

***THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ALMADEN VALLEY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OPENING AND AFFIRMING  
November 26, 2017  
Last Sunday after Pentecost***



**SOW**  
*generously*  
**GIVE**  
*cheerfully*  
**ABOUND**  
*in every good work*

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8**

*Samira Nast*  
CALLIGRAPHY ART DESIGN

An Order of Worship for November 26, 2017  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost  
*Reign of Christ*

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Centering

Congregational Sharing and Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Sounding of the Bell

Prelude

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Debbie Bemis

*“As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.” (Ephesians 6:15) As we light this peace candle may we clothe our hearts and minds in the peace of Christ. And may every step we take proclaim the good news of peace and justice.*

~~~*Moments of Silence*~~~

**\*Call to Worship**     *(Please rise in body or spirit)*

Debbie Bemis

Leader:        Know that the Holy One is God.

**People:**        **We are God’s people.**

Leader:        Worship the Holy One with gladness;

**People:**        **Come into God’s presence with singing.**

Leader:        Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and God’s courts with praise.

**People:**        **Make a joyful noise!**

Leader:        For God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever,

**People:**        **Let us worship with thanks and joy!**

**Let us praise God in song and word and prayer! \*\***

**\*Invocation**

**In Unison**

**Gracious God, we long to know you better.**

**Open us to recognize your presence,**

**to receive you fully,**

**and to be ready to follow your leading. Amen.\*\***

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

NOTE CH= Chalice Hymnal , NCH = New Century Hymnal

**\*Hymn**

**Rejoice The Lord is King**

**CH No. 699**

**Reading from the New Testament**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NRSV)**

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**Response**

**Thy Word**

**CH No. 326**

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

**Special Music**

**Sermon**

**Abundance**

**Patty Ebner**

**\*Hymn of Response**

**Day By Day**

**CH No. 599**

**Prayers of the People (your intercessions will be invited)**

**Patty Ebner**

**Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Call to Offering**

**Debbie Bemis**



**Welcome to our church, a sacred space where, indeed, all are welcome. A special greeting if you are a visitor with us today. Thanks for signing our guest register!**

**We welcome children in our service—activity boxes are available for children in the sanctuary. Our ushers are glad to help families locate the Nursery in case you have little ones who are in need of Nursery Care.**

**Guest Preacher: Patty Ebner**  
**Worship Leader: Debbie Bemis**  
**Reader: Debbie Bemis**  
**Greeters/Coffee Hosts: Jayne Kamau**  
**Music: CCAV Shalom Choir**

Our Guest Preacher today is Patty Ebner. Patty graduated from the Pacific School of Religion in May 2016. She has been an active member in the United Church of Christ since November 1999 and holds her membership at the First Congregational Church of San Jose. On November 12, 2017, Patty accepted a call as Pastor of Congregational Care and Outreach at The First Congregational Church of Bellevue, WA. Patty loves the UCC and believes that the UCC treasures the extravagant welcome it offers to all people, no matter who they are or where they find themselves on life's path. Currently, Patty lives with her wife, Sue Atkinson and their Chocolate Lab, Murphy, in San Jose, California.

### **November and December Dates to Remember -**

- Nov. 26** Rev. Marty and Sue will be away on vacation - Patty Ebner will be preaching. Patty is from First Congregational, San Jose, a recent seminary graduate, and a member of the Santa Clara Association Executive Committee.
- Dec. 2** **CCAV Christmas Dinner!** Sign-ups are on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or email Jan Blake at [janblake58@gmail.com](mailto:janblake58@gmail.com)
- Dec. 3** **CCAV Annual Meeting – After church in Fellowship Hall**  
**Advent Begins**
- Dec. 24** **Worship at 9:00am – Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00pm**

**Old Brown Chairs** JV is looking for a home for the old chairs we had in the fellowship hall which were recently replaced by the new black ones. If you know of an organization that needs or would like some good chairs, please let Debbie Bemis know ASAP. We are looking to donate them to an organization that will get as much use out of them as we have!

**Narthex Furniture Committee** JV is also looking to set up a committee of folks who would like to have some input into the new Narthex furniture. Some money was donated by a couple of ECA parishioners for this purpose, and JV voted to go ahead and replace the furniture after the holidays. It is important to JV to have representatives from CCAV and ECA for this. ECA has their representatives set, and we want to make sure that CCAV has input and an equal voice. If you are interested in being a part of making decisions about the new Narthex furniture, please let Debbie Bemis know.

**Open House at the New Newcomb residence!!!** Randall and Debra Newcomb are inviting one and all to their open house on Saturday, December 9 from 2-5 PM at 4674 Park Concord Place. Come have some food and beverage, and help us with ideas for how to furnish and decorate. There may still be boxes around and about, but it will be fun!!! See you then!

**Almaden Library** A movement is beginning to rename the Almaden Library and Community Center after Pat Dando, a leader in this area, District 10 Councilmember, germinator for the counseling service, school advocate, and former member of CCAV-UCC for many years. There is a petition circulating to support this cause, headed up by Sheryl Stroh, also a former member of CCAV-UCC and the office administrator for many years. If you are interested in signing this petition, Nancy Romer, of ECA, has it – or you may contact Sheryl Stroh.

**Second Harvest Food Bank Bin** Second Harvest Food Bank is truly grateful for all the gifts of food (and is always thankful, too, for checks...) Please contact Phyllis Chai at 408-442-5098 or hidong@pacbell.net for questions... Thank you!

**"The Revolution Needs Music"** - The Resistance Chorus – Singing For Peace and Justice extends an invitation to the wider community to bring your voice and sing for a more just world. For more information you can contact the Resistance Chorus at: [resistance.chorus@gmail.com](mailto:resistance.chorus@gmail.com)

**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:** Harriet Yamada 11/03, Harold Hall 11/06, Dave Harris 11/06,  
Joan Curtice 11/09, Sue Scaff 11/11, Linda Farr 11/15, Bob Green 11/17,  
Toh-Bee Syn 11/21

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Al and Tami Nieders 11/17

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

**Village House** An Interfaith Shelter of Hope, is a program of 17 religious organizations throughout San Jose that host a rotating overnight and day shelter program for 15 medically-fragile homeless women. Three Santa Clara Valley Deanery churches; Episcopal Church of Almaden, St. Francis Willow Glen, and Good Samaritan operate monthly day shelters. Village House is completing its first full year of operation, having achieved some impressive results, including sheltering a total 45 women. Of the 30 who have left the program, 15 moved on to permanent housing, 9 found jobs, and overall, 70% went into another safe and stable place. The cost to run Village House for 2017 was approximately \$100,000, not including staffing, which was almost completely volunteers (over 1,200 to-date!)! Our first important 2018 fund-raising activity is participating in ***Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2017***. With a few mouse clicks, you can support this small, but mighty program dedicated to improving the lives of deserving homeless women. Please see the attached Village House Giving Tuesday contribution page with the link at the bottom. Thank you!

**Christmas Pageant** Make sure you mark your calendar for the Christmas Pageant, December 16th at 4:30 and please let Holly McCullough know if you have a child or grandchild of any age who would like to be a part of our pageant.

**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.*

