



# ALONG THE WAY

The Newsletter of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church • April 2015

## All-Church Camp Reflections...

By Holly Zhang

My family and I went to All-Church Camp at Redwood Glen for the first time last September, even though we have been members of the church for ten years. We were so excited to be able to attend. We had such a great time. New campers were made to feel very welcome, so it didn't matter if you were new to the church or had been going for years, there were always people to talk with if you were interested.

We decided to tent camp because my boys (15 and 13) wanted to be in a spot near all the action. (There were also other options available if someone didn't like to be in a tent and preferred a bed). The boys had a great time attending the junior and high school groups, as well as



just hanging out with their friends, and making new friends from their grades and younger and older kids too. It is such a safe environment for kids of all ages to have free time with their church friends, and be with God in a beautiful and peaceful setting. The end of summer was a great time to relax, and to get ready for the new school year for my boys. What a great end of summer

party for us all!

My husband enjoyed the adult small group sessions every morning while I helped with the children's program. There was a video of the morning speaker available each afternoon too for anyone who missed the morning program. The cool thing was, there was a group for everyone, whether kids or adults, as well as so

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many different activities to choose from for people of all ages. Depending on what anyone wanted to do, they participated in activities with others, or spent time on their own. One of my favorite activities was in the morning and again in the evening when everyone got together and sang songs like the ones that are sung in Intersections (SVPC's evening service). There was even a band playing to lead us in the songs, just like Intersections.

I loved seeing people of all ages together as one family. All-Church Camp is a wonderful place to be, where everyone feels included—whether you're a single or married adult, a child or youth. We were all part of the same family.

Now, looking back, I wish I had started taking the boys 10 years ago, and not let life get in the way. 🌱

# April Calendar


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

## March

- 29 Palm Sunday  
ALL children's choirs sing at 10 AM  
FLASH AM, 10 AM, Phoenix Center Gym  
Equal Exchange coffee orders, 11 AM, Trinity Court  
Sophomore Girls' Small Group—see website for details  
Dinner following Intersections, 6 PM,  
Phoenix Center Gym
- 30 Youth Small Groups—see website for details

## April

- 1 FLASH/CLUE, Youth Room  
Parenting Teens, 6:30–8:30 PM, Soulé Hall
- 5 Easter Sunday  
6:30 AM—Sunrise service in the sanctuary  
9 & 11 AM—Family Worship in the sanctuary  
5 PM—Family Worship in Fellowship Hall  
NO children's choirs meet on Easter
- 6 Youth Small Groups—see website for details
- 7 Parent Support Group, 9–10 AM, Coleman Room  
(Bldg 700)
- 8 FLASH/CLUE, Youth Room  
Parenting Teens, 6:30–8:30 PM, Soulé Hall
- 9 linkAges, 6–7 PM, Coleman Room (Bldg 700)
- 10 Junior High Sky High—see website for details
- 12 GriefShare, 8:55–9:55 AM, Room 304  
FLASH AM, 10 AM, Phoenix Center Gym  
Adult Luncheon, 11:20 AM–1 PM, Fellowship Hall  
Senior High Confirmation Class, 12–1 PM,  
Room 750  
MRT Town Hall Meeting, 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

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- CARAVAN Meeting #1, 6:15–8 PM, Youth Room  
Sophomore Girls' Small Group—see website for details
- 13 Newsletter article deadline for the May edition
- 15 Parenting Teens, 6:30–8:30 PM, Soulé Hall
- 19 GriefShare, 8:55–9:55 AM, Room 304  
FLASH AM, 10 AM, Phoenix Center Gym  
Your Brain Matters—Adult Learning Class, 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall  
Senior High Confirmation Class, 12–1 PM, Room 750  
Sophomore Girls' Small Group—see website for details
- 20 Youth Small Groups—see website for details.
- 22 FLASH/CLUE, Youth Room  
Parenting Teens, 6:30–8:30 PM, Soulé Hall
- 24 Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 24–25 30 Hour Famine—see website for details
- 26 All-Church Camp registration begins, 8:50 AM, Trinity Court  
GriefShare, 8:55–9:55 AM, Room 304  
Library Book Faire, April 26, 9 AM–noon, Library & Trinity Court  
FLASH AM, 10 AM, Phoenix Center Gym  
New Members Class #1 of 2, 11:15 AM–12:45 PM, Coleman Room (Bldg 700)  
MRT Town Hall Meeting, 11:15 AM, Phoenix Center Gym  
Your Brain Matters—Adult Learning Class, 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall  
Senior High Confirmation Class, 12–1 PM, Room 750  
Sophomore Girls' Small Group—see website for details
- 27 Youth Small Groups—see website for details.
- 29 FLASH/CLUE, Youth Room  
Parenting Teens, 6:30–8:30 PM, Soulé Hall

