



# the Valley Messenger

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

OCTOBER 2014

*A Personal Point of View~*

## “What is Your Verse?”

*“The powerful play goes on and each may contribute a verse. What is your verse?”*

—Walt Whitman

Robin Williams’ recent death is one that has left a large and empty place in our lives. He had that unique gift of being able to make us laugh and cry, often at the same time. One of my favorite Robin Williams films is, “The Dead Poet’s Society.” If you’ve seen that film, you may remember the scene in which he teaches his students about the true meaning of poetry. After instructing them to rip out the text book definition of poetry’s meaning, he then delivers a passionate description of the beauty and meaning that it provides. He concludes his description by quoting the great poet, Walt Whitman...

*“The powerful play goes on and each may contribute a verse. What is your verse?”*

It is a powerful scene that raises an important question: What is the verse that you may choose to contribute to the “powerful play” that is the life that you have been privileged to

live? What gift, what legacy will you leave to the generations yet to come? Will this world be a better place because of the difference that you choose to make?

This, of course, is an important question to ask not only of ourselves as individuals, but to ask of ourselves as a community of faith. What difference will we choose to make? What legacy will we leave to our children and our children’s children? As we move into our stewardship focus this October, we will be reflecting upon these questions.

By the grace of God and the generosity of many, we find ourselves poised to build upon the strong foundation of ministry that has already been poured. We have a very active and energetic congregation that is engaged in a vital and growing ministry in many areas, including outreach and service to others, dynamic worship, engaging small groups for spiritual growth, and exciting programs for children and youth. Our “verse” is one that is already contributing to a better life for many, both within our faith community and the greater community beyond us.

This contribution, however, is one that didn’t just happen by accident. Instead, it is the result of the work and dedication of many, led by a talented and dedicated staff. As you are aware, we have been blessed by the gifts and abilities of both our office and ministry staff. Having the day-to-day privilege of working with these individuals, I know, first hand, not only of their talent, but their amazing dedication to the work of this church and the ministries that we provide. Each of our staff members has made it her/his goal to serve this congregation and its goal of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Time and again, I have been impressed with their energy, passion and dedication to their work, work that often goes “above and beyond” normal expectation.

As our stewardship focus unfolds, you will be hearing more about our staff members and the specific contributions that they are making on a daily basis. It would be difficult to

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***Next Issue: November 1, 2014***

*Final day for submissions: October 24, 2014*

*Please submit articles to: [syarmolich@srvumc.org](mailto:syarmolich@srvumc.org)*

## SRVUMC

902 Danville Blvd  
Alamo, CA 94507

Office Hours:  
8:30am-12 & 1-4:30pm

Phone  
(925) 837-5243

Fax  
(925) 837-7263

Web site  
[www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org)

Ministers  
EVERYONE

Lead Pastor  
Ron Dunn (ext. 107)

Pastor  
Sunny Ahn (ext 109)

Associate Pastor  
Luke Ham (ext. 108)

Director of Children's  
Ministries  
Stephanie Ham (ext 106)

Director of  
Membership & Mission  
Devon Drake (ext 110)

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)

Child Care Manager:  
Angela Norton

Messenger Editor  
Sandy Yarmolich  
[syarmolich@srvumc.org](mailto:syarmolich@srvumc.org)

imagine where we would be without the good work that they are doing. This, of course, is very important to keep in mind as we consider our choice to support the work of our church with our financial gifts. It is our choice to be generous that,

in turn, makes possible a ministry that is transforming lives—lives that are helping to transform our world.

As Whitman suggests, “the powerful play goes on” and we each may contribute a verse. Your choice to support the work and ministry of our

staff is one that is enabling us to make a difference--all the difference in the world.

*With Grace and  
Gratitude,  
Ron*



This fall, we're pleased to offer three, unique educational and spiritual growth opportunities for adults. These three workshops, known as Learning In Community or LINC, meet on Wednesday evenings for six-weeks. The workshops, entitled, Spiritual, but not Religious, Parenting Teens in a Confusing Culture and Exploring Spirituality, deal with the cultural, spiritual or values issues we've all struggled with at one time, or another. Be sure to pick up a LINC brochure from the church office, Narthex or Wesley foyer brochure racks..

