



The

Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

DECEMBER 2017

A Personal Point of View ~

In Mary—Darkness

Dear Friends,

Funerals were scheduled for this week in Sutherland Springs, Texas. This round of services would be particularly hard for the community because eight members of one family would be buried. I found myself praying for the families and the people attending the services while quietly wondering when the next attack would occur. Unfortunately, I didn't have long to wonder. This week (November 14), another shooting occurred in Tehama County. As of this writing, five people are dead, and three children are wounded.

Every week, there is breaking news of yet another shooting, a global disruption or political upheaval. There are "so many senseless killings, so much pain and suffering, it has been a difficult time for all of us."¹

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Next Issue: January 2018

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by **December 15, 2017.***

It feels like a growing darkness has enveloped our country and our world. With each act of violence, with every reporting of an environmental crisis, with every rumor of war, I am tempted to feel alone and hopeless.

Perhaps, this is why it's important to move slowly toward that great celebration of Christmas and not forego Advent. Advent says this is not the first time the world has been in a dark place. We have always worried about our world and our place in it.

Advent reminds us that God has entered into our dark world in the person of Jesus Christ **AND** that even in our present darkness, God is working, and we are not alone—

I discovered a poem, "In Mary—Darkness" by Jessica Powers, that speaks to my heart. I hope it speaks to yours (*next page*).

Wishing You Grace and Peace in this most holy of seasons,

Pastor Lorraine

¹ *Gently borrowed from Linda Green's meditation for the November 14 Staff Meeting.*

SRVUMC

902 Danville Blvd
Alamo, CA 94507

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.-12, 1-4:30 p.m.

Phone

(925) 837-5243

Fax

(925) 837-7263

Web site

www.srvumc.org

Ministers

EVERYONE

Lead Pastor

Ron Dunn (ext. 107)

Associate Pastor

Lorraine McNeal (ext. 108)

Youth Director

Jamere Crawford (ext 109)

Director of Children's Ministries

Laura Roy (ext 106)

Office Administrator, Membership,

Accounts Receivable

Shannon Dever (ext 105)

Finance Administrator

Accounts Payable

Coreen Janes (ext 104)

Facilities & Purchasing Manager

Marilyn Clarke (ext 102)

Music Director

Bruce Koliha

Organist

Nadia Blank-Koliha

U.M. Preschool Director

Paulette Ove (ext 113)

Communications Direc- tor

Linda Green

Director Membership & Mission

Kathleen Saghafi (ext 110)

Messenger Editor

Lisa Jancarik

newsletter@srvumc.org

In Mary—Darkness

By Jessica Powers

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary
And on one night when a great star swings free
From its high mooring and walks down the sky
To be the dot above the Christus i,
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
I wait in Mary—darkness, faith's walled place,

With hope's expectance of nativity.
I knew for long she carried me and fed me,
Guarded and loved me, though I could not see,
But only now, with inward jubilee,
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
Someone is hidden in this dark with me.



Christmas Is Coming to SRVUMC!

We are planning the annual Children's Christmas Pageant and need your help!

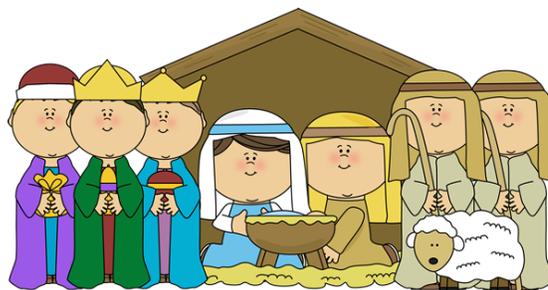
The Pageant will be on **Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.**

It is a simple retelling of the Christmas Story and we'd love your family to be involved. It is a wonderful tradition that your children will carry with them throughout their lives!

The parts include:

- 2 Narrators
- Mary, Joseph, and Angel Gabriel
- Three Wise People
- Inn Keepers
- Angels (the children's choir)
- Shepherds and Sheep (the little ones)

We would send home a script for practice and then do a walk through at 3 p.m., before the service. Would your children like to participate? It would be so fun to be the storytellers for our church family this year. Please email me as soon as possible: lroy@srvumc.org. Thank you for responding! I'm looking forward to a blessed Christmas season with your families.





Keep the ARC Gate Closed and the Neighbors Happy

As a part of our being a good neighbor, we have both a responsibility and an agreement with our neighbors to the east (on the other side of the creek), to keep the green iron gate at the north/west corner of the ARC closed whenever possible. That prevents unauthorized persons from entering the area behind the ARC and potentially making unnecessary noise, certainly at night but also during the day.

