

THE COMMUNIQUÉ

Santa Clara United Methodist Church

1700 Lincoln Street • Santa Clara • California • 95050



VOL. 43- ISSUE 3

March 2017

Dear Church family

I hope and pray that this Communique reaches you in good spirit. Here we are in Lenten Season. Wednesday March 1st, we will have Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 p.m. in Frey Room. Please come experience this inspirational service.

This service is about penitence which we often ignore or give very little attention to. This is a night to remember that we are mortal. From dust we were created, and to dust we shall return. And it is a night to remember that we all are sinners. It is also a night to remember that God give us grace to choose repentance-continual turning away from self-centeredness and sins. The good news is, through Jesus, God gives us complete forgiveness and redemption. Most importantly, He gives us life both now and eternal.

So I encourage you will join me in this season of Lent by thinking about penitence and where in your life this attitude might be needed as we follow Christ to the cross.

Penitence means sincere sorrow for our sins and failures. Starting from Ash Wednesday until Easter, the church embraces this idea of penitence. If you are like me, your first instinct would be to ask, "Why? Why is sorrow for my sins and failure is something that I should intentionally choose to contemplate? I know I am a sinner. What value can it be that I should focus on that? Shouldn't we be focusing on the salvation, redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ?" The idea of penitence can be counter intuitive.

However, to embrace the gospel is to choose to leave behind the sins. The reality is that repentance plays an essential role in our journey with Christ. In his book, *I surrender*, Patrick Morley writes that the church's integrity problem is in the misconception "that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin. It is a change in belief without a change in behavior.

It is revival without reformation, without repentance."

Remembering our sins should lead us closer to Christ. It should lead us to pray to God saying, "I don't want to be that kind of spouse. I don't want to be that kind of person that is not consistent to be your follower, Lord. I am sorry that I ever acted in those ways. Help me in all circumstances to keep acting out of self-centered. I am sorry."

The more we follow Christ, the more we know we need repentance, the more like Christ we become, the more that we are conformed to the image of Christ. That is sanctification. God is working in us like a potter. He prepares us. He makes and molds us. And as we have sincere sorrow toward our sins, we then continue to find eth motivation to continually repent. Repenting is more than confessing. More than just naming our wrongs, we turn away from it. We become more like Christ each and every day.

As this is a collective and personal journey that we all take on this Lenten season, may we remember the salvation God gives us. May we continue to turn away from our sin so that we might increasing know the light and love of God for us and for this world that God is redeeming.

Let's pray, "God, please show us ourselves. Help us to see our lives as you see them. Wherever there is sin, past or present, please show that to us. And please help us to choose penitence and repentance. Help us to choose your forgiveness and grace. And help us to follow you all the way to the cross. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN."

Blessings,

Pastor Vathanak Heang

For more information, please check our church website: www.santaclaraumc.com

Sunday Morning

**Lenten Devotional Prayer Journey:
"Whispers of Hope"**

****Please join me on a 40 day odyssey of prayer!****

"No greater priority exists for the believer than knowing Christ through the study of His Word and the intimacy of prayer,"

says Beth Moore, the Author of: Whispers of Hope: 10 Weeks of devotional prayer.

We will also be blending in the introduction of
"Another Bead, Another Prayer"
By Kristen and Max Vincent

Protestant Prayer Beads!

We will be embarking on a journey this Lent that will introduce us to a new way of connecting with God. Protestant prayer beads are a prayer tool that can help you experience God's presence, increase your focus and comfort level in prayer, and be still and feel God's love for you!

I have been making enough prayer beads for a class.... and I'm excited to share them with you this Lent!

(If you find that using them in prayer helps you, then they are yours. If this form of prayer is not for you, just give them back to me for the next prayer group class.)

Devotions include scripture, bible reading, and devotional reading, then prayer, and take-home daily devotions.

Hope to see you this Sunday!

Julia Borjeson

Class begins this Sunday!

March 5th @ 11:15am

Frey Room

Santa Clara United Methodist Church

1700 Lincoln St. @ Warburton

Santa Clara. Questions?

Call Julia!408-375-8554

Financial Stuff

Introducing your financial team: Selma Chung, Pat Craig, Emma Cruz, Donna West, Anita Edwards and Larry Olson. First of all we would like to thank all of our donors for their financial support, both money and the many in-kind contributions. For the most part, in calendar year 2017, our church was able to pay its bills and meet ongoing financial requirements. Our unaudited books show that we spent a roughly to \$1,200 more than we took in. In 2017 it is clear that some expense areas are going to increase; e.g., mandated health care and financial audit expenses. Nevertheless we are optimistic that we are going to do well in the future and are planning for a Good Faith increase in donations. In a month or two we should have a better understanding of both income and expenses. Please continue your generous support of the church to the very best of your financial ability.

Larry Olson

JW House

We Have a new outreach for our church. Cooking diner on the second Tuesday of each month at the JW House at Kaiser Hospital. You will be cooking for people who have loved ones in the Hospital. Those are people that have a serious illness or are about to Die. There are 20-30 people that need be fed. There is a nice kitchen at the house. You can cook there or at home and bring it to the house. Your choice.

