



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • December 2017

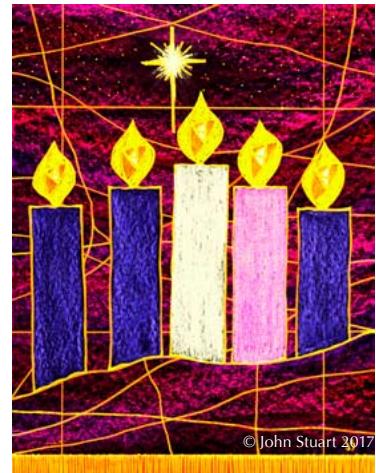
Celebrating the Season of Advent

Did you know that, from its very earliest roots, the Christian Church has marked the passing of time by a special calendar? This calendar doesn't exactly line up with our modern one. In fact, our Christian year has just begun, on the Sunday that falls closest to November 30. This Sunday is the first of four Sundays in the season of Advent.

During this season we, "expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the 'righteous branch' to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ.

We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land" (Companion to the Book of Common Worship).

In Advent, we start our year by remembering that we are a people who live in the tension between the memory of what God has already accomplished and the hope of the glory God has promised to reveal to us when Christ comes again. This sense of grateful remembrance and hopeful longing will culminate in our celebration



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of Christmas, when we once again receive the light of Jesus Christ, God's ultimate and transforming gift for all people.

So according to our tradition, to prepare ourselves for receiving Christ's light, we mark the four Sundays of Advent by focusing on the themes of *hope, peace, joy, and love*.

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Continued from cover...

These themes are meant to help us actively prepare for the coming again of God's good news in Jesus. We will light the candles in honor of these themes. On three Sundays we use the traditional *purple* candles to remind ourselves that this is a time of self-reflection and confession (penitence). On the third Sunday we light a *pink* candle—a break from the somber mood—to represent the joy that we all feel (along with Mary) at the thought of Christ's coming.

We hope you will come worship with us during this special season—to start off our Church year by looking for Christ's light to come again into our world! 

 [presbyterianmission.org/
ministries/worship/
christianyear/advent](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/advent)

Join Us During Advent and Christmas Eve!

Finding a place to belong during the Advent and Christmas season can be a challenge if you don't have a church home. Come and be part of our family at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church.

Dec. 3: First week of Advent

10 AM—One worship service only
7 PM—Christmas Choir Concert

Dec. 9: Advent Contemplative Retreat

9 AM–12:30 PM—Coleman Room
(online reservation required: bit.ly/AdventSVPC)

Dec. 10: Second week of Advent

Worship services at 7:50 and 10 AM, 5 PM
11:15 AM—Soup & Sing (Gym)
6:15 PM—Community Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 17: Third week of Advent

Worship services at 7:50 and 10 AM, 5 PM
6:15 PM—Community Dinner (Fellowship Hall),
tickets from usher or church office required for head count

Dec. 24, morning: Fourth week of Advent

10 AM—Morning worship service

Dec. 24, evening: Christmas Eve

5 PM—Family-friendly service
7:30 PM—Candles and Carols service
10:30 PM—Choir of Bells prelude
11 PM—Candles and Carols service

Dec. 31: Regular worship services

7:50 and 10 AM, 5 PM

The View From Here

by Rev. Hardy H. Kim

SVPC Friends,

Thanksgiving Day has just passed—but my heart is still overflowing with gratitude for all the blessings I have recently experienced in your midst.

I am still feeling humbled and energized by the celebration that took place during the installation service. I cannot begin to adequately thank all those who prepared music, liturgy, logistics, food, hospitality and so much more for that day. What a joy it was to see so many of your faces, and to get to recognize the special way that God has called us all together.

There is also much good news about your generosity in stewardship. I have seen good reports showing we are on track with giving in recent years. I also sense that you are ready and eager to experience more together, to strive to witness to God's love and grace in new ways. So, I hope we will all make

special commitments to our church family, in faith and hopefulness, laying a foundation for a richer congregational fellowship and a bolder outreach to the world around us.