The fall LINC series run from Oct. 1 - Nov. 5 and meets from 7-8pm. This series also coincides with our Middle School Youth Group, which meets from 6-8pm.

### *Spiritual but not Religious*

Is there a place for belief in God in today's culturally diverse society? Isn't Christianity for anti-intellectuals-people who lack critical thinking skills? What positive role could "organized religion" ever play in my or

## Six-Week Series Explores Spirituality and Parenting Teens *Series Begins Oct. 1*

anyone else's life? These are good and worthy questions!

During this workshop series, we will explore these questions and perhaps discover that there is a way to seek to be spiritual and still be authentic to yourself! This series is facilitated by Pastor Ron and meets in the Administrative Building Conference room.

### *Exploring Spirituality*

If you hunger for a deeper spiritual life, but do not know where to start, Exploring Spirituality is for you. This transformative six-week series features...

- Definition of Spirituality
- Christian Spirituality Overview based on the Bible
- Spirituality of the Good News within the Context of Communities of Faith
- Introduction to Ways of Praying with Scripture

This series is facilitated by Pastor Sunny & Phyllis Meyer and meets in Lamm Hall.

### *Parenting Teens in a Confusing Culture*

Do you feel like you're holding a family together when it seems the world is falling apart? Today's teens face the clash of our culture vs. their faith in their everyday lives. It's a world that as parents, we can't even imagine, don't understand and often misjudge. In this confusing culture, parents often feel lost and alone. If this sounds like you, this six-week session is just for you.

We will discuss 32 tough questions asked by parents of teenagers and help you better understand the forces behind the issues your teens are facing. These include such things as risky teenage behaviors like drinking or experimenting with drugs, social & academic issues at school, internet influence, and bullying via social media, rebellion, entitlement, teenage anger, disrespect, and dishonesty.

This series is facilitated by Jane VanderWerf, meets in Wesley Room 204.



# October Communion Offering Benefits World Communion Sunday & Napa First United Methodist Church



*Our October Communion Offering will be split between the United Methodist Church's World Communion Sunday and the earthquake relief fund for Napa First United Methodist Church.*

## World Communion Sunday

Your giving to World Communion Sunday helps make education for international and domestic theology students possible. Often times, these students face financial obstacles which prevent them from attending college. Your gifts fund scholarships for young people who may be the first in their family to attend college or have needed to leave college due to financial circumstances. To read an article about how your World Communion Sunday giving is transforming lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, visit: <http://www.umcsgiving.org/impact-articles/scholar-transforms-society>

## Napa First United Methodist Church

In the wee hours of the morning of Aug. 24, sleeping residents of Napa, and the surrounding communities were jostled awake by a 6.0 earthquake. It is reportedly the largest quake to hit California in 25 years. Napa's downtown area was especially hard hit. Many of the downtown historic buildings have since been deemed uninhabitable and have been red tagged. As the news of the damage spread, we learned that the quake severely damaged the Napa First United Methodist Church's 98-year old buildings. It devastated the Sanctuary, and main building have been red

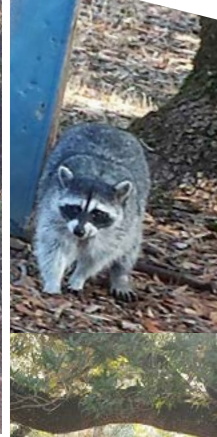
tagged by the city, and the church office yellow tagged (which means only the office staff can enter or use the space).

But it's not all bad news. As with many disasters, people pull together and kindness rules the day. For Napa First UMC, the congregation of the Napa Community Seventh Day Adventist Church has graciously offered the use of their facilities to Napa First for Sunday morning worship, Sunday school, childcare and choir rehearsal. This is a blessing indeed!

