

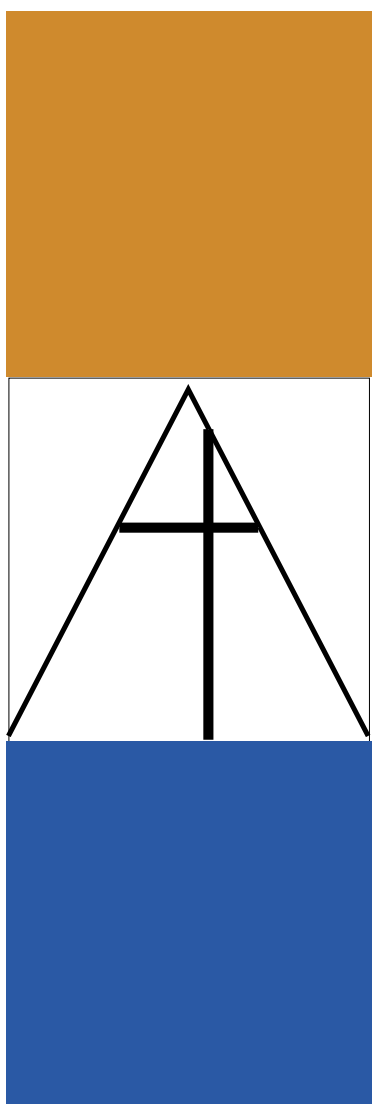


THE COMMUNICATOR THANKSGIVING, ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2011

**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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CONGLCHURCH@EARTHLINK.NET * WWW.UCCSUNNYVALE.ORG



Thoughts from the Pastor's Study

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’”

Revelation 21:1-4

We are on the edge of time during this holiday season. The Christian year is about to end and begin within the next few weeks. Our last Sunday in the Christian year celebrates the Reign of Christ and the following Sunday, the first Sunday in Advent, anticipates the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. What a strange calendar.

John of Patmos entered something like a shamanic vision in his letter sent to the seven churches, a letter we call the Book of Revelation. Like shamans and dreamers, John sees in colors and images that describe more. John tells the churches that they must choose between Lamb power and Caesar power. It is a choice between living compassionate justice that brings peace following the

way of the Lamb, Jesus, or keeping order through might (which the Romans called peace) living by the violent way of the Beast, Caesar.

When we seek to live by compassionate justice, we fulfill the words of our Lord's Prayer "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God's will on earth is known to us in the life and teachings of Jesus. In him, God reigns now. In his actions God's will for us is seen now. In Jesus, God's love for all creation and all people is present now. God's will is for the hungry to be fed, the cold to be clothed,

the marginalized to be included on earth as it is in heaven.

And when we feed the hungry and clothe the cold through our FISH program, when we welcome the marginalized into our community, when we care for this world that God so loves, we become a glimpse of the new earth. When all people everywhere live by compassionate justice, John's vision of a new earth will fully actualize. When God dwells with us on earth, even

heaven is changed, made new. It is a new heaven and a new earth, not through the violence of the Beast. The new heaven and the new earth break into this world right here, right now whenever compassionate justice is practiced through the powerful non violence known to us in the way of Jesus. This is the one whom we claim reigns now, Emmanuel, come into the darkness to bring light

that transforms, makes new our world.

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.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2011 OUR CHURCH LIFE IN PICTURES