## May

- 3 MRT Town Hall Meeting, 9 AM, Fellowship Hall  
New Members Class #2 of 2, 11:15 AM–12:45 PM,  
Coleman Room (Bldg 700)
- 17 New Members received in worship



# The View From Here

by Rev. Karin Hejmanowski

*Dear Friends,*

What fun it was to have so many of you join us for our World Series Celebration at our Annual Congregational Meeting on March 15th as we celebrated the many joys of our ministry areas, a revised version of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame!”, and a

wonderful hot dog and salad lunch, organized by **Teri Archer** and friends. Thank you to all who made the lunch.

Also at our meeting the proposed budget for the fiscal year, which begins on April 1, was presented. It has since been approved by your session and so we are

surrounding demographics to help us as we move forward in our transition process and has already begun planning their work. Thank you in advance for being responsive to their invitations for you to participate in various ways in that endeavor.

And to help us on that journey, we give a warm welcome to the **Rev. Debbie Whaley**, who has joined us as our Interim Pastor here at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church! She comes with energy and experience that will serve us well and I know that you join me in looking forward to her leadership and ministry with and among us.

It has been a joy to serve you unexpectedly as Head of Staff and I look forward to continuing to share with you in life and ministry, now with the leadership of Debbie. 🌱

Grateful for you,

*Karin*

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*“We give a warm welcome to the Rev. Debbie Whaley, who has joined us as our Interim Pastor here at SVPC!”*

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ready to move forward into another year of ministry and community and mission together.

We remain aware that we are in a deficit position, which is rare for us, but let us together commit to making ministry flourish and give generously to make this possible.

Our Ministry Renewal Team (MRT) has been commissioned to do a study of our congregation and

# Rooted in Christ...

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

## Ministry Renewal Team

In January, Session formed and commissioned the Ministry Renewal Team (MRT) to help the congregation reflect on who we are as the family of God in our congregation, the community, and beyond. The team's job over the next few months is to listen to the church congregation, as well as ministry partners in the community, to develop a shared understanding of who we are and where we have been and to celebrate strengths and successes, while acknowledging weaknesses and challenges. Understanding and articulating our story will form the foundation of our church's work in discerning God's call for our future, including the calling of our next head pastor.



We hope you will participate in this reflection process. Please consider being part of a town hall meeting (see box), or inviting a MRT team member into your home for a focus group discussion in April or May. To schedule a focus group or ask questions, contact [ministryrenewal@svpc.us](mailto:ministryrenewal@svpc.us).

Ministry Renewal Team Members:

- **Debbie Shaver**, *Chair*
- **Elsa Amboy**
- **Sarah Macway**
- **Max Mikles**
- **Jean Ranck**
- **Jeff Reilly**
- **Lukas Resch**
- **Sue Slavik**
- **Rebecca Sugumar**

### Town Hall Meetings

*(Snacks provided)*

- April 12, 6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall\*
- April 26, 11:15 AM, Phoenix Center Gym\*
- May 3, 9 AM, Fellowship Hall

\* *Child care provided.*

## Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline is Monday, April 13, for the May edition. Articles may be up to 120 words in length. Send your article to [newsletter@svpc.us](mailto:newsletter@svpc.us), and, if possible, include a photo with your article.



## Go green!

Go Green! Consider joining the more than 410 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](mailto:newsletter@svpc.us) with your request.



