



Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist

APRIL 2017

A Personal Point of View ~

Life Finds a Way

In the film, Jurassic Park, the scientifically inclined Ian Malcom expresses his doubt that the park's caretakers can maintain an intentionally sterile community of dinosaurs. His explanation is actually quite simple: "Life," he suggests, "always finds a way."

While this film was, of course, heart-stopping fiction, there is a truth in these words that cannot be denied. Life does indeed find a way. It is, I think, the essential message of Easter that, in spite of Roman imperial power; in spite of the opposition of the Temple Establishment; and in spite of the self-centeredness of the individuals who orchestrated the death sentence of the crucifixion; life managed to find a way. The stone was rolled away, and the tomb stood empty.

In a time where our world flirts with environmental catastrophe, and the scourge of war and civil strife have left millions without a home, it is so very easy to lose hope. In a time when political partisanship has seemingly negated the possibility of

creative and constructive conversation, it is easy to be discouraged. The "new world" that was supposed to have evolved into being with the dawn of our new century looks an awful lot like the world that we had hoped we were leaving behind. In fact, it is, in some fundamental respects, not that much different from the world that Jesus knew—a world where violence, oppression and injustice seemed to have their way.

As we conclude our Lenten pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the cross, we would do well to remember that, in some respects, the human condition remains very much the same, regardless of what century we happen to be living in. The fact is that we live in a bruised and broken world—one that, in and of itself, hardly provides the inspiration to believe that tomorrow will be any different.

And yet, there is this story that looms before us—the story of the women who went to the tomb where they had laid the body of Jesus, assured of what to expect. In their expectation of death, they had brought with them the herbs and oils used to anoint the bodies of the dead. But that expectation began to waver when they noticed that the stone had been rolled away, and it began to falter when they noticed that the tomb was

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Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik

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empty. Life, you see, had found a way. The grave simply could not hold the life-giving power of God's love.

That is our story—and yes, we are sticking to it! In the face of the daily news that invites both discouragement and despair, we are reminded that God's love does indeed find a way. And the important thing for us to remember is that this "way" is often through us and the witness of kindness and compassion that we choose to offer.

The message of Easter, you see, is not to be limited to the witness of Jesus and the empty tomb. No, it is a message that invites our own interaction and yes, participation in the resurrection story. Our task, is to live out the resurrection in the ways that we respond to the deep hurts and great hopes of our world. Life finds a way and, by the grace of God's love and the power of the resurrection story, that way is through us.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

Mark your Calendars!

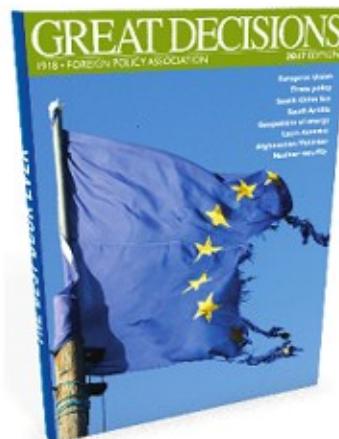
Discussion Series on the Great Decisions of Our Age Starts in May

What are the great global policy decisions facing the U.S., and how should Christians respond? Starting on **Sunday, May 14, at 10:20 a.m.**, our church will hold a series of six weekly discussions on critical global issues using a guide prepared by the Foreign Affairs Association (F.A.A.). This program is part of an annual, nationwide program, whereby groups of concerned citizens throughout the U.S. will discuss why the issues are important and why we should be concerned.

The series will be facilitated by Lyn Arscott and will be held after the first service in **Wesley Center**. A short DVD, prepared by the F.A.A. will be shown on each topic. ***The discussion series guidebooks will be on sale in the courtyard for \$25 starting in April.***

The following topics are scheduled:

1. Afghanistan and Pakistan
2. European Union
3. Trade Policy
4. South China Sea
5. Geopolitics of Energy
6. Latin America



Haiti Report in Two Words

by Ron Dunn

Recently, I had the opportunity to join Warren McGuffin, Dave Coombs and Robbie Rigolfi from our congregation on a mission trip to Thomas, Haiti. It was, I must say, a trip that I will never forget. When people have asked me to describe my experience, there are two words that come to mind. The first word is “sobering.”

In a land of 70% unemployment, the reality of poverty and hunger is real and undeniable. In fact, it is nearly everywhere you look. We witnessed this hunger and poverty on the visits we made to various homes in order to install biofilters that were designed to help purify the water used for drinking and cooking. It was clear that for many of these families, it is a daily struggle merely to find enough food to eat. Gifts of clothing (including the dresses that some of our members have made) were gratefully—and excitedly—received. The materials used to construct these homes varied from stone to stucco, from tarps to tin—or whatever else could be found to use as a building substitute.

