

Sunnyside News is a weekly publication designed to inform members and subscribers of our current news and events.

CHURCH LIFE

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DENNIS

This week I am beginning a 4-part sermon series on the book of Esther. Esther is one of the most well-known people in all the Bible. Her story is told and re-told from the earliest years of children's Sabbath School. The plot is intriguing. The evil Hamaan conspires to carry out a Holocaust of all the Jews living in Persia in 480 B.C. Through a series of seemingly coincidental events, his plot is uncovered by Mordecai, a Jew who works in the king's court. Simultaneously, the queen of Persia, Vashti, refuses her husbands command to display her beauty in public and in doing so enrages the king and results in her being deposed. The search for a new queen results in Mordecai's cousin, Esther, winning a beauty pageant and becoming the new queen of Persia. Mordecai persuades Esther to use her overnight status leap to request the king of Persia to overturn Hamaan's plot to destroy the Jews. Esther demonstrates incredible courage in risking her life to save her people and the result is that the evil conspirator is ultimately hung on the gallows that he erected for Mordecai.

The story of Esther is intriguing due to its overarching theme of peripety, which is a literary term for reversal of destiny. The Esther story is about an event intended to harm the Jews, which, against all expectation, actually results in the opposite. Instead of being destroyed, the Jews are not only delivered but empowered through Esther and Mordecai. The empowered destroyer, Haman, not only loses his power but is himself destroyed. This theme of reversal of destiny is interwoven throughout the story.

The Esther story also teaches us several important theological points. The name of God is entirely absent from the story. On the surface, it appears that God is completely uninvolved. Yet, the message is that while God is not explicitly present, he is very much in charge of everything taking place. The story of Esther suggests that beneath the surface of even seemingly insignificant human decisions and events, an unseen and uncontrollable power is at work that can be neither explained nor thwarted. This unseen power is none other than God. The great paradox of Esther is that God is omnipotently present even where God is most conspicuously absent.

I'm looking forward to unfolding this well-known story over the coming weeks as we see how this 2,500 year old story has incredible relevance for our lives today.

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WORSHIP CELEBRATION

January 12, 2013
11:00 A.M.

**“The Solid Rock”
“You Are My All in All”**

Welcome
Pastor Dennis Ray

Offering

Baby Dedication
Samantha Patterson
Liam John Djabrayan

“In My Arms”
Yvette Kerbs

**“Change My Heart, O God”
“I Worship You, Almighty
God”**

Prayer
Bruce Eckhart

Scripture
Esther 2:5-10, 17-19

“God's Sovereign Silence”
Pastor Dennis Ray

Benediction

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, January 14

Journey Group 6:30 p.m. - Bertao home

Wednesday, January 16

Community Services - Clothing & Household
Distribution 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Deadline for Bulletin info:

bulletinstaff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.

Men's Journey Group 6:30 p.m. - Youth Room

Women's Journey Group 6:30 p.m. - Mother's Room

Personnel Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Pastor's
Office

Thursday, January 17

Women (ages 30-40) Journey Group 6:30 p.m.

- Becky Crouch's home

Moms' Bible Study 7:00 p.m. - Pastor's Office

Sabbath, January 19

Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Journey Group 5:00 p.m. - van Putten home

Youth Ice Skating 7:00 p.m.

SUNSET

This Friday

5:02 p.m.

Next Friday

5:09 p.m.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

January 19 - Pastor Ray

January 26 - Pastor Ray

February 2 - Pastor Ray

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

January Needs	\$29,300.00
Church Needs Donations	7,432.25
Over (Short)	(21,867.75)
Year to Date	\$29,300.00
Donations Received	7,432.25
Over (Short)	(21,867.75)

Youth Pastor Fund \$26,685.23

THIS WEEK'S OFFERING
Conference Faith Advance

ANNOUNCING: Sunnyside *Light*

Sunnyside is happy to announce the rollout of a new *light* worship service for those who want MORE from their worship experience.

- More flexibility
- More intimacy
- More conversation
- More options

Sunnyside *Light* will feature:

- Teaching with Pastor Dennis
- Music with Arland
- Prayer and praise time together
- Study reflection/discussion following the sermon

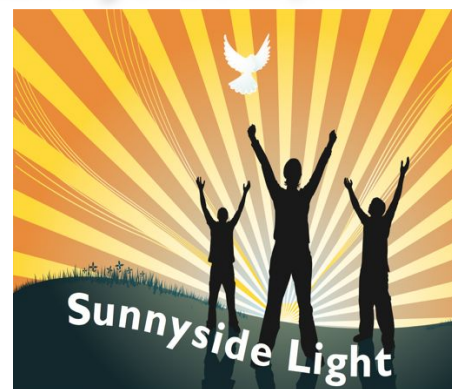
Who is **Sunnyside *Light*** for?