When The Gate Is Open

It is understood that there will be times when that gate must be opened. For example, when there is a large event that requires the 30+ parking spaces in the back to be utilized, such as Sunday services or a memorial service. Other occasions would be when the Republic Services trash collector needs access to the large dumpsters for both garbage and recycled material, as well as the smaller “green waste” receptacles used by our “Sod Busters.” Volunteers preparing food for our friends at Trinity Center also need to carry food items to and from their vehicles to the kitchen and back again, and gaining access to the rear kitchen door is helpful in this regard. Our preschool staff finds it convenient to park in the rear to facilitate carrying items from their vehicles to the preschool office and classrooms. Finally, our favorite volunteers, Boyd and Brian, need to drop off and pick up things from their vehicles as a part of their work on a wide variety of projects.

When You Park in “Overflow”

Therefore, to meet both the spirit and letter of our agreement with the neighbors, once we enter the so-called “overflow” parking area, we must subsequently get out of our vehicles and close the gate behind us, both when entering and exiting. The only exception to this rule is when there is a large event. Then the leaving of the gate open until everyone has vacated the area is acceptable. Yes, it is a little more effort, but it is important to do this not to incur both an unhappy neighbor, and, most importantly, avoid a lawsuit by meeting the requirements of the agreement we have with our neighbors to the east.

The importance of meeting this agreement cannot be overstressed. Your cooperation in closing the gate after yourself will ensure that we are, in fact, good neighbors and will enable us to avoid costly litigation. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Jim Burk

Who Can Leave the Gate Open

- All of us, when there is a large event, like Sunday services or a memorial service
- Republic Services on trash pickup days
- Trinity Center volunteers who use the Wesley kitchen through the rear kitchen door
- Preschool staff transferring articles to and from classrooms
- Volunteers Boyd and Brian when going to and from their vehicles as part of their various projects on the church campus.

“Therefore, to meet both spirit and letter of our agreement...we must subsequently get out of our vehicles and close the gate behind us, both when entering and exiting....The only exception to this rule is when there is a large event.”



Pickleball Lessons!

Thursdays 11 a.m. to Noon or Noon to 1 p.m.

\$10 per lesson plus \$4 entry fee at ARC (fee allows continuous play for the afternoon session)

What Is “Pickleball”, Anyway?

According to the [USA Pickleball Association website](#) and www.lifetimedaily.com, pickleball is a paddle sport that borrows from tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Easy to learn, this sport is drawing adults looking for low-impact exercise that can burn up to 250 calories per 30-minutes session.

All-Church Time at the ARC

Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

NEW TIME! Sundays 3 to 5 p.m.



Pacific Lutheran University Men’s Hoops Drops by the ARC

SRVUMC’s own **Dylan DeWalt** plays guard for the Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) Lutes. Dylan and his team trained at the ARC on Friday, November 24, ahead of games versus University of LaVerne on Saturday, November 25, and UC-Santa Cruz on Sunday, November 26. The Lutes face competitors from Division III of the Northwest Conference.

According to its [website](#), PLU is a private university located in the Parkland neighborhood of Tacoma, WA. Founded in 1890 but Norwegian pioneers, today the school offers 3,100 students from a range of faiths and backgrounds the core elements of Martin Luther’s thoughts about education.

Peace Love Yoga
6-Week Winter Yoga Series!
 With **Annetta McCarty**
Tues, 9:15 to 10:15 **Nov. 14—Dec. 19**
Fri, 9:15 to 10:15 **Nov. 17—Dec. 22**

- Learn classic yoga postures
- Build strength
- Gain greater flexibility, balance and body awareness
- Relieve stress and have fun!
- Explore the balance between effort and relaxation
- Combine the strength and focus of held postures with the serenity and release of breath-directed movement

One-series cost: \$84; Two-series cost: \$144...or drop in! \$15 at the door.

Contact Annetta to sign up: info@annettamccarty.com, phone 925-285-3128.