Living, as we do, in a culture that has so much, it is sobering to see so many struggling to live with so little.

sobering

The other word that comes to mind is “inspiring.” It is inspiring to witness the work that Warren and many others have been able to generate in response to the bleakness of the situation that exists in Haiti. Rather than give in to feelings of hopelessness and despair, they have chosen to begin where they are, to use what they have, and to do what they can to address the problems that are everywhere. While the effort in Thomas initially began as a feeding program to provide a good, nutritious lunch for children at school, it has over time evolved to include a vision that is not limited to feeding hungry children.

inspiring

As important as that goal is, there is the understanding that if any true change is to take place in the current state of things, it must involve the cultivation of opportunities that will provide both children and adults with the education, language skills and employment that will sustain them over time. Thanks to the vision of Warren and the investment of many within our congregation—and other UMC congregations—these opportunities are now beginning to be realized.

While touring the area schools, I saw the solar panels—including the one installed by Brad Stribling—that provide light and energy for the technology needed to run computers and charge cell phones. And yes, cell phones are everywhere! I also saw the use of the water filtration units that our congregation helped to purchase several years ago.

I was also inspired by the opportunity that Dave Coombs and I had to lead a Bible study session with some of the District Pastors and their Superintendent. Dave did an excellent job of sharing some of his well-earned insight about the nature of the Gospels and their application for today. I enjoyed the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas about the meaning of the Book of Revelation and how to interpret that meaning in our contemporary context. It was, without question, a special privilege and a highlight for us both.

I also had the privilege of delivering the morning message in the Sunday worship service at Thomas. I was grateful for the opportunity to have Pastor James Lazarre (who preached here at SRVUMC) be my interpreter. To be honest, I’m not exactly



Haiti, March 2017. Warren McGuffin, Dave Coombs and Pastor Ron Dunn.

sure whether the congregation actually heard my message or that of Pastor James! Either way, I trust that the Gospel was preached. I do know that the music of worship was lively and the prayers were heartfelt and passionate.

I could go on, but space will not allow. Instead, I will conclude by extending an invitation. As a part of the unfolding vision for Thomas and its future, there is a bakery being planned that will not only provide needed breads and baked goods for the local population but also the economic opportunity for individuals to find the employment that will help sustain them and their families as they seek to build a better future.

Our goal during this season of Lent is to raise enough money to purchase a solar oven at the cost of \$15,000. If we are successful in this effort, there is a promise of matching funds from a supportive congregation in Virginia.

Together, we can take a giant step forward in helping to build a better future for the people of Thomas and the surrounding community.

While Haiti is indeed, a “sobering” place, it is also an “inspiring” place, one in which the seeds of possibility have been planted and nurtured. We now have the opportunity to offer our own support in ways that will enable those seeds to continue to grow and sprout and bear the fruit of a healthy, hopeful and sustainable life.

Thanks to all who have worked hard and given generously in the past to this work. Let us continue in the work that is before us—the work that can and will make all the difference in the world.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

LOCAL

College is Real— We Need Mentors!

College is Real (CIR) provides education, motivation, resources and support to low-income, minority (predominantly Latino) students from Richmond High who demonstrate academic potential, have college aspirations, and who typically will be the first in their families to attend college. With a 100% high school graduation rate, 90 to 100% of CIR students are being accepted by four-year colleges each year.



One of CIR's key success factors and one of the special benefits it offers to its students is the mentoring program. CIR's mentors come from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and professions. Mentors meet in person and via the web with their mentees. Mentors provide encouragement, accountability, perspective and guidance through the high school academic and college application and selection process. Contact **Liz Bayat**, lbayat@aol.com if you would like more information or are interested in becoming a mentor.

Lend a Hand Day—April 29, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help Danville seniors with their spring yard cleanup!

Adopt a yard in groups of four to eight for weeding and basic yard care. Bring your own gloves, hand tools, sunscreen and snack. If you are an able-bodied adult age 16+ who wishes to volunteer, sign up online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LendaHand2017>...*pre-registration is required!* To register someone under 16, contact **Julie Mason** at jmason@danville.ca.gov or 925-314-3478.



Don't worry if you missed out on signing up for the April 1 packing event at the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano! Other dates are planning for July and September, so you and your older children and teens can still help out sometime.

