

SMALL GROUP ADVISORY BOARD

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The Mission of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
 “To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
 for the Transformation of the world.”

The Vision of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
 To be faithful followers of Jesus Christ;
 changing our lives,
 changing our community,
 changing our world.



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Characteristics of Small Groups
 at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

SMALL GROUPS

foster spiritual growth and commitment,
 bringing together persons who want to be-
 come faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Small groups are Christ centered,
 engaged in worship/prayer,
 reflection on/study of the Bible,
 building community/friendships, and
 ministry to others.

They include activity focused groups,
 faith development groups,
 groups focused in service to others,
 special task/event planning groups and
 church committees.



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A Quick History of Methodist Small Groups

- ◇ Movement began with a few college men started the first small group in Methodism -- the Holy Club,
 - + The concept of personal holiness and social holiness caught fire.
 - + The holiness of life was attained through small groups that were called class meetings

- ◇ Class meetings were small groups of people gathering in homes for prayer, study and accountability for the Christian life.

- ◇ Methodism spread from England to the United States, the movement of small groups and spreading scriptural holiness emerged into congregations and eventually a denomination.

- ◇ The movement started as a renewal community made up of small groups and became a denomination with a clear mission:
 - + Help people live the Christian life through grace and spread scriptural holiness.

- ◇ The movement employed the same core ministries
 - + training laity to lead small groups,
 - + engaging in ministries with the poor (social holiness)
 - + sending out exhorters -- teachers and preachers to share the Gospel

3. Men's Retreat [Leader: Dean McWilliams, 925-837-0971, deanandbarbara@aol.com]
Meet: 1st weekend of October @ the Crawford's Cabin
Focus: Annual Retreat for Men

ADULT EDUCATION

[Leader: Phyllis Meyer, 925-866-0584, pcmeyer@pacbell.net]

1. Adult Sunday School
@ 9am [Leader: Larry Stone, 925-648-1850, llstone2@comcast.net]
@ 10:30am [Leader: Dave Coombs, 925-837-5915, dfcassoc@comcast.net]
Meet: Sunday mornings @ 9am & 10:30am
Focus: Exploring various ways to understand God's words
2. Church-Wide Study: Lent & Advent [Leader: Phyllis Meyer, 925-866-0584, pcmeyer@pacbell.net]
Meet: Various dates/times
Focus: Seasonal study groups discussing a common topic/book
3. Disciple Bible Study- Disciple 1 [Leaders: Bill Rust, 925-820-9047, wrusjrarb@aol.com; Pastor Luke, lham@srvumc.org]
Meet: Tuesdays, 7pm-9pm, Fireside Room
Focus: Disciple I covers 85% of the Bible lasting for 34 weeks.
4. Discovery Class [Leaders: Pastor Ron, rdunn@srvumc.org, Pastor Sunny, sahn@srvumc.org, Devon Drake, 925-837-5243, ddrake@srvumc.org]
Meet: Various dates/times
Focus: Learn about SRVUMC and become a member of the church.
5. LINC (Learning In Community) [Leaders: Phyllis Meyer, 925-866-0584, pcmeyer@pacbell.net; Pastor Ron, 925-837-5243, rdunn@srvumc.org]
Meet: Various Wednesdays
Focus: Offering learning opportunities based on the need of the community

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One of the essential ways we will achieve the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (SRVUMC) vision of being a congregation of faithful followers of Jesus Christ will be to connect

with others through dynamic small groups. Our goal is to grow our small group ministry in ways that enable deeper spiritual growth and commitment.

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Background:

Several years ago SRVUMC adopted the ChristCare Small Group Program. Over the years, many members of our congregation have received extensive training as ChristCare leaders and have faithfully served as leaders. ChristCare Groups incorporate four components: Community building and care, Biblical reflection/study, prayer/worship, and missional service (collectively “the Four Components”). These Four Components are summarized with 4Ws: (1) **Welcome** for building Christian community and care/check-in and sharing; (2) **Worship** for incorporating the worship/prayer elements such as songs, poems, readings; (3) **Word** for the biblical study or reflection, and (4) **Works** for missional service. Also, covenanting with each other and confidentiality are important components of each group.



