



ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • March 2019

Journeying Through Lent

By Rev. Dr. Jim Bennett, Parish Associate

Several years ago, my brother and I gave our parents a certificate promising a weekend of family time together on the coast. When it proved difficult to find a time that would work for all of us, we worried our parents would be disappointed. When asked, my mom assured us it just meant she had more

time to look forward to our gathering. Perhaps it was just motherly reassurance, but I do think she was on to something. While surprises can be fun, having time to prepare and anticipate can increase the impact.

Our liturgical calendar embraces this insight, building in seasons of

preparation and anticipation for our significant celebrations. With Ash Wednesday (March 6), we begin the season of Lent, a time of reflection and self-examination that enables us to experience the fullness of the Easter celebration that awaits us at the end. During Lent, we realize anew that Easter only makes



Look for details in this newsletter for these Lenten opportunities:

- Ash Wednesday Services
- Ash Wednesday Potluck
- Lenten Community Potluck Dinners
- Lenten Retreat
- Lenten Devotional

Continued from cover...

sense when we consider what came before.

The Lenten season is a call to break away from the rhythms and expectations of the broader world to contemplate the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and to reflect how this continues to shape and transform our world. Some people journey through Lent by giving up something, which is a way to encourage awareness and reflection. Others add a practice or commitment for the same reason. Many of us will be reading *40-Day Journey* with Howard Thurman. I invite you to include reading this powerful devotional a part of your Lenten practice this year.

May this Lent be a time of preparation and anticipation that deepens your connection to God and to our community, and may it enable you to experience more fully the celebration at the end of this season. 🍋

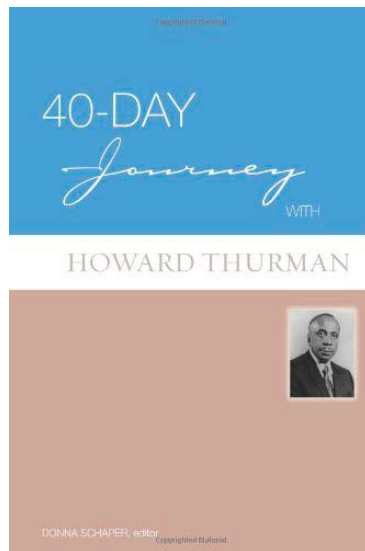
Jim Bennett

Lenten Devotional

Join our church family traveling through Lent on a spiritual journey guided by Howard Thurman. *40-Day Journey* contains forty inspiring passages gleaned by Editor Donna Schaper from the works of Thurman, a spiritual advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Read one each day of Lent (skipping Sundays) to be encouraged to live out your faith in action that is “guided by spirit and maintained in peace.”

Thurman was an influential American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He was strongly influenced by his grandmother, a former slave, who raised him and a Quaker mystic under whom he studied.

Buy the paperback from our church’s Sunday Book Sale or as an e-book online.



Jim Bennett is a Parish Associate at SVPC, where he and his family have worshiped since moving to the Bay Area in 2002. Jim is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University, where he teaches American Religious History. He also serves as Associate Provost of Undergraduate Studies.

The View From Here

by Rev. Karin Kennedy Hejmanowski

Dear friends,

Transitions, in many ways, are the stuff of life. A wise woman in our congregation once encouraged me to celebrate not just the firsts in my children's lives, but also the lasts. I love that wisdom, but we're often so rushed that we fail to do so. In some ways, we celebrate both lasts and firsts when we celebrate graduations and promotions. The last day of elementary school. The last class. The last test. The last internship... they are the lasts that inevitably lead to firsts—the first

day of middle or high school. A first job. A first day as a journeyman. A first day as a graduate student. The possibilities are nearly endless!

As a church, we want to recognize and celebrate milestones and transitions with folks. As we enter this spring season, we want to be part of celebrating with folks, regardless of age, who are finishing 5th grade, 8th grade, high school or any post secondary promotions including professional certificates, accreditations, or degrees, whether A.A. or beyond.

In order to do this well, we need the information from you! Would you please take a minute to let us know if you or a family member who is part of our church community should be recognized? We would love to include their name and the milestone being celebrated in our bulletin insert and recognize them in service on June 2. In order to do so, we need this information by May 26.

