



The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035
Pastor Shirley Macemon

Church Office
Visit us on the Web!

(408) 262-1486
www.sunnyhills.ume.org

March 2012

THE HOLY IN THE ORDINARY

**Holy is the time and holy is this place,
and there are holy things that must be said.**

**Let us say to one another what
our souls whisper. . .**

**O Holy One, cast your tent among us;
come into our ordinary lives and bless the living!**

**Forty days stretch before us,
forty days of hungering after faithfulness,
forty days of trying to understand the story,
and then, Holy Week...**

O God, if every week were holy. . .

**These forty days stretch before us,
and those of us who believe yearn to feel Your presence, yearn to be Your people;
and yet, the days fill with ordinary things with no time left
for seeking the holy.**

**Spiritual contemplation is all right
for those who have the time,
but most of us have to make a living.**

**Most of us have to live in the real world where profanity splashes
and blots out anything holy.**

Where, O Holy One, can we find You in this unholy mess?

How, O God, can we find the holy in the ordinary?

Ann Weems, Kneeling in Jerusalem

Notes from the editor:

*Lunch Bunch will gather again on **March 11, 2012** at **Denny's** just off Calaveras in Milpitas.

*The next **Ad Council** will be **Wednesday, March 14, 2012** at **7:00 p.m.** in **Jones Hall**.

*The **Lenten Study of Christian Practices and Spiritual Disciplines** will be held **Tuesdays – February 28th through March 27th**. The first meeting is in the **Church Office** from **7:00-8:30PM**. **Location may change so watch the weekly email blast**.

***Soup Supper** with a **Choral Vespers Service** will be held **Thursdays - March 1st through March 29th**, beginning at **5:30PM** in the Sanctuary. **Choir Rehearsal** follows immediately.





Dear Friends,

I've just returned from three and a half days of an amazing conference. This interfaith conference, held here in San Jose, was themed "Unity in Diversity". Many of the presentations and worship services celebrated the similarities and common values among the diverse groups represented. Our differences were not ignored, but also not emphasized over the course of the weekend.

In a particularly moving worship time, we were challenged to release the energy that binds us to rage, obsession fear, guilt and greed, ending the time with comfort and anointing to reclaim the wholeness in which God has created us. I was touched and heartened by the active response of those in attendance.

Another worship time I particularly enjoyed was for those of us who are in "the last third" of our lives - women of 55 and older. While I'm not ready to admit I'm in my last third (!), I am 60, and recognize the difference in energy, focus and creativity that age, experience and wisdom bring to our lives. In a particularly moving ritual, we each were given pieces of Solvy, a water soluble fabric. On the fabric, we were invited to write words representative of the things of our lives from which we wish to be freed. I made my claim to let go of the "Could have been"s and "Why not"s that too often lead to unproductive retrospection. Boldly written on Solvy, we added ours to a bowl of water on the altar. In the water, these unhelpful emotions and reactions were melted, calling on the healing presence of the Divine to rinse these same things from our lives. Eventually, the bowl was poured at the base of a tree: nature will transform the water into the purity necessary for the tree's life - and our own.

While many of you were privileged to be at Sunnyhills in worship on Sunday morning, with Daislyn Pease leading worship and preaching, I found myself discussing Elijah and Elisha and God as the still, small voice of 1 Kings 19. I also had the opportunity to share new learning from the Claremont School of Theology class I'm taking, "Prayer from a Process Theology Perspective." In a far-from-complete nutshell, process theology posits that we are in continual relationship with God, who at each moment/nano-second presents us with the best possible alternatives for our futures and the well-being of creation. We, in our part of that relationship, are the "energy" with which God works in the universe. I was thrilled to find that my own understanding of process theology and philosophy resonated with folks from many different faith traditions.

All in all, the sharing, comparing, contrasting of our faith stories, and amazing fellowship was uplifting and nourishing.. I'm tired, but amazingly refreshed. I spent quality time with a couple of our own congregation members who are finding helpful and nurturing ways to live out their faith - that's always a good time for me!

I feel obliged to tell you the interfaith conference was a gathering of various non-Christian religious groups from across the country. PantheaCon is an annual gathering of mostly Pagan, but also Hindu, Buddhist, Jews and at least a couple of Christians.

Lent starts this week. I challenge each of you to find an appropriate practice for the next 40 days (not including Sundays), to assist you in articulating and giving hands and feet to the faith to which you are called.

Blessings!

