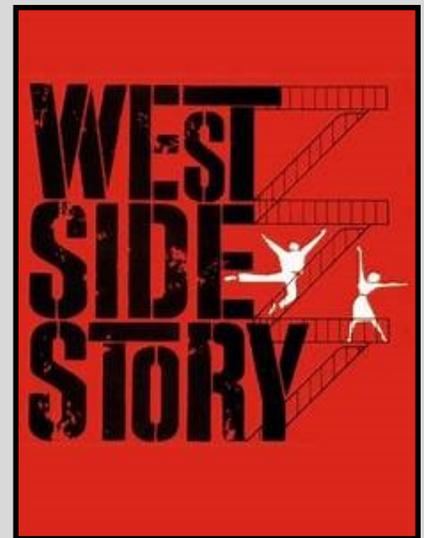
FPCGG Young-At-Heart folks will be enjoying *West Side Story* at the 158-seat GEM Theatre located at 12852 Main Street in down-town Garden Grove. We have 20 coveted tickets for the Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> matinee, \$30 each, to be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets can only be reserved by paying for them.

Contact Denise Cerince; provide a check made out to First Presbyterian Church or exact cash.

Please note that you should plan to be at the theater to pick up your reserved tickets by 1:30 pm for the 2:00 pm curtain.

**Bring your friends  
to share the fellowship FPCGG offers!**



## LUNCH TIME ON FRIDAY, JULY 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am

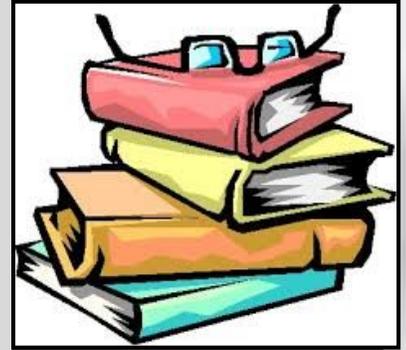
FPCGG guys and gals will be meeting separately for lunch at 11:30 am on the third Friday of the month at Oggi's, at the intersection of Chapman Ave. and Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove.

Ladies and gentlemen enjoy lunch and conversation at separate tables in the same back room. Join one of those tables this month!

To make reservations: Gentlemen—contact Wayne Wolfe (714.342.4331).  
Ladies—contact Sharon Wolfe (714.540.2746).

**It is important that you make reservations so that correct seating can be planned; and that you notify us if your plans change after you've reserved a spot. Thanks for your help!**

## READ AN LAPD DETECTIVE FICTION THRILLER WITH THE FPCGG BOOK CLUB



In the June 13<sup>th</sup> *LA Times* "Column One", James Queally wrote about a real-life Michael Connelly character in the LAPD. "In her 24-year career, LAPD Hollywood Division Detective Mitzi Roberts has not only found herself involved in some of L.A.'s most infamous cases...but in recent years, Roberts became the inspiration for Renée Ballard, the newest protagonist to grace the pages of Michael Connelly's bestselling detective fiction. Ballard is a Hollywood Division detective exiled from Robbery-Homicide who shares Mitzi Roberts' real-life love of surfing, knack for swift verbal jabs, and dogged dedication to the job." This sparked the interest of the FPCGG Book Club, who have chosen to read *The Late Show* (Renée Ballard #1) by Michael Connelly as their July focus, a 2017 thriller introducing the driven young detective who is trying to prove herself in the LAPD.

Renée Ballard works the night-shift in Hollywood, beginning many investigations but finishing none as each morning she turns her cases over to day-shift detectives. A once up-and-coming detective, she's been given this beat as punishment after filing a sexual harassment complaint against a supervisor. But one night she catches two cases she doesn't want to part with. Ballard is determined not to give up at dawn. Against orders and her own partner's wishes, she works both cases by day while maintaining her shift by night.

