

A tall, cylindrical stone lighthouse stands on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean. The sky is a vibrant mix of purple, pink, and orange, indicating a sunset or sunrise. A bright beam of light emanates from the lighthouse's lantern room, shining across the sky. The lighthouse has several small windows and a white lantern room with a glass lens. The ocean below reflects the warm colors of the sky.

Shining the Light

Who shines the light shine in our modern world? (some examples)



1. An Episcopal church in southern California has an annual barbecue for its near neighbors. This includes a mission fair.



- They use door hangers to advertise their event.
- They close their parking lot, open their doors, and set up picnic tables and BBQ grills.

Their mission fair is a chance to share information about what is happening through their church!



2. The Eden Church – is opening soon in downtown Campbell to shine the light of Christ to shoppers.



The Eden Church –A Church for people Unfamiliar with Church.

- **Eden is a new church start just getting underway in Downtown Campbell.**
- **They meet in an upstairs banquet hall at Villa Ragusa, on Second Street, so that people can do church and also visit the farmer's market.**
- **Their grand opening is 2/12/17.**

3. The Blessing Box – shining the light on human need 24/7.



The Blessing Box:



- A ministry to the homeless and to all those who have need.
- These are cropping up nationwide and many are in front of Churches.
- They contain non-perishable food, paper products, toothpaste, band-aids, etc.

4. Laundry Love – the laundry light!

- **Once a month, people from church groups assemble at laundromats to help people in their communities get free laundry service.**



- The story of Laundry Love began when a homeless man in Ventura, CA was asked “how can we come alongside your life in a way that would matter?”
- His response was honest and practical: *“If I had clean clothes, I think people would treat me like a human being.”*

- There are about 140 of these programs operating in the US.
- To date an estimated 1 million loads of laundry have been done, and over 750,000 people have been cared for.



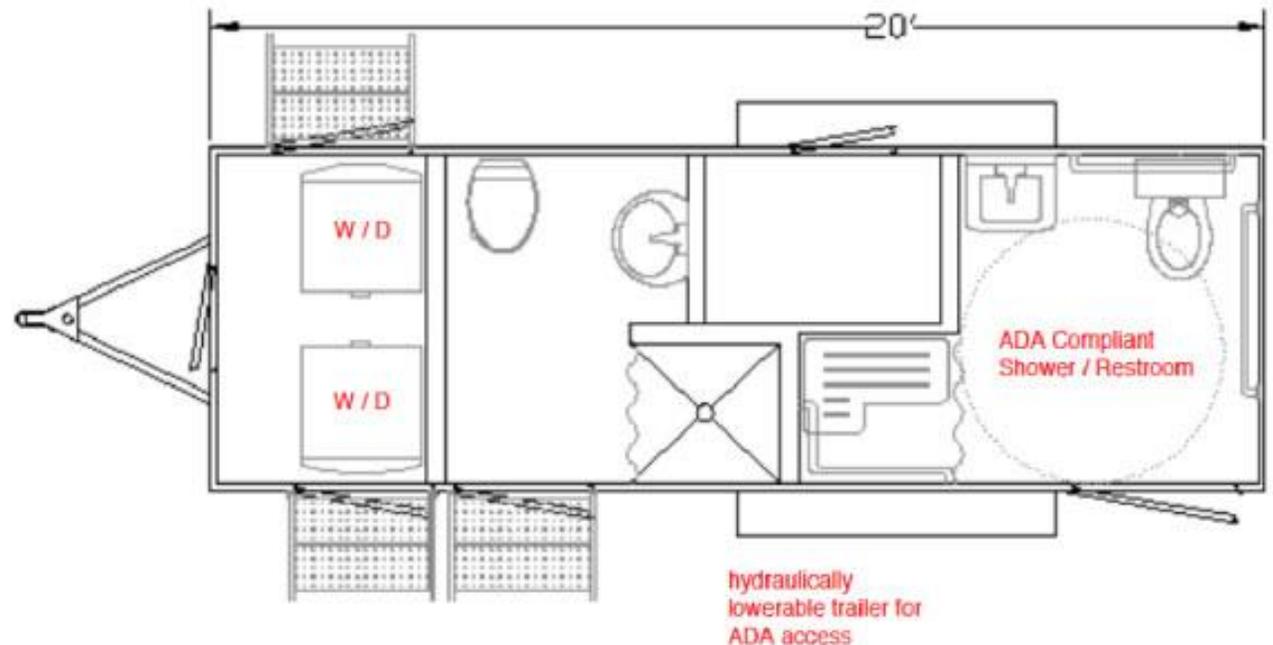
5. Dignity on Wheels Project – Shining the light with dignity.



Helping people today while giving them hope for tomorrow.