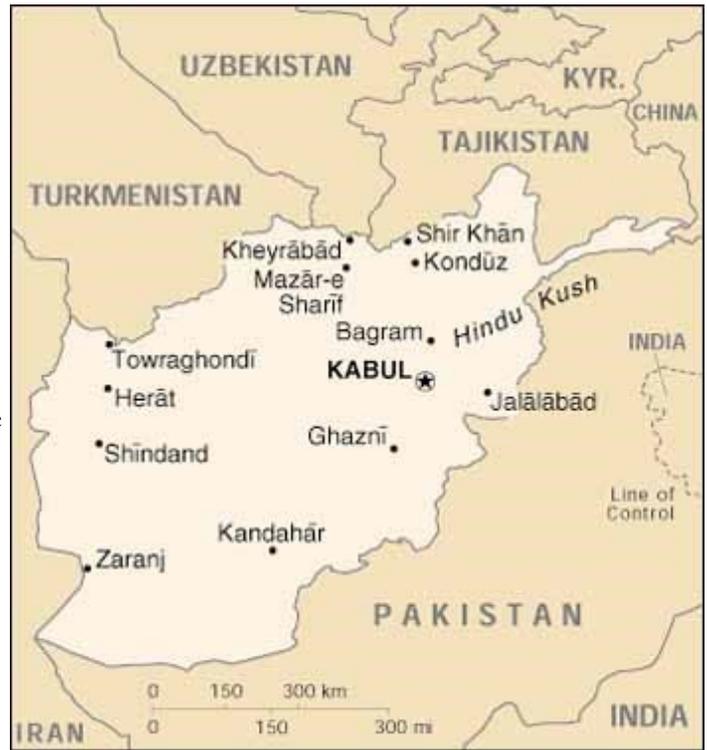
All props provided, and all levels welcome!

Refugee Family Update

First of all, I want to say that support for our refugee families is a true testament to different churches working together for a common good. Our task force is now made up of the United Methodist Circuit, The Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints of Danville and Antioch, St. Isidore and First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. We have been very busy.

Sana, Shazia and Five Little Boys

Our current refugee family, father Sana, mother Shazia, and five little boys, ages two-and-a-half through twelve, are successfully settled in a home in Antioch. As you may recall, they are from Afghanistan and left that country under threat of ISIS. Four of the boys are enrolled in school, thriving and very happy. Sana is currently working part-time jobs to support the family, while Shazia is home with their youngest son, Farhan. We currently have a team of people that go to Antioch each weekday to teach Shazia English and to also spend time with the boys after school. Through the monies our churches have raised, we have assisted with Sana and Shazia with rent, furnishing their home, beautifying their yard, purchasing school supplies and uniforms for the boys, and many other things. Our group has also been very instrumental in finding Sana employment, teaching English, finding a van for the large family, assisting in managing family finances etc.



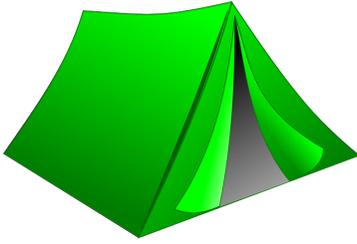
Nabi, Sanga and Seven Children

While working with Sana, we met Nabi, a friend of Sana who had sponsored Sana and his family in coming to the United States. Nabi and his wife, Sanga, have seven children. Nabi was an interpreter for the U.S. military but left Afghanistan under threat of ISIS. When they arrived in the U.S. two and a half years ago, they did not receive the same type of support (emotional and financial) our churches provided to Sana and his family. Nabi and his family fell into debt and were soon to be evicted from their apartment in Antioch. One of the members of our task force is a realtor and was able to secure Section 8 Housing for the family in El Dorado Hills. They have successfully moved to El Dorado Hills, and the kids are doing very well in school. Our task force helped Nabi's family find more affordable housing in a much nicer neighborhood. Additionally, our group was able to furnish their new apartment and move the family successfully. One team member was able to intervene with Nabi's finances and work out a strategy for paying off his debt. Nabi is currently working part-time while our group works with him to find full-time employment. In several weeks, we will transition support of Nabi and his family to a church in El Dorado Hills who has graciously offered to sponsor the family locally.

What's Next?

We will discontinue financial support of Sana and Shazia after December 2017 but will continue to act as tutors and friends. We will revisit taking on another family at that time.

If you have questions or would like to join the task force please call, text or email **Liz Bayat** at **925-487-9693** or lbayat@aol.com.



