



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
sunnyhillsumc.org

July 2013

Dearest God,

I believe your holy spirit inspired these words:

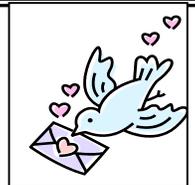
We hold these truths to be self-evident
that all men are create equal
and are endowed with certain inalienable rights.
among these are the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I, as a Christian among other God-loving women and men, address you and love you as my Father.
You are my Father. But this means that you are not just my Father, but the Father of all those you have created.

You care about every person on this planet who has ever lived or who ever will; therefore, we are all equal in your sight. We are all persons. You conceived and created each human being with a unique identity, a body and soul, in your mind and heart from the very beginning and you sustain each one of us today and for all eternity. I have come to recognize that all of us are in your family, Father. And that makes us but sisters and brothers. Help me to embrace all of your children on this planet in my heart. Help me to want for every one what you have so generously provided for me –
a little place to call home, simple food on my table, a decent education and decent health care.

Help me, Father, to recognize and support the right of every human person to life, liberty and the pursuit of other people's happiness as well as my own. In Jesus name I pray. *Amen*

Note from the editor:



The next Lunch Bunch will meet Sunday July 14, 2013 at the Omega Restaurant at 11:30a.m.

BEACON DEADLINE: For the **August** issue – **Thursday** morning, **July 18, 2013.**

Trustees will meet next at **7:30PM** on **Wednesday, July 24th** at **Karen Schreifels' house.**

Ad Council will meet again, **Wednesday, August 14, 2013** in **Jones Hall.**

(See Page 3 for further calendar details)



Dear friends,

Today, the United States Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as unconstitutional: it violates equal protection of our citizens. The US Supreme Court also declined to consider the appeal of the federal court decision which upheld the California Supreme Court in determining Proposition 8 unconstitutional. While everything surrounding Prop 8 seems to be confused by "double-speak", (for instance, voting FOR Prop 8 was a vote against marriage equality), this decision again clears the way for same-gender marriage in California.

I rejoice with many of you on these decisions. And I understand that we are not of one mind, even in our small congregation. I've included our Bishop's letter that reflects our official denominational response.

I cherish the United Methodist Church, and live with pride that we have been leaders in many social justice and civil rights arenas through the years, including suffrage, children's labor laws, women's rights, civil rights for all persons, standing against unjust and unnecessary war, to name a few. On the topic of just treatment and inclusion of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning brothers and sisters, I believe we as a denomination are wrong, trying to hold fear and prejudice higher than God's unswerving love and steadfast commitment to all God's children as we experience in the life and teachings of Jesus. I will continue to live out my call in that light.

Blessings,

Pastor Shirley

June 26, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today, the United States Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as unconstitutional because it violates the equal protection rights of some citizens. The Supreme Court also declined to consider the appeal of the federal court decision which upheld the California Supreme Court in determining Proposition 8 (Prop 8) unconstitutional. Prop 8 was a California voter approved initiative that outlawed same-sex marriage.

I have been asked what this ruling means for United Methodism, and specifically the California-Nevada Annual Conference. Our conference is one of Methodism's most diverse annual conferences. In our conference, a full range of opinions may be found in most congregations, and many people would like the opportunity to respectfully disagree without being at odds with church law or each other.

Today's legal decisions by the Supreme Court will undoubtedly increase the call for change from a vocal and sizeable segment of our church membership, and clergy, that find our official policy unjust. As pastors and congregations in California, and other places where same sex marriage is legal, we must decide how we will provide pastoral care and support for parishioners and their families when they seek to marry.

(Continued on Page 5)



The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
Choir is on Vacation this summer. Please look for their return in September

Ad Council

The **Administrative Council** for SUMC will meet at **7:00PM** on **Wednesday, August 14, 2013** in Jones Hall. For further information, please contact Bob Roll. Have a Great Vacation.



Change-Over Sunday

The next **Change-Over Sunday** is **July 28, 2013**. This ministry *makes such a difference* for many in Milpitas. Thanks again for your generous contributions.

The Lunch Bunch will meet again July 14, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. The Omega Restaurant is located at 90 South Park Victoria Drive, Milpitas, California 95035.



Happy Birthday Wishes to...

- 07/05 Shirley Macemon
- 07/06 Alex Rovere
- 07/10 Cliveden Haas
- 07/22 Lelaine Tanciango



Happy Anniversary!!

- 07/08 Cliveden and Guy Haas
- 07/26 Alex Walker and Catherine Deppe

**Income and Expenses
May 2013**

INCOME	<i>May</i>
Offerings	\$4,557.05
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$5,083.59
Special Giving	\$ 315.17
TOTAL	\$9,955.81

EXPENSES	<i>May</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 2,114.68
Operating Expense	\$ 1,924.87
Pastor and Staff	\$ 4,460.20
TOTAL	\$ 8,499.75

FUND BALANCE

Cash on hand	\$33,304.70
Designated funds	\$16,495.75



Under our current rules, I must encourage pastors to reach out to their ecumenical partners, so that pastors and churches that are permitted under their polity to offer marriage to same sex couples be invited to assist in providing pastoral care.

The United Methodist Church's policy making body, the General Conference, has regularly engaged in passionate debate around issues of inclusion for GLBTQ persons in the church. While we overwhelmingly agree that all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God (Social Principles 162.111-The Social Community), we have been divided on how we live into that reality. The official policy of the church is that self-avowed, practicing homosexuals, cannot be ordained (Paragraph 304.3, Book of Discipline), and marriages cannot be conducted by United Methodist clergy, or in United Methodist facilities (Paragraph 341.6, Book of Discipline).

