

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Skyland Church Newsletter – November 2018

Skyland Community Church
10:30 Sunday Service

Minister: Rev. Kevin Omi
Church phone: 408-353-1310

November Church Calendar

November 4	(Daylight Saving Time Ends, "fall back") 10:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service. 2:00 p.m. Santa Clara Association meeting and Choir Festival; Carpool from Skyland parking lot (see more below).
November 6	Election Day Whitaker Hall all day
November 11	10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Trustees Meeting after Service. Deacons Meeting after Service. Women's Group.
November 18	10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Potluck after Service. Asset Mapping -- part of interim process.
November 25	10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Giving Tree for local families in Whitaker Hall (see Missions below). Church Council Meeting after Service.
December 1	9 - 11:00 a.m. Advent Retreat. 7:00 a.m. Mountain Interfaith Choir Sing-Along at Latter Day Saints on Summit.
December 2	10:30 a.m. Worship. First Sunday of Advent. Advent Workshop after service in Whitaker Hall?

Regularly Scheduled Events in Whitaker Hall

Mondays:	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays:	QiGong 8:30-9:45 a.m.
Thursdays:	Yoga 7:00 p.m.
Some Sundays in November:	Sewing Costumes for Theatre in the Mountains

Message From Reverend Kevin Omi

Dear friends:

As we prepare to move towards Thanksgiving, I am mindful that it takes courage to "keep our mind on Jesus", during a time there is so much in our country and the world that is hard to witness. Jesus gave people hope even in the midst of oppression and fear, for "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Here at Skyland, light shines from the food pantry, as some imagine how we could feed even more hungry people, and others delivered multiple carloads of needed clothing. Light shines as old friends return, differences not forgotten, but in recognition that we are stronger together than separate – especially as we pray and serve. There's a tangible sense of energy and hope as the Spirit's light shines ever more brightly.

We are moving forward with both interim ministry tasks and reVision. The map in Whitaker Hall helps us visualize where our congregation lives and we will spend time appreciating our collective assets as a congregation on November 18. Our core team and small group guides will soon begin preparing for our 90-day Journey in January. Thank you to Anne Evans, Jackie Seymour, Deana Arnold, Jan Swayne, Marcia Rollins, and Jeremy Cole for your commitment of time, love, and hope.

I am grateful to God for so many people and the spirit of abundance and service I have encountered here! You are a congregation that cares deeply about our special community in the mountains. Many of you have existing spiritual practices that prepare you to go out into the world with a spirit of love and hope.

In 1620 forebears of the United Church of Christ prepared to leave Europe for the New World. We know them as the Pilgrims. Their pastor, John Robinson, said: "God has yet more light and truth to break forth out of his holy Word." I see this same spirit here at Skyland, for which I give God thanks and praise!

Love and blessings,

Rev. Kevin Omi

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/>

Church Council News

The Church Council met on October 28 downstairs in Whitaker Hall. Larry Lopp gave an update on the process of updating our facilities agreement, saying the process is ongoing and will rely on our past practices as a general guide to determine appropriate rates to charge. We want to provide a meeting space for the community, while ensuring that doing so does not generate too much work (e.g., coordination and clean-up) for the church. More information will be presented at the November Council meeting.

The Religious Education Board is planning an Advent workshop on the first day of Advent (December 2) after our worship service. Volunteers to help plan the pageant are being requested. If you have an interest, please contact Patricia Wood at pwood10@aol.com.

The Transition Team supporting Rev. Omi reported having had a first meeting (Oct. 17) and planning to meet on a monthly basis hereafter. The members of the Transition Team are Deana Arnold, Jeremy Cole, John Heyes, Glenda McCalla, and Mary Ellen McTamaney.

Other items discussed were the wheelchair elevator for Whitaker Hall and a project to install audio-visual equipment upstairs in Whitaker Hall.

