



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • June 2018

CARAVAN 2018

By Paul Scholz, Director of Youth Ministry

Why do people migrate? What happens during the migrant journey? How do policies impact people? That's what the youth are going to talk about this June.

CARAVAN is an annual service and learning trip for high school-age students. It is so exciting, so fun, and so impactful that we have to spell it in all capital letters—CARAVAN!

This year our youth will be going to Tucson, Arizona to work with BorderLinks. According to their website, “Since 1987, BorderLinks has been facilitating educational immersion trips for delegations in the Arizona-Sonora region and beyond the border to Chiapas. The reality of life on the borderlands is much more complex



and unjust than most people realize. BorderLinks offers experiential learning opportunities that explore the difficulties of migration and life along the U.S./Mexico border. We aim to educate individuals through interactive experiences.”

During our time, we will be participating in different experiences that will help

us to better understand migration and stories of immigrants. Some of these experiences will include a desert walk on the U.S./Mexico border, filling water stations in the wilderness to help lost families, going to federal court houses, and a conversation with the local Native American people. *Continued on next page...*

Continued from cover...

Keep us in your prayers! Some of our specific prayer requests: traveling mercies as we fly, open ears and hearts to listen to what BorderLinks is going to teach us, to see where the Holy Spirit is at work in this process, and how we can be agents of peace and reconciliation in difficult situations. Thank you for your support.

Mark your calendars to join us in worship for CARAVAN Sunday on July 15 at all services.

 Learn more about BorderLinks at www.borderlinks.org.



The View From Here

by Rev. Hardy H. Kim

Dear SVPC Family,

It's been just over one year since you all took a vote and decided to affirm my call to ministry in your community. Since that time you have welcomed my family and me with warmth and humor. You have shared beauty and inspiration with me in worship. You've even started sharing your hurts and your joys with me in conversation and prayer, allowing me to walk alongside you in your discipleship. So much has happened.

At the same time, I know that there is so much more for me to learn. That's why I'm excited about the recommendation process that you're all a part of—through which you're providing the church's nominating committee with names of people who could be our leaders. I know that there are stories, spiritual gifts, and bold new visions living and moving

in the hearts of so many of you—all being energized by God's Holy Spirit. These are the things we need to share and discover all together, so that we can be renewed as a vital part of Christ's body in Silicon Valley!

Yes, I have been amazed by all the programs and activities of our community during the program year we're now completing. But I have a feeling that there are spiritual depths to this church family that are still waiting to be known. So please keep your recommendations coming, keep telling us about the people who are alive with God's power, and be open to your own discernment of the ways God might be calling you to be our spiritual leaders—deacons, elders, nominating committee or APNC members—in the days ahead!

Your partner in ministry,

June Calendar

A quick look at what's happening at SVPC this month...

June

- 3 Food drive for those in our community served by Sunnyvale Community Services
- Last day of regular Church School
- 4 Last day to submit graduation information (<http://bit.ly/SVPCGrad2018>)
Last day to submit recommendations to the Nominating Committee (svpc.us/recommend)
- 5 VBS Teacher and Youth Counselor Training, 7 PM, Room 501
- 9 The Music School Open House, 5–8 PM
- 10 Promotion Sunday
Summer Church School begins
- 11 Deadline for June newsletter articles
- 14 Spice Dinner, 6 PM, Country Gourmet in Sunnyvale
- 15 World Refugee Day Celebration, 5–7 PM,
San Jose City Hall
- 18–22 Vacation Bible School, 9:30 AM–noon
- 19 Session meets
- 23 CARAVAN departs
- 24 Vacation Bible School children sing in worship at 10 AM
- 30 Last Things We Talk About, 9 AM–noon, Fellowship Hall

Looking Ahead

- July 1—CARAVAN returns
- July 15—CARAVAN Sunday
- Aug. 31–Sept. 3—All-Church Camp
- September 17—Next Community Conversation
- October 14—All-Church Picnic

Where is that?

- Coleman Room
(Bldg 700)
- Fellowship Hall
(Bldg 300)
- Fireside Room
(Bldg 200)
- Gym, Phoenix Center
(Bldg 700)
- Sanctuary (Bldg 100)
- Soulé Hall (Room 501,
Bldg 500)
- Youth Room, Phoenix
Center (Bldg 700)



E-mail—info@svpc.us

Facebook—facebook.com/SunnyvalePres

Rooted in Christ...