Mission Update

Mission Volunteers & Communion Giving

Special Offerings

February 2017 Volunteers

- 14 Coffee Hour Volunteers.
- 20 Sodbusters
- 20 Volunteers for "Food For Thought"
- 4 Volunteers at The Souper Center
- 18 Sunshine Singers at the Sunrise Retirement Center
- 120 Volunteers for "Winter Nights Program"
- 4 Volunteers to Haiti Thomas Food Program

Month	Entity	Amt
Jan	Haiti	\$2,625
Feb	Limb Restoration	\$1,348
Mar	One Great Hour of Sharing	0
Easter	Rise Against Hunger Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Council Richmond Interfaith 1st Methodist Church - Salinas	0 0 0 0 0
April	Trinity Center	0
May	Local Youth Mission	0
Jun		0
Jul		0
Aug		0
Sep		0
Oct		0
Nov		0
Dec	UMCOR World Aids Day Youth Homes BAAYFS	0 0 0
Christmas	Winter Nights Global Missions UMCOR Other	0 0 0 0
Totals		\$3,973

Do Your Christian Beliefs Affect How You See Current Events?

What Are United Methodist Guidelines?

COME AND SEE! LEARN AND SHARE!

On the 3 Sundays after Easter: April 23, April 30 and May 7

Fireside Room at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

Guided by Lyn Arscott, Nancy Benvenuto
Dave Coombs, Joyce Kayser,



ARC STATUS

It is now approaching 13 months since we broke ground for the ARC. Thanks to so many people, so much has been accomplished. I have had the good fortune to gain a look inside the gymnasium recently, and I can only say “WOW!” It looks fantastic, and as a former high school basketball player, my fingers were itching to attempt some Steph Curry-like three-pointers.

I know that many of you are somewhat dismayed at the challenges presented by the parking lot, but I want you to know that this is simply an investment that we are making for the long-run future of the ARC. Our projected completion date of June, 2017 is just around the corner, and some of the current hardships will quickly become lost in the brilliance of our new facility, to include the joy and excitement of everyone in both our congregation and those members of the community who will benefit from its use. I continue to be so grateful for the generosity of our donor family and cannot thank them sufficiently for their vision of what this gift will mean to our church and the community over the years.

The team of people with whom I have the great honor of working to reach our collective goals have been outstanding in every respect. We have been presented with the opportunity to bring to our campus very giving and nurturing coaches, instructors, and leaders representing terrific organizations who have only the best interests of each of our user segments at heart, including children, youth, adults and seniors. I know you are going to be very impressed with the values they each bring to the table with their respective sports, activities and personal passion.

So, as we enter the final phase of our ARC project, I hope you share my excitement for the fun that lies ahead. As our Vision Statement reminds us, “The ARC building well be a place where all can participate in recreational and fitness opportunities that enrich mind, body, and spirit.”

As for the future, please place on your calendar tentative plans for the **“Dedication Ceremony” now being planned for Sunday, June 4, following our church service that morning.** Lyn Arscott and Pastor Ron are deeply engaged with a number of our church leaders who have been working on this project for several years and are now involved in the shaping of this dedication event. I am confident you will want to be there.

Jim Burk

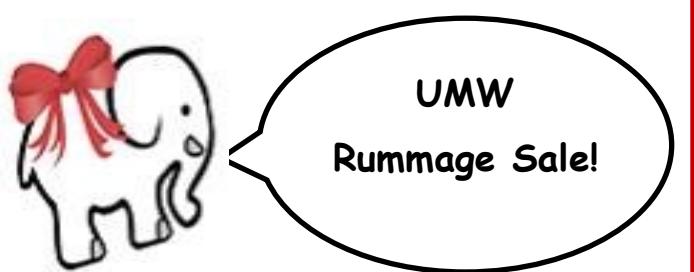
Volunteer Director

Bagel Street Café – Our Tasty Benefactor!

Since 2014, Bagel Street Café at the Livery in Danville has been baking fresh bagels for our congregation to enjoy after worship. It is a gift they give us every week throughout the year and one that a great many of us appreciate a lot!

We just wanted to make sure you knew how the delicious bagels and bread made their way to our fellowship table!

Thank you Bagel Street Café!



Donation Drop-off: Tuesday, May 2, 1 to 8 p.m., or Wednesday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sale Dates: Friday, May 5, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., or Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To Volunteer: Call Carole Lynne Keller (925-254-5949) or email elk-clk@comcast.net. Alternatively, you can sign up in the church courtyard on Sundays after services.

Church Council Report

The Church Council met February 21, 2017.