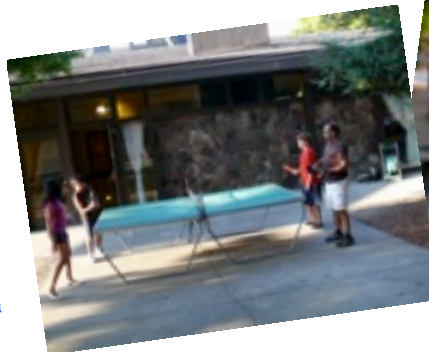
FOTOS BY PASTOR GEN

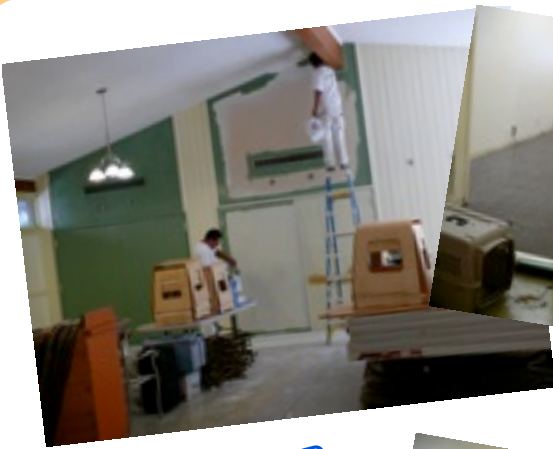


FISHING DAY



CAMP OUT & RECOVENANTING





**PAINING,
CARPETING,
NEW FLAGS**

**SAN JOSE AND
SUNNYVALE
YOUTH HELPING
FISH**



**NCNC HARVEST FALL
FEST FOR MIDDLE
SCHOOL YOUTH
"KIDS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE FOR
THE HUNGRY"**



**HALLOWEEN
PARTY**





Santa Clara Association NCNC-UCC Fall Meeting

Join this meeting of our wider church
Sunday, November 6, 2011, 2 to 5 p.m.

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC
6581 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120, www.avucc.org

Tentative Schedule:

2:00 Ecclesiastical
Council for
Patricia Wood
3:20 Fellowship Time
3:45 Business Meeting
4:30 New Church
Start
Presentation by
Nicole LaMarche

“Silicon Valley United Church of Christ seeks to intentionally welcome those who identify as spiritual but not religious. Specifically the target group is young professionals who are unchurched and dechurched and who are turned off by Christianity because of what it has become, but open to the ideas found in the teachings of Jesus. This new community will be bravely inclusive, boldly Christian and blatantly spiritual. To that end, we will take what Jesus did and said seriously, meet people right where they are, create relevant and experiential worship, provide opportunities for growth and connect the gifts of individuals with the needs of the world.”

Our Mei Extends This Kind Invitation:

- What:** Re-Vitalize Vitality Team for Church Growth
- Who:** All who are interested in joining the team
- Why:** Enhancing a Welcoming & Vital Congregation in UCC Sunnyvale
- How:** By sharing our stories of “Once upon a time, there’s a UCC Sunnyvale church I love, because ...”
- When:** Saturday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (lunch provided)
- Where:** Mei’s & Eric’s house, 210 Jason Way, Mtn. View



RSVP at 650-965-2338 or mcwang430@gmail.com



**Waters we collected on
Recovenanting Sunday 2011
had been brought back from:**

- Providence, RI**
- Dennis, MA**
- Cape Cod**
- Pensacola, FL**
- Phoenix, AZ**
- Flagstaff, AZ**
- Albuquerque, NM**
- Amarillo, TX**
- McKinney, TX**
- Sulfur, OK**
- Oakbrook, IL**
- Stevens Creek Reservoir, CA**
- Camp Caz, CA**
- Waipio & Waimea, HI**
- Atlantic Ocean, Maine**
- Carson City, NV**
- Spokane, WA**
- Koobenaylake, BC**
- Van Duzen River, CA**
- Big Basin, CA**
- Laassen, CA**
- Munich, Germany**
- Norway**
- and the**
- 100 year old well in the Theophilus
family home in Calicut, Kerala, India**



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.

**News from Sunnyvale FISH Food
and Clothes Closet:**

**34th Annual
Junque Sale
Saturday,
November 5, 2011
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

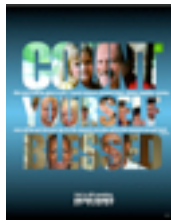


**St John's Lutheran Church /
Trinity United Methodist Church
581 East Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale**

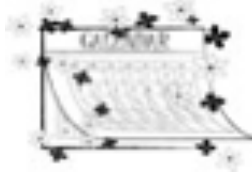
For more info, please call (408) 245-9109.

After our Stewardship Sunday on October 23, and as we enter into the UCC Mission 1 project, our treasurer Mary Ruth recommends the following devotional for our consideration.

(From the UCC God Is Still Speaking online series of daily devotionals)



THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH
FOR THE GENEROUS
PLEDGES FOR 2012 WE
CONTINUE TO RECEIVE!