Finally, I am grateful that the turning of the seasons has us once again upon the verge of the season of Advent. I am excited to engage, with you, in the faithful and active waiting for the coming light of Christ—so that we can be

renewed to live and love as God intends! I look forward to seeing you at choir concerts, at community meals, and especially in the warm worship of the season.

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of God be made real to you during this Advent season! 

Faithfully,



“I am excited to engage with you in the faithful and active waiting for the coming light of Christ—so that we can be renewed to live and love as God intends!”



December Calendar

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



December

2 CLUE Ice Skating & Christmas in the Park
Life's Garden Christmas Tea, 2–4 PM,
450 Old San Francisco Road, Sunnyvale

3 First Sunday of Advent
One Service Sunday, 10 AM only
Food drive for those in our community served by
Sunnyvale Community Services
Moment with Children, 10 AM and 5 PM
TK/Kindergarten–6th grade rehearse for Soup and
Sing, 10 AM
Alternative gift options in Trinity Court
Christmas Choir Concert, 7 PM, Sanctuary, Reception
to follow in Phoenix Center Gym

4 *Deadline for January newsletter articles*

6 Parent Support Group Coffee, 9:30–11 AM, Room 750
Just Among Moms (JAM), 9:30–11:30 AM,
Room 702

7 Presbyterian Women Christmas Event, 10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

9 An Advent Retreat, 9 AM–12:30 PM, Fireside Room, register at bit.ly/AdventSVPC

10 Second Sunday of Advent
Moment with Children, 10 AM and 5 PM
TK/Kindergarten–6th grade rehearse for Soup and Sing, 10 AM, Gym
Alternative gift options, after all worship services, Trinity Court
Soup & Sing, 11:15 AM, Gym
Advent Community Dinner, 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

14 Young Adult Christmas Party, 6:30 PM, YoungAdultsSVPC@gmail.com

17 Third Sunday of Advent
Advent Community Dinner, 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall (ticket from usher or office
required for head count)

19 Session meets

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)



20 Just Among Moms (JAM), 9:30–11:30 AM,
Room 702

24 Fourth Sunday of Advent worship service, 10 AM
(Family Worship—No Church School)
Christmas Eve services at 5, 7:30, 11 PM
with 10:30 Choir of Bells prelude
Optional participation in Christmas story at 5 PM
family-friendly service
Rainbow and Glory Choirs (K–6th) sing and
LOGOS Handchimes play at 5 PM

25–26 Church office closed

29 Church office closed

31 Family Worship Service—No Church School

January

1 Church office closed

7 Life in Community: Building Healthy Relationships
Discipleship, week #1, 11:30 AM, Soulé Hall

10 *Memory of Forgotten War* film screening, 7 PM,
Sanctuary

14 Moment with Children, 10 AM and 5 PM

Looking Ahead

Feb. 2–4 Men's Retreat, Redwood Glen, Loma Mar

Feb. 2–4 FLASH Hume Lake Winter Camp

Mar. 9–11 Women's Retreat, Menlo Park

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, **December 4** for the January 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 many individuals and families that now 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.

E-mail—info@svpc.us

Like us on Facebook—facebook.com/SunnyvalePres

Rooted in Christ...

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

Life in Community: Building Healthy Relationships

January 7–February 4, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM,
Soulé Hall
Taught by Val Weirauch



This five-week journey will explore what it is to be a Christian in community. As we live out our daily lives interacting with individuals we meet just “in passing” to those we consider close companions and all the others in between, how is it that our faith influences our interactions? Since we are created to be in community, how do we do that well? Through lecture and group discussions this class will allow us to explore and experience some practical ways we can turn our faith into actions that impact our relationships and help us each become more of who God created us to be.