In addition to ChristCare small groups, a wide variety of other groups exist and flourish within the Church—some focus primarily on activity/fellowship, others on faith development, others on service to others, others on special tasks or event planning, others are Church committees.

MISSION/SERVICE GROUPS

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peacemakers [Leader: Joyce Kayser, 925-820-4507, joycewkay@gmail.com]
Meet: The 4th Wednesday of each month, 1:00pm, Library
Focus: Promoting social justice issues and the concept of our world as a community of interdependent nations who are respected by, as well as respectful of, one another, and who hold in common the need to exist harmoniously.
2. United Methodist Women [Leader: Bonnie Roberts, 925-846-2035]
Meet: The 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10:30am-1pm, Wesley Center.
Focus: The mission-based organization for all women of ages.
3. Trinity Center “Food for Thought” Program Team [Leader: Dick Lam, 925-930-0707, RichardCLam@aol.com]
Meet: Friday morning around 8am to prepare & deliver a meal for the homeless at Trinity Center in Walnut Creek at church and discuss on Biblical topics.
Focus: Nurturing the homeless in body and spirit.

RETREATS

1. Wise Women’s Retreat [Leaders: Marilyn Milam, 925-837-3576, m_k_milam@earthlink.net; Pastor Sunny, 925-837-5243, sahn@srvumc.org]
Meet: 1st Tuesday of May
Focus: Annual Retreat for women over 50 years old
2. Women’s Retreat [Leaders: Suzan Rowland, 925-552-0393, suzan.rowland@gmail.com; Deanna Clark, 925-803-8052, dtclark@me.com]
Meet: January or February of the year in Santa Cruz at the Village Maria del mar.
Focus: Annual women’s retreat

11. Men's Softball [Leader: Brian Steffy, briansteffy1@hotmail.com]
Class "D" softball. Two teams usually enter the summer league. Fall and winter leagues are also available if there is sufficient interest to field a team.
12. Nature's Adventurers [Leaders: Bill Van Bezey, 925-838-4104, vanboneye@comcast.net; Bart Jacobi, 925-837-7998, lebart@prodigy.net]
Meet: The 2nd and 4th Saturdays, March through November, 9:30am to mid-afternoon, meet at church parking lot.
Do two or three overnight hikes per hiking season.
Focus: A hiking group for all ages
13. Tai Chi [Leader: Johnathan Robinson, 925-209-1127, jpratherr@earthlink.net]
Meet: Thursday evenings at 7:15pm, Fireside Room.
Focus: Give an introduction to Tai Chi's essential movements.
14. Waffles (Women About Fun-Fellowship-Laughter-Entertainment) [Leader: Sally Andrew, 925-831-9763, sgandrew@comcast.net]
Meet: The 2nd Wednesday evening and the 4th Saturday morning, depending on activity.
Focus: Christian women having fun
15. Wesley Writers [Leaders: Brad Stribling, 925-838-2601, brad_stribling@msn.com; Terry Sherman, 925-735-0475, dtsh@sbcglobal.net]
Meet: The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm, in the Library
Focus: To provide community, spirituality, encouragement and support for participants wishing to express themselves in writing.
16. Yoga [Leader: Teri Hawk, 925-930-9418, hermhawk@aol.com]
Meet: Every Tuesdays, 5:30pm-6:45pm, Room 206
Focus: A physical, mental and spiritual discipline, using meditation to gain spiritual insight and tranquility. Instructor: Noel Sivazlian Rodela

The Administration of Small Groups

A Small Group Advisory Board (formerly ChristCare Equippers) will identify the current small groups that exist within SRVUMC, will contact and consult the leaders of each group to determine the group's characteristics, and work with the leader to incorporate the four components (if not already incorporated) into the group.

Small Group Leader Training

The Small Group Advisory Board will be responsible for assuring that leaders are appropriately trained. At a minimum, each leader of a small group will receive orientation training to acquaint them with the small group process and cover basic facilitation skills. In addition, leaders will also receive on-the-job training and coaching, as appropriate. Leaders will be requested to identify and develop apprentices in their groups who may be invited to serve as future leaders.

