

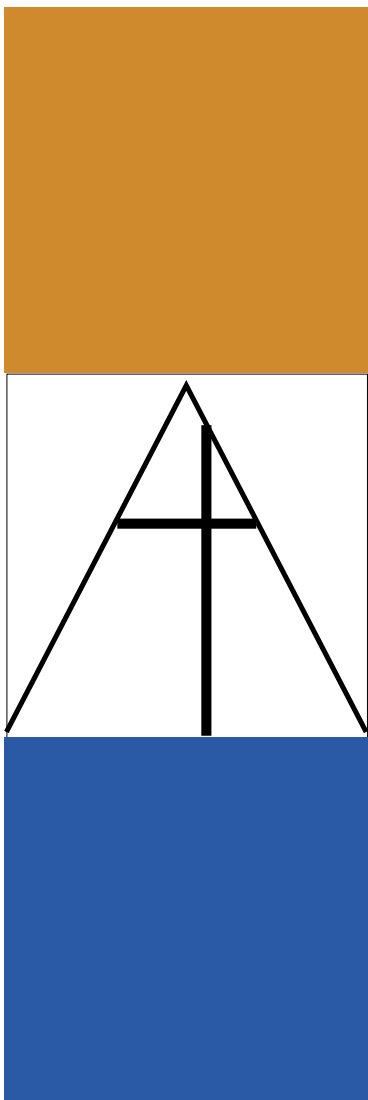


THE COMMUNICATOR FALL SEASON 2011

**CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SUNNYVALE
A CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

JESUS DID NOT TURN ANYONE AWAY. NEITHER DO WE.

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Thoughts from the Pastor's Study

**Grace and peace be with
you as we gather home
after a summer of travels!**

The image of journey is strong for many of us. We will hear people talk about their life as a journey or their relationship with a loved one or even their relationship with the Divine as a journey. It is an experience we recognize and understand.

On August 17, we began a study of Barbara Rossing's book "The Rapture Exposed."

In this study, we look at the scriptures that have been pieced together by those who preach that God has always planned to destroy all creation. We engage the scriptures that have been taken out of their original context and study what they meant to the people of their time and consider their meaning for us today.

In a You Tube interview, Barbara Rossing compared the book of Revelation to a journey. John of Patmos writes his revelation in a style the people of his time would have recognized. It is not so different from Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol." It gives a vision of what has been, what is now, and what might be (not what must be) just as it was for Scrooge.

Apocalyptic literature in the time of John of Patmos was that which revealed something deeper and greater. Here is an entry from Wikipedia.org:

An Apocalypse (Greek: ἀποκάλυψις *apokálypsis*; "lifting of the veil" or "revelation") is a disclosure of something hidden from the majority of mankind in an era dominated by falsehood and misconception, i.e. the veil to be lifted. The Apocalypse of John (Greek Ἀποκάλυψις Ἰωάννου) is the Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. By extension, apocalypse can refer to any End Time scenario, or to the end of the world in general. It is a major misconception that Apocalypse means the end of the world; it is much closer to "the end of the world as we know it."

So, John of Patmos received a vision that uncovered a message about God for seven churches that were under terrible persecution from the Roman Empire. His revelation took these early readers on a journey through what has been, what is, and what may be if they join with the kingdom of Roman and its way of violence instead of following the Lamb and his way of compassion. John wrote to all seven churches at once. Barbara Rossing compared this to a parent

calling all the children into one room so they can hear the praise and the scolding each will receive. John, also, called them together to see the vision of hope. While the Roman Emperor ruled by violence and destruction, the Lamb (the king above all kings) would rule with justice and compassion.

The journey through The Revelation to John comes to its climax in Chapter 22:

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

God will dwell on this earth made new because it is no longer ruled by violence. The tree of life will grow in the city of God and heal the nations of this earth. The Emperor will no longer conquer nation after nation. They shall live in peace upon this earth because they are guided by the Lamb, not the Emperor.

The Revelation of John brought a message of hope to the seven churches. They would conquer by living the way of the Lamb, not the way of the Emperor. They must continue to follow the way of Jesus in spite of the violence around them. They must practice the compassion that brings peace. They are reminded that God loves this world and will dwell among us here. They are told to be vigilant in living the way shown in Jesus so that when Jesus returns to earth - to stay, not to go back for seven years and then return to destroy - when Jesus comes back to stay, he will find those who still live by his teachings and example. He will still find those faithful to his way and not the way of Rome. And when he comes, this new order shall be established forever. In this new kingdom of the Lamb, compassion, justice, and healing bring peace. In this way there is a new Heaven and a new Earth.

