

***THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ALMADEN VALLEY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OPENING AND AFFIRMING  
September 24, 2017  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost***



**An Order of Worship for September 24, 2017  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Pastoral Greeting and Centering**

**Congregational Sharing and Announcements, Joys, and Concerns**

**Sounding of the Bell**

**Prelude**

**Allemande in B flat major**

**Bach**

**Lighting of the Peace Candle**

*As we light this candle may these words from 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1 guide us: "May you have more and more grace and peace through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord."*

*~~~Moments of Silence~~~*

**\*Call to Worship**

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

**(based on Psalm 103)**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget what God has done for us;

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

Leader: God is the one who forgives us, who heals and restores us;

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

Leader: God crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

Leader: Come, join our hearts in worship, in prayer and praise,

**All: And may we bless God's holy name. \*\***

**\*Hymn**

**Fill the World With Love**

**CH No. 467**

**Reading of the Gospel**

**Matthew 18:21-35 Common English Bible (CEB)**

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master

*Please silence phones, \*=Stand if you are able, Bold Print indicates congregation responds*

**NOTE CH= Chalice Hymnal , NCH = New Century Hymnal**





**Ways to Nourish Your Spirit** - This time of year is a good time to make a commitment to nurturing and nourishing your soul. Our ECA partners are offering several different kinds of spiritual growth experiences – Centering Prayer, each Wednesday from 3:30-3:50 pm in the Sanctuary, and a day to experience walking the labyrinth on September 30. There is more information below under Joint Venture. I find the Centering Prayer time to be deeply meaningful and try to go several times a month. I am planning to walk the labyrinth on September 30. Anyone else like to join me? (Times and locations listed below.)

**Roof work to begin next week!** The roof replacement will start next week and you can expect to find workers and equipment around the church for about two weeks. A special word of thanks to Tom Gerber who is doing a great job of coordinating all of this. It takes a village, or rather 2 congregations, to do such a big project. We give thanks for every contribution that has been made to this important work!

**Invitation to Celebrate ECA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary –**

*Dear AVUCC/CCAV, UCC friends, ECA would like to cordially invite you to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events on November 10, 11 & 12. We have a Taco Fiesta on Friday, a sit-down dinner and program on Saturday, and a After Service Lunch on Sunday. However, we do need RSVPs for planning and funding purposes. Our deadline to RSVP is October 10<sup>th</sup>. We have given the invitations to Ruthanne to distribute to those that are interested. Hope to see you there!*

**Neighbors in Need Special Offering will be received on October 1, 2017.** Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. Give generously for these important justice and compassion projects.

**HOLD THE DATE! Saturday, October 7, 9-1pm** we will gather for a Day of Discovery - led by our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones. This event is for all members and friends of CCAV and an important part of the interim process.

**Save the Date! Saturday, October 28, 7pm.** CCAV to host Kazu Haga, of the East Point Peace Academy and a keynote speaker at the 2017 NCNC-UCC Annual Gathering! Mr. Haga will share his personal story having studied and pursued the practice of nonviolence in

the context of his personal life, social justice work, and as a trainer in nonviolent conflict resolution in the prison system. We are extending a wide invitation to our JV Churches, the Association, the Conference and the wider San Jose Community. The event is also being promoted with Together We Will, a local activist network of over 3000 members in San Jose with an interest in nonviolence.

**UPDATE – Hurricane and Earthquake Relief.** This hurricane season continues to bring new storms and more devastation. The United Church of Christ is responding not only to the immediate disaster at hand, but is also committed to the long-term process of rebuilding that will take years. You can continue to make gifts through CCAV by marking your check for “Hurricane Relief” or “Mexico Earthquake Relief”. Donations made through CCAV will be sent to the conference office and then to One Great Hour of Sharing. (100% of funds to the United Church of Christ designated for U.S. disaster relief are used for disaster relief and rehabilitation programming within the United States.)

One example of how your giving is at work:

*September 13, 2017 UCC Disaster Ministries has just contributed \$10,000 toward a proactive program to prevent cholera and malnutrition in Haiti in the wake of Hurricane Irma, and to treat any instances that occur. The implementing partner is IMA World Health, which has had a significant presence in Haiti since 1998, including relationships with government and communities.*

**Fall Activity Planning** Would you like to volunteer to plan an activity for CCAV to do together this fall? A Harvest festival? Halloween party? Octoberfest? Other thoughts? If you feel so inclined to get a group together to plan a social activity for us all, it would be fabulous. Please consider whether or not you would be willing to help plan something this fall! Contact Debbie Bemis.