When we take our baptism and membership vows, we promise to nurture one another in our faith along life's journey. When we celebrate these milestones, we are continuing that nurture. How wonderful to be able to celebrate one another's milestones and rejoice together! 🌱

Grateful for our community,


Karin



March Calendar

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

March

- 1 Online VBS registration opens—svpc.us/vbs
- 1–3 Women's Retreat
- 3 Food drive for those in our community served by Sunnyvale Community Services
All-Ages Worship
Café Justo coffee available for purchase ( www.justcoffee.org)
- 6 JAM (Just Among Moms), 9:30–11:30 AM, Room 702
Ash Wednesday services
 - Family friendly, 5:15 PM, Sanctuary
 - Potluck dinner, 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall
 - Traditional, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary
- 8–9 Spring Choir Concert, 7 PM, Sanctuary
- 10 New Member Class, 11:30 AM–2:30 PM, Coleman Room
Begin *Invitations from God: A Lenten Contemplative mini-retreat series*
- 11 Deadline for March newsletter articles
- 12 Parent Support Group Coffee, 9:30–11 AM, Room 750
- 13 LOGOS Open House, 4:45 PM, Trinity Court
- 14 Spice Dinner, 6 PM, Armadillo Willy's
- 16–17 25-Hour Famine
- 17 Start Together Sunday,
 - Rainbow Choir (3 year olds–1st) and Glory Choir (2nd–5th) sing
 - Lenten Community Potluck Dinner, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 20 JAM (Just Among Moms), 9:30–11:30 AM, Room 702
- 24 Lenten Community Potluck Dinner, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 31 Baptism Class for 1st–5th grade, 10 AM, 5 PM, Room 702
Lenten Community Potluck Dinner, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall

E-mail—info@svpc.us

Facebook—facebook.com/SunnyvalePres

Looking Ahead

April	Elder Abuse Prevention Training One Great Hour of Sharing Holy Week
May	Youth Confirmation, Chili Cookoff
June	Vacation Bible School CARAVAN
Labor Day Weekend—All-Church Camp	



SVPC Church App for your Mobile Device

Stay connected with the church community through the new SVPC app. Find upcoming church events and add them to your calendar, look up Bible passages, and make donations. The app is a convenient way to donate (in addition to cash, check, bank account, credit, debit or text). To get the SVPC app on your mobile device search for SVPC or Sunnyvale Presbyterian on the Apple App or Google Play stores, or use this link from your phone: <http://sunnyvale.app.link>. 🌱

Where is that room?

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)

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline is Monday, March 11 for the April 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.

Rooted in Christ...

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

Lenten Community Potluck Dinners

Sundays, March 17, 24,
31, and April 7, 6 PM,
Fellowship Hall

On these Sundays join us for a potluck dinner following the 5 PM Intersections service. Bring a favorite dish to share, and enjoy fellowship as we break bread together on our journey through Lent.



New Member Class

March 10, 11:30 AM–2:30 PM, Coleman Room

If you have been attending worship and are interested in the next step, come and explore membership with us. **Rev. Karin Kennedy Hejmanowski** will be teaching this one-session New Member Class. Also required for membership is a meeting with session. New members will be received during worship services on the following Sunday, March 17. If you plan to attend the class, please contact **Jean Ranck** at jean@svpc.us or 408-739-1892. A light lunch will be served. For child care, please contact **Emily Cramer** at childcare@svpc.us by March 3.

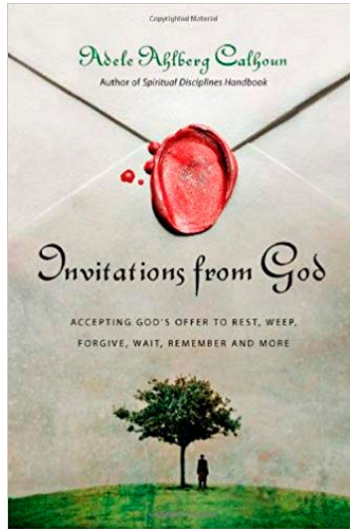


Invitations from God: A Lenten Contemplative Retreat

Sundays, March 10, 24, 31,
11:30 AM–12:30 PM

Led by Jim Peterson
and Judy Beggs

Join us for a 3-part mini-retreat series during Lent. Using Adele Ahlberg Calhoun's book *Invitations from God*, we will focus each session on one or two invitations God always holds out to us, particularly those appropriate to the Lenten season, such as “to weep,” “to forgive,” “to rest,” “to wait,” or “to pray.” We will invite participants to receive and respond to these invitations, and to share as desired with others in the retreat.