## Your Brain Matters

**Sundays, April 19, 26,  
and May 3, 11:30 AM,  
Fellowship Hall**

Your brain matters. This is an obvious truth and the title of an upcoming informative, exciting educational series. **Tiffany Mikles** from *Dementia Care Coaching* is presenting about the brain and dementia on three consecutive Sundays beginning on April 19.

The series is enjoyable for the general population. It is full of great information blended with light humor. A few of the high points include clarifying the differences between normal aging and dementia; learning the different types and causes of dementia; the importance of getting an accurate diagnosis; and how to maintain your healthy brain by using specific suggested lifestyle choices.

*Your Brain Matters* is one of the ongoing Adult Learning classes on Sunday mornings.

## All-Church Camp, September 4–7

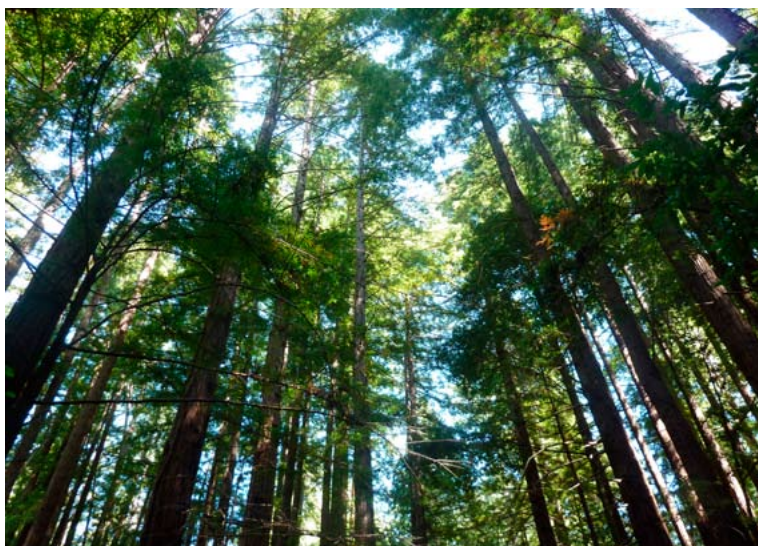
**Sign-ups begin April 26, 8:50 AM, Trinity Court**

Would you like to make new friends, experience spiritual growth, and have fun among majestic redwoods? All-Church Camp on Labor Day Weekend is all this and more! Each morning there are structured programs for everyone. In the afternoons there are many activities from which to choose. In the evenings there are all-camp sing-a-longs, socials, and the amazing Talent Show on Sunday night.

All camp activities are run by volunteers. Those folks willing to tackle the bigger jobs may sign up first and have their choice of accommodations (from campsites to motel-style rooms) beginning at 8:50 AM on Sunday, April 26, and continuing after the 10 AM and 5 PM services on Sundays.

Those wishing to volunteer in the children's and youth programs should know that Safe Church training is required for most positions. For more information about Safe Church training, visit [www.svpc.us/difference/safe\\_procedures](http://www.svpc.us/difference/safe_procedures).

Plan now to attend! Don't miss All-Church Camp 2015. For questions, contact **Renée Wigginton** and **Jenny Wharram**, 2015 Camp Directors, at [allchurchcamp@svpc.us](mailto:allchurchcamp@svpc.us).



## New Members Class

April 26 & May 3, 11:15 AM–12:45 PM,  
Coleman Room (Bldg 700)

Received in worship on May 17  
after meeting with Session at 9 AM, Fellowship Hall



The New Members class, taught by **Pastor Karin Hejmanowski**, is for anyone who has been attending worship and has been thinking about exploring the next step of connecting with Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church as a member. To let us know you plan to attend, please contact **Dot Dansey** at [dot@svpc.us](mailto:dot@svpc.us) or 408-739-1892. Child care is available by reservation for children of all ages. Contact our Child Care Coordinator, **Debbie Klein**, at [childcare@svpc.us](mailto:childcare@svpc.us) or 408-730-0212.

## Senior High Confirmation Class

Sundays, April 12–May 10,  
Noon–1 PM, Room 750

Confirmation is a two-birds-with-one-stone kind of thing. It's an interactive class that focuses on useful information about the major theological elements of following Jesus, such as, "Who was Jesus?" and "What is the Bible?" It's also a way to become a member of this church! Overall, it's about taking a big step forward in your walk with God. Hope to see you there!