**You are invited to serve on Sunday:** Contact Debbie Bemis at Coffee Hour or email her if you are able to serve as a Reader, Coffee Host/Greeter, or Communion Server. If want to view the matrix, you may go to our web site to see where there are openings for service.

**Ongoing:**

Yoga, Mondays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

CCAV Council Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Joint Venture Board Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, Tuesdays 8:15 - 9:15 p.m. at our church.

Quest, Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.

JV Handbell Rehearsal, Wednesdays 4:30 p.m.

CCAV Choir Rehearsal, Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays are Folk Choir Sundays. Potluck Brunch Sunday!

**BIRTHDAYS:** Sue Goddard 9/6, Jim McAbee 9/6, Al Nieders 9/6, Hi-Dong Chai 9/10, Dick Shipe 9/12, Charles Krahenbuhl 9/14, Jean Shipe 9/14, Marty Williams 9/17, Pat McGarvin 9/19, Laura Hall 9/21, Debra Newcomb 9/22, Frank Yamada 9/26, Joe Machado 9/28

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bob & Phyllis Green 9/6, Dick & Jean Shipe 9/7, Charles & Janice Krahenbuhl 9/15

## **JOINT VENTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR ECA FAITH COMMUNITY**

**Walking a Labyrinth** Have you wondered what it is like to “walk a labyrinth”, or even what is a labyrinth? The labyrinth dates back for 5,000 years, and beginning in the Middle Ages, Christianity adopted the labyrinth as a tool to help us meditate while walking the prescribed path into and out of the center. Each labyrinth walk is a unique opportunity to meet our creative, loving God through quiet meditation.

CCAV and ECA members are invited to experience Walking a Labyrinth together. We will meet at the labyrinth at the First Congregational Church on Hamilton and Leigh in San Jose. As we gather around the labyrinth we will have a short explanation of how to walk the labyrinth and a liturgy to prepare ourselves. While each person walks the labyrinth alone and at his or her own pace, there can be several people walking the labyrinth at the same time.

We are offering a time for us to experience walking a labyrinth together. You can carpool with us at the church or meet at the First Congregational Church of San Jose, 1980 Hamilton Ave.

**Saturday, September 30:** Meet at the church at 2:30 pm or at the labyrinth at First Congregational Church at 3:00 pm. Labyrinth walk will be 3-3:45 pm.

Please let Marianne Schmidt know if you want to carpool, so we don't leave without you. Marianne's cell: 1-408-914-8775 or email: [marianneschmidt8025@gmail.com](mailto:marianneschmidt8025@gmail.com).

Marianne Schmidt

**Village House Needs** The ladies of Village House could use a clothes dryer and a lawn mower. If you have one to donate, please speak with Pat McGarvin.

**Centering Prayer, Wednesdays, 3:30pm in Sanctuary** Everyone is invited for 20 minutes of silent centering prayer beginning at 3:30pm each Wednesday. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of experiencing God's presence within us, and supplements more active forms of prayer. Join us!

CCAV Interim Pastor ..... Rev. Dr. Marty Williams (revmartyccavucc@gmail.com)  
 Music Director/Organist/Pianist..... Maria Brodsky  
 JV Handbell Director..... Ruthanne Adams Martinez  
 CCAV Folk Music Director ..... John Hawes  
 ECA Children and Youth Ministry Director ..... Susie Ferguson  
 .....(christianed@jointventurechurches.org)  
 Webmaster www.ccavucc.org ..... Ted Feely  
 JV Administrative Assistant ..... Ruthanne Adams Martinez  
 .....(office@jointventurechurches.org)  
 Kalos (Newsletter) Editor ..... kathryn.mcabee7@gmail.com

**Church Address: 6581 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120 www.ccavucc.org**

**Check out our Facebook page:** Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC.  
<https://www.facebook.com/CCAVUCC>

**We extend a special welcome if you are a visitor with us. Please sign our guest book in the narthex and speak to our ushers regarding more information about our church. We share our “open and affirming statement” and want you to know that “wherever you are along your life’s journey, whatever your name, however you feel, you are welcome here.”**



Open and Affirming Statement

*We the members of The Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, United Church of Christ, seek a deeper understanding of God’s grace as it moves through the life of our church. We are called by Christ and empowered by God to love all people and affirm the sacred worth and dignity of each individual. We invite into the full life and ministry of our church all people, recognizing no boundaries of age, race, education, ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic circumstance or family structure. We embrace our diversity of thought and scriptural understanding, and we respect and honor all who seek to be in covenant with us as we share in the joys and responsibilities of our church family.*