Sunnyvale Presbyterian offers everyone an opportunity to connect with the church community.



What are Your Favorite Hymns?

Valerie Sterk, SVPC organist

During August, we'll precede our 10 AM worship services with a hymn sing beginning at 9:50 AM. Which hymns will we sing? We'd like to again feature the favorite hymns of our congregation—our "top 10" or "top 20" for summer 2018.

On each Sunday in July look for a hymn-ballot box in Trinity Court after the 10 AM worship services. You can write down your all-time favorite hymn, and place your hymn-vote in the ballot box (one hymn-vote per ballot, please). **Valerie** will tally the votes and give our list of top hymn favorites to the pastors, who will lead the August hymn sings. We'll also try to weave your favorite hymns into 10 AM worship services throughout the year.

Arrive 10 minutes early Sundays in August for an opportunity to warm up your souls and singing voices with our favorite hymns. Vote often and sing joyfully!



Interested in connecting...

with other young adults at SVPC? For news and events, contact **Sarah Hawthorne** at YoungAdultsSVPC@gmail.com.

All-Church Camp

**Labor Day Weekend,
August 31–September 3**

Spend your Labor Day Weekend with old friends and make new ones in the beautiful setting of Redwood Glen Camp, near La Honda, one hour from Sunnyvale.

All-Church Camp is a relaxing weekend in the woods for all ages, and includes time for worship, fellowship, and play.

For more information about this fun-filled, faith-filled weekend or how you can get involved contact **Sarah** and **Fjord Hawthorne** at SVPCcamp2018@gmail.com.

 You can find details and register online now at svpc.us/camp.



Fiscal Year-End thru April 30

An update after the first month of our fiscal year:

\$194K	Income
-\$116K	Expenses
<hr/>	
\$ 78K	Surplus

Income got a \$65K boost as many gave a significant portion or all of their annual commitment this month. We are ever grateful for your faithfulness to this church. Thank you!

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**

Want to Pay Less in Taxes?

Tavie Armfield, Church Comptroller

Here are three popular ways people are giving to charities and reducing their tax burden.

- **Give appreciated stock.** If you give stock shares directly to SVPC, you may claim the current market value of the shares as a charitable gift. And, you do not pay taxes on your gains.
- **Give through your Charitable Trust Accounts** such as a Donor Advised Fund. A tax deduction can be taken when the fund is established and the donor determines how the funds are to be invested and to whom (and when) the funds may be given.
- **Give from your IRA/401K/403B distribution directly to SVPC.** If a donor is over age 70 ½, a “Required Minimum Distribution” (RMD) is required to be taken annually. If the distribution is sent directly to SVPC as a contribution, it is not counted as taxable income.

This is meant to be an overview. In all cases, please consult your tax advisor. 

Adventures with Flat Jesus!

This summer as we enter the travel season, we want you to take Jesus with you...Flat Jesus! This is our take on the popular *Flat Stanley* books. Pick up a copy of Flat Jesus at Church School on June 3 or any other summer Sunday, or download the Flat Jesus PDF from <https://firstpresbyterian.org/sites/default/files/Flat-Jesus-2017.pdf>.

Flat Jesus is a great way to be reminded that Jesus is with you wherever you go. Snap lots of photos with Flat Jesus while on your summer travels or just around town when you go out to dinner, to the park, or meet friends. Then share them with us. On Facebook use **@SVPCKids** to get to SVPC's Children's Ministry page and use the hashtag **#FlatJesus** to post pictures, or email pictures to tadros@svpc.us and we'll post them for you.

Check out our Facebook Album, "Adventures with Jesus, Summer 2018" to see where Flat Jesus has traveled recently. We can't wait to see what adventures you and Jesus have this summer!

Spice Dinner

**Thursday, June 14,
6 PM, Country Gourmet,
Sunnyvale**

SVPC's 50s+ Singles Group, Spice, will enjoy a no-host dinner. Join us for a pleasant meal with the group. This is a wonderful way to make new friends and enjoy an evening out. For more information please contact **Melanie Prolo** at 408-394-9311 or melanieprolo@gmail.com.



The Church Picnic Moves to a New Season!