Search out the facts with Renée Ballard, then come to share your crime solving skills with the group who will gather around a table in the back room at Marie Callender's at 13252 Brookhurst in Garden Grove on **Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm**. Couples and singles choose from the menu (possibility including a sinfully-delicious piece of pie), and share ideas of other good books to read and interesting conversation on a whole range of interests.

**Direct your questions and RSVP to Joan Mildenstein (714.539.1034).**

## FINANCIAL NEWS

by Administrative Ministry



Here are the numbers!

Commitments and Regular Giving Income as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019:

YTD 2019 Actual	\$ 36,501.50
YTD 2019 Anticipated	\$ 35,215.00
YTD Difference	\$ 575.65

Praise God for Generosity!

Financial Update as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, for total income and expenses:

YTD 2019 Income	\$ 90,819.70
YTD 2019 Expense	\$ 83,632.70
YTD Difference	\$ 7,187.00

Ahead as we continue to serve!

Your Session is diligently striving to keep expenses reasonable. This church family affirms that all that we have and all that we are have come from God; we give generously beyond ourselves — our time, our energies, and our financial resources — and we pray that God will continue to use them and us to serve the call of the church.

## YOUNG-AT-HEART VISITS THE SANTA ANA ZOO

On a Wednesday in June, Young-At-Heart folks first shared fellowship and brown-bag lunches under the shade of the trees at the zoo entrance. Then we spent a couple of leisurely hours walking from enclosure to enclosure, viewing the animals and enjoying each other's company. Some of the promised 50 monkeys were asleep, but others delighted us with their antics, and the anteaters were elusive but interesting, too. Our excursion was a definite success!





This painted metal sign to encourage and inspire now hangs on the west side of the education building, where it can be seen from Euclid Street and the sidewalk along the street in front of the church. The original concept for the sign came from Merle Eide, and the funds to pay for creating and hanging it were the first expenses paid by the donation to the Shower Plus Ministry of the proceeds from the sale of Mr. Merle's 1955 Triumph TR2. Now both Shower Plus Ministry guests and the rest of us can have reminders of hope and a future! We trust that Mr. Merle is pleased!



### SHOWER PLUS MINISTRY STATISTICS FOR 5 WEEKS OF MAY 2019 (a total of 9 days)

**Total showers taken: 526** (duplicated individuals; approximately **58** unique individuals each day)

**Total breakfasts served: 618** duplicated individuals; approximately **69** unique individuals daily)

**Number of participants who were new to us: 34** (unique individuals)

**Number of volunteer hours donated: 554** (a value of **\$6,094.00**,

\$11.00 per hour, CA minimum wage)

**Bakery Donations from Costco: approximate value, \$1,766.08**

**Food Finders, St. Jude's Hospital Fullerton, Donation: 617 lbs. of pre-cooked food**

## BREAD OF LIFE



### BREAD OF LIFE DONATIONS

Non-perishable food items are collected monthly. These gifts are then shared with H.O.P.E., a Garden Grove organization which helps families who are hungry and hurting. Requested donations for July's Bread of Life program:  
**canned fruit**  
Thank you for your generosity!



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Wayne Wolfe
- 8 Georgan Zieres
- 12 Louis Botejue, JD Cerince, Mary Shackford
- 16 Melissa Jenkins
- 27 Karen Flores, Kathleen McNeil



## "MUNCHIES FOR MISSION"

**July Focus: Orange County Rescue Mission** by Outreach Ministry

After Sunday worship, as we gather in the Choir Room for fellowship, coffee, and punch, we also may enjoy sweet treats from the "Munchies for Mission" table. Those goodies are donated each week; the binder with the upcoming calendar of volunteer sign-ups is on that table, along with a donations basket. Those cash donations (augmented by the Deacons' Fund to reach \$150 monthly) are sent to a designated local non-profit organization at the end of the month. In July, those "Munchies for Mission" moneys will be given to Orange County Rescue Mission.