Diversity

The first Diversity Task Force meeting, chaired by **Lay Leaders Debra Carter and Lea Hickman**, was held February 11. The Task Force will include two youth members to represent the Youth programs; will expand “Equity” to more than gender; will develop means to measure objectives; and will collaborate with Peace and Justice Committee.

Finance

Finance Committee Chair Rhonda Poole presented a 2016 Year-End Overview for General Fund, with the following bottom line summary. Her detailed report can be viewed on the Church website at www.srvumc.org.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Total Income	\$1,123,732	\$1,114,950
Total Expenses	\$1,079,644	\$1,129,945
Net Position	\$ 44,088	\$ (14,995)

Rhonda presented a proposed 2017 Budget as recommended by the Finance committee.

Total Income	\$1,145,200
Total Expenses	\$1,154,938
Net Position/Deficit	\$ (9,738)

Pledges make up \$942,038 of the total income budgeted for 2017. The budget details can be viewed of the Church website. The Council approved the budget as presented.

Staff Parish Relations

Staffing costs make up around 70% of the budget. The Council approved a motion that the Staff Parish Relations Committee assess the Church’s current staffing structure to determine its efficiency and effectiveness of the structure by July 1, 2017. Staff Parish has met with all church staff to identify 2017 individual staff goals.

2017 Council Objectives

The Council adopted a list of Objectives to be carried out by the Council during 2017. The list is a “living document.” Responsibility is assigned for each of the 13 Objectives. The list is posted on the Church website.

Trustees

Board of Trustees Chair Mark Miller reported on the following items:

1. Work to begin on sanctuary windows March 6.
2. Railing(s) to be installed for stairs to chancel area.
3. Improved security of Preschool area completed with fence and gate modifications.
4. Damaged projection screen in Wesley Center replaced.
5. Electricity to ARC installed February 22.
6. On the impact to creek from our heavy rainfall. Potential for debris and soil build-up in tunnels, and erosion along creek. One neighbor contacted Mark.

Congregational Survey Regarding Serving Alcoholic Beverages on SRVUMC Premises

Mark, on behalf of Trustees, introduced a proposal to survey the congregation on the serving of alcoholic beverages on

Church property. After a lively discussion of the pros and cons, the Council approved a motion to send the survey to the congregation, with the stipulation the survey will have a cover letter that describes the reasons for the survey. Before the survey is sent, the Council will review and approve the contents of the letter and survey.

Missions and Service

Risk Taking Mission and Service Chair Paul Kuelz reported the refugee family from Afghanistan moved to Antioch, near their Afghani contact family. SRVUMC continues as a participant in supporting the family. Announcements and information will continue to inform the congregation of this service opportunity, including supplies and services needed to support the family. A date is to be determined for a Meet and Greet with the family at our Church.

During this year's Lenten period (**March 1 to April 16**), we will be focusing on the **Thomas Food Project**, and in particular the solar oven program. Our goal: \$15,000, the cost of one solar oven to greatly increase the number of meals.

Endowment Funds

The Endowment Committee has approved \$50,000 for distribution to Church components. Distribution will be announced Sunday, **February 26** during services. The Endowment report is posted on the Church website.

Peace and Justice

The Peace and Justice Committee will sponsor three **adult classes** on the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church on Sundays, **April 23 and 30, and May 7**. The **Social Principles Handbook** is available for all interested persons.

The minutes of the Church Council meeting, written committee reports, and other documents mentioned above are posted on the Church website. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All members are welcome to attend.

Terry Sherman

Board of Trustees Update on Sanctuary Improvements

The new window installations along the south wall of the Sanctuary, which will add a lot of natural light and provide a panoramic view of the Meditation Garden, began March 6 and is expected to be completed by March 27.

The Board of Trustees also has under consideration several other projects that will enhance and upgrade the Sanctuary. These include:

- Enlarging the Chancel area
- Relocating, repairing, and improving the organ
- Sound engineering for acoustical clearness
- Constructing a new roof (we have been advised that a replacement will be required within five years)
- Performing some seismic retrofitting; and improving the entrance and the Narthex

The Board of Trustees is not ready at this point to recommend moving forward with any of these projects. Each project will be considered individually by the Board of Trustees for approval. If they approve, then they will recommend to the Church Council for final approval. The Trustees will keep the congregation informed as significant developments in this process occur.

Mark Miller

Chair, Board of Trustees

April Communion Offering

Your April Communion giving reaches a local organization many of us know well: this month's collection helps [Trinity Center of Walnut Creek](#). Trinity Center extends a safety net of basic services to homeless or at-risk individuals in Contra Costa County. ***This month's offering supports Trinity in its overhead costs, including staff, supplies, equipment and maintenance.*** We'll put paper in the office printer, and Trinity Center will focus on its mission.