**Sunday, October 14, 11 AM–2 PM,
Las Palmas Park in Sunnyvale**

The 2018 SVPC Church Picnic will be at a new time of the year to allow more people of all ages to attend. Summer vacations have prevented many folks from participating in the past and we are hopeful this new date on October 14 will be a positive change. Stay tuned for further announcements about the exciting plans for a most enjoyable time of games, eating, and fun for everyone. 

Summer Church School Meeting Locations

Current 3- and 4-year-old children and entering kindergarteners will meet together in Room 901.

Children entering 1st through 5th grade (in fall of 2018) will meet in Room 702.

Summer Church School

June 10–July 29, 10 AM and 5 PM

June 3 is the last Sunday for our regular Church School programs—BLAST, STARS, iBLAST, iSTARS, and Choir. On June 10, our summer Church School programs will begin. Our summer programs allow for greater flexibility and smaller numbers as many of us go on vacation throughout the summer months.

This year we will take an exciting “trip” to Uganda through the Step Into My Shoes curriculum. Children will build habits of hands-on compassion as they “meet” their host family and learn about life on the other side of the world. During the last three weeks of summer Church School children will prepare to join their parents in All-Ages Worship by learning about our worship practices including singing the doxology, sharing prayers, reading scripture, and hearing a very short sermon.

We need parents to sign up to volunteer in summer Church School! There is no preparation needed to be a helper in summer Church School. If everyone volunteers for one Sunday, we will be covered. Contact Carol Heath at carol@svpc.us to sign up to help.

THE MUSIC SCHOOL

Open House at The Music School

Saturday, June 9, 5–8 PM

Our open house will feature student and faculty performers, musical crafts, face-painting, an instrument sale, and taco truck on site: takozmodmex.com. You’re invited to meet our faculty, try out our newly upgraded piano lab, and see what The Music School has to offer.



Last Things We Talk About

Saturday, June 30, 9 AM–noon, Fellowship Hall

Taught by Rev. Dr. Libby Boatwright

This class will equip participants to:

- Begin the conversation with their loved ones about their wishes and bequests
- Learn about and complete an advance directive
- Learn the pros and cons of the Physician Aid in Dying Act
- Develop a roadmap for things to be done at time of death
- Begin a financial and practical inventory
- Establish principles for creation of a will or trust, including leaving a legacy through bequests
- Understand what the Bible says about heaven and outline a memorial service
- Organize important information, papers, codes, and resource numbers for heirs

Rev. Dr. Libby Boatwright

is a CFP® (certified financial planner) with more than 30 years of experience, including 15 years teaching this class. She currently serves as chaplain for Oncology Outpatient Palliative Medicine at Stanford Health Care and as a parish associate at SVPC. 

A light breakfast will be provided. To register for this class, visit svpc.us/discipleship.



Worship Focus

Catch some calm in the middle of your week with the weekly **Worship Focus** email. This email includes a greeting from the preaching pastor, the sermon scripture and some questions for reflection. Begin to prepare your heart and mind for Sunday's worship. *Opt-in* by sending an e-mail to info@svpc.us with your request. 

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, June 11 for the July edition. Articles may be up to 120 words in length. Send your article to newsletter@svpc.us, and, if possible, include a photo with your article.



Go green!

Consider joining the hundreds of individuals and families that receive their newsletter electronically. The online edition arrives sooner, contains the same articles plus vivid full-color photos, and live links, and can be easily shared with family and friends, all while helping reduce our carbon footprint! Opt-in by sending an e-mail to newsletter@svpc.us with your request. 



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

For recovery: **Don Strandburg**

For Cancer Treatment: **Michael Yocum**

Continuing Prayers: **Mildred Prasad**

In Hospice: **Lori Reiner**

For the loss of loved ones: **Shannon Birdsong's** father-in-law; **Pat Innes'** mother; **Paula White-Oliver's** husband (**Jim Oliver**)

We celebrate...

the **new members** who were received in worship on May 20 and the wedding of **Marian Devine** and **Rich Blish**.

Reaching Out In Love.

Christ commands us to love one another as He loves us. Here's how.

Let's Celebrate World Refugee Day

Elsa Amboy, Mission and Service Ministry Elder

The current political climate has left many refugees and immigrants feeling unwelcome in our communities, highlighting a growing need to build bridges between our local immigrant populations and receiving communities.

