



**November 2017**

## **The Beacon**

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

*Pastor Emil Sazon*

Church Office (408) 262-1486  
Visit us on the Web! [www.sunnyhillsumc.org](http://www.sunnyhillsumc.org)

### **Church Conference**

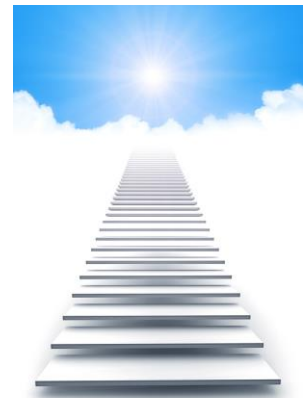
*Saturday ❖ November 4 ❖ 1:30 p.m.*

Our SUMC Church Conference is an important meeting that elects church officers, approves the pastor's salary, and establishes the framework for the new year. We will look back at the previous year(s) and forward to bring our dreams into reality, seeking always to discern God's voice and inspiration for our actions.

This year, we will also have a special visitor. Our new District Superintendent, Shinya Goto, will meet with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee and will join our program and worship. This will be Rev. Goto's first ever visit to Sunnyhills UMC and our first chance to meet and welcome him.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a member or not. We are looking for a few people to share memories, too. We'll have snacks to share and enjoy some beautiful music along with getting to know Rev. Goto. Please let Pastor Emil know if you can help.

*The fact that there is a highway to hell  
and a stairway to heaven says a lot  
about the anticipated traffic load.*





Dear friends, brothers, and sisters in Christ,

How do we celebrate Thanksgiving 2017 in the midst of many calamities happening in our country and around the world? Not to mention of many unpleasant news and stories surrounding us. There is no doubt that we are all greatly affected in one way or the other.

These critical events happening in our times lead me to remember the first Thanksgiving in our country. History tells us that many of the Pilgrims died because of the great calamity they had experienced along their way to their new home. Many of them died; however, the tragedy they had did not stop them to give thanks as the Native Americans welcomed them. Both parties gathered all their blessings and shared with one another and gave thanks to the Lord. Friends--I believe this is the best thing we can ever do: Be thankful always believing that God is with us. Our strong faith and trust in God can be seen in times of great struggles in life. As we witness deaths after the hurricanes around the world, wildfires in our neighboring cities, and wars amidst the innocent people, human kindness rooted in love is becoming more visible. This is something that we can think about while we are celebrating Thanksgiving. God's love always prevails!

This month we also celebrate the Veterans Day. We remember our brothers and sisters who fought for our freedom, and let us continue pray for those who continue to risk their lives for our country. Join me as I salute them with my heart for the courage and love for our country. My dad was one of the World War II veterans and he said, "I will choose to eat one meal a day just to have no war."

The meal that we are about to share with one another in Thanksgiving Day is not all about feasting. May we remember Jesus' words as He broke the bread among His disciples: "Do this in remembrance of Me." In remembrance of Him, who died on the cross for you and me! And that was not the end is it? Jesus rose and lives forever!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

*Pastor Emil*

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.  
God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God,  
and God in them.*

**1 John 4:16 New International Version (NIV)**





**Saturday, 11/4  
8:00 a.m.**

The topic this month is Affordable Housing. Enjoy a delicious breakfast (donations accepted) and discussion of this important topic along with insights from local politicians and concerned citizens. For more information, contact Guy Haas at (408) 666-4820.

**Board of Trustees  
meets in Jones Hall  
on Wednesday, 11/8  
at 7:30 p.m.**

Anyone with questions or concerns about our church property, buildings, and equipment is very welcome to attend. Please contact the Secretary, Laine Sazon, if you would like to add a topic to the agenda for discussion.

**Administrative Council  
meets in Jones Hall  
on Saturday, 11/18 at 2:00 p.m.**

Our AdCouncil oversees the administration of Sunnyhills UMC such as income, expenses, and financial accounting. This group also schedules activities and plans mission projects for our church family. Come join the discussions. Everyone is welcome!



11/08 Lee Scott  
11/12 Rueben Marcos Valderrama  
11/20 Kristel Tanciango

**Ghoir Rehearsals  
Fridays at 7:00 p.m.**

The SUMC Choir is looking for a few joyful people who enjoy song! Come out and join the choir and bless us with your voice. Choir rehearsals Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



**Thanksgiving Offering  
Sunday, November 12th**



Donations to support Milpitas Food Pantry as it serves the hungry in our community. The majority of clients are families with children, followed by seniors. Homeless people in our area are also served.

## Bishop's Message All Saints Day, 11/1/2017



Brothers and Sisters,

On this All Saints Day may the saints you have known in your life inspire you to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ!