But what can we do to help Napa First? At our Fall Kickoff on Sept. 7, SRVUMC's ministerial staff participated in The Ice Bucket Challenge, which we used to raise money for the ALS organization and Napa First UMC. In addition, our October Communion Offering is being designated to help Napa First UMC rebuild. Repairs at Napa First are underway. The wall of their Sanctuary has been reattached so that structural engineers can determine the steps needed to make the building viable. It's been estimated that repairs will exceed \$1million and take a year to complete.

Visit their website to browse photos and a drone video showing the earthquake damage, [www.napaumc.org](http://www.napaumc.org). Your generous gifts in October will help the people of Napa First UMC get back on their feet and return to their newly repaired church buildings. Please continue to hold the people of the Napa area and members and friends of Napa First UMC in our thoughts and prayers.







# Report from Administrative Board

*Meeting of September 23, 2014, by Terry Sherman*

**MAB Update** - Quentin Alexander, member of the Multi-purpose Activities Building planning team, reported on the current status of the MAB. The initial building and parking lot designs are complete, and the County Use Permit is in hand. The final structural design is 95% complete. Central Sanitary approved the plumbing design.

The Fire Department is expected to approve the final plan next week. Within the next 45 days, we expect to secure approval of the County Planning and Public Works department, and we will then submit final plans to the County Building Plan Review Department. Approval of final plans and issuance of a Building Permit is estimated to take 3-6 months, at which time we can start construction, estimated to take 10-12 months for completion.

Jim Burk, who will be heading up a team focused on the future operation of the MAB, reported that the process of naming the building is under way, under the following guidelines:

- No geographic orientation, i.e. Alamo
- No denomination denotation, i.e., Wesley
- An acronym is possible, i.e., ARC, which could stand for Athletic Recreational Center

**Strategic Planning Update** - Sanjiv Moré, co-chair with Mark Jewett of the Strategic Planning task force, reported that the strategic process is now in the 4th and final phase of formulating strategic direction for our church. Once articulated, the plan will be presented to the congregation for discussion and feedback.

**Stewardship Update** - The theme of this year's campaign (October 12-November 9) is "What is Your Verse?" from the Walt Whitman poem mentioned in the movie Dead Poets

Society: "...the powerful play continues and everyone contributes a verse..." The emphasis will be on investment in church staff and the implementation of the strategic plan to make "your verse" a reality.

**Staff Parish** - Ad Board approved a motion to provide funds from the Ad Board reserve fund for bonuses for selected non-appointed staff members. The 2014 budget, when approved, did not have sufficient funds to support salary increases for non-appointed staff as recommended by Staff Parish. Providing the funds from the Ad Board reserve fund result will not adversely impact the budget. The bonuses will be merit based.

**Finance** - Finance Chair Dave Bain reported that the balance of the Wesley Center loan was paid off as a result of funding by donors. Moreover, an additional \$120,000+ was raised and designated for capital improvements and capital maintenance.

**Preschool Bylaws Revision** - Ad Board approved the Preschool Commission's recommendation to approve the revised Bylaws as presented by Commission Chair Winnie Stribling.

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Ron Dunn reported that the Fall season is off to a great start. He noted that the September 7th All Church Kickoff was a success; the upcoming Stewardship program is taking shape; the Strategic Plan task force has new leaders in place; Small Group Ministry is expanding new offerings to Wednesday evenings October 1-November 5; and Mission Saturday (September 28) is looking to be a success.

**Charge Conference** - scheduled for November 18, at 7:00 pm, to be followed by the Ad Board meeting. All are invited to attend.

## CenterPoint Worship

*Centerpoint is held on the first Wednesday of each month as a time to be quiet and communicate with our Lord. It is a contemplative service and all are invited. Centerpoint will be on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 7pm in the sanctuary.*  
**All are welcome!**



## Help Wanted

*Part-time/One Time Chefs for Senior Lunches  
January thru May 2015*

Our chef for Senior Lunches is going on an around the world cruise from late January thru early May. We could use your help in preparing a lunch menu for the seniors. The lunches are held on the first and third Tuesdays at noon in Wesley Center. We already have a dedicated crew to assist you. If you can help one time or several times, please call Sandy Greenwood at (925) 935-1109 or email her at [SandyG4711@gmail.com](mailto:SandyG4711@gmail.com).