In addition to providing a safe place off the street, Trinity Center offers their clients:

- Breakfasts and hot lunches
- Showers
- Laundry facilities
- Clothing
- Mail and phone access
- Assistance with and referrals to services and help with benefit applications



St Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek is a primary sponsor of the center, but Trinity Center is a standalone charitable organization. SRVUMC has been in partnership with Trinity Center for some time. Several people in our congregation regularly volunteer in various capacities at the Center, including in the **Food for Thought** program begun by our own **Horace Crawford and Dick Lam**. This month's offering will support continuation of the many programs offered at this valuable community resource. ***Don't forget that you can also [check out their website](#) for wish-list items for their food pantry, clothing closet and more.***



Summer Memories at San Ramon Valley UMC!



Easter Offering

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing serves nearly 1,000 East Bay clients in need of affordable, permanent housing in Pleasant Hill, Bay Point, Concord and Pittsburg. Together, a number of service groups, individuals and faith communities are working to end homelessness and poverty in the East Bay.

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County consists of 107 congregations and organizations of various faiths, including Jewish, Buddhist, Islamic and Christian traditions. This group's work includes promoting immunization among the area's impoverished children through Health and Faith In Action; the Winter Nights Shelter program through the Social Justice Alliance; the Singing Messengers, who send musical teams into area nursing facilities; and outreach to youth, including incarcerated youth.

Greater Richmond Interfaith Project is an interfaith and multiracial organization dedicated to serving the region's homeless, hungry and disenfranchised. Begun in 1966, modern services range from the Souper Center for nutritious, hot meals daily and the GRIP Resource Center for showers and toiletries, mail and telephone, and emergency clothing for clients. The Family Housing Program provides emergency shelter for families with children with its 75 beds. Finally, its Families in Transition program partners with the West Contra Costa County Unified School District to assist with transport, school uniforms and school supplies for homeless, runaway, unaccompanied or foster youth.



Stop Hunger Now! began in 1998 and is based in Raleigh, N.C. Today it is known as Rise Against Hunger. This organization and its volunteers has provided over 180 million meals in 65 countries around the world. At San Ramon Valley UMC, we have performed meal-packing events, including most recently on Mission Sunday, 2016. \$0.29 per meal funds dehydrated rice or soy meal, dehydrated vegetables, and spices.



Habitat for Humanity EBSV has been a presence in our region since 1986. This chapter takes on the task of building and rehabilitating houses in the expensive housing markets of Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties, and then providing them as affordable homes for low-income families to own. Here at SRVUMC, we've not only worked on local construction in Martinez, but we've also



Men's Breakfast

The Methodist Men's Group at our church holds a breakfast meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in Wesley Center. We enjoy Christian fellowship and listen to interesting speakers. We also raise money from our monthly contributions, proceeds from the annual Christmas breakfast with carols, and our annual crab feast. These funds go to supporting our church youth programs, various other church programs, and selected charitable causes. Please contact **Dean McWilliams** (OSI310@aol.com) if you plan to attend.



Upcoming Speakers

April 15—The Honorable Catherine Baker. Catherine is a member of our church and was recently elected for a second term as our local representative to the California State Assembly. She will cover some of the challenges facing our state and offer some solutions. This will be an all-church event.

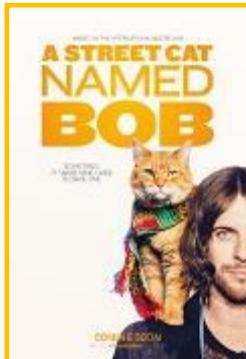
May 20—Gemma Heddle. Gemma is a member of our church and an environmental expert. She has two Masters degrees from MIT where she focused her studies on sustainable energy. She has worked for many years in the field of carbon management, including managing the greenhouse gas inventory and buying carbon offset and biofuel credits for a major oil and gas company. She will provide a personal perspective on climate change and explain what California is doing to address the issue.



Between the Bookends

By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

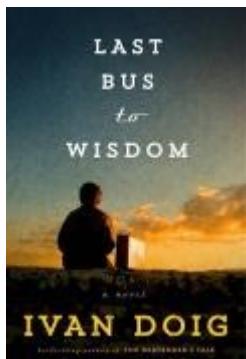
One of life's wonders and rewards is the books that flow to us, a constant stream of joy, wisdom, thoughtfulness and love. They may be fiction or nonfiction. Quite often they are historical fiction—a made-up story based on actual fact that helps us understand more fully a time or place. Here are four books, new to our Library, which come from very different directions but celebrate other times and other places.