- **Project WeHOPE's outreach program, called Dignity on Wheels, began in September 2015.**
- **The program provides free showers and laundry to the homeless living in encampments, rotating shelters and out of their vehicles all throughout the Mid-Peninsula, South Bay and recently the East Bay.**

- **Project WeHOPE was founded in 1999 by pastor Paul J. Bains of Saint Samuel Church in East Palo Alto.**



6. The Joy of Sox – Shining the light on an overlooked clothing need.

providing socks for the homeless

THE **JOY OF SOX**SM



There are several reasons why the homeless need new socks:



- People very rarely donate new socks to the homeless.
- The number one needed clothing article by the homeless is new socks.
- Poor foot hygiene can lead to serious health issues.



- **Founded in 2010, this program has distributed over 150,000 pairs of new socks.**

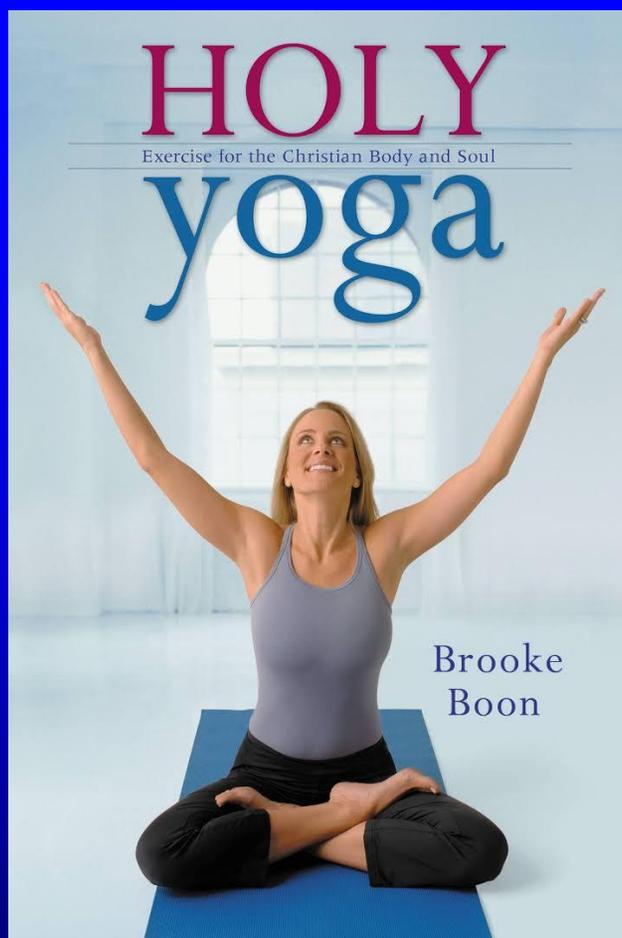
The truth is, you can participate in this idea on your own.



- You can buy a 6-pack of new socks and hand a pair to each of the next six homeless people you see on your travels.

7. Movement, Health and Spiritual Centering – Shining on health & wholeness





- **At 7:30 a.m. every Saturday for the past eleven years, a Yoga Ministry is held at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago (the church Barak Obama attended).**
- **For a number of years the Sunnyvale UCC also held Yoga classes.**

8. Karaoke Night – Shining the light at Campbell UCC.



- **Organized by Tracy Popenhagen, once a month our church holds a Karaoke night in which all who come can take the microphone and perform their favorite popular songs.**





- **Unlike most Karaoke venues which are in bars, ours allows people to sing in the limelight in a safe, wholesome setting with no booze and no smoking.**
- **The evening features healthy and tasty snacks, with an endorphin-releasing experience.**

9. Midweek Meditation - Everyone needs a little sanctuary. Sometimes even in the middle of the week!

**Congregational Church
of West Medford, MA**



sanctuary
united church of christ

- Gather for gentle, prayerful meditation on your way home from work, after dinner, or after the stress of the day.



- **Come light a candle and let prayer, music, and silence help you move into spaciousness with intention, love, and God's blessing.**



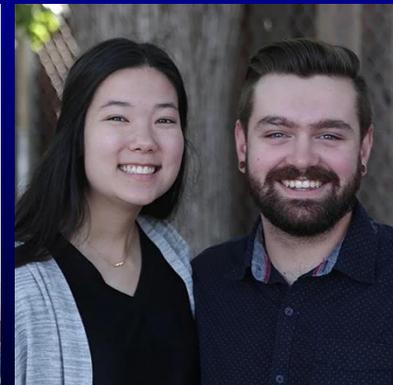
10. The Campbell UCC Food Pantry



- **Championed by our own Faith King, the Campbell UCC Food Pantry shines the light of God's love by supplying emergency and supplemental food to all who need it.**
- **Open to the public T/ Th 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Sat 10:00 AM to Noon.**