I am in Washington D.C. representing our United Methodist Church in advocating for a Clean Dream Act. As United Methodists, we are called to join other persons of faith throughout this week in support of Dreamers. Recently President Trump terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. As United Methodists, we support DACA because we believe young people who have come to the U.S. with their parents in service to the labor needs of this country and have lived most of their lives in the U.S. should have access to educational opportunities and full participation in the life of the only nation they have

known, and identify with (*RESOLUTION #3164, 2012 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*).

This week let's join Dreamers and say to the Trump Administration and our Congressional leaders that passing a clean Dream Act in 2017 is critical for the wellbeing of undocumented young people, their families, our churches and communities.

Today I will be participating in a Dream Act Press Conference and then visiting the offices of California Congressmen David Valadao and Jeff Denham to encourage them to help pass a Clean Dream Act. Would you join me by calling the Congressional leaders of your district? Here's what you do:

**Tell Congress to Pass a Clean Dream Act Now! 1-866-940-2439**

\*Please call 3 times to be connected to your 1 Representative and your 2 Senators

Sample Script: "I'm your constituent from [City, State]. As a person of faith and a constituent, I support dreamers. I strongly oppose President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. DACA has provided nearly 800,000 immigrant youth the opportunity to work, raise a family, and pursue their dreams. Congress must do everything in your power to protect immigrant youth - I am calling to urge the [Senator/Representative] to support a clean passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S.1615 / H.R.3440)."

Let us live our faith and our call to love our neighbor by supporting a Clean Dream Act this year.

Blessings,

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

## **A Thanksgiving Prayer**

*Written by Rev. Linda McDermott, First United Methodist Church  
Fort Worth, Texas 2013*

God who loves us, who deserves our gratitude for so much that is good, we offer our prayers of thanksgiving to You:

For the beauty of the Earth — bright orange leaves mixed with green, a gentle rain, a spider's delicate web.

For friends, for family, even acquaintances who offer us kindness, who bring us laughter, who hold us to a higher standard.

Lord of all that is good and nourishing to our well being, we give you thanks. How we must try Your patience with our pettiness!

All of life is a wonder. The very breath we take, the ability to rouse ourselves each new day, a single blade of grass that holds such miracles of symmetry, a tiny distant star whose real size boggles our minds.

We take our lives for granted — as if it were our right, and not our gift.

We take our days and our loves and our passions for granted — as if tomorrow will verify their importance and our present moments have other things to occupy us.

Gracious God, who lavishes goodness upon us even in some of our darkest moments, help us to see Your goodness, remind us to have grateful hearts, give us receptive minds, and grant us ever-gracious ways of living in harmony with each other.

And in our gratitude, make us to be instruments of Your peace. Amen



# CALENDAR

# November

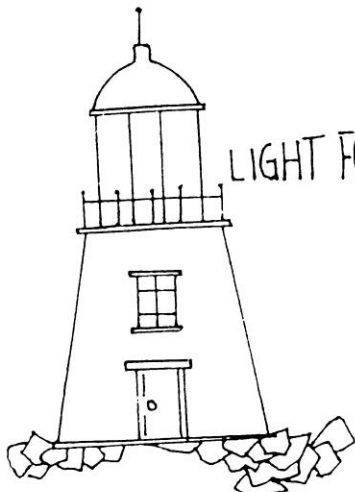


Fri. 11/3	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary (every Friday)
Sat. 11/4	7:00 a.m.	Morning Devotion in Sanctuary (first & third Saturdays)
	8:00 a.m.	Community Breakfast: <i>Affordable Housing</i>
	1:00 p.m.	SPRC meets with District Superintendent in Church Office
	1:30 p.m.	<b><i>Church Conference: Help us welcome our new District Superintendent!</i></b>
Mon. 11/6	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary (every Monday)
Wed. 11/8	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees meets in Jones Hall
Fri. 11/10	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary (every Friday)
Sun. 11/12	9:30 a.m.	Special Offering for Milpitas Food Pantry
Mon. 11/13	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary (every Monday)
Fri. 11/17	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary (every Friday)
Sat. 11/18	7:00 a.m.	Morning Devotion in Sanctuary (first & third Saturdays)
	2:00 p.m.	Administrative Council meets in Jones Hall
Mon. 11/20	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary (every Monday)
	6:30 p.m.	Anakbayan Silicon Valley meets in Sanctuary
Fri. 11/24	(NO choir rehearsal)	
Sun. 11/26	9:30 a.m.	<i>Your spare change helps the hungry and homeless</i> —Changeover Sunday
Mon. 11/27 <sup>1</sup>	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary (every Monday)

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355 Dixon Road  
Milpitas CA 95035

## first class



LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING