



# Why Our Values Matter

A worship exploration

Aug 27- Oct 1 - 9a, 11a & 1:30p (en español)



## Weekly Vision Vigils to Resume TODAY!

### Order of Worship

Sunday October 1, 2017 9 & 11 am

(\* indicates times we rise in body and/or spirit)

Prelude

Call to Worship \* (9 am only)

Opening Song \*

Welcome

Passing of Peace \*

First Reading **Philippians 3:12-16** Inclusive Bible

Chorus

Second Reading **Matthew 21:23-32** Inclusive Bible

Songs of Preparation\*

Morning Message

**"Pressing On Toward the Goal!"** Rev. Steve Pieters

Sermon Response \*

Making Ministry Happen

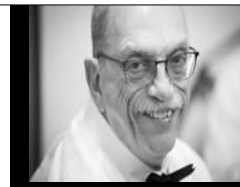
Prayers of the People \*

Communion

Benediction \*

Song of Sending \*

Postlude



Rev. Steve Pieters

### Hello Founders MCC members and friends!

I don't know about you, but I've gotten a lot out of hearing from a variety of voices in our pulpit since Rev. Kevin Downer, our former Interim Pastor, finished his time with us. We've heard wonderful messages about our agreed upon Core Values (Inclusion, Love, Social Justice, Spirituality, and Diversity) in the sermon series, "Why Our Values Matter."

This Sunday, October 1, I will be preaching from Matthew 21:23-32 and Philippians 3:12-16. My sermon title is "Pressing On Toward the Goal!" The goal, according to St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians, is "the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." What does that mean to us as we look forward to our 49th anniversary next week and the beginning of our 50th year as the founding church of the MCC denomination? I will suggest that, remembering our 5 core values, it's time for this church, and each of us, to move forward with a positive attitude, welcoming all the abundant possibilities that God has in store for us.

Next Sunday, October 8, in celebration of our 49th anniversary, it will be a thrill and an honor for us all to hear the message from the Founder of this church and the entire MCC movement, Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry. So we have every reason to "press onward": we have so much to look forward to as we journey together into the future of this church, as we press onward toward the goal of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!

Faithfully,

Rev. Steve Pieters

**DEADLINE for bulletin content Mon 8am; email  
communications@mccla.org**

The Board of Directors has contracted for the repair of the upper tile room above the church entrance to be done by J & J Roofing in early November. To date \$175 of the estimated \$4,525 cost was given last Sunday.

**The Board welcomes any special gifts to cover the cost of this unanticipated repair.**

# Welcome First Time Visitor

We are honored that you are worshipping with us this morning. Our community is diverse and come from many different traditions, backgrounds and life situations. Wherever you are on your life or Spiritual Journey you are welcome at Founders MCC. Here are answers to a few common questions that we hope will make your visit more pleasant:

## Greeting one another in Service

Following our opening song we pause to greet and welcome one another. Feel free to participate in these greetings as much or as little as you would like.

## Social time following worship

Each Sunday we offer snacks and beverages following worship. It is a great way to get to know a few people and find answers to your questions. Social time usually takes place in Fellowship Hall (listed on the Helpful Information section) and on occasion in the court yard.

## Video Recording

Our worship services are live streamed as well as archived on our website for international distribution. If you do not wish to be recorded, please sit in the rear right section of the main floor, pulpit side.

## Communion

We serve communion each Sunday and it is open to everyone. We use wafers and unfermented grape juice.

- Ushers help direct when and where to go for communion
- Servers dip a small wafer in juice, serve you and offer a brief blessing
- You may serve yourself. Just let the server know your preference.
- You may ask for a blessing from the server without receiving the bread and juice.
- You may receive communion alone or with a loved one(s).
- You may also take communion without a server at the private station to the right of the pulpit on the main floor.
- You need not receive communion and may remain in your seat.
- You are invited to use this time for personal reflection or join in singing songs during communion.

# Helpful Information

## Elevator Access

Elevator access to the Theatre, Fellowship Hall, and the Rodney, Gandhi, Rosa Parks, and Upper Rooms is available via the rear Rodney Avenue entrance.

## Baby Changing Facilities

A restroom with baby changing facilities is located up the stairs from the Sanctuary Lobby.

## Parking

Free parking is available at the Children's Hospital lot on the NE corner of Lyman Place at Hollywood and at Barnsdall Park and for a small fee at the Bank of America parking lot.

## Restrooms

Located at the east and west ends of the Sanctuary Lobby, and off the west side of Courtyard. Handicap facilities are located off the Courtyard and in the Lower Level near the Fellowship Hall.

