



December 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

Christmas Eve Offering **Sunday, December 24th**

The Christmas story reminds us that any family can need a helping hand. Mary and Joseph searched for a safe, secure shelter to bring a new life into their family.

In the U.S. today, homelessness affects people from all walks of life. In our SF Bay area, the cost of living is nearly 50% higher than the national average. With such high housing costs, many people earning minimum wage live on the brink of homelessness.

Our special offering on Christmas Eve supports LifeMoves Villa, the homeless family shelter in San Jose. Please see page 5 for more information, or visit LifeMoves.org to learn more.



Christmas Sing-along **Friday, December 8th** **7:00 p.m.**

Come one, come all!

Everyone is invited

Friends, neighbors, family

Favorite songs

Christmas carols and holiday songs,

Bring instruments and join the fun

*There will be hot and cold beverages
and cookies*





Dear friends, brothers, and sisters in Christ,

The first Sunday in December marks the beginning of our Christian Calendar. We are preparing for the coming of the Messiah. You will notice the changes of season and you will see the colorful decorations, the lighting effects practically from all places, the smell of the food, and the music will change the mood of many. It's a joyful Holiday and yet, deep inside there is sadness, because some members of our family are no longer here with us.

While we are celebrating the season of Christmas, I hope we will take a moment to pray for all people who are suffering from illnesses, impacted by different forms of calamities, including the poor and the needy. At the same time we need to do something to reach them and proclaim the good news of His coming. The coming of the Messiah is the greatest gift to the world.

In the midst of our celebrations and ministries, there are still questions that remained unanswered: How can our ministry be vital and effective in our world that keeps changing? The technology is racing in the lives of many that our church cannot seem to catch up. It's so obvious that the development is all over our community but the church still remains the same. As you travel these Holidays, look around and see how the buildings are expanding, getting modernized, developed and changed according to the needs of our society; and yet we notice some of church buildings remained small and thriving with all the changes happening surrounding it. I do pray that the church will be open for changes and willing to venture different ways and possibilities of doing ministries.

The coming of Jesus is simply "to be with us." Emmanuel! It means God is with us. For some people or maybe still to many, this is new and still cannot believe or accept the truth that God became Man! This is impossible but becomes possible because God loves us so much. As we celebrate this meaningful occasion, let us be like Christ who came "to be with us!" May your presence be a blessing as you reach out to others that Christ is amongst us!

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful new year!

No boundaries in God's love!

Pastor Emil

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and
peace*

*there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*

*The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.*

Isaiah 9:6-7



Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate the Nativity

*Carols and the story of
one Special Night*

*Friends and neighbors are always
welcome*



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- 12/02 Virginia Mathiesen
- 12/09 Alex Walker
- 12/11 Juanita Whetstone
- 12/21 Jay Lazatin
- 12/23 Kitty Pascual
- 12/25 Jack Freeman
- 12/25 Mark Pereyra
- 12/27 Robert Pease



- 12/24 Vilma & Winnie Ware
- 12/31 Myra & Ralph Nikolaus

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. See calendar for dates.





Community Breakfast

**Saturday, December 2nd, in Jones Hall
8:00-9:30 a.m.**

Renters' Rights Workshop

Renters' Rights Workshop

The housing shortage is a crisis, and rents are rising all over Silicon Valley. This could be called a landlord's market. We hear that some discriminate against potential tenants, harass current renters, or neglect property upkeep knowing they can easily find another tenant. Although Milpitas does not have a just cause ordinance, renters do have some protections.

Do you know your rights?

- How much can my landlord raise my rent?
- Do landlords have to rent to families with children?
- Are service animals for people with disabilities allowed in "no pets" housing?
- Can my landlord evict me because I asked for repairs?
- How can tenant protections prevent displacement in Milpitas?

Learn the answers to these questions and more at workshop by the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley!

The free breakfast is hosted by the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association and the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church in Jones Hall at 355 Dixon Road (across from Weller School playground). Everyone is welcome. Donations are gratefully accepted. The Community Breakfast occurs the first (non-holiday) Saturday of the month except July and August. For more information call (408) 507-3913.



LifeMoves / Villa provides transitional housing for homeless families.

Services

LifeMoves programs are free of charge for the people we serve and our team provides far more than temporary shelter. We expect people to succeed and they do. Last year, **92% of families and 78% of individuals who completed our transitional housing programs returned to stable housing and self-sufficiency.**

LifeMoves programs teach homeless adults the life skills they need to find a rapid return to stable housing and long-term self-sufficiency. For homeless families with children, our additional goal is to inspire children (and their parents) to aim for higher education to increase their opportunity to earn higher wages which will enable them to become more financially secure as adults. **This illustrates our goal of breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty and one of its most visible symptoms: homelessness.**

Our clients engage in an extensive collection of life-changing supportive services:

- **Case Management:** We support clients' unique needs, helping them manage budgets, connect with resources, and make active progress toward stable housing
- **Job and Housing Search Assistance:** Staff and volunteers provide clients with training and resources to find and secure employment and housing they can afford
- **Financial Literacy and Savings:** We teach clients to manage a personal budget and to save for emergency needs. Clients in the LifeMoves transitional housing program must save at least 50% of their income
- **Childrens' Services:** Our therapeutic childcare centers, S.T.E.M.-based curricula, after-school homework club, and art therapy programs help children and youth overcome the trauma of homelessness, continue their education, and open their eyes to the possibilities offered by higher education
- **Mental Health support:** Anxiety and depression are common for adults and children experiencing the trauma of homelessness. All of the people we serve get immediate mental health support while in our programs and we help connect our clients to longer term help in the community upon program completion
- **Life Skills Education:** We equip our clients to achieve and maintain long-term self-sufficiency by teaching them life skills through nightly workshops on financial literacy, parenting, nutrition, and other life skills
- **Direct Client Assistance:** We also assist our clients with practical support: basic car/bicycle repairs to assure reliable transportation, bus, train, and BART passes, fees for college applications, assistance with tuition, etc. We have clothing closets to help our clients dress for success for work and job interviews. Upon program completion, our clients move into their new residences with a generous supply of donated linens, kitchen supplies, small appliances, toiletries, clothing, etc. The critical lessons of savings and financial literacy are firmly ingrained

In summary, hard work, commitment and accountability are required from the homeless men, women, and children we serve. In return, LifeMoves provides safe, clean and modern living spaces, nutritious food, counseling and mental health supportive services, therapeutic childcare and after-school activities, job and housing search assistance, and additional "Program" services.

CALENDAR



Fri. 12/1	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary (every Friday)
Sat. 12/2	7:00 a.m.	Morning Devotion in Sanctuary (first & third Saturdays)
	8:00 a.m.	Community Breakfast: Renter's Rights Workshop
Mon. 12/4	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary (every Monday)
Fri. 12/8	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Sing-Along in Sanctuary
Mon. 12/11	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary (every Monday)
Fri. 12/15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary (every Friday)
Sat. 12/16	7:00 a.m.	Morning Devotion in Sanctuary (first & third Saturdays)
Mon. 12/18	11:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary (every Monday)
	6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Ministries: Anakbayan Silicon Valley meets in Sanctuary
Fri. 12/22	(NO choir rehearsal)	
Sun. 12/24	9:30 a.m.	Special Offering: LifeMoves Villa Family Homeless Shelter
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary
Mon. 12/25	(NO Centering Prayer)	
Sun, 12/31	9:30 a.m.	<i>Your spare change helps the hungry and homeless</i> —Changeover Sunday

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first class