There are at least two volunteers at the house to help. They clean up afterward. That leaves just the cooking food and providing salad and desert.

I cooked for the house on Valentine's Day. Julia helped. After eating a man came up to me and asked if I had cooked. I responded yes. His next statement was "you are blessed". That is what outreach is all about, to be a blessing for someone. Please talk to pastor Heang to volunteer for this outreach. Be blessed and be a blessing.
Bo Roberts

Food Barrel Project

Many thanks to everyone who has helped keep the food barrel project going. **For the first Sunday in March, we would like you to bring rice and beans.**



As last month, the barrel will be in the front of the church and you will place it in the barrel during Communion. Pastor will bless the food after Communion. If you have any other ideas to make this a fun project please contact Donna West. Thank you all and God Bless.

Why choose SCUMC?

When Shirley and I were married it was at St. Paul's in San Jose. After going there for 4 years after we moved to Santa Clara we transferred to Santa Clara. The Sanctuary was new as was the campus.

Everything was bright a new. There is a certain amount of pride in something new. Than the work started. A lot of work started.

Now after 50 some years there is still a lot of work to do. I think that is why I am still coming to Santa Clara United Methodist. Work fascinates me. I can watch it for hours. Not really. To work for our church and For God is a blessing. So as long as I am able, I will do what needs done here. Done for the church and for God.

It is the church that keeps me coming. Not the buildings or the campus but the church. The people that are the church.

To all volunteers

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of you who help around the church. Thank you so much for your time, effort, hard work, prayers and labor of love. You all have been blessing to this congregation! Pastor Vathanak Heang

Prayers of Healing and Support for the following people:



Linda Eserini
Jack Schenaker
Christina Barini
Julia Borjeson
and her mother
Cora Oliver
Angelita Barbadillo
Donna West
Carrie Reece

Let us pray: Lord, your Word speaks promises of healing and restoration and I thank you for the miracles you still perform today. Today I claim those promises over my friends. 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. Protect them from lies and discouragement and let their miraculous healing begin. Amen.

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Pastor Vathanak Heang

In Memoriam: Ruth Piazza

Piazza went to be with the Lord on Feb 8, 2017. She married to Vince Piazza (deceased) in 1954, they had 2 children Vincent Piazza Jr. (deceased) and Carol Hayes (Mark). She has been very faithful to our church. Her smile, encouragement, and generosity has been so contagious to our church community. We will miss her a lot.



Lenten Sermon Series

The 7 Words of Jesus on the Cross

- 3/5 "Father Forgive Them"
- 3/12 "Behold Your Son"
- 3/19 "My God, why have you forsaken me?"
- 3/26 "Today you will be with me in Paradise."
- 4/2 "I Thirst"
- 4/9 "Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit"
- 4/16 "Journey to Emmaus"

September Calendar

3/1	6-7pm	Ash Wednesday Service
3/2	11-2pm	Hearts and Hands
3/2	11-noon	Family Storytime
3/2	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
3/5	9:55am	Sunday Worship
3/7	11-noon	Family Storytime
3/7	6:00pm	Church Council Meeting
3/8	5:30pm	Bible Study
3/9	11-2pm	Hearts and Hands
3/9	11-noon	Family Storytime
3/9	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
3/12	9:55am	Sunday Worship
3/14	11am	Family Storytime
3/14	5:00pm	Dinner at JW House
3/15	5:30pm	Bible Study
3/16	11-noon	Family Storytime
3/16	11-2pm	Hearts and Hands
3/16	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
3/19	9:55am	Sunday Worship
3/21	11am	Family Storytime
3/22	5:30pm	Bible Study
3/23	11-2pm	Hearts and Hands
3/23	11-noon	Family Storytime
3/23	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal
3/26	9:55am	Sunday Worship
3/28	11-noon	Family Storytime
3/29	5:30pm	Bible Study
3/30	11-2pm	Hearts and Hands
3/30	11-noon	Family Storytime
3/30	6:30pm	SONRise Band Rehearsal



- Mary Tuscano 3/2
- Graciano Caligurian 3/6
- Kathleen McDonald 3/11
- Allen Tuscano 3/12
- Pat Craig 3/17
- Rhys Gray 3/21
- Barbara Zercher 3/21

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

"...Times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

Crab Feed Success!!

We had the most delicious crab yet for our last crab feed. It had a lot of meat, was sweet, and was easy to crack. There were around 60 people at the feed. We made around \$1500. What a blessing!

Thank you to everyone who invited friends, who came to enjoy the feed, and especially to all the volunteers who made it all happen. It was huge job, and they worked very hard.

THANK YOU JULIA BORJESON FOR COORDINATING THIS BIG AND SUCCESSFUL EVENT. YOU ARE AMAZING!

We will have it again next year. Please plan to attend and bring more friends.

April Communique

Submission deadline for the April Communique to Vathanak is 3/21/2016

Contact Us

Do you have an idea for a story for the Communique? Want to sponsor an event? Please let us know! You can call us at 408-345-9300 or email us at

santaclaraumc@yahoo.com. Want more details on what is going on at church? Visit our Facebook page (Santa Clara United Methodist Church) or our website (www.santaclaraumc.com).