Register for this class (and sign up for child care) on Signup Genius—bit.ly/LifeInComm
For more information—www.svpc.us/discipleship

Presbyterian Women Christmas Event

Thursday, December 7,
10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Come celebrate the Advent season with a Christmas concert by the Mountain View High School Madrigals under the direction of **Jill Denny**. The Madrigals sing well-known Christmas songs and international concert music and perform around the Bay Area. The short Presbyterian Women (PW) program will include a Life Membership for a special woman in our midst. Lunch will follow the program and concert. The PW Christmas program is open to all who would like to attend. PW is also collecting gift cards for Sunnyvale Community Services for our neighbors in need.

RSVP to **Jackie Mattison** at 408-241-0760 or jackiematt@comcast.net by December 4. There is a suggested \$5 donation for lunch.

Men's Retreat

February 2–4, 2018,
Redwood Glen, Loma Mar

Join us in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains for some time away. We will be led by the **Rev. Terry Dwyer**, who serves as a hospital chaplain for Kaiser Permanente. Sign-ups for the retreat begin on December 3 (in Trinity Court or [online](#)). The retreat is a chance to bond with one another as we renew our faith and seek our Lord together. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact **Scotty VanSickle** or **Bob Stoddard** at mens_retreat@svpc.us.

Sign up online beginning Dec. 3 at www.svpc.us/groups/mens

Women's Retreat

March 9–11, 2018, Vallombrosa Center, Menlo Park

We are pleased to welcome **Michelle Vecchio-Lyzenga**, Director for Community Life at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, as our speaker. Look for registration information in January. For questions or more information, contact womens_retreat@svpc.us.

Holy Interruptions: Being Open to the Surprising Invitations of God (An Advent Retreat)

Saturday, December 9, 9 AM–12:30 PM, Coleman Room
Led by Jim Peterson and Judy Beggs

In the Advent scriptures, God broke into the lives of ordinary people with surprise announcements. These holy interruptions, we can imagine, were at the least unsettling, perhaps even disturbing to those who received them. Yet by saying “yes” to God’s invitations, they were opened to something more, something expansive, something deep. This retreat will invite us to engage with the characters in these stories. Through guided meditation, leader-shared reflections, readings and scripture as jumping-off places, we will be invited into spiritual exercises and conversation to reflect and share how God may be interrupting the usual patterns of our lives and inviting something new to be born in us this Advent season.

Register for this half day retreat on Signup Genius—
bit.ly/AdventSVPC





Get Ready for Christmas Eve

Children's Ministry is excited about our 5 PM Christmas Eve worship service! Everyone is invited to come to the 5 PM service dressed as one of the characters from the Christmas story. Dress as Mary and bring your baby doll. Dress as a shepherd or an angel or an animal, or maybe a townsperson, Joseph or a wise-person. (If you don't have a costume, we will have some in the entryway.) During the service all will be invited to participate in a Christmas pageant in front of the congregation; there are no speaking parts. Our hope is for this service to be especially child friendly and it is a great opportunity to invite grandkids, neighbors and friends. Questions? Contact **Carol Heath** at carol@svpc.us.

Gifts for the Christ Child

Matthew 2:11—“Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Borrow a set from the church library. See, touch and smell the gifts that the wise men brought to the Christ child.

Ringing the Angel's Song: A Christmas Eve Prelude

Angels play a prominent role in the Christmas story, from the appearance to Mary to foretell the birth of Jesus (Luke 1) to the proclamation of the birth to the shepherds (Luke 2). Come join the Choir of Bells for a musical reflection upon this good news journey to Christmas Day on Christmas Eve at 10:30 in the sanctuary (prior to the 11 PM service). This “Angels’ Prelude” will touch upon music throughout the ages that has been inspired by the heavenly host. 





Children's Ministry Weekly Newsletter

The weekly Children's Ministry email newsletter is the best way to stay current with SVPC's children's events. Opt-in to this newsletter (or any other church newsletters) from the website, www.svpc.us; sign up by selecting JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST at the top of any page.