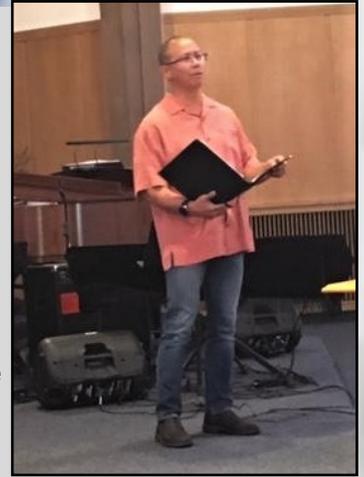
The mission of Orange County Rescue Mission is to minister the love of Jesus Christ to the Least, the Last, and the Lost of the Community through the provision of assistance in the areas of guidance, counseling, education, job training, shelter, food, clothing, health care and independent living communities. The men, women, and children who enter the gates of the Orange County Rescue Mission come from many walks of life and are all wounded in different ways. Some are highly educated, many are survivors of abuse, addiction and abandonment. None of these people ever imagined they'd be homeless, and they all need help. The people who seek our help could be your neighbors, your coworkers, or perhaps members of your own family. Orange County Rescue Mission strives to treat each person with respect and dignity. They prayerfully consider how to implement an Individual Treatment Plan for those who come to them. Orange County Rescue Mission, 1 Hope Drive, Tustin, CA 92782; (714) 247-4300; [info@rescuemission.org](mailto:info@rescuemission.org).



## THANKING BOB CERINCE FOR SHARING HIS GIFTS

by Sharon Wolfe, Christian Life Ministry

Bob Cerince has accepted a new position with county government in Eugene, Oregon, where he will be helping them to remedy the homelessness crisis. Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, was Bob's last regular attendance at worship with FPCGG. He does promise to visit when he can for the next year that his wife Denise will remain on staff here and continue to live in Anaheim. We want to thank Bob Cerince for his many contributions to worship, fellowship, and service in and to this FPCGG family of God.



We thank Bob for sharing his gift of music with us:

- Bob has been a very faithful tenor in our Chancel Choir;
- Bob and his guitar have been leaders during our beginning worship music for years, since back when there were Gathering Songs which eventually evolved into Praise Songs;
- Bob and his guitar have been leaders for Christmas caroling to the homebound, for Voyagers' gatherings, and for the more recent Young-At-Heart singing for seniors in care facilities;
- And Bob has graciously been an inspirational soloist to add to our worship music.

We thank Bob for sharing his gift of worship leadership with us:

- As a meaningful worship assistant;
- As a thoughtful guest preacher;
- And as a master manipulator of the complex Sanctuary sound system.

We thank Bob for sharing his gift of meaningful service with us:

- He served as coordinator of our Shower Plus Ministry for a few months, reorganizing the whole effort and reinforcing the spirit of Christian caring and help throughout;
- Behind the scenes, Bob has climbed ladders and helped with various campus maintenance and sanctuary décor projects.

So, we thank Bob for generously sharing his gifts and talents and friendship with us, and we will sorely miss him. But we wish him God-speed and pray for fruitfulness for his new life and service in Oregon.

### UPCOMING FPCGG EVENTS, JULY 2019 FORWARD



Monday	July	1		Denise flies back to Anaheim
Tuesday	July	2		Denise returns to office
Thursday	July	4		National Holiday / Church Office Closed
Sunday	July	14	10:45 am	Deacons host Ice Cream Social
Tuesday	July	16	5:00 pm	FPCGG Book Club at Marie Callender's
Friday	July	19	11:30 am	Men's and Women's Luncheons at Oggi's
Saturday	July	20	2:00 pm	Y-At-H outing: <i>Westside Story</i> at the GEM Theater, GG
Saturday	August	10	11:30 am	Y-At-H lunch, then bowling at LinBrook Bowl
Sunday	August	18	11:00 am	Session Meeting

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(714) 534-2269



**THE FPCGG DEACONS INVITE YOU  
TO THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JULY 14<sup>th</sup>.  
BRING YOUR SWEET TOOTH!**



**"My love for ice cream emerged at an early age—and has never left!"  
Ginger Rogers**