Dates Open: Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, Feb 17th, Mar 3rd, Mar 17th, Apr 7th, Apr 21st, and May 5th. If you can help for any of these dates, please give me a call.

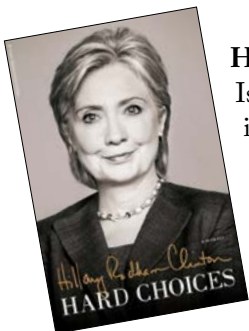


# Between the Bookends

By Sally Christopherson, Librarian



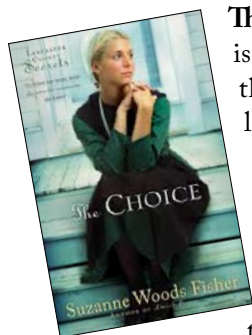
It's time to check the Book Cart again—lots of good new books have been added! Here are some to watch for:



**Hard Choices**, by *Hillary Rodham Clinton*. Is she running, or isn't she? At any rate, this is her latest, well-timed book which tells of her four years as Secretary of State and how they forged her views about what lies ahead. Many color photos.

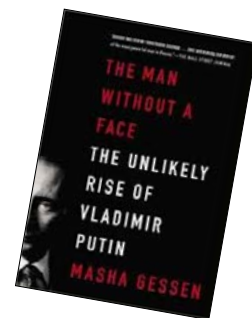


**All the Light We Cannot See**, by *Anthony Doerr*. A World War II story—but very few sounds of battle. A love story—but the two main characters never meet. Marie Laure is a blind French girl and Werner is a German orphan who is a radio genius sent to the French coast because he speaks flawless French. Alternating chapters bring each of these characters into our hearts and the pages turn all too quickly. Simply exquisite and unforgettable.

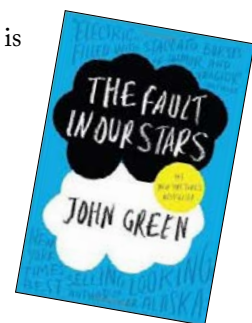


**The Choice**, by *Suzanne Woods Fisher*. There is a whole new category in the book world, that of Amish fiction. Suzanne Woods Fisher lives in Danville but has close connections to the “Plain people”. It's a choice to be Amish nowadays, but very few choose to leave—the ties of family and religion mean everything. This story makes it easy to understand why they may struggle with the decision, but why they stay. And the description of a barn-raising is wonderful! Many thanks to Lee Russ.

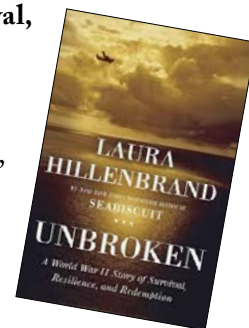
**The Man Without a Face; the unlikely rise of Vladimir Putin**, by *Masha Gessen*. Masha Gessen was born in Russia and has lived both there and in the U.S. She holds dual citizenship and pulls no punches about a minor bureaucrat who was patient, ambitious and made no enemies on his way to the top. And once there, he has done whatever it takes to stay there.



**The Fault in Our Stars**, by *John Green*. Here is the talked-about novel of two teenagers who meet in a cancer support group, told both sensitively and with humor. The movie has made millions of dollars, and now Princess ships is using it in their book groups on their November and December cruises. Want to see what all the fuss is about? You won't be disappointed!



**Unbroken; a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption**, by *Laura Hillenbrand*. We've had the hardcover copy of this in our Library for some time now. The movie will be opening on December 25, Christmas Day. If you haven't had a chance to read it yet, we now have a paperback copy as well. Not to be missed.