SRVUMC Hosts Winter Nights 2018 Volunteers Still Needed

January 15 through January 29, 2018

During this period, we will split our time with St. Isidore's Parrish to provide for the daily requirements for the program. **We still need people to provide meals for the group, to be overnight hosts, to unload the truck on January 15, to coordinate fun activities for kids and adults, to tutor school children, and to manage site and kitchen activities.** *If you would like to volunteer to help or to donate to this effort, please contact Susan Dowling at sue_dowling@comcast.net or 925-648-5184.*

This year, shelter participants include a large number of younger children. Donations needed are:

Diapers and size 4T pull ups	Umbrella Strollers	Car seat (rear to forward facing)
Toy and Games for ages 6 mo to 15 years	Towels (do not have to be new)	Pillows and Twin fitted Sheets (do not have to be new)
Flashlights and batteries	Deodorant	Baby wipes
Lysol or Clorox Wipes	Socks of all Sizes	Gift Cards – gas, Walmart, Target

Mission Volunteers & Communion Giving

Special Offerings

Lent - Haiti Solar Ovens \$16,050
 Hurricane Harvey Clean-up Buckets \$7,500
 Rise Against Hunger Meals 15,000
 Habitat Playhouses - 2

December 2017 Volunteers

- Coffee hour - 14 volunteers
- Sodbusters - 20 volunteers
- Food For Thought - 20 volunteers
- Souper Center - 4 volunteers
- Sunshine Singers -18 volunteers
- Angel Tree – All the Angels who donated gifts

Month	Entity	Amt
Jan	Haiti	\$2,625
Feb	Limb Restoration	\$1,348
Mar	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,694
Easter	Rise Against Hunger	\$2,000
	Habitat for Humanity	\$1,200
	Interfaith Council	\$1,000
	Richmond Interfaith	\$2,840
	1 st Methodist Church - Salinas	\$2,840
April	Trinity Center	\$2,330
May	Local Youth Mission	\$2,031
Jun	African University	\$200
	Weed CA Fire Recovery	\$1,163
Jul	Monument Crisis Center	\$791
	Stand for Families Free of Violence	\$791
Aug	Guatemala Wheelchair Program	\$3115
Sep	Hurricane Harvey	\$9,067.36
Oct	World Communion	\$200
	Mission Sunday	\$2,014
Nov	North Bay Fires	\$9,099
Dec	UMCOR World Aids Day	0
	Youth Homes	0
	BAAVFS	0
Christmas	Winter Nights	0
	Global Missions	0
	UMCOR	0
Totals		\$45,511

Mission Opportunities

Guatemala Wheelchair Mission—We have reached our limit of volunteers for this trip but will be returning in 2019. Thank you to all who gave to this worthwhile and meaningful cause. Contact **Paul Kuelz** at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net or 925-831-3128 for more information.



Recent food drive donations sent to Redwood Empire Food Bank to assist wildfire volunteers and first responders were much appreciated!

Which 2017 Missions Are Pictured?

1



3



1. Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano; 2. Winter Nights; 3. Hurricane Harvey relief; 4. A client from the Guatemala wheelchair mission; 5. Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build; 6. Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. Thanks to everyone who shared photos of these exciting mission events to the newsletter!

December Communion Offering



Each year, the United Methodist Church observes World AIDS Day on December 1. UMCOR participates, and it states on the [UMCOR website](#) the objectives of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF):

- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Prevention of HIV infection in young people and high-risk populations
- Increased access to AIDS counseling, testing and treatment
- Stigma reduction and psychosocial support for people living with HIV

As of 2015, UMGAF established by UMCOR had funded 287 church-related or Christ-centered projects in 44 countries.

According to [www.aids.gov](#), **36.7 million people worldwide currently live with HIV/AIDS**, based on 2015 statistics. Of the world population afflicted with HIV/AIDS, **1.8 million were children** aged less than 15 years.

For comparison, 36.7 million people was nearly the entire population of California as of 2015.



Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families (BAAYFS)

This worthy organization provides residential, educational and support services for children and teens removed from lives of abuse and neglect. While both boys and girls find foster families through this agency, adolescent girls have access to residential programs based in Pittsburg and Concord.

BAAYFS board president **Patrick Davis** founded this organization in 2002. Some of you will remember him when he taught Bible study classes at SRVUMC and when his wife, **Dawn Boyd**, worked at this church.

BAAYFS seeks to shepherd the children it serves into caring living situations, regular public school attendance, and the development of life skills for integration into their communities. BAAYFS also facilitates enrollment in sports teams, music and art programs for youth who want to join in those activities. On-site mental health and social work also facilitate these goals for kids who can benefit from them.

Our communion offering supports ongoing needs at BAAYFS include hygiene products, bed linens, paper goods for kitchen and bath, as well as video and board games or movie passes. If you are inspired to give of your time, BAAYFS welcomes volunteer mentors and tutors.