11. The Bayshore Community Church

*A progressive community re-
imagining a different expression of
“church.”*

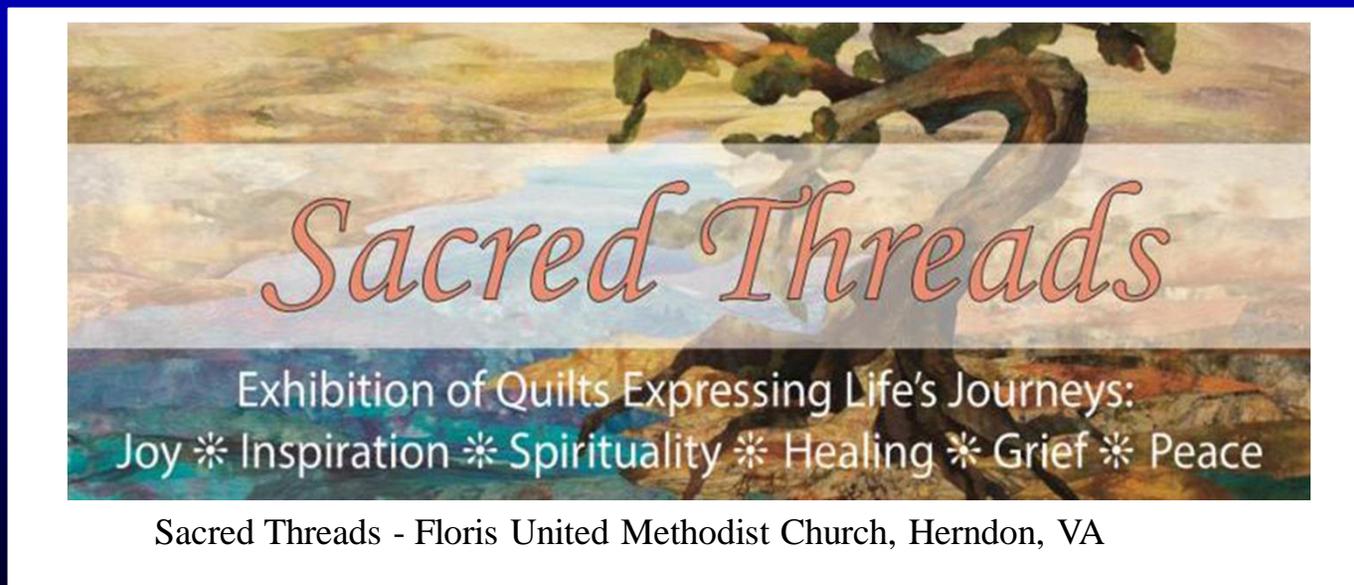


Sometimes the light changes...



- **For everything there is a season.....**
- **Our thoughts and prayers are with the leaders and members of the Bayshore Community Church as they decide what to do next.**

12. Visual Arts in Church: Shining the light to make the invisible Word visible through banners, paintings, photography, quilts, knitted masterpieces, stained glass, etc.



Sacred Threads - Floris United Methodist Church, Herndon, VA

Quilts



“Hope and Love”
43” x 42” – Inspiration
Yvonne Porcella

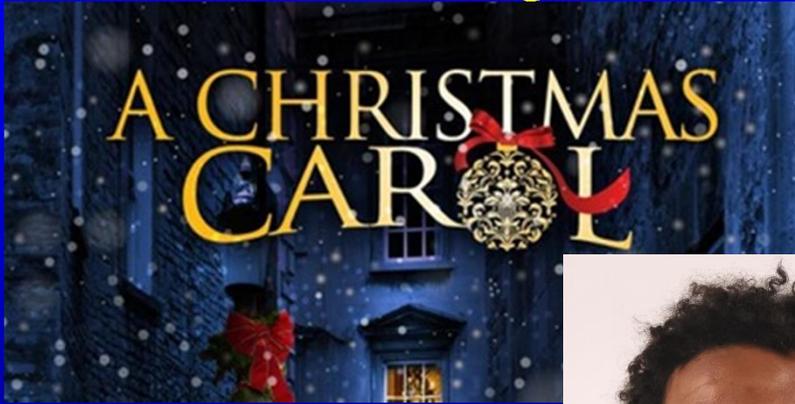
<http://www.sacredthreadsquilts.com/STTravelFlip/index.html#p=72>

Photography – telling the story in pictures



http://grahambakerphotography.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/wedding_photography_st_helens_church_cliffe_and_tudor_park_hotel_marriott_maidstone_Kent-2.jpg

13. Shining the light through the performing arts – The Campbell UCC Players



- Led by our own Flo Galvez to engage our members in a worthwhile activity that also inspires the community.



*14. A Welcoming Refuge -
Shining the light of extravagant
hospitality.*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

945 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20001



- Providing coffee, breakfast items, take-along snack packs and a place to stop to warm up during the Women's March for Equality on January 21st.

There are so many more things happening to “shine the light of Christ into the world” but time and space do not allow me to enumerate.

*The important point is, you can have a role in “shining the light.”
Find a ministry and engage!*

■ **The kingdom of God is at hand. Let the Holy Spirit radically transform your heart and mind. Then may the light of Christ shine through you! AMEN**