Pastor Shirley

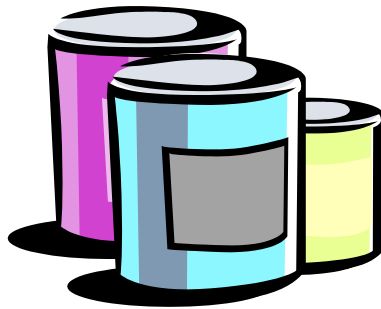


Pysanky Egg Decorating

Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012

Eggs are symbols of spring and Easter, symbols of bringing new life, fertility, resurrection. In the Ukraine, the practice of using wax-resist egg dying to decorate eggs with symbols of the season is generations old. These eggs, delicately decorated, become family heirlooms, displayed for many years.

On Sunday, April 1, after the Potluck, I'll have everything you need to create your own Pysanky eggs: stylus' to apply the wax, dyes of many colors, suggestions for traditional and not-so-traditional designs. Plan on spending stretching your creative juices in the spirit of the season.



► **Lunch Bunch** will get together again on **March 11th** at **11:30AM**. Join the Fun Lunch Bunch at Denny's.

► ***Come on down*** and join the choir as we prepare for Easter with special music. We meet in the **Sanctuary** every **Thursday**. During the month of **March**, we will be rehearsing at **7:00PM**. Please note the change of time and we all hope to see ya soon.



► ***The Change-over Sunday*** collection campaign has affected the lives of many in Milpitas. Your generosity is so appreciated. The next ***Change-over Sunday*** is **March 25th, 2012**. Thank you Again!!!



Happy Birthday Wishes to...

03/06 Jamie MacLeod
 03/06 Daislyn Pease
 03/06 Tyler Tanciango
 03/09 David Johnson
 03/14 Ealasaid Haas
 03/26 Huynh Phan



Happy Anniversary!

03/05 Gwen and Jack Freeman

Income and Expenses January 2012

INCOME

| | <i>January</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Offerings | \$ 4,856.00 |
| Bldg. Use, etc. | \$ 5,369.60 |
| Special Giving | \$ 123.02 |
| TOTAL | \$10,348.62 |

EXPENSES

| | <i>January</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Ministry & Outreach | \$ 1,065.87 |
| Operating expenses | \$ 5,872.70 |
| Pastor & Staff support | \$ 5,686.51 |
| TOTAL | \$12,625.08 |

FUND BALANCES

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash (designated and undesignated) | \$53,882.87 |
| Designated funds | \$25,713.71 |





Community Breakfast Scheduled

The next Sunnyhills Community Breakfast will be held **Saturday, March 3, 2012**. The **Milpitas Post** will be presenting and the breakfast begins at **8:00AM** in **Jones Hall**. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions, please contact me through the church office.

Peace,

Guy Haas
(408) 262-1486



Worship in March

| | | | |
|----------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| March 4 | Saying Yes, Saying No | Matthew 19: 16-30 | Second Sunday of Lent |
| March 11 | Keeping Sabbath, Honoring Creation | Genesis 1:1-5; 26-2:3 | Third Sunday of Lent |
| March 18 | As We Live, so We Worship Special Music-Stargeezers! | Psalms 150 | Fourth Sunday of Lent |
| March 25 | The Times of our lives: Service and Action as Christian Practices | Matthew 25 | Fifth Sunday of Lent |



Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD before you go to bed, Saturday – March 10, 2012



Daylight Savings Time begins March 11th.

Please Join Us for a Very Special Season at Sunnyhills UMC

Lenten Devotions:

A daily Lenten devotion and meditation guide is available to each of you. Pick it up in the sanctuary on Sunday, in the office during the week, or call the office to have one mailed to you. We're using the small 3 ring binder format, so if you have a notebook from last Lent, you only need a new cover and the interior pages. If you do not have a notebook, take another. If you need a large print in a regular size notebook, let us know - we have those too!)

The daily guide uses scripture, Christian disciplines and practices to guide our time during the Lent the 40 days of Lent.

And Continue this Season with Soup, Vespers and Song

Thursday Evening Vespers:

Our Thursday evening soup suppers, Vespers and Communion were well received last year, so we're holding them again.

Each Thursday evenings, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, we will gather in the Sanctuary for a simple dinner of soup, bread and fruit, followed by a choral vesper service and communion. Singing talent is not required. Your place in community is a blessing to us all. Sign up to bring soup, etc, in the Sanctuary on Sunday, or by calling the church office. If your schedule or other obligations necessitate your late arrival and you would like to contribute to dinner, call the office and we'll arrange for a pick up of your soup, bread or fruit - we'll save you some dinner, too!