Youth Homes, Inc.

Based in Pleasanton, CA, Youth Homes, Inc. helps hundreds of foster children and families annually with housing and support. Most of these children, removed by the courts for abuse or neglect, are between 12 and 17 years old, although Youth Homes has placed children as young as six in their residential programs. The kids they serve may be housed in either of two Crisis Assessment homes, either of two Intensive Residential homes, or placed with private foster families.

Founded in 1965, this organization is the oldest continually operating children's residential program in Contra Costa County. Much of their funding comes from state and local government agencies, but 13% comes from private donations like our December Communion Offering. Of this money, 79% is spent directly on programs supporting the children they serve.



Christmas Offering

Mission Work in Nepal and Zimbabwe

Larry and Jane Kies continue their mission work in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Larry is a technical advisor to the Africa University Farm, while Jane teaches intensive English to students at Africa University.

Katherine Parker serves as a missionary in Nepal, focusing on health, hygiene and sanitation. Local to Mill Valley, Katherine visited SRVUMC back in May 2016 to update us on her work.



Missionary Katherine Parker visits in May 2016. Parker's work in Nepal continues with our support.

Winter Nights

Many SRVUMC members are already very familiar with this project. Organized by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Winter Nights local homeless population. Each congregation hosts for two weeks, providing bedding, meals and other services (this year, we will host in the Wesley Center from January 15 through 29—you can sign up to help!). Two thirds of this project's budget comes from the contributions of individuals and congregations in Contra Costa County. Guests are screened and have dependent children.

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

According to their [website](#), this organization has served four million meals in Contra Costa County since 1983. They have a presence in Antioch, Bay Point, Martinez, Pittsburg and Oakley, and a partner site in Walnut Creek (Trinity Homeless Outreach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church). Together they have organized thousands of volunteers to serve over 170,000 meals annually (about 14,000 hot lunches monthly) and to distribute over 100 tons of groceries each year.



Bay Area Rescue Mission and Shelter

The Bay Area Rescue Mission and Shelter recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary of assisting the homeless and hungry in the region. BARM ministers to men, women and children. Since their founding in 1965, they have served over 20,000,000 meals and offered 4,000,000 bed-nights of shelter. Last year, this privately funded organization provided more than 1,450,000 meals and 85,000 nights of shelter. These essentials must be available to protect health and state of mind, and addressing these immediate needs allows BARM guests "to begin addressing their problems," according to [the group's website](#).



Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

According to this organization's website, 1 in 8 residents of the area they serve receives food from the Food Bank, and 1 in 3 of the Food Bank's clients had to choose between buying food or paying for housing. Roughly 190,000 people are served monthly. Of the 20 million pounds of food this organization distributes annually, more than half is fresh produce. The food comes from manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, but also from gardens, food drives and individuals.



Fred Finch Youth Centers

Established as an orphanage in 1891 by Duncan and Eunice C. Finch, the Fred Finch Youth Center has



evolved to serve area children and adolescents with a range of personal challenges. This organization has center locations in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and San Diego Counties. The kids touched by this organization face poverty, violence, addiction and other challenges. Fred Finch assists with residential care for some children and adolescents, but many receive services through their public schools or through the Fred Finch non-public school special education. In its 2016 annual report, Fred Finch celebrated serving over 50,000 area children since its inception over 125 years ago.



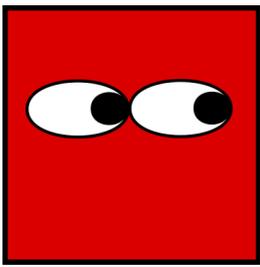
Trinity Center Winter Evening Program

Trinity Center's Evening Program is slated to return to the Walnut Creek Armory this year, with plans to run seven days a week from **December 4 through March 31**. The Winter Evening program provides check-in and dinner at the Trinity Center and overnight stay at the Armory. This year, the Trinity Center has acquired a new (to them) van to transport clients from one location to the other.

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church enjoys a fruitful relationship of donation and volunteer efforts with Trinity Center throughout the year, but during this season, when this normally non-residential organization operates its overnight program at the Armory, the center needs some extra help from all of us. If you would like to share your time as a volunteer at Trinity's Winter Evening Program, visit their link on SignUp.com.



Endowment, the Gift That Keeps on Giving.



Looking for Notes from the November Church Council Meeting?
 Planning around Thanksgiving meant missing the print deadline.
Come to the December 28 meeting at 7 p.m. to get caught up!