Rev. Omi presented a consolidated timeline for the Interim Period listing the usual church events, ReVision tasks, and Interim tasks on a month-by-month basis. This is very helpful in understanding how all of these activities will fit together over the next year and onward.

The Council also received information highlighting the next steps in the reVision process, including a leader training session next Saturday, November 3. With both Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones and Rev. Omi as coaches, the small group leaders (Deana Arnold, Jeremy Cole, Anne Evans, Marcia Rollins, Jackie Seymour, and Jan Swayne) will learn small group processes and theology in preparation for the 90-day journey beginning in January. Additional information was also provided about the discernment, spiritual practices, and generation of ideas that will occur in the small groups.

The next Council meeting will be on November 25 at noon.

Respectfully Submitted, Deana Arnold, Moderator

Advent Begins December 2, But the Giving Tree Starts November 27th

The Skyland Church Women's Group will again sponsor local families at CT English and Loma Prieta Schools for the holiday season. Children will receive Target gift cards. Each family will receive grocery store gift cards.

The felt Giving Tree in Whitaker Hall is our way of showing the generosity of our church community and our neighbors. Add a felt ball to symbolize your gift. We will collect money during and after church during Advent.

If you want to give and can't make it to church on Sunday, please email Shannon Edwards at: shannedwards14@gmail.com or Deana Arnold at: darnold@mac.com and we'll include your contribution.

Food Pantry Update

Thank you again for your generous donations to our food pantry. Currently, most of the food is going to the Davenport Resource Center as the pantry is being lightly used. This pattern may change during the winter months.

"Expired" Food: Please be sure that donations of staples (canned goods, grain products, peanut butter, etc.) have an expiration or "best by" date of at least 6 months in the future, and that individual snack bars such as NutriGrain and Clif have a date of at least 3 months. If single bars are unmarked, please put them in a bag with the expiration date noted. We are not distributing food that has expired.

Peace, Julie V.

Missions Board

Africa Library Project	The nineteen boxes of books arrived in Africa in October and will arrive at their destination library before the New Year. A BIG thanks to the Mission Board and all who helped. africanlibraryproject.org	Contact: Cindy Siwajek
Local Support	Mental Health Community Action Network in Santa Cruz helps those transitioning into homes. We continue to collect socks, coats and sleeping bags. <u>If anyone has a diaper-changing table we are still looking for one.</u>	Contact: Shannon Edwards

Choir Festival & Business Meeting of the Santa Clara Association Of Northern California Nevada Conference (UCC)

On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 4, the Fall Meeting of the Santa Clara Association (that's us) will be held at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4590 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. with the business meeting. You are invited to come to the business meeting and then enjoy choral music and fellowship from 3 to 5 pm.

Simultaneously, our choral director for the gathering, Cheryl Anderson, from Santa Cruz, will rehearse with a mass choir made up from our many SCA church choirs. You are invited, if you would like, to sing with the mass choir, rehearsing beginning at 2 p.m.

There will be a **carpool leaving after worship** from the Skyland parking lot.

Note From Your Treasurer

Pledge income is behind what we expected by \$3,050. However due to income from Harvest Festival and Other exceeding our plan, total income is only \$661 less than anticipated.

Individual account expenses are all less than anticipated amounts except Trustee Non-Utility that is in the red \$654. This is due to the unplanned removal of a fallen tree onto Skyland Road. The end result is a fiscal year to date operating net of \$18,258 that is \$4,259 more than anticipated.

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.

See more details below.

	October 2018		Jun 1, 2018 to Oct. 29, 2018		
	Actual	Planned		Actual	Planned
Income	\$11,557	\$11,552	Income	\$78,479	\$79,140
Expenses	\$22,116	\$20,071	Expenses	\$60,221	\$65,142
Net	-\$10,559	-\$ 8,519	Net	\$18,258	\$13,998

Note: Operating finances do not include non-budgeted special and local mission gifts and outreach.