They may be the same locations but the journey has changed them so completely that they are made new.

With blessings,
Pastor Gen

Join Pastor Gen in prayer
on Tuesday mornings
from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
in our sanctuary -
or wherever you are.



**FATHER'S DAY
CELEBRATION
JUNE 19
"ROUTE 66"**



OUR CHURCH LIFE IN PICTURES
FOTOS BY PASTOR GEN



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT
AND FOOD FOR THE NEEDY -
OUR LABYRINTH GARDEN
MADE THE NEWS!**

SEE [HTTP://WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM/SUNNYVALE/](http://www.mercurynews.com/sunnyvale/)
[CI_18760277?IADID=SEARCH-](http://www.mercurynews.com/sunnyvale/?CI_18760277?IADID=SEARCH-)
[WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM-WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM](http://www.mercurynews.com)



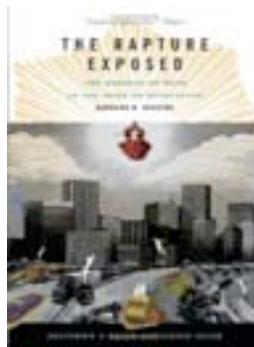
“The Rapture Exposed”

Book Study through Nov. 2, 2011, Wednesdays 6:30 - 8 p.m.

In her most recent book, **The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation** (Westview Press, 2004), Barbara R. Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, the book of Revelation as it is presented Behind series, and all it presumes to world, by offering a positive world is not "left behind."

"I was on 60 Minutes with Tim LaHaye," exclusive OldSpeak interview. "He said wimpy Jesus and that we need the question now is what is the true image of Jesus? A loving Jesus is not wimpy. A loving Jesus is precisely who Jesus is, and that is how he is portrayed in the Gospels."

(An excerpt from "God So Loved the World that He Gave Us World War III" by John W. Whitehead)



Rossing, an associate professor at the challenges the violent interpretation of in Tim LaHaye's widely popular Left communicate about the future of the interpretation of Revelation in which the

Rossing tells John Whitehead in this that liberals have created this loving, judgmental, warrior Jesus. The big

question now is what is the true image of Jesus? A loving Jesus is not wimpy. A loving Jesus is precisely who Jesus is, and that is how he is portrayed in the Gospels."



Vacation Bring Backs

While away this summer, please bring back water from wherever you wander. We will collect these on September 11 at our Recovenanting Sunday.

Also, please, bring back an experience of another church and answer the following:

Type of church (UCC, Catholic, Baptist, etc.): _____

Town, state/country of church: _____

The thing you like best: _____

How would we add this to our church: _____

Thing you liked least and why: _____

You can email your findings to the office or simply write a note. On Recovenanting Sunday, we will post our findings and share our experiences!

With blessings,
Pastor Gen



Join Us!



INTERGENERATIONAL DRUMMING CHOIR



Drumming Choir

rehearses each Sunday at 10:10 a.m.
with Worship at 10:30 a.m. -
and we welcome all to join us at 10:10 a.m.



Feed your passion for ministry at Church Day!

The next Church Day will be **Saturday, October 1, 2011, at United Congregational Christian Church in Lodi.**

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The program for the day will begin at 9:15 a.m. and end at 3:30. (Come early and enjoy fellowship and refreshments!)

Church Day is a twice yearly event unique to the Northern California Nevada Conference UCC. Its purpose is to bring together lay persons and authorized ministers to learn, share and grow in fellowship and leadership ability. Our conference theme: *Rhythm of Abundance: Worshipping, Connecting, Learning, Serving and Giving* provides a structure for the wide range of experiences offered at Church Day.

In addition to workshops on various topics, two other programs are offered in conjunction with Church Day.

Attendees of all Church Day happenings gather at Noon for a delicious lunch and fellowship.

On October 1, interested persons may participate in an Identity Seminar on UCC Theologies.

Join Church Day attendees at 9:15 for morning gathering and worship. The Seminar is in session 10:15 a.m. – 3 p.m. with a lunch break.



Authorized ministers may fulfill the continuing education requirement for Boundary Training on Church Day. On October 1, the

Advanced Boundary Training course meeting the 6 hour renewal of the requirement will be held from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Church Day participants may choose two 1 ½ hour workshops to attend during the day.

Go to www.ncnuc.org, click on “Happenings” and scroll down to “Church Day” for updates and to register for Church Day. For additional information contact Barbara Broadbent, Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development, at 510-247-8996, or bbroadbent@ncnuc.org.

NCNC Harvest Fall Fest for Junior High Youth (Grades 6-8)

“Kids Make a Difference for the Hungry”

October 22, 3 p.m.
to
October 23, lunchtime

Here
at our church
in Sunnyvale!