Children's Ministry:
[www.facebook.com/
SVPCMWC](https://www.facebook.com/SVPCMWC)

JAM:
[www.facebook.com/
groups/JAMSunnyvale](https://www.facebook.com/groups/JAMSunnyvale)

Youth Ministry

See the new *CLUE/FLASH* winter calendar at
www.svpc.us/youth

CLUE—High School Events

Ice Skating, Christmas in the Park, December 2

Text: CLUE ICESKATE to 51400 to sign up

Small Groups

Mondays, 7–8:45 PM

Contact youth@svpc.us for locations

CLUE High School

Wednesdays, 7–8:45 PM,
Phoenix Center

Want the latest information about CLUE?

Text: CLUE to 51400

Follow Instagram:
@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

Hume Winter Camp, February 2–4, 2018

Text: FLASH HUME to 51400 to sign up

Small Groups

Mondays, 7–8:45 PM

Contact youth@svpc.us for locations

FLASH Middle School

Wednesdays, 6–7:45 PM,
Phoenix Center

Want the latest information about FLASH?

Text: FLASH to 51400

Follow Instagram:
@flashsvpc #flashsvpc

Parents—Stay current on FLASH events/trips

Monthly email: Send an email to youth@svpc.us
Text: FLASH JHPARENT to 51400

Reaching Out In Love.

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

Financial Update through October 31

\$1,044K	Income
-\$1,062K	Expenses
\$ -18K	Deficit

Giving was very strong in October; in fact it's the largest month since April! Some of you are giving beyond your financial commitment to the church and some have given earlier than expected. The \$18K deficit is right in line with our budget. We are ever grateful for your faithfulness and generosity to this church community. Thank you!.

GOD'S MISSION OUR GIFTS

Stewardship Update

We have received a similar number of commitments as we did this time last year, but we need to hear from everyone if we are to meet our 2018 budget needs. Every gift, large and small, makes a difference. If you have not yet made a 2018 financial commitment, please prayerfully consider your response to our Stewardship drive and turn in your card or submit a response online at www.svpc.us/give.

Life's Garden Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 2, 2-4 PM,
450 Old San Francisco Road, Sunnyvale

This is a favorite event for the residents and we would be happy to have you join us for this festive time. The Madrigals from Mountain View High School, directed by **Jill Denny**, will present a program of Christmas music.



The Life's Garden parking is reserved for residents and staff, therefore please park in the Camino Medical Group complex across the street or in the shopping center at El Camino and Cezanne.

Come and enjoy the festivities to welcome the Christmas season and see the newly renovated dining facility at Life's Garden.



Knit/Crochet for Kids

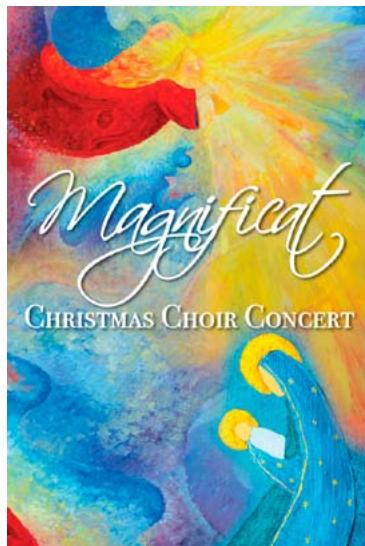
Thanks to the generosity and loving work of our knitters and crocheters, we collected 78 sweaters, 8 scarves, 6 hats and 1 blanket this year. Fifty-three sweaters plus the scarves, hats and blanket were sent to World Vision. Twenty-five of the sweaters will be sent to Central Asia. Each item will wrap a child with our love. Many thanks to those who have shared their time, talent and dedication to create these handmade items for underprivileged children in our country and around the world. We appreciate you!

Chancel Choir Concert

December 3, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Invite your friends and family to share the joy of the Advent season! Plan to attend the festive, annual Chancel Choir Concert. Child care for ages 6 months–6 years will be provided, and all are invited to a reception immediately following the concert. A free-will offering will be collected to help offset the concert costs.