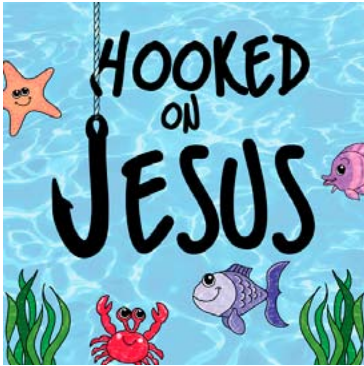
Being Church to One Another

Karin Hejmanowski

I love hearing of people in our congregation caring for other folks. This is the church at work! Is there someone you've sat next to at church for eons and you've noticed they're missing? Thanks for giving them a call. Know that someone's having a medical procedure

or is under the weather? Why not give them a call to let them know you'll pray for them or call them a couple days later to see how they are and to let them know they're thought of and prayed for. There are so many ways to express the love of the church—phone calls, emails, snail mail notes... and if you ask and they're open to it, you can let the office know about it as well. Caring for one another is one of the wonderful facets of being church together. Thanks for being the church! 🌱





Hooked on Jesus! Vacation Bible School

June 17–21, 9:30 AM to noon
4 years old by 9/1/19
through entering 4th grade
We invite older students
who attend our church to be
youth counselors.

In this year's program, children will get "hooked" on learning about events in Jesus' life through stories, songs, crafts, music and worship. Children will learn how the lessons Jesus taught still apply to their lives today. In addition, your child will have an opportunity to be part of a fellowship of loving and caring people committed to the Christian education of our children.

Registration opens on March 1 online at svpc.us/vbs. The cost for the week will be \$80 per child. This fee is waived for full-time teachers/leaders.

Sign up early to get your preferred teaching or full time volunteer spot! 🍋

LOGOS Open House

Wednesday, March 13, 4:45 PM

Are you interested in learning more about LOGOS, our Wednesday evening program for first through fifth grade students? Join us for an Open House and informational meeting. We will meet in the church courtyard, then take a tour of the Chimes choir and Bible study classes, and hear about the fun activities that LOGOS offers. RSVP to logos@svpc.us so we know to expect you. Feel free to invite friends who may be interested in this wonderful program.



Special Needs Ministry Buddies

Do you have a desire to work with a person with special needs? Have you or a youth in your family considered being a buddy to someone in our [Special Needs Ministry](#) but worry that you lack the training? A buddy provides assistance, support, and friendship to a specific child on a weekly or bi-monthly basis during the 10 AM worship

service. Specific training will be provided. We need caring, patient, teachable individuals committed to building a relationship with their buddy as they learn about Jesus. For more information contact **Donna Dillard**, Inclusion Coordinator, at donna@svpc.us.

25 Hour Famine

March 16–17

25-Hour Famine is our annual event for 8th–12th graders where participants fast, perform local service projects, take time for worship and prayer, and raise funds. And have fun all the while! This year participants are raising funds for CARAVAN 2019 trip to Navajo Nation with Sierra Service Project.

Middle School (FLASH) and High School (CLUE) students:

Join us for regular weekly events in addition to special outings and activities.

The best way to know about youth activities and to register for events is to sign up for the weekly electronic youth newsletter. Look for “Join Email Lists” on the bottom of any SVPC web page. 🍃



Confirmation Sunday and Annual Chili Cookoff

Sunday, May 5

On this One-Service Sunday we will celebrate our confirmands in the sanctuary at 10 AM, followed by the second annual SVPC Chili Cookoff fundraiser (proceeds benefit CARAVAN). We are looking for chili chefs willing to compete with their special chili recipes. We will start raising donations at the beginning of April—look for more details in the next newsletter.

➡ To be a chili chef, sign up at bit.ly/ChiliCooks

One Great Hour of Sharing

Palm Sunday, April 14

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) received during the season of Lent (March 6 to April 20), helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. This offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.



For more information on One Great Hour of Sharing, visit specialofferings.pcusa.org



Church Camp is on the Calendar

August 30–September 2

Church Camp is approaching! As you make your summer plans with your family, don't forget to plan on attending All-Church Camp at Redwood Glen over Labor Day Weekend. Redwood Glen is located near Loma Mar in the tranquil mountains and redwood forests of our region. We accommodate all lodging preferences, from rooms in the conference center to outdoor camping. Our time together as a congregation is sure to be full of fun and fellowship. All are invited to attend and special activities will be available to first time campers. For any questions, please reach out to **Danielle** and **Joseph Lyon**, your camp directors for 2019. We are available at adventurecontact@gmail.com. See you there! 🌿

Interested in connecting...

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



Elder Abuse Prevention Training coming to SVPC

April 2, 7 PM, Soulé Hall

Elder abuse is more common than we like to imagine. Understanding this, session has voted to make Elder Abuse Prevention Training required for all our officers. Do you wonder what qualifies as elder abuse or what you would do to report it if you suspected it? This training will cover such topics.

Our presbytery's SafeChurch Coordinator, **Jane Odell**, will be leading this training and we are grateful for the work she and our presbytery have done on this important topic. If you would like to attend, contact **Jean Ranck** at jean@svpc.us or call the church office.