Photo attributed to First American. Taken September 19, 2010. Appears on Flickr.com under creative commons license.

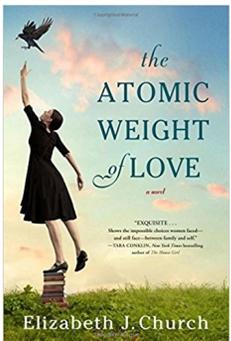
Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB)

Since 1942, Guide Dogs for the Blind has trained dogs to empower blind and low-vision individuals from across the United States and Canada. Founders Lois Merrihew and Don Donaldson trained dogs like Blondie, a German shepherd rescued from a pound, and then paired them with servicemen returning from World War II without their sight (Blondie was paired with Sgt. Leonard Foulk). During the two-week training for people who are learning to live with their guide dogs, the student-instructor ratio is 2:1, with follow-up visits and support centers available as needed. Donations support GDB's efforts to raise puppies, equip clients and serve alumni.

Afternoon Book Group
Mondays, 1 p.m.
Room 202, Wesley Center

January 22—*The Atomic Weight of Love* by Elizabeth J. Church
 (Debbie leading)

Please note that this is the fourth Monday of the month instead of the third in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.





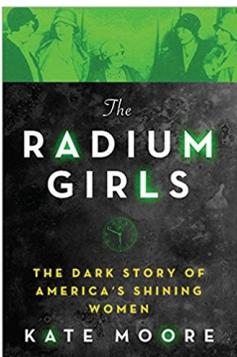
Between the Bookends



By Sally Christopherson, Librarian

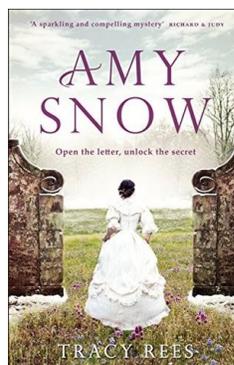
The Christmas books are out! There are so many reasons why the Christmas holiday season is special, and one of them is the wonderful books full of warmth, light and love that reflect this time of year. Our library has oodles of them—some that contain Advent devotions and meditations, some stories of worldwide Nativity celebrations. There’s even one about the story of the poinsettia and how it came to be our traditional Christmas flower. We also have Christmas-themed mystery novels (*Slay Bells*), heartwarming animal stories (*The Cat Who Came for Christmas*), and an empty-nest story that turns funny and will have you chortling (*Skipping Christmas*). So, check out the Book Cart—the Christmas books will be on one side of it, and books for “regular” reading will be on the other.

We also have an astounding collection of Christmas books for children—so many that we put out a separate Book Cart just for them! Browse through them to see how beautiful children’s books can be, and even better, share one or two of them with a child! And now, read on to see what else is new!



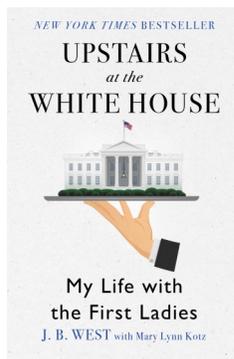
Moore, Kate. *The Radium Girls; The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women.* Do you remember when you could buy a wristwatch or Baby Ben clock with numbers that glowed in the dark? They were painted with radium, of course, and hailed as the latest scientific discovery. But even though Thomas Edison and others had noted radium could be dangerous, the warnings were ignored by companies anxious to capitalize on the novelty.

Young, blue-collar girls were hired at high wages to hand-paint those clock faces. And as awful sickness, early death, and disability grew among the girls, companies never accepted responsibility. A beautifully written and painstakingly researched account of a tragedy. Thank you, Winnie Stribling.



Rees, Tracy. *Amy Snow.* Wealthy, only child Aurelia Vennaway found a tiny baby girl abandoned in the snow on her family’s huge estate. Aurelia somewhat whimsically named her Amy Snow and, against her parents’ wishes, loved the child and treated her as her beloved little sister. When Aurelia tragically died at age 22, teenaged Amy was turned out from the only home she’d ever

known. Aurelia had secretly provided for Amy...but Amy must follow coded instructions that only she would be able to solve to claim the inheritance Aurelia had left for her. A tale of love and devotion that is difficult to put down.

