

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Skyland Church Newsletter – July 2018

Skyland Community Church
10:30 Sunday Service

Church phone: 408-353-1310

Calendar

July 1	10:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service in Whitaker Hall. 4th of July Picnic after Service. Deacons Meeting after Service
July 8	10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service. Trustees Meeting after Service.
July 15	10:30 a.m. Worship Service. No Potluck (due to July 1st Picnic).
July 22	10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Church Council Meeting after Service.
July 29	10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Harvest Festival Plans

On September 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Harvest Festival will return with many of the aspects you love, and without some of those that you don't. There will be a lunch, music, a bake sale, jams and jellies, soaps and lotion and lightly used clothes, house wares, jewelry, books, plants and produce, an auction wall, and wine donated by local vineyards.

The plan is to keep most of the donations coming from within the church to control both the quality and quantity, so will not need the storage "pods" in the parking lot. Donations and sorting will start beginning mid-August on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-12, and Sundays after church.

We are interested in hosting a few community exhibitors, neighbors, businesses, or organizations, to share topics of interest to our community, e.g., bee keeping or chickens, Scouts or 4H, etc. They would not be selling items at the event, but could certainly promote a business or organization.

In addition, we will be exploring an animal adoption event for at least part of the day. If you have a contact at the Santa Cruz animal shelter or SPCA, please let us know. I think it would be great to give the shelter animals a chance at a "forever home" in our beautiful mountains, and this would also be a fun exhibit for children.

The main goal is to reduce the workload on Skyland Church, and make the Harvest Festival a fun day that is everyone can enjoy. If you would like to be involved, please sign up on the sign-up sheet that will be posted soon in Whitaker Hall.

Cheers, Deana

Interim Search Update

After a thorough interview process the Interim Search Committee has recommended that the council approve Reverend Kevin Omi to be our interim minister. The council unanimously agreed.



Although we found all the applicants to be skilled and able transitional leaders we chose Rev. Kevin for several reasons. We especially appreciated his keen understanding of the transition process in conjunction with the ReVisioning process. His communication with us was clear, compassionate and yet directed and purposeful. He listened attentively to our concerns while giving thoughtful feedback to our questions. The ISC felt he was a strong leader with gentle and caring ways, a good fit for Skyland.

Rev. Kevin is finishing his tenure as Senior Pastor of Sycamore Congregational Church in El Cerrito, CA, near Berkeley. He is a graduate of the Pacific School of Religion with a certificate in transitional ministry. Prior to his career in ministry Rev. Kevin spent 30 years in information technology at the executive level.

His passions include leading churches and other organizations through change, pastoral care, spiritual formation, helping others live out the Gospel, and community outreach. His hobbies include cycling, photography, and writing poetry.

He has two adult sons living in the East Bay and will be moving to Redwood City to reside with his long-time partner, Rev. Carol Barriger.

Because Rev. Omi is unable to join us until late September, the ISC also recommended hiring a short-term or Bridge minister, Pastor Jean Jeffress, to lead us from August 5 through September 16 for Sunday worship service and another half day per week of pastoral care. The Council approved the recommendation.



Our Associate Conference Minister, Daniel Ross-Jones, recommended Pastor Jean Jeffress upon our request for someone to provide consistent ministry and direction in the time prior to Rev. Kevin's arrival. She has agreed with input from the Deacons and some limited input from Rev. Kevin to lead us through the early days of transition ministry where we grieve our losses, let go of the past and look forward to the blessings change can bring to us.

Pastor Jean holds a Master's of Divinity from American Baptist Seminary of the West and is a Member-in-Discernment with the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. Her ordination is approved pending call. Currently she is a part-time research assistant at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland where she lives. Pastor Jean is a Lay Leader in a lay lead

congregation at The First Congregational Church of Oakland and is on the list of approved supply pastors for the NCNC.

Pastor Jean is especially passionate about issues of social justice. She was described by her references as being energetic, deeply spiritual, and an excellent preacher. She lives in Oakland with her wife Carol, and her cat Baby Boy.

Skyland Community Church Website

To learn more about the Interim period, the progress in the search for the Interim Minister and other transitions at Skyland please visit the Transitions page: <http://skylandchurch.com/transitions/>

Missions Board Delivers!

Africa Library Project	We have great books this year! We have completed the first sorting part of the work and will be packing books in the coming week. Hoping to see some of you Tues. July 3rd from 10-12 or Th. July 5th from 9:30-12 as we continue to pack our 1,000-1,200 books for Sierra Leone. During the summer, we will be collecting the \$600 from the congregation for shipping our books to New Orleans where they will put in shipping containers. africanlibraryproject.org	Contact: Cindy Siwajek
Local Support	Mental Health Community Action Network in Santa Cruz helps those transitioning into homes. We are collecting socks, coats and sleeping bags. If anyone has a diaper-changing table we are still looking for one.	Contact: Shannon Edwards

NOTE From Your Treasurer

First month into our new fiscal year, June 2018 through May 2019, all accounts are near the adopted financial plan. We are able to accept credit card payments for pledge, general and special offerings if that is more convenient than check or cash. See either Jan or me after service for these transactions. Here are our operating finances as of June 27 for our 2018-19 fiscal year.

	June 2018		Jun 1, 2018 to June 27, 2018	
	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned
Income	\$19,324	\$ 19,434	Income \$ 19,324	\$ 19,434
Expenses	\$ 18,445	\$ 18,349	Expenses \$ 18,445	\$ 18,349
Net	\$ 879	\$ 1,085	Net \$ 879	\$ 1,085

Note: These fiscal year actuals do not include non-budgeted special and local Mission gifts and outreach

Sincerely, Gerald J. Alonzo, Treasurer

MEDITATION MOMENT

Flowers for the Altar
Several Sundays during the summer are open for floral gifts. Please sign up on the calendar in Whitaker Hall.

'Tis a Fearful Thing
'Tis a fearful thing
to love what death can touch.
A fearful thing
to love, to hope, to dream, to be -
to be,
And oh, to lose
A thing for fools, this,
And a holy thing,
A holy thing

to love.
For your life has lived in me,
your laugh once lifted me,
your word was a gift to me.
To remember this brings painful joy.
'Tis a human thing, love,
a holy thing, to love
what death has touched.

Yehuda HaLevi