## Flowers At The Altar

You may provide the altar flowers for any given Sunday in honor or memory of a loved one, etc. Your donation will be acknowledged in the Worship Bulletin if you so desire. Contact the Church Office for further information.

## Today's Worship Service

Click on the "Watch Us" tab of our website to view today's Services. Recent Services are also available.

## Founders Metropolitan Community Church

4607 Prospect Avenue - Los Angeles 90027

Telephone: (323) 669-3434 EMAIL: [info@mccla.org](mailto:info@mccla.org)

See our online calendar at [foundersmcc.org](http://foundersmcc.org)

## Board of Directors [board@mccla.org](mailto:board@mccla.org)

TBD Moderator/Senior Pastor  
Dean Coffey [Vice Moderator / DeanCoffey@mccla.org](mailto:ViceModerator@mccla.org)  
Oyie Esguerra [Treasurer / treasurer@mccla.org](mailto:Treasurer@mccla.org)  
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## Lay Delegates [LayDelegates@mccla.org](mailto:LayDelegates@mccla.org)

Amy LaCoe, Cory Montoya, and Lee Te

## AM Worship Teams

### Worship Team Chair

Reverend Onetta Brooks / [revonetta@mccla.org](mailto:revonetta@mccla.org)

### Music Director

Jane Syftestad / [music@mccla.org](mailto:music@mccla.org)

### Ushers and Greeters

9am Gene Snook / [greeters@mccla.org](mailto:greeters@mccla.org)

11am Don Mueller / [greeters@mccla.org](mailto:greeters@mccla.org)

### Worship Volunteer Team

Reverend Sandy Williams / [revsandy@mccla.org](mailto:revsandy@mccla.org)

### Altar Guild

Reverend Dana Cagle / [revdana@mccla.org](mailto:revdana@mccla.org)

### Creative Team

Larry Rodriguez / [creativeteam@mccla.org](mailto:creativeteam@mccla.org)

### MultiMedia

Camille Araullo / [MultiMedia@mccla.org](mailto:MultiMedia@mccla.org)

### Sunday School

Dean Coffey / [KidsClub@mccla.org](mailto:KidsClub@mccla.org)

## Spanish Ministry/ICM

### Spanish Ministry Pastor

Reverend Alejandro Escoto / [revalejandro@mccla.org](mailto:revalejandro@mccla.org)

### Music - Spanish Ministry

Peter Kirkpatrick / [peter.kirkpatrick@mccla.org](mailto:peter.kirkpatrick@mccla.org)

## Facility

### Custodial Facilities Manager

Torrey Turner / [facilities@mccla.org](mailto:facilities@mccla.org)

Board Property Committee / [property@mccla.org](mailto:property@mccla.org)

Rooms scheduling / [admin@mccla.org](mailto:admin@mccla.org)

## Other Ministry Teams

Communications [communications@mccla.org](mailto:communications@mccla.org)

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Hospitality [hospitality@mccla.org](mailto:hospitality@mccla.org)

Pastoral Search Team [PastoralSearch@mccla.org](mailto:PastoralSearch@mccla.org)

Pride [pride@mccla.org](mailto:pride@mccla.org)

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Spirituality [spirituality@mccla.org](mailto:spirituality@mccla.org)

Trans\*Unity [transunity@mccla.org](mailto:transunity@mccla.org)

Vision and Values [visions@mccla.org](mailto:visions@mccla.org)

### Congregational Care

Pamela Fairbanks / [CongregationalCare@mccla.org](mailto:CongregationalCare@mccla.org)

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Reverend Tim Hamilton / [revtim@mccla.org](mailto:revtim@mccla.org)

Reverend Barbara Haynes / [revbarbara@mccla.org](mailto:revbarbara@mccla.org)

Reverend Steve Pieters / [revpieters@mccla.org](mailto:revpieters@mccla.org)

Reverend Steve Swafford / [revsteve@mccla.org](mailto:revsteve@mccla.org)

## Bio for Reverend Joe Cobb

In the summer of 2005, as I was beginning my journey toward ordination in Metropolitan Community Churches, I was nestled in my favorite reading chair with *Don't Be Afraid Anymore* open in my lap. I had just been reading about Rev. Troy Perry's travels to Wichita, Kansas in the early 1970's to create a counter-protest to the work of Anita Bryant and John Briggs of the infamous California proposition 6 to prevent LGBT people from teaching in the public school systems. I was holding the book because I was sobbing at knowing that people who didn't know me had come to my hometown to honor and stand up for the gifts and graces LGBTQ people offer in this world as God's beloved children. I was sixteen years old when Rev. Troy and others came to my hometown. As I sat in the comfort of my chair, on the other side of the closet, I wept in thanksgiving to God for one, then many, who answered God's call to found a church and a movement devoted to welcoming the fullness of who we are created to be.