Financial Update through Jan. 31

April through Jan.	Actual
Income	\$1,516K
Expenses	<u>\$1,531K</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$15K)

We are ten months into our fiscal year and income has fallen behind budget. Expenses continue to trend lower than budgeted due to understaffing and all ministry areas spending less than budgeted. Both of these combined result in a \$15K deficit. Our hope is that the year will end with a surplus due to increased giving. All gifts matter!

GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS

Stewardship Update

Gloria Bordeaux-Pacholec, Comptroller

As we head into our new fiscal year, the commitments for 2019 are coming in at a lower rate than last year. Currently, we are looking at a \$245,000 deficit.

If you have not yet made a 2019 financial pledge, look into your heart and consider what matters most to you about this church. Please prayerfully consider your response by returning a pledge card or submitting a response online at svpc.us/give.

We thank those who have generously given in 2018, and those who have already made their 2019 financial commitment. 🍀

Reaching Out In Love.

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



Spring Choir Concert

Friday & Saturday, March 8 & 9, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Invite your friends and family to our first-ever, double-performance, collaborative Spring Concert presented by nearly 300 musicians—SVPC's Chancel Choir, the Cupertino High School choirs, orchestra, soloists, and organ.

The concert features Dan Forrest's powerful *Requiem for the Living* (2013), a five-movement prayer for rest based on Biblical texts (Ecclesiastes and Job) and traditional Requiem texts. The texts and music move from pouring out grief, and wrestling with the problem of pain and sorrow, to finding hope in Christ's redemption, seeing God's glory in creation, and arriving at rest and peace in Christ, even while living in our broken world. Several rousing spiritual settings featuring tenor soloist **Trente Morant** will round out the program.

Child care (6 months to 6 years) will be provided, and all are invited to a reception immediately following each evening's concert. A free-will offering will be collected to help offset the concert costs. 🌱



Seating is limited so a general admission ticket is required. Reserve your ticket here: Requiem2019.eventbrite.com

Mission and Service Ministry Partner

Highlight: *Front Door Communities*

Did you know that Front Door Communities (FDC) at First Presbyterian Church, San Jose, is now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit? FDC has been committed to serving “outdoor friends” for many years. In the late 2000s, their church members addressed a need with a simple lunch bag distribution, and the Front Door program began. Last year 30,000 lunches were given out.

In 2014 members were concerned about the vulnerability of the houseless women and started Lifted Spirits, a drop-in center for women. The church opens their doors three times a week, and has created several spaces for lunch, fellowship, and rest, including a clothing closet for 30–40 women.

Our community continues to support Front Door Communities with lunch bags and an annual monetary gift. Ongoing donations to support these programs are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like to share your gift of time to help at FDC, contact **Karleen** at 408-600-6654 or frontdoorcomsj@gmail.com.




 <https://fpcs.org/mission/front-door-communities/>



Spice Dinner

Thursday, March 14,
6 PM, Armadillo Willy's



SVPC's 50s+ Singles Group, Spice, will enjoy a no-host dinner. Join us for a wonderful meal with the group—men and women are invited. This is a great way to make new friends and enjoy an evening out. Contact **Kathy Ebhardt** at 408-249-7842 or kathy.ebhardt@gmail.com for more information. 

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.

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.



Christmas Eve Generosity

Although Christmas Eve may feel as if it were years ago, the impact of our giving on that evening will be felt for many years to come. Your generous donations of \$18,125 were given as planned to two worthy causes. Half has been given to help fund the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on our southern border as they work with those seeking refugee status. The other half allows us to fund a “Buddy Bench” with our church name on it at the Magical Bridge playground that will open in Sunnyvale in 2020. In both these ways, our resources are making a difference in our community near and far. Thank you for your deep care expressed through this offering.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

For Recovery: **Sonja Krave**

Continued Prayers: **Sharon Heyler; Jo-Marie Lawrence;**

Mildred Prasad; Grace Ann Weiler; Lois Sanguinetti

For Cancer Treatment: **Leslie Gross; Olivia Lin; Michael Yocum**

In Hospice: **Marge Connell; Canuto Ramirez; David Robinson; Carol Verrey**

For the loss of loved ones: **Beth Stern's mother (Barbara Timmons)** 🍀



SUNNYVALE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Thanks for saving paper and postage by reading this online!

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 6,

Services at 5:15 & 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Potluck dinner at 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall



5:15 PM—Everyone is invited to this family-friendly, intergenerational service. Imposition of ashes and hands-on Lenten experiences will be a part of this interactive worship service. All are welcome, young in age and young at heart.

6:15 PM—**Join us for a potluck dinner** in Fellowship Hall after the 5:15 service. Bring a dish to share.

7:30 PM—Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance. Child care will be available in Room 901 for ages six months to six years.

Ash Wednesday, Season of Lent, Lenten Opportunities, and Holy Week: svpc.us/lent