As a United Methodist Episcopal leader, I am a servant of the whole church. As an Elder, I have taken a vow to respect our polity and interpret our Book of Discipline (church law). When we were ordained, I believe all United Methodist clergy made a commitment to follow the rules of our church. I attempt to do that with integrity even when my life experience causes me to fundamentally disagree with some church policy. As a covenant community, we are bound to honor the decision of the majority, and respectfully disagree when that is appropriate.

The issues around this decision remind me of the deep divide in our nation some 50 years ago over marriage, and housing, and education, and voting, for people of different races. Earlier this year, when I attended the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prophetic "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" I was reminded of his challenge, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Let us continue to be in prayer and dialogue with our brothers and sisters with whom we disagree. Let us continue to call for justice in our denomination and in society. Let us continue working towards a world that lives out a value where all of God's children, who are all made in God's image, are treated equally and have the same rights. Let us continue to work for "Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in Heaven!" Our collective calling is still to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. May the love of Christ, and one another, be reflected in ways that heal rather than divide.

Grace and peace,

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Warner H. Brown, Jr.
Resident Bishop

<http://calnevada.s3.amazonaws.com/E86E2B4D7ABE454581F66C168B3267ED_CalNevlogo.jpg>

<http://calnevada.s3.amazonaws.com/86547688F00A40CF81CDA959A63DA2D2_ncumcorg175.jpg>

Get in touch

<http://calnevada.s3.amazonaws.com/F50C642642504B68847B5B258008D564_BishopsOffice175.jpg>

CA-NV Annual Conference

1276 Halyard Drive

West Sacramento, CA 95691

[\(916\) 374-1500](tel:9163741500)

Passion for Jesus Christ...Compassion for All



The following are a few of the closest 4th of July Fireworks Displays offered in Santa Clara County. Have fun and a *Safe* and *Sane* Holiday.

MILPITAS...Evening Concert & "Red White & Boom" Fireworks - July 4, 2013 (7p-10p)

Come enjoy an evening of music and exciting fireworks. Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the celebration. The "Red, White & Boom" Fireworks Display launch from the Sports Center at 9:30pm. *Gates open at 6pm, limited to first 10,000 people to enter. Admission is \$3, free for kids 2 and under. Tickets can be pre-purchased at the Community Center and Sports Center.*

Shoreline Amphitheatre

<http://www.sfsymphony.org/season/Event.aspx?eventid=48766>

Celebrate Independence Day 2013 with at the **27th annual "Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular"** starring the San Francisco Symphony at the Shoreline Ampitheatre in Mountain View starting at 8 pm on July 4, 2013.

At 8 pm, the main show begins starring the **San Francisco Symphony**'s performance of the John Williams' *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park* and *E.T.* themes, some good ol' Aaron Copeland excitement, along with traditional Fourth of July music coming to a climax with a fantastic **fireworks show to Sousa's Stars and Stripes forever.**

Tickets: Start at \$33 for lawn spots.

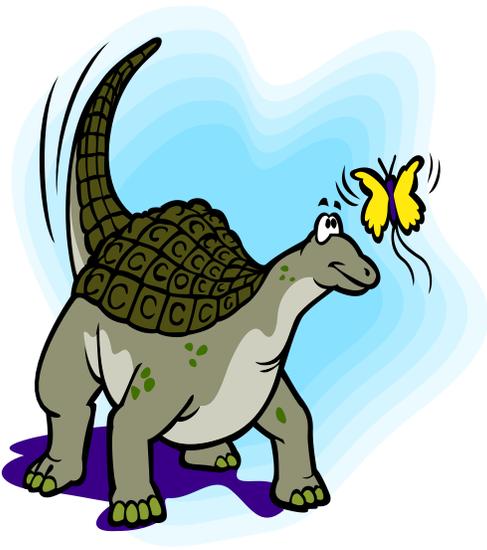
Please note that there is a \$10 parking charge for each car.



Just a couple of reminders....

Al-Anon Meets Weekly at Sunnyhills UMC

Al-Anon open meeting, Monday Nights - 7:30pm – _____ in the Sanctuary.



Butterfly Garden Workdays

Tuesday Evenings

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

*Plenty of chores
big and small
to spruce up the garden!*

**More information:
Cliveden & Guy Haas
(408) 262-5250**

*(The gardens really do look lovely. A great big **THANKS** to Cliveden, Guy, Lee, Bob and others for all their time and efforts.)*

Calendar

July

- 1 Centering Prayer
- 2 Gardening in the Evening
- 4 Happy Fourth of July – Office Closed
- 7 Worship
- 8 Centering Prayer
- 9 Gardening in the Evening
- 11 Kairos Crafters
- 14 Worship
- 15 Lunch Bunch at Omega Restaurant
- 15 Centering Prayer
- 16 Gardening in the Evening
- 18 Beacon *Deadline*
- 18 Kairos Crafters
- 21 Worship
- 21 Centering Prayer
- 22 Gardening in the Evening
- 23 Trustees' Meeting at Karen Schreifels'
- 24 Kairos Crafters
- 25 Worship – Change Over Sunday
- 28 Centering Prayer
- 29 Gardening in the Evening
- 30

August

- 1 Kairos Crafters
- 4 Worship
- 5 Centering Prayer
- 6 Gardening in the Evening
- 11 Worship Spec. Offering for the Food Pantry
- 12 Centering Prayer
- 13 Gardening in the Evening
- 14 Ad Council
- 15 Beacon *Deadline*
- 18 Worship
- 19 Lunch Bunch – at Liou's House
- 19 Centering Prayer
- 20 Gardening in the Evening

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