Reverend Phil Hart
Interim Conference
Minister
to visit with the kids
and us here at Sunnyvale
for Worship at 10:30 a.m.
on October 23

“Kids Make A Difference”

*Find more information for all conference news online at www.ncnuc.org.
Or, if you would like help registering or have questions, ask Pastor Gen or Ina.
Also, limited funds are available to help with travel expenses.*

"Peek A Boo"

Author Unknown

Unconventional Devotional

As Offered by Darryl at a Recent Council Meeting

"Peek A Boo - I see You,"
I overheard my neighbor's child.
"Peek A Boo - I love You,"
I watched and listened for a while.
The little girl skipped down the walk,
Humming as she moved.
From time to time, I'd see her stop,
And sing her childish tune.
"Peek A Boo - I see You,"
Her sweet face looked so intent.
"Peek A Boo - I love You,"
Then down the path she went.
I saw her do this several times,
Poor, lonesome child, I thought.
She only has a nursery rhyme,
To go with her on her walk.
"Peek A Boo - I see You,"
She did it then once more.
"Peek A Boo - I love You,"
Then I scurried out my door.
I could not stand it any longer,
What did this child see?
I hurried up and caught her,
Hoping she'd explain to me.
"Peek A Boo - I see You,"
Her face buried in some Daisies.
"Peek A Boo - I love You,"
Was this child crazy?
"Honey," I call out to her,
"What are You looking at?"
(I may have to tell her mother,
And I needed all the facts.)
She gave me then a vacant stare,
And said, "There's nothing's wrong.
I see Lord Jesus everywhere,
That's why I sing my song."
"Mama says He's in the flowers,
And He's in the bushes and the trees.
And He's in rainbows and in showers,
And He's even in the breeze."
"I see Him everywhere I look,
And I like to tell Him so.
You see, He's not just in The Book,
He's everywhere I go."
"Peek A Boo - I see You,"
I peeked into her precious face.
"Peek A Boo - I love You,"
Then I thanked God for such grace.



Looking Ahead Please Mark Your Calendars!

September 3: Fishing Day

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or later

Lakeshore Picnic Area
at Stevens Creek County Park

If you would like a map or for any other questions,
please contact the office.



Saturday, September 10 Church Camp Out (here on grounds)

Tentative Schedule:

3 p.m.: Crafts & Camp Stuff, 5 p.m.: potluck dinner,
followed by camp fire with pigs in a blanket and
s'mores, songs and stories

Please, come for an hour or stay the whole night - or
anything in between!!



Recovenanting Sunday, Sept. 11

Recovenanting - Gathering of the Waters -
9/11 Commemoration



Sunday, September 18: 1-3 p.m. UCC Middle School Kids from San Jose and Sunnyvale Help at FISH with the Bagging of Rice and Beans



Sunnyvale FISH, our Food and Clothes
Closet, at this time especially asks for
donations of

- peanut butter
- cereals (please, regular,
not large-size boxes)
- tooth paste
- or money



THANK YOU!

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9:00 Fishing Day
4		6 7:30 Choir	7 6:30 Book Study	8	9	10 3:00 Church Camp -Out
11 Recoveranting Sunday	12	13 7:30 Choir	14 6:30 Book Study	15	16	17
18 1:00 Kids help @ FISH	19 4:00 F&P Board 6:30 Council	20 7:30 Choir	21 11:00 W F'ship 6:30 Book Study	22	23	24
25 12:30 W&C Board	26	27 7:30 Choir	28 6:30 Book Study	29	30	

OCTOBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9:00 NCNC Church Day @ Lodi
2	3	4 11:30 FISH Mtg. 7:30 Choir	5 6:30 Book Study	6	7	8
9	10	11 7:30 Choir	12 6:30 Book Study	13	14	15
16	17 4:00 F&P Board 6:30 Council	18 7:30 Choir	19 11:00 W F'ship 6:30 Book Study	20	21	22 3:00 NCNC Youth Harvest Fall Fest
23 NCNC Rev. Phil Hart visiting	24	25 7:30 Choir	26 6:30 Book Study	27	28	29
30 All Saints Sunday	31	<p><u>A Note from Your Church Office:</u> <i>With this edition, the communicator has changed its outfit quite a bit. For feedback or suggestions, I will be grateful! As always, we welcome submissions of text, photos or graphics for upcoming editions through e-mail or here at the office. Deadline for the Thanksgiving/Advent (Nov&Dec) Edition will be Friday, October 21, 2011. Ina</i></p>				