Thursdays: March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

5:30 Potluck soup supper Please sign up to bring bread, soup or ready to eat fruit.

6:15 Vesper service with Communion

7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir will start promptly after Vespers)

Coming in April...

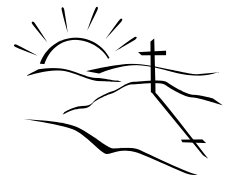
**April 1, 2012
Palm Sunday**



- 9:30 Worship
- 11:30 Finger-food, Snack, Potluck Lunch in preparation for:
- 12:00 - 3:00 Pysanky (Ukrainian Egg Dying) workshop

April 8, 2012

- 6:30 Easter Sunrise
- 7:30 Potluck breakfast
- 9:30 Easter Celebration



Easter Sunday

April 8, 2012 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise

7:30 a.m. Potluck breakfast

9:30 a.m. Easter Celebration



Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
Lay Leadership
2012

Administrative Council Chair.....*Bob Roll*
Lay Leader.....Laine Sazon
Lay Member to Annual Conference.....Daislyn Pease
.....Guy Haas, alternate
Treasurer.....Bob Roll
Recording and Membership Secretary.....Daislyn Pease
Financial Secretary.....*Cliveden Chew Haas*
Certified Lay Speaker.....Daislyn Pease
.....Laine Sazon

Board of Trustees (Officers to be elected at first Trustees meeting after election)

Class of 2012.....Guy Haas
.....Jo Roll
Class of 2013.....Daislyn Pease
.....Emil Sazon
Class of 2014.....*Ralph Nikolaus*
.....*Karen Schreifels*
Tenant Representative.....*Rev. Ernie Boyer*
Tenant Representative.....*Juanita Garza*

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Pastor.....Shirley Macemon
Chair.....*Guy Haas*
Lay member to Annual Conference.....Daislyn Pease
.....Guy Haas
Class of 2013.....Ann Zeise
.....Guy Haas
Member as Lay Leader.....Laine Sazon

Lay Leadership (formerly Nominations)

Chair.....Shirley Macemon
Class of 2012.....Daislyn Pease
.....Lola Dorsey
Class of 2013.....Guy Haas
.....Ann Zeise
Class of 2014.....*Cliveden Chew Haas*
Lay Leader.....Laine Sazon

Vision Team.....Gwen Freeman
.....Daislyn Pease

Greeting Card Ministry.....Jo Roll

Scrip Coordinator.....Daislyn Pease

Directory Team.....Mary Schreifels
.....Mark Perez Sazon
.....Shirley Macemon

Updated 11/10/11

Calendar

| | |
|--------------|---|
| <u>March</u> | |
| 1 | Lenten Soup Supper – 5:30 Lenten Choral Vespers Service – 6:15 Choir – 7:00 |
| 4 | Worship |
| 5 | Centering Prayer |
| 6 | Lenten Study Group |
| 8 | Lenten Soup Supper – 5:30 Lenten Choral Vespers Service – 6:15 Choir – 7:00 |
| 11 | Worship |
| 12 | Lunch Bunch at Denny's |
| 13 | Centering Prayer |
| 14 | Lenten Study Group |
| 14 | Ad Council |
| 15 | <i>BEACON Deadline</i> Lenten Soup Supper – 5:30 Lenten Choral Vespers Service – 6:15 Choir – 7:00 |
| 18 | Worship – Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing |
| 19 | Centering Prayer |
| 22 | Lenten Study Group Lenten Soup Supper – 5:30 Lenten Choral Vespers Service – 6:15 Choir – 7:00 |
| 24 | Lawn Party Work Day |
| 25 | Worship |
| 26 | Centering Prayer |
| 27 | Lenten Study Group |
| 29 | Lenten Soup Supper – 5:30 Lenten Choral Vespers Service – 6:15 Choir – 7:00 |
| <u>April</u> | |
| 1 | Worship – Palm Sunday 11:30 Fingerfood Potluck 12:00 Pysanky Egg Workshop |
| 2 | Centering Prayer |
| 5 | Choir – 6:30 |
| 8 | EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service – 6:30 Easter Potluck Breakfast – 7:30 Easter Celebration Worship – 9:30 |
| 9 | Centering Prayer |
| 11 | Ad Council |
| 12 | Choir |

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Milpitas, CA 95035**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