Now, twelve years later, I'm honored to answer God's call to be a candidate for Senior Pastor of Founders MCC. From the moment of your birth nearly fifty years ago, to all of the birthing you have midwifed through these years, we find ourselves in a moment of God doing a new thing. The vision God sets forth in the Revelation to John, "Behold, I am making all things new!" (Rev. 21.5) is unfolding and opening before us and these moments are a gift from God.

I was born in Wichita, Kansas, one of four children adopted by my parents, Bill and Marilyn. I was raised in the United Methodist Church and during my freshman year in college received a call from God to enter ministry. Following this call, I attended seminary at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas and was ordained a Deacon and Elder in the United Methodist Church. During seminary, I had the honor of serving abroad as Pastor of four Methodist Churches in Plymouth, England, as part of a British Methodist Residency program. Over the course of sixteen years as a United Methodist Clergy, I served churches in rural, small town, suburban and urban settings in Texas and Kansas. In 2001, I made the decision to leave the United Methodist Church as I couldn't be openly gay and serve as a clergy.

In 1985, I married Leigh Anne Taylor, and we are the parents of Emma (25) and Taylor (23). In 1997, I came out to Leigh Anne, and we began a new journey in honesty and authenticity. We divorced in 1999 and made a new vow to speak and act in loving ways toward each other and about each other for the sake of our children and for our individual health and wholeness. In 2009, we began writing our memoir of this journey, *Our Family Outing: A Memoir of Coming Out and Coming Through*, which was published in 2011. Our ministry of reconciliation is a great source of blessing in our lives.

In 2001, when I moved to Roanoke, Virginia, to be closer to Emma and Taylor, I met my husband, Dr. James Matthews. James is a radiologist. We were recently married on June 17, and we are the proud parents of Ginny (9) and JJ (7), born through surrogacy in San Diego, California. James is their biological father.

After a time of discernment, following my coming out and moving to Roanoke, I felt called to pursue ordination in MCC. I was ordained on October 8, 2006, and have served as Pastor of MCC Winston-Salem (2007-2008) and MCC of the Blue Ridge (2009-2017). I was elected to the MCC Governing Board in July 2016 for a six-year term and currently serve as Clerk.

On Monday, I begin work toward my D.Min (Doctor of Ministry) in Christian Spirituality at Columbia Theological Seminary, a low-residency program with three two-week sessions over the course of three to four years in January, July and September. This work is designed to deepen my calling in ministry and as a Spiritual Director.

At the heart of my Call is my love for worship, justice and hospitality – three spiritual practices that build upon both the core values of MCC as a movement and upon your core values as Founders MCC (Diversity, Inclusion, Love, Social Justice, and Spirituality).

## LATEST UPDATES FROM YOUR PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

### WHERE WE ARE IN OUR PROCESS

- ❖ The Pastoral Search Committee has invited Rev Joe Cobb, formerly of MCC of the Blue Ridge in Roanoke VA to candidate for our next Senior Pastor
- ❖ The candidating weekend will be October 21-22 with time on Saturday to meet and greet and share in a pot luck meal. Further details and times will be announced soon.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ❖ Help make FMCC "candidate ready" by sprucing up our facility and volunteering in hospitality, communications and multimedia in this time of transition
- ❖ Please keep Rev Joe and his family in prayer as this is a multi-layered transition for him and his family
- ❖ Stay tuned at worship and on line for updates
- ❖ Be present and engaged in the candidate weekend and congregational meeting
- ❖ Continue to pray, and pray some more
- ❖ Any questions about or for Rev Joe or the upcoming processes can be directed to [pastoralsearch@mcccla.org](mailto:pastoralsearch@mcccla.org) or any members of the Pastoral Search Committee

Worship is the heartbeat of God's love active in our lives and in our community of faith. Founders' vision of worship as multi-cultural and multi-lingual is a vibrant expression of your core values and the belief that God is constantly moving and shaping the ways in which we live out this Love in the world. I believe in creating worship experiences that weave the Spirit of Unconditional Love with our yearning for a deeper, livelier faith while engaging our struggles, hopes, fears and dreams. Worship is the setting in which we listen for God's story alive within our stories and it is the place in which we draw close to the One who loves us unconditionally and give thanks.

