

April 2002

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
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Visit us on the Web!

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Eastertide

More Than Just One Day

After 40 days of Lenten preparation and anticipation, the Easter season begins with the festival of the Resurrection on Easter morning.

Here at SUMC we celebrated the joy of new life and the new day with a Sunrise Service and then enjoyed a potluck breakfast together. Later in the morning we returned for our regular Sunday worship service.

After church, the children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt. The east lawn had sprouted an amazing number of colored eggs and candy, but eager hands and sharp eyes were able to clear the area in short order! Many, many thanks to Cliveden and Guy Haas, who prepared the goodies, and Sarah and George Chow, who distributed them.

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Contemporary Line Dancing

April 27, 2002
7:00-9:30 p.m.



Come join the fun! Families and singles, members and friends, young and old, are invited for an evening of fellowship, upbeat music, and line dancing.

Jewel Lucas Sanders, a friend of Lola Dorsey's and a professional Line Dancing teacher, will help us learn the Electric Slide and other contemporary line dances.

Members of Jewel's classes are also coming and will demonstrate some of their dances. This is a great chance to enjoy watching as well as joining in the fun.

No experience is necessary—Beginners are encouraged! Wear casual clothing and comfortable shoes. Line dancing is enjoyed by older children, youth, and adults. All ages are welcome.

Line dancers strut their stuff in a group, so there's no need to worry about finding a partner. The toe-tapping music and easy movements inspire even the shyest wallflower. Discover hidden talents and spend a pleasant evening with friends.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this special evening.

Child care will be provided for younger children. Refreshments too, of course!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!



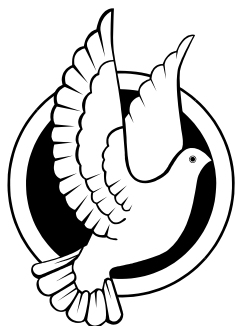
Be Thou Our Vision Discerning God's Call to SUMC

Our visioning series continues on April 7th and April 21st. SUMC members and friends meet after the church service to discuss God's call to our community and our vision for the future. Everyone's voice is important!

Revitalizing Sunnyhills UMC means changing some of the ways we do things. New life inevitably brings new challenges and new adjustments.

Spreading the Good News, warmly welcoming visitors, starting new ministries, visiting guests, and many other ideas are under discussion.

Please hold SUMC in your prayers and ask God's guidance as we plan for our future.



Fanning the Embers Revitalization Workshop

Thursday, April 18th at 6:00 p.m.,
Rev. Tom Hillman and Rev. Linda
Wiberg, will lead us in an evening's
discussion of revitalization, church growth, and Sunnyhills
UMC.

The community around us has changed over the years, and our own situation has changed as well. What opportunities and problems do we face now? How can we best spread God's word in our area? What strategies have been effective for other small churches?

Gwen Freeman and Cliveden Chew Haas will provide a simple supper. Come as soon as you are able. Please join for this important and exciting workshop.

Eastertide

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But, Easter is more than just a day-long celebration. Easter lasts 50 days, and so the Sundays in the season are named *Sundays of Easter*, rather than *Sundays after*.

For 50 days the church gathers to hear stories of the Risen Christ. For 50 days we gather to be revitalized by remembering the growth and the struggles of the early church. For 50 days we gather to reflect again on the impact this joyous news has on our lives, and on our life together. Such a wide-ranging task needs a full season of celebration.

During this season of the year, lectionary readings from the Hebrew Scriptures are set aside, and we read instead from the Book of Acts, Luke's account of the beginnings of the church. These may sometimes present an idealized portrait, but the vigor and commitment of

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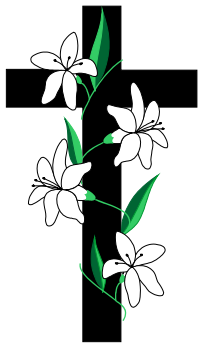
Eastertide

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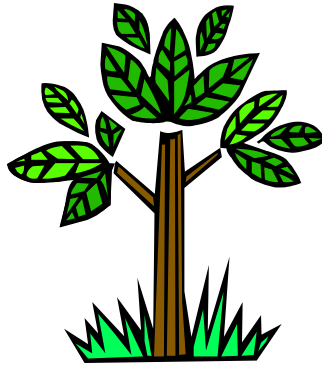
the first Christians is inspiring, and the issues their communities faced are not always different from the challenges facing us today.

The gospel readings at first highlight the appearances of the Risen Christ, and then move to passages from John's gospel intended to help us reflect on the Spirit-filled life of the church. throughout the season, the winds of the Spirit blow hope, passion, and exhilaration through the church then and now.

*Based on "Easter" from
The Whole People of God.*



News from the Garden



Minh Tre, a member of Boy Scout Troop 92 which meets at Sunnyhills UMC, is working on his Eagle Scout project. Trustees has approved his plan, which includes planting additional flowering trees and installing a watering system along the east side of the lower parking lot.

Minh has spent the winter raising funds and planning the logistics for a major landscaping effort. The new watering system will include the four small cypress bushes along the walkway from the lower parking lot to the sanctuary, the Peace Tree (our Japanese crabapple tree at the corner of the walkway and the parking lot), and the three flowering pears that were planted as a memorial last year. He and his helpers will then continue further along the side of the parking lot, installing permanent waterers for seven new trees.

Assuming supplies are easily available, plans for the new trees call for three crepe myrtles, three silk trees, and one jacaranda. These are all flowering trees which are attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and other winged creatures. If all goes well, in a few years we will have a lovely show of flowers throughout the year and enjoy pleasant shade under the trees.

In the meantime, work continues on the Butterfly Garden. The first spring annuals are in, and soon the skippers, cabbage white, buckeyes, painted ladies, and monarchs will be checking out the new blooms. Enjoy the spring show!

הוֹשֵׁי עֲנֵה נָא

HOSANNA! The primary Sunday School class spent five weeks learning to print the Hebrew letters which spell Hosanna, "[God] save us," the crowd's shout of praise and acclamation at Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the donkey. Hebrew is written and read from right to left. The letters are hey, vov, shin, yod, ayin, hey, nun, and aleph. Practice them yourself