- People who would like a more streamlined worship experience
- Anyone seeking a more intimate, conversational worship option
- Parents with young children may find it helpful to start with the “sit still” part of worship before the more active Sabbath school classes.
- Mission-minded groups that head out for community ministry right after Sabbath School class have an option for attending a worship service.

Here's the new Sunnyside Sabbath Worship Schedule beginning February 9, 2013

9:00 – 9:50 a.m.	Sunnyside <i>Light</i> Service
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Sabbath School
11:15 – 12:30 p.m.	Worship Service

Tell your friends and join us for a light service that offers more!



INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY

The Journey Groups winter session begins next week! Take some time and review the email you received about the groups and times offered. Prayerfully consider joining God and some of your church family and friends on a journey that could change your life.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY



You heard it right! Soul Sisters will repeat the "Breaking Free" Bible Study by Beth Moore for those who missed it, or did not complete it last year. The study has been so popular and we received so many requests, that we are starting this 11-week Bible Study on **Tuesday, January 29**, here at Sunnyside Church.

Breaking Free will lead participants through a study of the Scriptures to discover the transforming power of freedom in Jesus Christ. Themes for this study come from Isaiah, a book about the captivity of God's children, the faithfulness of God, and the road to freedom. Using Scripture to help identify spiritual strongholds in your life, no matter how big or small. Join us and experience a Bible journey unlike any other.

For more information, or to register, log on to www.breaking-free03.eventbrite.com.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SURVEY

Ladies, don't forget to take a few minutes to respond the Women's Ministry Survey. Gloria Ferrer, the new director, would like to get some feedback from you as we step into the next chapter of this ministry. *Please reply by email or print the survey and place it in the offering plate the next time you're at church.*

AREA 7 SDA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Here is another opportunity to be included in this directory. If you own a business, are a doctor, dentist or other professional person, or do carpentry, electrical, plumbing work, or landscaping, and wish to be listed in the Area 7 SDA Yellow Pages, please e-mail your name, the name of your business, address, telephone number, and a brief description of your work (also your business license number if you have one) to Pastor Gary Jensen, pastorgaryjensen@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU...

The greatest thing that could have happened to Dave and I besides our Secret Santa would have been the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! What a surprise and what an honor to have been chosen. Between Dave's kidney cancer, heart and back procedures, the passing of my sweet Mom and my depression, our Secret Santa couldn't have come at a better time to cheer us up like no one ever has before. God is always knocking my socks off with his abundant Blessings but our Secret Santa took the cake. This experience was quite overwhelming and emotional to think someone cared enough to do this for us. I hope that someday, I too, will be able to pay it forward. God Bless You and **THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

Love,
Dave & Elga Boccardo



EARLY YOUTH & YOUTH TEAM-UP FOR MONSTERS ICE HOCKEY

The tweens and teens are headed to the Monsters' game **this Saturday evening. Everyone meet at the box office entrance no later than 7:15 p.m.** We have 30 free tickets, so we want all our early youth and youth to attend. Parents, you are welcome to join us, but if we run out of tickets, you will have to pay to get in. Ticket prices start at \$8. Contact Loanne Soloniuk (259-5302) or Angela Reijnders (994-5502), if you have any questions or if you haven't already signed up to go.

HOST THE REFRESHMENT TABLE

Dates available: January 19 & February 9, 16, 23. You can host it in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, or just because...make it simple or go with a theme. Please call the church office (229-5501) to sign-up.

Please submit your bulletin and eNews announcements of 50 words or fewer (in paragraph form) to: bulletinstaff@sunnysidesda.org. **All info is due by 6:00 p.m. Wednesday.** The Bulletin staff reserves the right to edit text.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

WORSHIP

LEARN

CONNECT

SERVE

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" Early Youth Class



CHURCH ADDRESS

5375 North Maroa Avenue
Fresno, CA 93704

Phone: 559.229.5501

Fax: 559.229.5502

email: churchoffice@sunnysidesda.org
website: www.sunnysidesda.org

THE LAST WORD

Every time you affirm your trust in Me, you put a coin into My treasury. Thus you build up equity in preparation for days of trouble. I keep safely in My heart all trust invested in Me, with interest compounded continuously. The more you trust Me, the more I empower you to do so.

Practice trusting Me during quiet days, when nothing much seems to be happening. Then when storms come, your trust balance will be sufficient to see you through. Store up for yourself treasure in heaven, through placing your trust in Me. This practice will keep you in My Peace.

When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

— Psalm 56:3–4

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

— Matthew 6:20–21

from the "Jesus Calling" Devotional App by Sarah Young

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Aesia Dobson (1/12)
Ella Lee (1/12)
Samantha Patterson (1/12)
Lordzel Franco (1/13)
Karen Eckhart (1/14)
Mylinda Finney (1/14)
Bud Dickerson (1/15)
Zachary Marsh (1/16)
Rollie Mitchell (1/16)
John Self (1/16)
Gary Barron (1/18)
Alex Soloniuk (1/18)

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
TO...**

Jason & Adriana Castillo (1/16)