The concert will feature J.S. Bach's glorious *Magnificat*, Conrad Susa's charming *Carols and Lullabies* (Spanish carols with harp, guitar, and marimba), and the ever-popular carol sing-along. Soloists, orchestra, and organ will join the choir for this evening of joyful Christmas music.



Young Adult Christmas Party

Thursday, December 14, 6:30 PM

Join other SVPC young adults in their 20s and 30s for the Young Adult Christmas Party! Share in fellowship over a potluck meal and a gingerbread house competition (supplies provided). For location information and to RSVP contact **Sarah Hawthorne** at YoungAdultsSVPC@gmail.com.

Consider Fair Trade for Christmas Giving

Fair Trade chocolate and coffee will be available to order on December 3. Coffee is available in drip or whole bean in several varieties, including decaffeinated. All of the Equal Exchange coffee is organic and was grown by small farmers in Ethiopia, Colombia, and other coffee producing countries.

Chocolate candy bars can be purchased in boxes of 12 bars. You can choose bars with different flavors including crunch and mint, and cacao percentage from 43% to 88%. Dark and milk chocolate minis are also offered.

There's nothing that tastes better on a cold winter evening than hot chocolate made with Equal Exchange's Hot Cocoa Mix. Except, maybe, chocolate goodies made with the Fair Trade Baking Cocoa.

You will also find information about giving through the Presbyterian Gift Catalogue at the Fair Trade tables.

Gifts Bring Hope to Palestinians

Make your shopping count on Sunday, December 3 by choosing gifts that bring hope. Find these high-quality products available monthly at our Fair Trade table: Palestinian olive oil, soap, za'atar and inflatable solar lights, now called Nur al Amal (light of hope). Rebuilding Alliance is asking for \$40 to send two lights to children in Gaza and provide one for you. For \$20 you can receive a card announcing your gift of one light for Gaza.

New this year for \$20—sponsor the planting of an olive tree in Palestine. A card announces your gift, followed by a certificate of appreciation plus the actual location of planting and future information about the tree. Help keep hope alive!



Christmas Eve Offering



On Christmas Eve, SVPC will hold a special offering benefitting an organization that does God's work in the world. This year, the Mission and Service Ministry team selected Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) as the single recipient of this offering. This year saw an unprecedented number of natural disasters including hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, and the destructive and deadly wildfires in Northern California. As a result, many people lost everything and have been displaced. Your generous contributions can help rebuild and strengthen the communities impacted by these events. PDA is a trusted provider of disaster response and assistance, and often stays engaged long after disaster has struck. Please give generously to support their important work.



HomeFirst Cold Weather Shelter

The HomeFirst Cold Weather Shelter is open in Sunnyvale. Their wish list includes bath towels, sheets, and blankets, laundry soap (powder or powder pods), disposable razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, dental floss, deodorant, shampoo (trial size or large bottles), lotion, adult diapers, new white T-shirts, and underwear/undergarments. To donate items contact donategoods@homefirstsc.org. The shelter is located at 999 Hamlin Court, Sunnyvale.

To join their dedicated group of volunteers, please contact volunteer@homefirstsc.org. Individual and group opportunities are available year-round. 

Thank You for Your Contribution to the Peace & Global Witness Offering

Once again those who attend Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church have generously contributed to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The total contributed, \$9800, will be shared among the Peacemaking programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbytery of San Jose, and the two peace-focused organizations selected by the Mission & Service Ministry Team.

Sojourners and **Bread for the World** will each receive \$1225. Sojourners envisions a future in which Christians put their faith into action in the pursuit of social justice, peace, and environmental stewardship, working in partnership with people of other perspectives, for the common good of communities, families and individuals.

Bread for the World advocates for change by organizing communities and individuals to speak up about hunger and poverty. Thanks to all who contributed to the offering!

sojourners
Faith in Action for Social Justice




breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Books to Educate and Inspire All Ages

For Advent, the Book Sale has *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift*, a family celebration by **Ann Voskamp**, and the devotional *Celebrating Abundance. Five Love Languages* is for singles, couples and parents of children and teens.