Bowen, James. *A Street Cat Named Bob: And How He Saved My Life.*

This book has become an international sensation, spending time on bestseller lists in both England and the U. S. James Bowen was a London busker, a recovering drug addict eking out a living playing his guitar on the London streets when he found a ginger

tomcat lying in a doorway. The cat seemed to give him new purpose as he began to care for him, and he eventually named him Bob. Bob rewarded him by riding comfortably on Bowen's shoulder and even acting like a dog in his utter devotion. Bowen writes with humility and gratitude for the new life Bob gave him. Not to be missed.



Doig, Ivan. *Last Bus to Wisdom.*

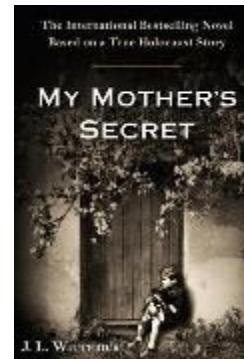
Donal Cameron is eleven years old and lives on a ranch near Wisdom, Montana, where his beloved Gram is the cook. When she must have surgery, she has no choice but to send Donal back to Wisconsin to stay with her estranged sister.

Donal's trip on the Greyhound bus (which they call the "dog bus") is a revelation, and things turn bad when Aunt Kate turns out to be everything Gram feared. But her husband, Herman, smooths the way for Donal—until finally Donal can take no more. When he slips out of the house and boards the "last bus to Wisdom", he's determined, but scared to death. That changes when getting on the bus behind him is Herman, also on his way out. This was Doig's last novel before his death and it's full of the heart and soul of the American West and the goodness

that can be found there.

Morgan, Robert J. *Then Sings My Soul; 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories.* These truly are the stories of many of our favorite and most hallowed hymns—how they came to be written and why. Do you love and remember *Fairest Lord Jesus*, *Sweet By and By*, *The Old Rugged Cross*, *Rock of Ages*, and *For the Beauty of the Earth*?

You'll be astonished and warmed to learn the actual history of these hymns. *Jesus Loves Me* was written by two sisters who taught Bible classes to the cadets at West Point for over forty years! Individual hymns are easily located since they are indexed by author/songwriter, title and first line. This is a treasure!



Witterick, J. L. *My Mother's Secret; A Novel Based on a True Holocaust Story.* World War II

stories continue to appear, many of them revealing yet another amazing and previously unknown story. This one is no exception. It is short and simply written, yet tells how a Polish farm woman hid a Jewish family in her basement, another Jewish family over her pig sty, and a defecting German soldier in her attic. None of them knew about the others. Franciszka and her daughter Helena risked everything because she said "it was the right thing to do." Humbling and unforgettable.

TV—If kids are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they'll have with twenty-six. Open your child's imagination. Open a book.

—Anonymous

Kindness Matters Corner



To all readers: One does not have to be exceptionally observant to listen, watch, and wonder at the one-on-one kindnesses that surround us. No fanfare. No spotlight. Just open hearts and compassion for others. Here is another quiet gift of kindness given in our Tri-Valley this month.

Something Just Wasn't Right! Our church member, Belinda, was just about done with the outside work she was doing on our church campus. The sun was going down, and it was very cold. While she put the finishing touches on the project, something along the sidewalk caught her eye. It was a frail woman in her sixties or seventies, wearing a light sweater, pants and tennis shoes. She had no coat or hat, and didn't carry a purse. Her only possession looked like a small stuffed animal. The woman moved along slowly, tentatively, as if lost on this cold late afternoon.

Belinda approached the woman and asked if she was looking for something or someone. The woman answered she was trying to go home. "I don't know," was the woman's reply to each of Belinda's questions: Where is your home? Is anyone looking for you? What is your name? Belinda noticed the giraffe stuffed animal, and spoke gently to the woman.

Belinda took the woman into Wesley Center, rubbed her hands to warm them, gave her a cup of hot water, and wrapped her in a blanket. Belinda called the non-emergency number of the Danville Police Department, and described the situation. After listening to Belinda, the officer asked, "Does she have a giraffe stuffed animal with her?" Bingo! A few minutes later, an officer arrived and continued the gentle voice and care for this woman as he said, "Pattie, we've been so worried about you, looking for you all day. Your family is worried about you. Come, let me take you home." The officer thanked Belinda for her care, concern, and kindness of this stranger.

Belinda later described this event as a God-moment for her. Belinda's friends agreed with her, and added it was also a God-moment for the woman. Pattie could have been ignored or worse.