*When I get a little money, I buy books. And, if any is left, I buy food and clothes.*

—Desiderius Erasmus, 1466-1536

# Kindness Matters Corner

## **Our completed shopping**

**list:** Our vehicles wear our bumper magnets; the spirit of kindness resides in our hearts and minds; we move into action when we see others needing a hand, a compliment, a shoulder.

## **Our remaining to-do list:**

Share with others those kindness actions that you have taken, observed, or received.

Here are a few of the many kindness examples of what others have done, observed, or received:

## **The Beginning of the SRVUMC Kindness Cadre Cab Company?**

Could be! In operation for months, a team of four individuals formed a Kindness Cadre to enable two of our church members, who no longer drive, to attend church each Sunday. Each member of the team commits to taking one Sunday a month, and each is willing to be flexible if exchanges are necessary. The people receiving the rides are so very grateful and continually tell their friendly and kind cabbies that coming

to church each Sunday means the world to them.

There are others in our congregation who no longer drive, but who long for the togetherness of our faith community on Sunday mornings. Would you consider joining the SRVUMC Kindness Cadre Cab Company? Cabbie licenses are available and free, and it doesn't require any approval by a government bureau.

**The Sound of Music Brightens the Day and Relieves the Soul.** A church member and her friends, together have used music and their own special and caring personalities to brighten the days and spirits of many patients at the Livermore VA hospital. They enjoy the weekly karaoke night at the local bowling alley, but they have stepped beyond their enjoyment. One of the singers at the bowling alley, a friend of theirs, was diagnosed with ALS and

now resides at the VA Hospital in Livermore.

One day the bowling alley karaoke DJ had an idea and said, "Let's take the karaoke show to our VA friend. Surely he would enjoy it." They did, and enjoy it they did, and their friend did, and other patients and staff in the hospital did! The patients echoed each other's gratitude by expressing their enjoyment and how the music brightened their day. From the appreciation expressed by the patients, these music providers now travel to give a monthly encore at the hospital. What had begun as a wonderful form of entertainment for themselves has evolved and expanded (a transformation) into a monthly outreach of kindness, love, care, and friendship.

**These stories and examples are all around us.** Please tell of those that especially move you—it matters. Be a Cub Reporter and tell others of the Kindnesses you observe,

offer, and accept. File your news in this manner:

No names, just the example of kindness for others. You can share your stories of kindness in one of three ways:

E-Mail your story to [kindness@srvumc.org](mailto:kindness@srvumc.org). Your story will be posted to the church website within a few days.

Go to the church website ([www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org)). One of the first items you will see is under the heading of "Kindness Matters." Under that heading click on "read more." After clicking on "read more," go to paragraph #4 and click on [kindness@srvumc.org](mailto:kindness@srvumc.org) to post your kindness story. While you are in the website, take time to read some of these great stories that have been offered by others.

If you are without access to a computer, notify your Neighborhood Leader and describe your story. Your Neighborhood Leader will relay your story to [kindness@srvumc.org](mailto:kindness@srvumc.org).



## Annual Golf Scramble

### Boundary Oaks

*Saturday, October 18.*

*First tee time is 10:30am.*

Put your own foursome together, or join another group, but don't miss this fun event! All men and women of any skill level are encouraged to sign up.

Cost is \$65 each, which includes green fees, cart and prize pool. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place; closest to the pin; long drive for both men and women.

Sign-up in the courtyard after Sunday services or email Paul Kuelz at [paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net)



**Pick-up magnets and Kindness Matters brochures in the church office, Narthex and Wesley foyer brochure racks.**



# What's Going On?

## Around the Church



Fellowship,  
Sharing,  
Learning  
& Laughing

*Saturday, October 18, 8am in Wesley Center*

All Methodist men are invited to share Christian fellowship and a hearty breakfast on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00am in Wesley Center.

The speaker on Saturday October 18 is Larry Sly, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

For more information contact Lyn Arscott at [lynarscott@comcast.net](mailto:lynarscott@comcast.net).