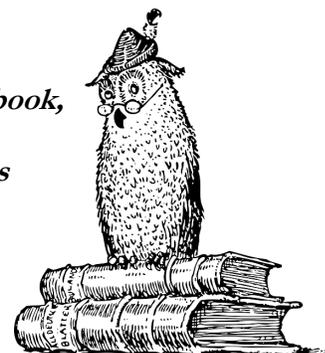


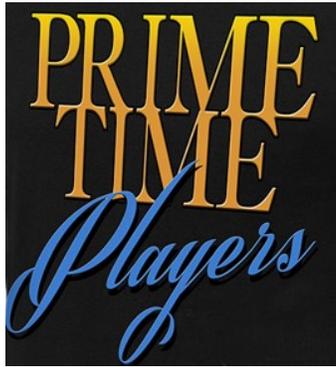
West, J. B. *Upstairs at the White House; My Life with the First Ladies.* J. B. West was the Chief Usher at the White House for twenty-eight years. That meant he served six presidential families from the Roosevelts through the Trumans, Eisenhowers, Kennedys, and Johnsons to the Nixons. He oversaw their personal quarters and witnessed their family dynamics. While

he is discreet and respectful, he is also wry and witty in his down-home observations. He observed the well-behaved Eisenhower grandchildren, LBJ’s costly determination to install a shower that was forceful enough (it knocked over the Secret Service agent who tested it) and Jackie Kennedy’s plan for Caroline and John’s playground on the White House grounds. A real treat!

*Even if you only borrow a book,
you get to keep the ideas!*

--Anonymous





OH BOY! I LOVE IT WHEN MARK SHAW SINGS MY STUFF!



MERRY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON!

Tuesday, December 12 – Chef John Sanders will cook up his traditional (and FABULOUS!) holiday fare—all over 55 (come on, we know who you are!) are invited to this end-of-year event. Mark Shaw will reenact Frank Sinatra Holiday favorites, so bring your dancing shoes and get ready for a singalong! So fun! Please RSVP to the office or Nancy at nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com.

Moving into 2018!

Prime Time Players Pot Luck and Presentation, Tuesday, January 9—Jerry Ricker will present “An Amazing Amazon Adventure.”

Lunch with Friends, Tuesday, January 16—Restaurant-quality meal for a \$5 donation. All over 55 are welcome and encouraged to attend. Great fun and fellowship!

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

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. (Checks payable to SRVUMC are due by Monday, December 18, in the Church Office.) _____

Donor’s name _____ Phone _____

All flowers purchased this year will go to shut-ins.

Any funds not specifically needed for Christmas will be placed in the Flower Fund.

I can help deliver plants to shut-ins December 26 _____



Calendar

December 3—Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas

December 24—Christmas Pageant rehearsal 3 p.m. *See Page 2 if you want to participate!*

Children’s Ministry Sunday Topics

WEEK 1
Bottom Line: Because God gave, I can give.

WEEK 2
Bottom Line: Don’t miss your chance to give.

WEEK 3
Bottom Line: Look for creative ways to give.

WEEK 4
Bottom Line: God gave us Jesus.

WEEK 5
Bottom Line: Give like you’re giving to God.

Memory Verse: “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” *1 Timothy 6:18*

Every Sunday

9 a.m. Traditional Worship
 Sunday school meets
 PreK to Grade 2: Otterbein
 Grades 3 to 5: Room 203
 Grades 6 to 12: Room 202
Childcare either service in Tot Spot.
 Confirmation meets in room 201 until 11:45 a.m.

Contact Us!

Laura Roy
 Children’s and Family Ministries
 (Children through Grade 5)
lroy@srvumc.org
 (925)837-5243 ext 106

Jamere Crawford
 Youth Director
jcrawford@srvumc.org
 (925)837-5243 ext.109

Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas!
 Sunday, December 3
 Children and Families Please Join Us!

10:45 a.m.—Hanging of the Greens—
 Sanctuary

12 p.m.—Advent Festival and Soup
 Lunch—Wesley Hall

No Children’s Sunday school at 9 a.m.
 Children’s Choir will practice at 10 a.m.

This will be a great way for our children to serve their church family by decorating the sanctuary and for families to create memories at the fun festival as we begin the busy Christmas season.



Music

These choirs are free and open to everyone to participate.

Children’s Choir (PreK through 5th)
Beth McClelland
 Practice Sundays 10 to 10:30 a.m.
 Performances fourth Sunday each month and special events.

Youth Choir
Teri 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.

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

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Paula Boswell
Jo Ann Hirsch
Rich Johannessen
Dale Stevenson
Victor Hymes
John Hammond

Our Christian Sympathy To...