## Parenting Teens 2015

Wednesdays, April 1–29, 6:30–8:30 PM, Soulé Hall

Do you feel alone? Would you like others to turn to in parenting a teen? This April we offer two solutions to these problems. *Parenting Teens: Alpha* provides an awesome framework for parenting teens, and *Parenting Teens: Next Step* gives graduates of the Alpha class a place to process and discuss.

Registration is \$20 for either five-week class and includes weekly dinner and a manual. RSVP to [youth@svpc.us](mailto:youth@svpc.us). For child care, please contact [childcare@svpc.us](mailto:childcare@svpc.us).

# Vacation Bible School—Voyage to the Son!

June 15–19, 9:30 AM–noon


For children 4 years old (by September 1, 2015) through entering 4th grade. We invite older students who attend our church to be youth counselors.



Come travel with us on our continuing search for greater understanding of the love and life of Jesus Christ. In this year's program, children will have a great time learning about events in Jesus' life through stories, songs, crafts, music and worship. 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 is available online. The cost for the week is \$50 per child. This fee is waived for children of full-time teachers/leaders. Mark your calendar now and check our website for more detailed registration information.

If you would like to volunteer, contact **Colleen D'Amour** at [colleen@svpc.us](mailto:colleen@svpc.us) or 408-739-1892.

 [www.svpc.us/groups/summer](http://www.svpc.us/groups/summer)



## Spring Library Book Faire

Sunday, April 26, 9 AM–noon

Shop “green” for fresh reading material. Tables will be set up under the overhang of Building 200 and labeled by book category. Bring books, DVDs and CDs you are no longer using. Proceeds help fund purchases beyond the means of the Library's operating budget.



# Remembering Miriam Clark

You can now find at least a dozen additional *Value Tales* titles in our church library, which we have purchased with gifts donated in memory of **Miriam Clark**, former church librarian. This is a series of picture books targeting ages 8–12. Each one uses a historical figure to illustrate a positive characteristic.

While Miriam was in charge of the library, she was always ready with encouraging words and a positive attitude. She was especially welcoming to children, and felt children's literacy was very important, so she made sure we purchased a good selection of books for children in all age groups. Miriam enjoyed reading a variety of genres, but one could often find her reading a biography or historical fiction.



## Leaving Your Legacy

By Lynne Peterson

The two-part class, “Last Things We Talk About,” taught earlier this year by the **Rev. Dr. Libby Boatwright**, helped me plan and talk with loved ones about the end of life, and I’m grateful.

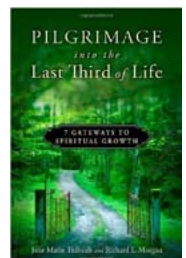
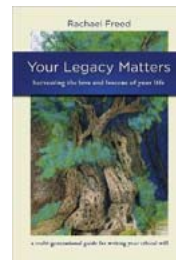
I recommend two books on leaving your legacy. Copies of each will be in the church library and on the church’s book sale display.

*Your Legacy Matters: Harvesting the Love and Lessons of Your Life* by **Rachael Freed** is a multi-generational guide for writing your ethical will. This book is full of examples of blessings and the passing on of wisdom and family values.

*Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life: 7 Gateways to Spiritual Growth* by **Jane Marie Thibault** and **Richard L. Morgan** is full of scripture-based meditations and reflection questions. The seventh gateway is “Leaving a Legacy.”

### THE VALUE OF LAUGHTER

The Story of Lucille Ball



# Reaching Out In Love.

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



## Hope2Others (H2O)

In January at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service participants made 200 bags, called H2O, to give to the homeless in our area. In February the bags were distributed to the congregation after each of the worship services. The stories we have heard from you have encouraged the Mission and Service ministry area to make H2O a monthly opportunity for our congregation to “reach out in love.”

Starting in May, on the first Sunday of the month when we bring food for the red barrels, you will have an opportunity to pick up an H2O bag to give to someone in need. If you would like to be involved in the leadership team of this project, or if your small group would like to assemble these bags as a service project, please contact **Marsha Dyslin** at [marsha-dyslin@pacbell.net](mailto:marsha-dyslin@pacbell.net).