## Summer Music Camp Supports Trinity Center

This Summer, campers at SRVUMC Music Camp learned more than just the music. They learned the importance of service to God. In keeping with the musical's theme of helping a homeless shelter, the performers collected money, food, and toiletries for the Trinity Center. Lead by Kelly Benjamson and her wonderful staff of volunteers, participants in the camp, sold lemonade, collected money, food, and toiletries for Trinity Center.

After their final performance in the Sanctuary on August 17th, children proudly display their donation in the the form of an handmade check signed by all of the children.



*Left: Carly and Connor proudly display a donation check for \$188 to the Trinity Center.*



*Right: Hailey, Quinn, Sadie, Hayden, and Ellie are holding a donation check, signed by the children, and given to Trinity Center. Emily in the background is wondering if she is ready to join in.*

*Next Meeting is October 6th*

## Learning Over Lunch Fall Kicks-Off With Fall Film Series

*Mondays, Noon-1:15pm, Fireside Room*



We have all experienced "God moments" outside of worship. At various times we have been awe-struck by sunsets, grandchildren's smiles, or an unforgettable emotional connection

with a loved one. These rare and treasured moments give us authentic glimpses of the Divine.

So, we know we can encounter God in many ways, but have you ever met God at the movies?

Our new Learning Over Lunch series, beginning September 15, hopes to provide you with just such an opportunity! The Holy Spirit is present and active in every facet of culture, seeking ways to enrich and deepen our Christian journey. "Meeting God at the Movies" will be a different way of perceiving holy moments and seeing holy invitation, as well.

Over the next weeks, we'll be examining several films (see list below), watching how characters change, hold on to hope, and become more (or, sometimes, less!!) fully human. Some films will be familiar and, perhaps, much loved. Others may be challenging, off-putting, but we are hopeful, ultimately, rewarding.

There is no preparation for this class, but you may want to view the film ahead of time. All are available from Netflix (dvd or streaming), Amazon Prime, Red Box, or even the library! We'll also have a dvd to show clips for discussion.

### Movie schedule

10/06/14: The Help  
10/13/14: Dallas Buyers Club  
10/20/14: Invictus

For more information, please contact co-leaders Phyllis Meyer and Sarah Stribling.

## New Member Discovery Class Luncheon

*Sunday, Oct. 26*

*Noon – 3 pm*

*RSVP by Oct. 19 to Devon @ [ddrake@srvumc.org](mailto:ddrake@srvumc.org)*



## MLK Peacemakers

### Don't Miss Solar Nights to Brighten Your Days

*Wednesday, October 22, 7-9pm, Fireside Room*

Join the MLK Peacemakers, SRVUMC, Interfaith San Ramon Valley, and California Interfaith Power and Light on October 22nd at 7pm as they host a Solar Info Night for the Faith Communities. The Solar Nights workshop provides valuable, up-to-date information for anyone who is ready to go solar, or just curious about what it takes to get started.

Learn more about Energy Upgrade California, including energy efficient strategies to lower your energy consumption with little or minimal investment. Advisors will be available to provide advice on solar incentives and financing, including the lease versus buy option.

In addition to the certified solar professionals, church members who have installed solar in their homes will be available to share their experiences and wisdom.

For more information, contact Tom Kring at [tkring1@comcast.net](mailto:tkring1@comcast.net) or The Rev Will Scott at [will@interfaithpower.org](mailto:will@interfaithpower.org)

## Sign-Up NOW for Session 1



Where  
love grows

### Fall in Love with Art

*UM Preschool Enrichment Program*

*October 1, 8, 15, 22, Nov. 5, 12-2:15pm*

Children ages 4-6 will love the opportunity to explore the rich changing colors of autumn during the UM Preschools first session of the preschool's enrichment program. Taught by artist and mom, Fiona Adcock and UMP Director, Paulette Ove, students will experience different materials creatively and develop a range of skills such as drawing, painting and sculpture while deepening their understanding of color, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space. Lessons will consist of small projects and larger ongoing ones. Cost: \$150 per session and several different sessions will be available throughout the year.