Looking Ahead
Please Mark Your
Calendars!

Sunday, Nov. 13, after Worship:

Bake Sale & Surprises

Presented by our Women's
Fellowship
&



New Member

Orientation Meeting

Are you considering to become a member of our church? Please come and see!

An Offering You Can't Refuse

Psalm 116:27

"What shall I return to the Lord
for all God's bounty to me?"

Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver

This time of year I have a recurring fantasy. A member of my church calls me on the phone and invites me to lunch. Over lunch he says, "You know, Martin, I am aware that the church is pressed for funds, particularly in this financial climate, and it takes a lot of energy to raise those funds. Well, I came into some money this year, so I want to cover this year's budget with my own gift."

First I try to catch my breath.

Then I offer to pay for lunch.

But he goes on: "I ask only one thing."

I say, "Sure. Whatever. Would you like some champagne?"

"No, thank you," he says. "All I ask is that you not accept any other contributions or offerings for the rest of the year. I want to do it all. My gift to the congregation."

I take another deep breath. Then I say, "I'm sorry, but I cannot accept your gift. I can't do that to the people. It's not just a matter of being able to pay the bills. We need to be able to respond to all that God is doing in our midst and to share in that work. We can't be deprived of the opportunity to give of ourselves. To hear the promises of God and to receive the gifts of God, and to be unable to respond? Why, that's a burden. We just can't do that to the people."

MISSION 1: A
SPECIAL PROJECT BY
THE UCC IN THE
FIRST 11 DAYS OF
NOVEMBER.
LEARN MORE AT
[WWW.UCC.ORG/
MISSION 1/](http://WWW.UCC.ORG/MISSION1/)

Mission:1
| | | | | - | | | | |
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, Nov. 20, after Worship:

Thanksgiving Lunch

Please, sign up to bring your favorite holiday food! -- And stay afterwards to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent!



Worship Services during Advent and Christmas

*(at 10:30 a.m., unless
otherwise noted)*



Nov 27: First Sunday of Advent - possibly further decorating of sanctuary following worship service

Dec 04: Second Sunday of Advent - Communion Sunday

Dec 11: Third Sunday of Advent: Christmas Play Sunday - Christmas Play this year is a sequel with a Christmas and an Epiphany part

Dec 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Music Sunday

Dec 24: Christmas Eve with Candle Light Service for all Generations at 7 p.m.

Dec 25: Christmas Day

Jan 01: New Year's Day

Jan 08: Epiphany with sequel of Christmas Play, also "Undecorating Sunday"

CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00 Prayer	2 6:30 Book Study 7:45 Choir	3 9:30 Yoga	4	5
6 10:30 Worship	7	8 9:00 Prayer 1:00 W&C Board	9 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	10 9:30 Yoga	11	12
13 10:30 Worship Bakesale New Member Orientation	14	15 9:00 Prayer	16 11:00 W F'ship 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	17 9:30 Yoga	18	19 11:00 Vitality Meeting @ Me's
20 10:30 Worship Thanksgiving Lunch	21 4:00 F&P Board 6:30 Council	22 9:00 Prayer	23 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	24	25	26
27 10:30 Worship 1st Advent	28	29 9:00 Prayer	30 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	<i>We welcome submissions of text, photos or graphics for upcoming editions of the Communicator through e-mail or here at the office. Deadline for the Epiphany (Jan+Feb) Edition will be Wednesday, January 4, 2012.</i>		

DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:30 Yoga	2	3
4 10:30 Worship 2nd Advent	5	6 9:00 Prayer	7 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	8 9:30 Yoga	9	10
11 10:30 Worship 3rd Advent Christmas Play	12	13 9:00 Prayer	14 11:00 W F'ship (?) 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	15 9:30 Yoga	16	17
18 10:30 Worship 4th Advent Music Sunday	19 4:00 F&P Board 6:30 Council (tentative)	20 9:00 Prayer	21 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	22 9:30 Yoga	23	24 7:00 Candlelight Service
25 10:30 Worship Christmas Day	26	27	28	28	30	31
Office Closed--Office Closed--Office Closed--Office Closed--Office Closed						