Thank you for making H2O such a success!

## Dinner for Seven Underway


Dinner for Seven is a delightful way to meet new friends at SVPC or to deepen existing relationships. Singles and couples are welcome to participate in small groups that rotate hosting dinners (usually potluck in a home but may be at another location). Groups got started in March but one or two groups will form in April. Contact the church office for more information.



## Parent Support Group Coffee

**Tuesday, April 7, 9–10 AM,  
Coleman Room (Bldg 700)**

Whether you have a child or youth with a diagnosed special need, learning difference, behavior challenges, physical differences, or you just need a supportive community, the Special Needs Ministry welcomes you to an informal parent support group that meets the first Tuesday of each month. Come and ask questions, share frustrations, learn about resources, and share joys and accomplishments along your journey. **Whitney Hillestad** and **Julie Clinton** lead the meetings. Email Whitney at [whitney@svpc.us](mailto:whitney@svpc.us) with questions.

 [www.svpc.us/groups/specialneeds](http://www.svpc.us/groups/specialneeds)



## Parents' Night Out—What Is It?

Parents' Night Out (PNO)

is a church ministry for parents and their children. PNO is a cooperative child care program, where we take turns watching one another's children on Saturday evenings from 5:30–8:30 PM. It's an amazing ministry and fellowship group. Through PNO, we grow closer to other families by working together with other parents as we care for one another's children.

We operate in 16-week trimesters where parents from each family work four Saturdays during the trimester (just once a month!) with another couple. Then for the remainder of the Saturdays, we drop off our children and have a "Parents' Night Out" on our own, or sometimes with other couples from the group.

As with all church groups that care for children, PNO complies with the Safe Church program guidelines.

We often have openings at the beginning of each 16-week session. Please sign up on our waiting list if you are interested in being part of this wonderful ministry by emailing **Laura Compton** ([auralarae@gmail.com](mailto:auralarae@gmail.com)) or **Kristin Matthews** ([kristin@svpc.us](mailto:kristin@svpc.us)).



## Action Central

For several years, the Peacemaking and Social Justice committee has staffed the WriteOn! Advocacy Center after the 10 AM service. Beginning on March 29, the *renamed* kiosk, **Action Central**, will be near the Zacchaeus Tree in Trinity Court.

Action Central's display space will be used to inform the congregation about Mission and Service Ministry activities:

- The PC(USA) Mission Co-workers that SVPC supports
- News from the Office of Public Witness and the Peacemaking Program for citizens and advocates
- Actions in support of the Commitment to Peace and Justice that was renewed in 2005
- Current Mission and Service activities

You are invited to visit Action Central after the 10 AM service or in the vestibule of Fellowship Hall during the week.

## Fair Trade

Our church has had access to Fair Trade products from Equal Exchange for a decade. Equal Exchange supports small farmers by paying fair prices for their products and partners with many congregations around the country, giving them access to Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and more.

Coffee served at SVPC comes from Equal Exchange. The Peacemaking and Social Justice committee will continue to make Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, baking cocoa and hot cocoa available to our congregation. Individuals may order at the renamed Action Central kiosk on March 29, and, beginning May 3, on the first Sunday of each month, unless the bulletin states otherwise. Promoting Fair Trade is an example our Commitment to Peace and Justice.



## Adult Luncheon

April 12, 11:20 AM–1 PM



Musical entertainment will be provided by **Kathy Kuehl** and members of the Bell Choir. We meet in Fellowship Hall and the cost for lunch and music is only \$5. Please join us and bring a friend!



# Reflections from the Women's Retreat

By Jennifer Hanlon

I haven't been able to attend the Women's Retreat for several years and was so excited when I was able to attend this year in March. A close friend of mine was going and what was interesting is that we really didn't spend a whole lot of time together because each of us was forging either new or deeper connections with other women in the church. I always hope that this might happen and as every hour unfolded, I was not just meeting new people but finally catching up with many women I have seen more in passing than in person. I also ate up the joy of meeting women in our break-out small group where we shared spiritual and personal insights and prayed together around the weekend's theme. And the best gift of friendliness came when God decided that two of us needed to go on a beautiful hike so we could learn more about each other's lives. In a church our size, it's fantastic to get to know more of the people behind the faces that make up our family.

