

Days of Grace

February 2021



Stay Safe Stay Healthy



Mask and Mittens! Rev. John Dodson channels Senator Bernie Sanders and reminds us to dress appropriately when we leave the house! Photo credit: Vicky Dodson

Peace Love Mask and Vaccine

We thank God and all the healthcare workers for bringing vaccines to the fight. Perhaps one of these days we will be able to gather together in person AND in health. The RCA encourages you to consult with your healthcare provider and get vaccinated, as is appropriate for you.

Mask Guidelines Updated

It is now recommended that disposable medical masks be worn underneath cloth masks. This adds protection from the current strain as well as potential variants and mutations. The cloth mask can be washed as usual. This will also extend the life of the disposable mask so it can be worn all day if necessary.

Check Your Nose

Make sure your mask covers your nose and mouth. You may need a larger mask so you can talk without your mask falling off your nose!

Thanks to Vicky Dodson for the photo of Rev. John Dodson doing his best Bernie Sanders impression!

President's Ponderings

Dear Friends,

One of the words that will stick with me from 2020 is “pivot”. Obviously, it’s a word that I knew. But I’ve never heard it used as much as in 2020, when we all had to pivot in new directions, to lead our lives. Kids pivoted from classrooms to Zoom. Many workers pivoted from the office to working from home. Pastors pivoted from the comfort of the sanctuary to lead worship on Facebook and YouTube. I found it to be exhausting and invigorating, all at the same time.

It also caused me to recall a word from my theological and language studies through the years. *T’shuvah* is Hebrew for “turning” or, in 2020 jargon, pivoting. It’s a word that we often talk about when we talk about repentance. Fundamentally, it’s about turning, changing direction.

Although we began 2021 in a hopeful spirit, knowing that a vaccine was now making its’ way into shoulders, we were quickly confronted with the vision of our nation’s Capitol building besieged by insurrectionists. In the midst of the hope that we will conquer Covid-19 soon, we are confronted again by the plagues of racism and classism that remain in our culture. If only we had a vaccine against those evils!

As Christians, we actually do have the vaccine against those evils. It is the gospel of Christ and all that entails. Part of *t’shuvah* and repentance is self-examination. As a country, as individuals, and as pastors, we need to take a clear look at ourselves to see where we need to turn, to pivot. As retired clergy, I hope that we can all find ways to assist the congregations in which we worship with this task. The Mission and Justice Committee of the RCA is pulling together a list of resources that we can draw from.

2021 will require more pivoting. As a nation, as families, as individuals, as the Retired Clergy Association, we will continue to pivot in order to help set our country aright, and to find how to serve effectively in a new kind of world. It can be tiring, but we know that we have the strength of God’s spirit within us. “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7) My prayer is that we continue to pivot through the power of God’s love.

Your sister in Christ,

Pam

Executive Officer's Message



Wow! This is a short issue! It seems we aren't doing much these days.... In talking to several of you over the past months, I know you are doing your part to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

I am sure you know someone who has been ill and probably know someone who has died from Covid-19. My prayers are with all who are mourning in this especially difficult time. Regardless of cause, grief has been particularly difficult when our customs and rituals are hindered by the need to "socially distance".

As you will read further in this issue, due to the continuing need to not gather in person, Spring Fling has again been canceled. We had hoped to have something using technology but this has posed its own difficulties. For some, using Zoom has become second nature. For others, they can use it, but vision or

hearing impairments make it nearly useless. Plus there are many who simply cannot use the technology for a variety of reasons. Some don't have access to the type of internet connection. Some don't have a computer.

The Committee decided to encourage all to write a note or card and make phone calls to other RCA members. If you wish to do so in April that would be great. If you wish to do so during the year, that would also be great. Spring Fling 2022 will be a two night affair allowing for plenty of time to get caught up in person.

Let us care for one another as we are able. I am here for you as well. If you have a need, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you, praying with you, and giving you a hug soon!