For children, consider *No One Else Like You*, the *Adventure Bible Handbook*, *Girl's (and Boy's) Guide to Making Really Good Choices*, Christmas storybooks, story cubes and more.

Adult gifts include *Get Your Hopes Up!, 1000 Gifts, Pocket Prayers, Laugh Your Way to Grace, We Make the Road by Walking, Red, Yellow, Black, and White*, "a needed conversation on diversity," according to **Jim Wallis**, and *The Barefoot Way* for youth and young adults.

The Book Sale is always available after 10 AM worship and at the Advent Community Dinners.

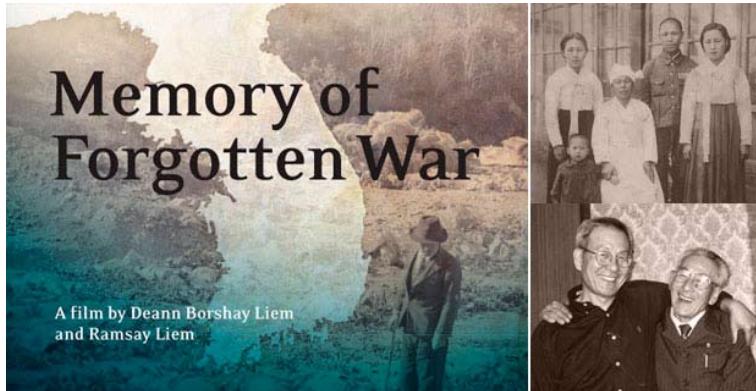
Happy 100th! Jennifer Merriam, Graphic Designer

This month's newsletter marks our 100th edition, so here's a heartfelt "Thank you!" to all those who contribute articles and photos, who edit and compile the content, who manage the printing and folding and mailing, and of course each one of you who reads the end result and uses it as a way to engage more fully with our church community. It is a genuine pleasure to be a part of such a dedicated and enthusiastic team. I hope you all enjoy this 100th edition!



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. 



Memory of Forgotten War Film Screening

Wednesday, January 10, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Memory of Forgotten War conveys the human costs of military conflict through deeply personal accounts of the Korean War (1950–53) by four Korean-American survivors. Their stories take audiences through the trajectory of the war, from extensive bombing campaigns, to day-to-day struggle for survival and separation from family members across the DMZ. Decades later, each person reunites with relatives in North Korea, conveying beyond words the meaning of family loss. These stories belie the notion that war ends when the guns are silenced and foreshadow the future of countless others displaced by ongoing military conflict today.

The film's personal accounts are interwoven with thoughtful analysis and interpretation of events by historians **Bruce Cumings** and **Ji-Yeon Yuh** who situate these stories in a broader historical context. Additional visual materials, including newsreels, U.S. military footage, and archival photographs bring to life the political, social and historical forces that set in motion the tumultuous events of the war and its aftermath.

Find out more at [http://www.mufilms.org/films/
memory-of-forgotten-war/](http://www.mufilms.org/films/memory-of-forgotten-war/)

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

For hospitalization: **Randy Fletcher**

For recovery: **Margaret Lenz**; **Lori Reiner**; **Maurice Sharp**

Continuing Prayers: **Sally Morefield**; **Jim Traina**

For the loss of loved ones: **Jack Cole**'s wife (**Jeannie Cole**); **Bethann**

Merriam's father (**James Dennis**); The family of **Pete Contostavlos**; The family of **Jim Long**; the family of **Dale Doty**.





SUNNYVALE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Thanks for saving paper and postage by reading this online!

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

10 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning worship service

5 PM Family-friendly Service

Come as your favorite character from the nativity story—
Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals, townspeople,
or one of the wise people! Linger afterward for hot cocoa
around the fire pit.

7:30 PM Candles & Carols Service

Join us afterward for hot cocoa.

10:30 PM Choir of Bells Prelude

11 PM Candles & Carols Service 



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