To celebrate the county's rich cultural diversity, heritage and acceptance, the Refugee and Immigrant Forum of Santa Clara County invites you to an interactive World Refugee Day event (details in sidebar). The Forum is comprised of providers that partner together to help our newcomers, including Immanuel House, a transition house for newly arrived refugees. Our church helped to launch Immanuel House and continues to be involved in welcoming our newcomers.

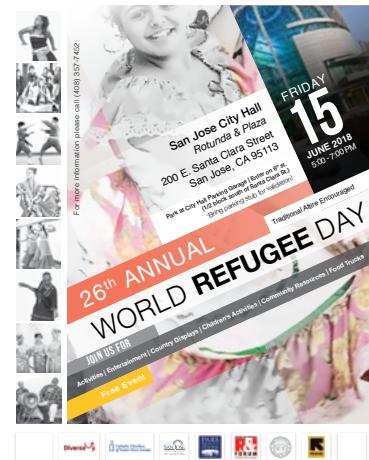
26th Annual World Refugee Day

Friday, June 15, 5–7 PM

San Jose City Hall Rotunda & Plaza
200 E Santa Clara St, San Jose

Proudly celebrating its 26th anniversary, World Refugee Day is held each year to recognize the plight, resilience and contributions of the millions of refugees all over the world who are forced to flee their homes and courageously resettle in new lands. Similar events will be taking place across multiple countries and continents. In addition the month of June has also been declared Immigrant Heritage Month in the United States.

This event creates a unique opportunity for people to learn about different countries, traditions, explore new foods, art and culture. Refugees from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia will



gather along with native-born Americans to honor the diversity, strength and beauty of refugee communities that live and work in Santa Clara County. I hope you will join me to celebrate and welcome our newcomers.

For more details contact **Elsa Amboy** at amboyelsa@gmail.com or 408-838-1331.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Thank You!

Each year our donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing go to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self Development of People program through our denomination. These programs make a significant impact in the lives of people near and far. Your generous giving, including the giving of our kids via their Fish Banks, allowed us to give over \$22,000 this year! Thank you for continuing to be a congregation who cares so deeply for those who are in need.



Make or Give a Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ministry offers shawls of many colors, sizes and patterns to those who might benefit from receiving blessing and comfort during illness, bereavement, transition or celebration.

Some participants meet to knit or crochet the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30–9 PM; others work on their own. New learners are welcome. Shawl makers offer prayers for the recipient (known or unknown), and ministry participants add their prayers. Responses from recipients have been overwhelmingly positive.

Shawls are waiting in our Prayer Shawl Bank. Members and friends of our church are encouraged to help us give them away. To suggest recipients or ask about participating, contact **Miriam Kishi** at miriamkishi@gmail.com or **Brenda Yaggi** at byaggi@yahoo.com.





SUNNYVALE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

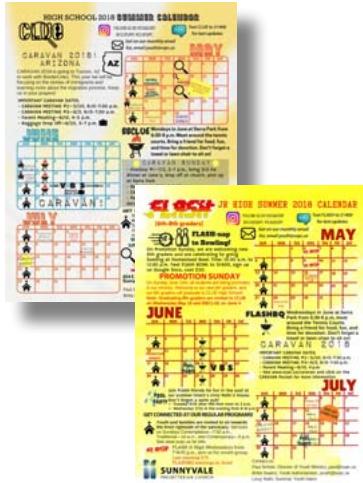
408-739-1892 info@svpc.us

Address Service Requested

Presort Standard
Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #143
Sunnyvale, CA.

Youth Ministry

*FLASH and CLUE summer
calendars are available at
www.svpc.us/youth*



CLUE—High School Events

**Want the latest
information about CLUE?**

Text: CLUE to 51400

Follow Instagram:
[@cluesvpc](https://www.instagram.com/cluesvpc) #cluesvpc

Parents—Stay current on CLUE events/trips

Monthly email: Send an
email to youth@svpc.us

Text: CLUE HSPARENT
to 51400

FLASH—Middle School Events

**Want the latest
information about FLASH?**

Text: FLASH to 51400

Follow Instagram:
[@flashsvpc](https://www.instagram.com/flashsvpc) #flashsvpc

Parents—Stay current on FLASH events/trips

Monthly email: Send an
email to youth@svpc.us

Text: FLASH JHPARENT
to 51400