Justice, which I believe is essential to living and loving authentically, is the means through which we dwell with the marginalized in the world and find a way to listen, be with, empower and create change that visualizes and embodies the equality of God's kin-dom. Justice is a journey and each of us has a role in building a community of justice seekers and makers. Founders' interfaith justice advocacy and openness to expand understanding of diversity and inclusion is critical in deepening our relationship with God and each other.

Hospitality is "the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter our lives and become a friend instead of an enemy." (Henri J.M. Nouwen). Through your rich history of creating spaces for unique and vital ministries you are practicing the spiritual essence of hospitality in diverse, creative and life-changing ways. The transformation that occurs when we receive and welcome each other authentically is a sign of God's full welcome at work in the church and in the world.

As a Pastor, I see my calling as one who listens for God's voice, listens with the community of faith I'm called to serve for the ways in which God is leading us to serve, and as one who walks alongside you for such a time as this. We are companions on this journey of faith, called to be Love's true and beautiful expression.

I give thanks to God, and to you, for the honor of being a candidate for Senior Pastor at Founder's MCC.

# This Week at Founders MCC

four  
Call (323)

## Sunday, October 1

9:00am Liturgical Worship  
10:00am FMCC Prayer and Vision Vigil  
11:00am Celebration Service  
11:00am FMCC Kids Club  
12:15pm FMCC Prayer and Vision Vigil  
1:00pm Hope Group  
1:30pm Servicio en Español  
5:00pm SAA Meeting  
5:30pm Meditation AA (11 Steppers)

## Monday, October 2

7:30am CMA Meeting Mens Meditation  
8:30am Men's Stag AA Meeting  
6:00pm OA Focus on Abstinence  
7:00pm Desarrollo Emocional en Los Angeles  
8:00pm Monday Candle Light Meeting of NA  
8:00pm Women's AA: Language of the Heart  
8:00pm Top Line Behavior - SLAA Meeting

## Tuesday, October 3

7:30am CMA Meeting Mens Meditation  
8:30am AA Men's Meeting  
12:00pm Feel It & Say It Women's AA Meeting  
4:00pm Very Human Trans Re-Nacer  
7:00pm Grupoconexióneducacional y de apoyo  
7:00pm New Queer Faith Forum  
7:00pm Clases de ESL

## Wednesday, October 4

7:30am CMA Meeting Mens Meditation  
8:30am 12 12 12 AA Meeting  
6:45pm Circle of Prayer  
7:00pm Los Feliz Planning Meeting  
7:30pm Reflecciones Espirituales en Español  
7:30pm Choir Practice  
7:30pm Wednesday Nite Study  
7:30pm No Losers AA  
8:45pm Fight Club: Men's AA Stag Meeting

## Thursday, October 5

7:30am CMA Meeting Mens Meditation  
8:00am Filming  
8:00am Filming  
8:30am AA Birthdays & Bagels

## Friday, October 6

7:30am CMA Meeting Mens Meditation  
8:30am Take 5 Men's Stag East AA  
6:45pm Al-Anon Meeting  
7:00pm Grupoconexióneducacional y de apoyo  
8:00pm Super Studs AA Meeting

## Saturday, October 7

8:30am HopeNet Food Pantry Distribution  
10:00am Big Book AA "closed meeting"  
1:00pm Women's Spirituality Group  
6:00pm Church Anniversary Birthday Party  
11:00pm Church Anniversary Birthday Party

## Happy 49<sup>th</sup> Birthday FMCC

Let's have a Party, with dancing, games and celebration for our inclusive, diverse, loving, just, and spiritually motivated and activist church

**When:** Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to about 10:00 P.M.

**Where:** FMCC in the Fellowship Hall to bring to the party and Theater

**What to bring:** a dish to share for dinner, your dancing shoes, and life to bring to the party!

## Upcoming Activities

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Rev Troy preaching/ Anniversary  
Oct 15 – Nov 26 Generosity and Beliefs  
Oct 21-22 - Rev. Joe Cobb, PSC Candidate visit  
Oct 29 Día de los Muertos/Day of Dead  
Nov 12th Fall Congregational Meeting  
Nov 19th Transgender Day of Remembrance

## FMCC Food Pantry Feeding 100 families a week

Volunteers always welcome  
Fri 11a-2p receive & store food  
Sat 7:00a Set Up, 8:30a Distribute food



RSVP: info@mcc

## Hamilton An American Music

Raffle ticket \$10 each or \$40 for five, available after

Drawing Sunday, October 8  
Winners need not be present

Grand Prize Two Orchestra Seats to Pantages Theater  
Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 8 pm  
Value Of Tickets \$344.00

Proceeds benefit Founders MCC Archives Committee