Love is every kindness. What are your thoughts whenever you are performing a kindness for another? My head and heart are full of thoughts during those times, but I would like to know your thoughts. Email your experiences to kindness@srvumc.org.

It's so easy to be kind! Isn't that what we are, what we are meant to be, as we use our God-given gifts?"

**Watch for hand bells on
Palm Sunday and on
Music Sunday later this
spring!**



55+ UPDATE

Faith Sharing Book club will meet after **BOTH** Lunch with Friends & Adventuresome Seniors through Lent in an effort to finish the Book "**Gifts of the Dark Wood**" before Easter.


Remember!
Get packed up
and ready for
May 2 and 3
drop-off!

See details page 7.

ADVENTURESONE SENIORS, TUESDAY, 4/4 POTLUCK & SPEAKER

Our very own Jim Burk will speak on the schedule of events at our new ARC building specific to the 55+ crowd. Please bring a dish to share or stop at the Deli or bakery on your way over!

Please stick around to discuss chapters #4 & 5 of "**Gifts of the Dark Wood**"

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

21ST Restaurant Style Meal / No Program

Chef John Sanders will delight us with a Spring Strawberry & Spinach Salad his amazing Chicken Picante, leaks, green beans and small red roasted potatoes in a tarragon dressing. Yum! And we will enjoy that red velvet cake we've been waiting for!

Easter is behind us, but we will continue to discuss our Lenten book "**Gifts of the Dark Wood**" Chapters 6 & 7

TUESDAY APRIL



Announcements

VBS is July 10 to 13. Registration is now open online!

Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch April 9 in Wesley Center.

Brunch begins at 10 a.m. with Egg Hunt at about 11 a.m. Please bring a dish to share.

April 3 to 7—College Road Trip

April 9—NO CONFIRMATION

April 16—EASTER. No Sunday school, confirmation or youth group.

April 22—30-Hour Famine

April 30—Interfaith Youth Meeting at SRVUMC

May 6 at 3 p.m.—Rummage sale closeout! **Youth** to assist in packing up remaining items.

Crew

Who are the people you enjoy hanging out with most? Your friends, right? They laugh at your jokes, reply to your Snapchats, invite you to the movies, and hang out with you, even when you smell bad or show off your terrible dance moves. And whether you have a huge group of friends or just one BFF, they can have a huge impact on who you are now *and* who you become later. But have you ever thought about how you got those friends in the first place? Maybe their family just happened to move in down the street from yours, or you ended up in the same ballet class. Maybe you randomly sat next to each other in Chemistry or you just happened to play the same sport. While none of those are bad ways to make friends, it's strange that we leave such an important part of our lives to chance. Perhaps that's why the Bible has so much to say about how we choose and treat our friends. As we look to the Bible for advice about our friendships, we'll discover that one of the best things we can do for our crew is to be their friend on purpose.

Sunday School Topic:

Humility

Week 1

Bottom Line: I can put others first by serving them.

Week 2

Bottom Line: I can put others first by letting go of what I want.

Week 3

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bottom Line: I can put others first because Jesus put me first.

Week 4

Bottom Line: I can put others first by doing what Jesus said.

Week 5

Bottom Line: Put others first.

Weekly Programming

Middle School Youth Group

(Grades 6 to 8) On Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9 to 12)

On Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

High School Dinner Night Out (1st and 3rd Sundays)

from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. See our weekly email newsletters for locations

Every Sunday

9 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday school meets

K to Grade 5: Lamm Hall

Grades 6 to 12: Room 202

10:30 a.m. Nontraditional Worship

Confirmation meets in room 201 until 11:45 a.m.

Childcare for all ages in children's building, downstairs, either service.

Contact Us!

Stephanie Ham

Director of Children's Ministries
(Children through Grade 5)

sham@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext 106

Tawfick Fayed

Director of Youth Ministries

tfayed@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext.109

Music

These choirs are free and open to everyone to participate.

Cherub Choir (Preschool through Grade 1) and Archangel Choir (Grades 2 to 5)

Beth McClelland

Practice Wed from 3:15 to 4 p.m.

Performances the second and fourth Sundays of each month September through May

Youth Choir

Terri Hawk

Grades 6 to 12

Practice Sunday 10 to 11 a.m. in Conference Rm. Perform third Sunday of each month

Bros and Belles Choir

Winnie Stribling

Grades 6 to 12

Practice Wed from 5:15 to 6 p.m.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Jane Knox	Lea Patteson
Gene Brown	Elizabeth De Chene
Millie Loper	Edith Liggett
Lyn Bristow	
Jada Koonce	
Mary Roush	

Our Christian Sympathy To...