Coreen Janes and family on the death of her aunt.
Patrick Davis and family on the unexpected death of his brother, David, in Alabama. Cards may be sent to 771 La Alondra Way, Gilroy, CA 95020.

Thank You...

To our friends at SRVUMC:
Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and calls in sympathy for the death of Jeff's dad, Jim. It felt like a great outpouring of love. Many of you remembered Jim from the years he attended Living Water in Wesley Center. That meant a lot to us. It was a very special time in his life and ours. God bless you all.
Jeff and Teresa Stroin

Contact Information Change...

Martha Kitajima's new address:
3363 Streamside Cir. GT-J102
Pleasanton CA 94588
Home: 925-201-7672

Victoria da Roza's new address:
101 Rolling Sage Cir.
Vacaville CA 95688
Phone: 707-514-7265

Continued Prayers For...

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

Name Tags

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

Help Wanted...

We are in immediate need of a Memorial Reception Coordinator to work with Roni Item, our current Memorial Coordinator. Coordinating both the memorial service and reception is too much for one person, though Roni has been handling it by herself for several years. A flexible schedule is key, since memorials are often planned with minimal notice. This position pays \$150 per event. For more information, contact Shannon in the Church Office.

Housing Wanted...

Our very own SRVUMC soloist Kristen Princiotta is on the hunt for a new place to live in the East Bay starting March. If you or anyone you know has a guest house, in-law unit, or private space available for rent, please contact Kristen at kristenprinciotta@gmail.com.

December Celebrations



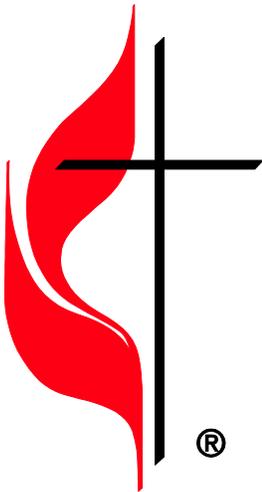
Birthdays

1 K Leigh Alfrey	Don Weis	Annette Whiting	
Chuck Desmond	Suzanne Ziarnik	15 Cassidy Barry	
David Hagebush	8 Emily Baker	Jim Braden	22 Kevin Isbell
Liz Hirsch	Cary Johnson (98!!)	Horace Crawford	HollyAnn Melton
Victoria Longstreet	9 Kirsten Choy	John Larkins	Flo Spanier (96!!)
2 Sunny Ahn	Sandy Clark	17 Patrick Dowling	23 Gayle Jackson
Aimee Knese	Ali Kuelz	Teresa Fimby-Christensen	Angela Norton
Anita Weir-Ball	Epi Vazquez	Gretl Winter	24 Caroline Marsh
3 Marissa Clarke	10 Wendi Cerda	18 Anne Kuelz	Suzanne Shea
Greg Koos	Karen Steffy	Kay Tarr	25 Quentin Alexander
Jane Roath	11 David Cashin	19 Myra Gordon	26 Sherry Moré
4 Lois Hammond	12 Laura Brown	Teresa Stroin	Logan Nicco
Ray Shea	Joan Webb	20 Kathleen Isbell	27 Lauren Dowling
5 Aly Kelly	13 Olivia Bybel	21 Heather Coffman Givens	Evelyn Evans
6 Kathleen Saghafi	Harrison Pavel	Lindsay Portman	28 Jane Knox (91)
7 Niles Bybel	Robbie Rigolfi, Jr.	Susan Pickering-Gest	29 George Hawk
Connie Erickson	Deborah Robinson	Anna Ralston	Kevin Keen
Kathy Fulcher	David Shaw	Kate Steffy	30 Phyllis Meyer
Merrily Gervais	14 Lillian Baker Holleman	Kerri Wakefield	31 Warren McGuffin
Sketch Sketchley	Ivan Kerr		Phyllis Wood

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Pam & Bob Dominici (51)	22 Gerry & Jim Aude	31 Georgia & Steve Wilkens
	Yuri & Steve Beagles	
3 Sharon & Bob Leyman	27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz	
Paula & Hal Lyons	28 Sheryl & Ivan Kerr (55)	
9 Renée & Doug Beck	Laurel & Geoff Portman	
15 Rosemarie & John Place (55)	29 Eleanor & Fred Toney	
16 Aubrie & Jeff Flores	(56)	
21 Shelley & Bill Lettis	30 Mary & Carl Ogden	
	(52)	

DECEMBER 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

December 2017

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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