Spring Fling 2021 and 2022

Floyd Quenzer
Donna Houglund
Co-Chairs

Sadly, the Spring Fling Committee has decided to cancel both the in person and the electronic version of Spring Fling. In all the feedback over all the years, it has been the fellowship that has been the primary reason to attend Spring Fling. As we are unable to have fellowship in the traditional way and the more modern way of using technology is difficult to have conversations in a large group, we have decided to cancel this year and extend the 2022 Spring Fling to a two night event.

We want to have extended fellowship time so everyone has the opportunity to reconnect person to person. We hope to still have Greg Bergquist join us and, perhaps, by that time we will know yet again more about the state of the church. We will, as always, have a time for worship and remembrance. We will remember all who have joined the saints since we last gathered, at that time.

The Committee welcomes your presence and your assistance in creating the flingiest of Spring Flings. Feel free to contact Floyd and Donna or Nancy Daley if you wish to share your gifts and talents

**Please save the dates! April 19-21, 2022 (Cost will remain the same)
Christ The King Retreat Center, Citrus Heights, CA**

Bert and Linda Schniepp have little new to report as the virus continues to rampage through the world and our nation. We have been seldom moving away from home, with the grocery store and doctor appointments the primary excursions we have had. Our church remains without in-person contact, having on-line services each week. Bert has been occasionally involved with these. He has also been able to hold a weekly “Adult Sunday School” on Friday afternoons via the ZOOM computer hook-up and making use of the studies available with the Amplify Media from Cokesbury. Linda has also been able to maintain some social contacts with ZOOM also. We continue in prayer for our country, as now within days of a new President taking charge, and for real progress in confronting our ingrained racial prejudices. May we try to see others as God sees them, as Christ among us.

Have You Moved?

Or maybe changed your email address?
What about your phone? Ditched the landline for a cell?

Please drop a note to
RCA
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #141
Elk Grove, CA 95624
Or email Nancy at: nancydaley@ca-nv-rca.org



Enchilada Casserole

Old family recipe. Prep time from start to eating about 1 hour

Ingredients

6-12 corn tortillas
1 pound ground meat (beef, turkey, plant based)
15 oz can tomato sauce or Enchilada Sauce
2 hard boiled eggs - chopped
1/2 onion - chopped
small can chopped olives
1/2-1 pound cheddar cheese, shredded

Instructions

Brown the meat and drain if necessary.
Add in onion, cook until translucent
Add in eggs, olives and 2-3 tablespoons of sauce

Warm remaining sauce in a small frying pan.

In a round casserole dish, smear a bit of the sauce on the bottom.

Begin layering, tortillas, dipped into sauce, meat mixture, and cheese until the top of the casserole dish. End with the cheese. Fill around the edge with any remaining cheese. Drizzle sauce over the top.

Bake in a 350° oven for 20-30 minutes until cheese is melty and bubbly.

Serve hot, keeping in mind that the cheese is molten.

Serves 2 with leftovers or 4 without leftovers.

Serve with your favorite hot sauce, a green salad, and some refried beans.

Amounts are approximate. If you REALLY like cheese, use more cheese! Tomato sauce will make it very mild. If you like spicy use enchilada sauce and spice it up to your taste.



Share Your Favorite..... (memory time!)

*What's the best book you've ever read? Or the best you've read in the last 6 months?

*What is your favorite hobby? What hobby do you wish you could do?

*Where was your best ever vacation? What sight do you still wish to see?

*What is your favorite board game? When did you last play it?

*What was your most memorable Easter?

*Did you grow up with animals as pets? What kind of animals were your pets?

*How did you know your parent was MAD and you were in a heap of deep trouble? If you had siblings, did you take turns taking the blame?

*Did you have any rituals around dinner as a child? Saying grace, dinner at a certain time, question of the day?

Send your answers to any or all of these to Nancy and they might show up in a future Days of Grace!

Be a Correspondent!



We need new correspondents to contact folks in their area and write up the news of the area! AND we need everyone to respond when contacted! You will get a list of who to contact and you can call and/or email.

Contact Nancy for more information on this twice a year task!

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<http://ca-nv-rca.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Conference Session

October 28-31, 2021

> Sacramento/ZOOM

Annual Luncheon

To Be Determined

> To Be Announced

Spring Fling

April 19-21, 2022

> Christ The King
Citrus Heights