Semester System

The Small Group year consists of two terms: Fall and Spring. The Fall Term begins in September and end in mid-December. The Spring Term begins in January and end April 30. Small Group Leaders meet on the 3rd Sunday of the odd months (September, November, January, March, May) except summer time. The Small Group Advisory Board meets on the 2nd Sunday of the odd months which is a week before the meeting of the small group leaders. In addition, the Board usually meets before the beginning of the term to determine the direction of the small group ministry and throughout the year as needed.

Small Group Semester System Calendar

July-August

- ◇ Define/determine the types of groups to offer in Fall Term
create list of potential group leaders
- ◇ Recruit/contact potential group leaders and ask them to lead
- ◇ Get commitments from prospective group leaders for Fall Term

Fall Term

September

- ◇ Publicize small groups for Fall Term – brochures, pulpit, Messenger, etc
- ◇ Simple signups for groups on Kickoff Sunday
- ◇ **Conduct leaders' training**

November

- ◇ Evaluate/define/determine the types of groups to offer in Spring Term
- ◇ Create list of potential group leaders
- ◇ Recruit/contact potential group leaders and ask them to lead

December

- ◇ Get commitments from prospective group leaders for Spring Term
- ◇ Fall Term ends mid December

Spring Term

January

- ◇ Publicize small groups for Spring Term – brochures, pulpit, Messenger, etc
- ◇ Simple signups for groups each Sunday – also online
- ◇ **Conduct leaders' training**

March

- ◇ Evaluate/define/determine the types of groups to offer in Spring Term
- ◇ Create list of potential group leaders

5. Handicrafters [Leader: Martha Kitajima, 925-735-1862, mkskitajima@yahoo.com]
Meet: The 1st Monday, 9:30am, the Fireside Room
Focus: Open to all who are interested in learning new crafts or in creating crafts for service projects, completing unfinished projects, and enjoying fellowship together.
6. Hiking [Leader: Larry Henderson, 925-820-1142, write.lar@gmail.com]
Annual Summer Backpack Trip: a 5-6 day trip to the high country, as well as many other hikes. All are welcome!
7. The Games We Play [Leader: Marilyn Milam, 925-837-3576, m_k_milam@earthlink.net]
Meet: The 4th Mondays 7:00 – 9:00 P.M., Fireside Room.
Focus: Each month we begin with a check-in and a devotion. Then, the games begin! Everyone is welcome!
8. Karaoke [Leader: Sandy Greenwood, 925-935-1109, SandyG4711@gmail.com]
Meet: Sundays between 8:30pm and 9pm at the Danville Bowl
Focus: For music, fun, and fellowship.
9. Lunch with Friends [Leader: Sandy Greenwood, 925-935-1109, SandyG4711@gmail.com]
Meet: The 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 12pm-2pm, Wesley Center
Focus: A delicious home-cooked meal is provided for seniors. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of the meal.
10. Men's Breakfast Group [Leader: Dean McWilliams, 925-837-0971, osi310@aol.com; Lyn Arscott, 925-820-2095, larscott@pacbell.net]
Meet: The 3rd Saturday of the month, 8am, Wesley Center, Cost: \$6
Focus: All men are invited to a full breakfast and a monthly program.

12. Women of the Night [Leaders: Linda Forsey, 925-759-0509, calphimu@yahoo.com, Marilyn Milam, 925-837-3576, m_k_milam@earthlink.net]
 Meet: The 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7pm-9pm, Fireside Room.
 Focus: Women of any age who prefer to meet in the evenings are welcome to participate in this study group, focused on community, faith development, and service
13. Young Adult Group/Pub Theology [Leader: Pastor Luke, 925-837-5243, lham@srvumc.org]
 Meet: Thursdays, 8pm-10pm, offsite
 Focus: Fellowship and faith development.

COMMUNITY/ACTIVITY GROUPS

1. Adventuresome Seniors [Leader: Sandy Greenwood, 925-935-1109, SandyG4711@gmail.com]
 Meet: Last Tuesday of the month, 12pm-2pm, Wesley Center
 Focus: Monthly potluck (homemade or store-bought) luncheons with a program
2. Afternoon Book Group [Leader: Marilyn Scott, 925-935-6564, mailbox@perebruin.com]
 Meet: The 3rd Monday, 1pm, Wesley 202
 Focus: Anyone is welcome to join.
3. Bowling [Leader: Paul Kuelz, 925-831-3128, paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net]
 Meet: Mondays, 7:15pm (September-May), at the Danville Bowl
 Focus: Fellowship
4. Dinner for Eight (or Seven) [Leaders: Barb McWilliams, 925-837-0971, osi310@aol.com; Winnie Stribling, 925-838-2601, winnie_stribling@msn.com]
 Meet: Various dates/times four times per year (September, November, January, and March)
 Focus: Radical hospitality over food, fun, faith and fellowship.