Enrollment paperwork and the registration forms are available on the preschool's website: [www.unitedmethodistpreschool.org](http://www.unitedmethodistpreschool.org).

Any further questions, please contact the Preschool Office [preschool-office@srvumc.org](mailto:preschool-office@srvumc.org) or 925-837-2788

## HIKE FOR SHELTER



### HIKE FOR SHELTER October 19, 2014



#### 1 DAY 1 MOUNTAIN 1 MISSION

**SHELTER, Inc.** invites you to join us on Sunday, October 19th for our Fifth Annual Hike for SHELTER! Hike the beautiful hills of Mt. Diablo while helping homeless families in our community! Three hikes available for all fitness levels, from an easy stroll to a summit hike. All registered hikers receive a catered lunch and t-shirt plus fun activities for the kids! Register today! [www.ShelterHike.org](http://www.ShelterHike.org).

## I Trovatori Opera

presents

### Così Fan Tutte

(Women are like that...)

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(with our own Kelly Benjamson)

**Sunday, <sup>New Date!</sup> November 16<sup>th</sup>**

• 7:30 pm •

Diablo Valley College  
Music Building, Room 101  
Pleasant Hill, CA

South Entrance to DVC off of Viking Drive

🎫 Tickets 🎫

General \$15, Seniors \$10

[BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)



[itrovatori2013.webs.com](http://itrovatori2013.webs.com)

501c3 Pending

# Senior Scoop

*All Seniors and their family, friends & caregivers are invited!*

## Lunch with Friends 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Noon

Lunch with Friends is a home-cooked, sit-down meal, served in Wesley Center at Noon on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tables are set with fresh flowers and surrounded by interesting people. These lunches are the friendliest place in town. Plan ahead and invite a friend!

- Tuesday, October 7. Menu: Enchilada Casserole, Fruit Salad, Rolls, Sherbet & Cookies.
- Tuesday, October 21. Chef John Sanders celebrates the season with Butternut Squash Soup, Waldorf Salad, Rolls & Pumpkin Pie.

## ADVENTURESOME SENIORS

Adventuresome Seniors get together on the last Tuesday of the month for a potluck and program in Wesley Center. (You don't have to cook unless you want to – a pickup from the deli is just fine!)

## Join Us For A Halloween Potluck! *Tuesday, October 28 at Noon.*

Halloween Party – costumes optional – come ready to have a great time!

You do not need to make a reservation to attend any of the luncheons.

*(Only special events may require reservations.)*



*Special Event*

## Field Trip to Sacramento

*October 14. Reservation Required by 9/30*

We will be taking Amtrak to Sacramento on Tues, Oct. 14 (train tickets approx. \$15). Plan on leaving the church 9am and returning to Martinez at 4:30pm. We will enjoy the train ride, lunch, shopping in Old Town and/or visiting the Railroad Museum. Pastor Sunny Ahn will be joining us – don't miss the fun!

To reserve your spot please contact Sandy Greenwood at 925-935-1109 or [SandyG4711@gmail.com](mailto:SandyG4711@gmail.com). Reservations requested by 9/30.

*115 Signatures!!*

## Overwhelming Support for Doctors Medical Center!!

On Sunday, September 7, following the presentation during worship service by our member Dr. Lonnie Bristow, 97 people from SRVUMC signed the letters to the California State Department of Health and Human Services in support of keeping open Doctors Medical Center in our neighboring San Pablo. And, additional letters were signed later and Nancy Benvenuto took the letter to her workplace and obtained additional signatures for a total of 115!!

**There will be another opportunity to sign letters after worship each Sunday through October in the Narthex. Look for a Peacemaker with a chipboard!**

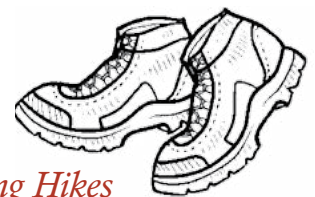
This matter came to our attention through the recently formed Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition focusing on social justice issues in our own Contra Costa County, specifically: Health, Hunger, Poverty and Homelessness, Affordable Housing. