

THE COMMUNIQUÉ

Santa Clara United Methodist Church

1700 Lincoln Street • Santa Clara • California • 95050



VOL. 44- ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2018

Greetings SCUMC family and friends!

Happy New Year. I pray that things are going well with you. I hope that you had a great Christmas celebration and holiday.

After the hype of Christmas, before we get to Lent, here we are in Epiphany considered as, “ordinary time”.

A new year has begun, and everyone speaks of their hopes and dreams. We expect that our lives will be better. There can be newness of life in this year. There are new projects to complete and new goals to achieve.

Yet for many persons, mean 2018 is the continuation of 2017. Nothing will change. Our worries and uncertainty remain. Someone is still trying to adjust to a devastating diagnosis. Someone is trying to overcome addiction. Someone is still looking for a job. Someone is longing for the conflict in a relationship to end. For some people, the New Year is simply last year warmed over.

When life is not going well as I plan, I reflect on God’s promises. I knew God is always with me. I believed God has a future for me. I needed to go back to my call to ministry and remember the assurance I received that when God calls, God also paves the way. In looking back I could move forward.



All of us have a future that we need, at one time or another, to “get back to”. We lose our way, we mess up our relationship, we become selfish trying to do things our way. When we go back, we can reclaim what we’ve lost and recapture a future that excites us in the ordinary time. Come back to God’s future.

When Hebrew people were in exile, they

have lost their homes, their jobs, and many of their traditions. They got distracted from God’s future for them. As a respected leader, prophet Jeremiah offers them words of comfort and hope as they face the future. Jeremiah tells the people that God has plans for them. God’s plan will recapture their hope and their God-ordained future. Jeremiah invites the people to look beyond their present circumstances back to God’s future.

I believe that same invitation is extended to us this day. Let’s come back to God’s future. Look beyond your present circumstances and re-envision God’s future for you. That future is exciting even in ordinary time. The plans God has are for peace and prosperity, not for harm or evil. Come back to God’s future.

I invite you to go to God in prayer. Prayer works. Prayer can transform people and situation. Prayer can change you and me. Prayer covers the soul with power and bring confidence in God. May God be with you through new year and fill you with peace, love, joy and hope. May this day and the days ahead hold many blessings for you and your family.

Happy New Year.

Blessings,

Pastor Vathanak Heang

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

Join us for a potluck style lunch on
Saturday, Jan. 27th at 12:00 to 1:00
Everyone is invited.

A chance to get to know friends.
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Contact info: ivath629@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting date: 12/19/17

- 2018 Budget was presented by finance chair. It was approved.
- The church is considering hiring a well-qualified pianist. The council recommends this matter to Staff Parish Relation Committee.
- A draft of sanctuary renovation was presented. Church council sends a few questions back to Faith Covenant Group for clarification.

JANUARY SERMON SERIES

Discovery: Let's start this year by discovering who we are.

Jan 7th: What's our value?

Jan 14th: What's wrong?

Jan 21th: Teen Challenge Sunday

Jan 28th: What's most important?

Feb 4th: Now What?

Prayers of Healing and Support for the following people:



Linda Eserini
 Jack Schenaker
 Christina Barini
 Cora Oliver
 Angelita Barbadillo
 Donna West
 Carrie Reece
 Cynthia Rovnaghi

Let us pray: Lord, I believe in the healing power. Please reach down and surround my friends with supernatural peace and strength and give them the faith to believe that all things are possible for you. Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1/6 Shilo Heang
- 1/10 Mariella Flora
- 1/15 Jessalyn Cruz
- 1/20 Kaliana Flora
- 1/22 Kevin Chung
- 1/24 Christine Barini
- 1/25 Deziree Tuscano
- 1/31 Carmella Gordon

May you enjoy the Lord's sweet presence on your birthday and be blessed with a year full of love, joy, peace and hope.

CHANGE DRIVE

You know all of that change you have hanging around, jingling in your pockets and coin purses? Well, you can bring it to church to fill the jar to help refurbish the Children's Playground! FCG is looking to replace the worn rubber fill under the equipment and make it a safer place for our children to play. We are joining with Bethel to make this important improvement. So, now and throughout the Christmas season, bring your change, your loose ones, five, tens and twenties and let's make this happen!



January Calendar

3	6-7pm	Bible Study
4	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
7	9:55am	Sunday Worship
9	5:30	Dinner is served at JW House
9	6:30	Faith Covenant Group
10	6-7pm	Bible Study
11	10-noon	Hearts and Hands
11	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
14	9:55am	Sunday Worship
18	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
21	9:55am	Teen Challenge Sunday
23	7pm	Join Church Council
24	6-7pm	Bible Study
25	11-2pm	Hearts and Hands
25	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
27	12-1:00	Lunch With Friends
28	9:55am	Sunday Worship
31	6-7pm	Bible Study

February Communique

Please submit the February Communique article to santaclaraumc@yahoo.com by 1/25/2018

Contact Us

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