- ◇ Recruit/contact potential group leaders and ask them to lead

April

- ◇ Spring Term ends mid April

May-June (Summer Break)

July-August

- ◇ Define/determine the types of groups to offer in Fall Term create list of potential group leaders
- ◇ Recruit/contact potential group leaders and ask them to lead
- ◇ Get commitments from prospective group leaders for Fall Term

Fall Term (repeat the cycle)

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Incorporation of the Four Components

Small groups are expected to incorporate each of the Four Components. The emphasis on the Four Components will differ from group to group. The Small Group Advisory Board will actively



Small Group List by Category

FAITH DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

[Leader: **Linda Stone, 925-648-1850, llstone2@comcast.net;**
Merilyn Milam, 925-866-0584,
m_k_milam@earthlink.net]

1. Big Boys Club [Leader: Bill Van Bezey, 925-838-4104, vanboneye@comcast.net]
Meet: Wednesdays, 7:15 – 9:00 P.M., Fireside Room
Focus: Men exploring their faith while having fun building friendships.
2. Chatty Cronos [Leaders: Elaine Halliday, 925- 944-5194; Pastor Sunny, sahn@srvumc.org]
Meet: The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon in the home of one of its members at Rossmoor
Focus: Faith-sharing women’s group reading books selected for study.
3. ChristCare Book Group [Leader: Gloria Fenton, 925-828-6307, gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net]
Meet: The 4th Wednesday of the month at 10am in the church library
Focus: All age group of women reading selected books.
4. Couples with Children (or Grandchildren) [Leaders: Deanna Clark, 925-803-8052, dtclark@me.com; Val Miller, 925-309-4835, vemiller65@gmail.com]
Meet: The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M., Miller’s Home, 66 Grado Ct., Danville 94506.
Focus: Fellowship, Reading, and Discussion. Explore your faith while building relationships.
5. Friday Morning Men’s Group [Leader: Pastor Ron, 925-837-5243, rdunn@srvumc.org]
Meet: Fridays, 6:30 - 8:30 A.M., Wesley Center 202
Focus: A discussion group covering a variety of books to reflect on faith and life.
6. Learning Over Lunch [Leaders: Phyllis Meyer, 925-866-0584, pcmeyer@pacbell.net; Sarah Stribling, 925-838-2601)
Meet: Mondays, 12noo - 1:30 P.M., Fireside Room
Focus: Currently Watching film clips together and discuss afterwards. Its focuses are vary depending on group interests
7. Living Out Loud (LOL) Women [Leader: Katy Mannell, 925-984-3691, katymannell@sbcglobal.net]
Meet: Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M., Room 202
Focus: For busy Christian women seeking ways to live more fully.
8. Meditation Group [Leader: Linda Stone, 925-648-1850, llstone2@comcast.net]
Meet: The 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am, in Wesley 202
Focus: Meditation with scripture, silence, journaling, and sharing.
9. Men’s Faith Sharing [Leader: Tom Byrom, 925-984-5811, tombyrom@comcast.net]
Meet: Saturday mornings (except 3rd Sat), 8am-10am, Conference Room
Focus: All men are welcome to share in this rewarding experience with coffee, donuts & juice provided.
10. Pearls [Leaders: Shirley Stephenson, 925-820-0513, shirleyannsteph@comcast.net; Sylvia Benzler, 925-820-0296, skbenz@mac.com]
Meet: weekly commitment on Mondays 11am-1pm, Room 2022 Wesley Center
Focus: Spiritual growth through book discussions, contemplative prayer and faith sharing
11. Sacred Path Labyrinth Group [Leaders: Suzanne Shea, 925-954-1889, suzanne.shea@sbcglobal.net; Devon Drake, 925-837-5243, ddrake@srvumc.org]
Meet: Various dates
Focus: Explore the ritual and value that walking meditation offer.