Respectfully Submitted, Gerald J. Alonzo, Treasurer

<p>Altar Flowers</p> <p>Several Sundays during November are open for floral gifts. Please sign up on the calendar in Whitaker Hall.</p>	<p>MEDITATION MOMENT</p> <p>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>Philippians 4:4-7 New International Version</p>	<p>LITANY THROUGHOUT THE INTERIM PERIOD</p> <p><i>For God's holy presence amidst change, we pray.</i></p> <p><i>For comfort because loss is part of change, we pray.</i></p> <p><i>For Christ-like steadfastness during the challenges of transition and seasons of faith, we pray.</i></p> <p><i>For reassurance through frailty and failings, we pray.</i></p> <p><i>For the abundant creativity the Spirit provides, we pray.</i></p> <p><i>For our loved ones in this community of faith, we pray.</i></p> <p><i>For God's children beyond this community, we pray.</i></p>
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Dear friends,

We have an exciting year ahead of us in 2019, including regular Sunday services, **reVision**, and Interim Time activities. Rev. Kevin has created a consolidated roadmap that sequences our activities so we don't have too much going on in a given month.

With the **reVision** process beginning soon, we wanted to provide an update of the coming months. We have identified the core leadership for the **reVision** program: Rev. Kevin Omi, Deana Arnold, Jackie Seymour and Anne Evans. Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones is our official coach from the NCNC UCC, and Rev. Kevin will act as our on-site coach. Our small-group leaders are Marcia Rollins, Jan Swayne and Jeremy Cole in addition to the core leaders, Deana Arnold, Jackie Seymour and Anne Evans.

On November 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be training for all of these leaders, developed and conducted by Rev. Daniel and Rev. Kevin using the **reVision** program. This training will encompass small group processes and theology, and preparations for the 90-day journey.

Following the Nov. 3 training, the small-group leaders will receive emails to help them further prepare for the 90-day journey. The core leaders, along with Rev. Kevin and Rev. Daniel, will also continue to plan for the 90-day small-group meetings, which will begin on Epiphany, January 6, 2019. Worship services tied to the themes and scripture of **reVision** will also be planned for the 90-day journey. Every church member and regular participant in our activities will be asked to sign up for a small group so everyone can feel that they are part of this important process.

Beginning on Jan. 6, there will be one meeting per small group every two weeks for 90 days. Hopefully we will have 4-5 small groups with two co-leaders per group. Because the small groups will meet during the wintertime and some of the leaders work full-time, the small groups will likely meet on the weekends, but each group can decide the best time for them.

Rev. Kevin is excited to begin this journey with Skyland Church, and has been encouraging and supportive to all the lay leaders who are willing to volunteer their personal time to help our church grow and listen for where God is calling us to go, as we begin **reVision** and move through this Interim Time.

Rev. Kevin Omi
Anne Evans
Jackie Seymour
Deana Arnold

Discernment and Openness: 90-Day Journey

90-Day Journey – “Be Open”

The small-group work will encompass discernment, spiritual practices, and time for generating ideas.

Discernment: Discernment is rooted in our relationship with God. It calls us to be open to the God of surprises and possibilities. In discerning, we seek to distinguish the voice of the Divine Caller from the many other voices in our environment and culture. It requires that we pray and reflect on the real question before seeking answers; it asks us to generate a wider range of options instead of settling for the familiar. Discernment involves opening our entire selves to the work of the Holy Spirit. It bids us to let go of preconceived ideas so that we can be open to new possibilities with a readiness to view things from new perspectives. (Suzanne Farnham: Grounded in God)

Spiritual Practices will include individual and group practice, i.e., prayer, meditation, reading and discussing scripture, fasting, tithing money or time, and journaling.

Idea generation: Ideas arise out of interviews of each other and of neighbors in the community, as well as out of the talents, gifts and passions of our whole congregation.

The ideas generated in the small groups are presented and discussed at the **Convergence Summit** in April in front of the whole congregation and any interested community members. New groups form around their chosen ideas and proposals are developed for the **Action Summit** in June.