🖱️ Women's Retreat photo album: <http://on.fb.me/1ATvCqY>



## Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Friday, April 24, 7 PM,  
Fellowship Hall

The **Rev. Sharon Hare**, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of San Jose, will be speaking on behalf of the Women's Gathering Place in hopes of getting some much needed support for the program. The Women's Gathering Place is a part of The Front Door Ministry; it offers a safe haven for homeless women to connect to vital services. It opened in November at First Presbyterian Church in San Jose.

A light dessert will be served and a \$5 donation would be appreciated. RSVP to **Sue Slavik** at [ssslavik@comcast.net](mailto:ssslavik@comcast.net) or 408-735-9720. For child care, contact **Debbie Klein** at [childcare@svpc.us](mailto:childcare@svpc.us) by April 18.





**SAGE** Seniors **Actively**  
Growing & **Engaging**

SUNNYVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **linkAges Orientation Meeting**

**Thursdays, April 9 and May 7, 6–7 PM, Coleman Room  
(Bldg 700)**

LinkAges TimeBank is a neighborhood service-exchange network that matches you with the unique skills, talents and needs of those who live nearby. Connect with community members who share your interests and help one another. Exchange your famous cookies for someone who will trim your trees, offer computer skills in exchange for house sitting or dog care, exchange a much needed ride for a home-cooked meal. The possibilities are endless! Register at the SAGE table on Sundays in Trinity Court, visit [www.timebank.linkages.org](http://www.timebank.linkages.org), or call 650-934-3556.



## **GriefShare**

**Sundays, April 12–June 28, 8:55-9:55 AM, Room 304**

GriefShare is a 12-week video seminar featuring outstanding speakers combined with small group discussion led by trained facilitators who have experienced loss. Each session allows participants to talk about the content of the topic and how they are dealing with the death of a loved one. Lessons are stand-alone so people can miss a session and catch up later. Cost for the 12 sessions is \$15 and includes a workbook. Breakfast snacks are provided. Register at the SAGE table on Sundays in Trinity Court.



# Email Newsletters

Do you receive the Children's or Youth email newsletters each week? This is the best way to stay current with what is happening in Children's and Youth Ministries. To be added to the Children's Ministry mailing list contact **Kristin** at [kristin@svpc.us](mailto:kristin@svpc.us). To be added to the Youth Ministry mailing list contact **Dot** at [dot@svpc.us](mailto:dot@svpc.us). Or from the website, [www.svpc.us](http://www.svpc.us), sign up by selecting "[Join Our Email List](#)" at the top of any page.

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## In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

**Anne Creighton**, who died; **Marian Devine**, whose husband, **Chuck Devine**, passed away; **Frank Boatwright** and **Maya Rye**, who were hospitalized; **Jim Traina**, **Sue Young**, and **Jackie Mattison**, who are recovering after surgery; **Maggie Burklund**, who was ill; and **Laura Babcock** and **Herb Ebhardt**, who continue to receive care.

## Celebration...

We celebrate the birth of **Branson Howard Brittle**, grandson of **Scott** and **Betsy Brittle** and son of **Annaika Schutte** and **Atcheson Brittle**.



# SUNNYVALE

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

728 West Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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## Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday, March 29**—7:50 AM, 10 AM‡, 5 PM‡

Holy Week begins with the remembrance of Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as the crowds waved palm branches.



**Maundy Thursday, April 2**—7:30 PM\*

At this service we remember the Last Supper, the Passover meal shared between Jesus and His disciples in the upper room.

**Good Friday, April 3**—7:30 PM\*

A somber service in which we reflect on Jesus' death on the cross and what it means to be bereft of hope.

**Easter Sunday, April 5**—6:30 AM, 9 AM\*, 11 AM\*, 5 PM\*

A joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (All-Family Worship Services) 🌱

\* Child care provided for ages 6 months–6 years.

‡ Child care provided for ages 6 months–2 years. Church School for age 3 through 6th grade.