The friends and family of **Harriet Siegrist**. Harriett died on March 12. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on March 17.

The friends and family of **Vilva Robinett**. Vilva died on March 14 at the age of 94. Vilva was a member of SRVUMC since 1966. A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on March 25 at 2:00 p.m.

The friends and family of **Tom Kring**. Tom died unexpectedly on March 21. Details about a memorial service are forthcoming.

Continued Prayers For...

All those who continue to live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Bill Andrew; Lyn Bristow; Gene Brown; Lenore Cooper; Jeni Evans; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny Johnston; Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Edith Liggett; Margaret Matteson; Alex	Maddux; Mary Ogden; Lea Patteson; Mike Robinett; Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Pat Shoner; Jean Spencer; Carol Webb Samford; Joan Webb; Jeannine Woolery.
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Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$7/ea.)

EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL AND COURTYARD

Please designate (check one):

In honor of

In memory of

Name of person/s designated _____

I/We attach a donation of \$10.00 for the purchase of a plant. Cash Check #

(Checks payable to SRVUMC, note "Easter plant" on memo line;

call the church office if you wish to pay by credit card. DEADLINE for order is April 7th)

Donor's Name _____ Phone _____

Any funds not specifically needed for Easter decorations will be placed in the flower fund.

If you wish to take your plant, you must wait until after the 11 a.m. Easter Service.

April Celebrations

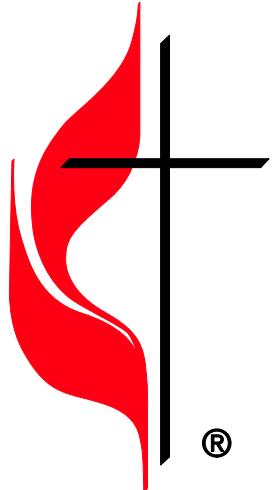
Birthdays

1	Steve Brown	9	Randy Helms	Ruth Riggan
	Julien Hansen	10	Kevin Dimler	Judy Pearson Kobsar
	Jim Hardy		Lucy Carrico	Randy Durrenberger
2	Dave Webb		Dave McWilliams	Kathi McShane
	Paul Yarmolich		Sandy Yarmolich	Shelley Lettis
3	Elizabeth Andrew	11	Jeff Leontini	Jennifer Andres
4	Linda Green		Blaine Mucklow	Nancy Vazquez
	Joanne Van Bezey		Craig Schleicher	Bill Dastic
5	Barbara Brick		Bill Schneider	Eric Johnson
	Robert Fenton		Rhona Sherrill	Lavonne Rodean
	Jayne Schnittker	12	Alice Anthony	Trevor Vazquez
6	Lonnie Bristow		Charlotte Garner (92)	John Evans
	Sam Colman		Jada Koonce	Bonnie Roberts
	Spencer Drake		Madison Luecht	Lillian Scherer (95)
	Taylor Munk		Margaret Matteson (103)	Brian Uitti
	Lee Russ	13	Warrie Alday	Sally Andrew
	Sarah Stribling		Doug Hinzie	Randy Christensen
7	Molly Ehlers		Bee Gee Millinich	Jill Shibuya
	Martha Kitajima		Rosanne Ogles	Charles Fiedler
	Jan Knadle	14	Christy Campbell	Boyd Hasik
	Johnathan Robinson		Cliff Campbell	Rafael Altamirano
8	Nancy Benvenuto		Madeline DeWalt	Jim Aude
	Jeryn Blair Smario		Bruce Koliha	Larry Henderson
	Trudy Pasquale	15	Alexis Bybel	Debbie Koos



Wedding Anniversaries

1	Deanna & Clayton Clark	8	Linda & John Green	12	Debra & Ed Chin	23	Kim & Will Maddux
3	Ginger & Warren McGuffin		Teri & Steve Hawk		Debbie & Greg Koos	24	Lael & Gerard Takiguchi
4	Amy & Mark Seaman		Sara & Jim Rossini		Deborah & Johnathan Robinson	25	Joanne & Randy Durrenberger
6	Susan & Ron Dunn		Jayne & John Schnittker (61 st)		20 Wendy & Tony Cooper (54 th)		Kirsten & Scott Ericson
7	Jean & Chuck Desmond	11	Marilyn & George Clarke		Laurie & Terry Stocking	26	Melanie & Boyd Hasik
	Kathy & Adam Kennedy		Winnie & Brad Stribling				



APRIL 2017

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Non-Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Child Care for birth-kindergarten is available during the morning services in the Children's Building

April 2017

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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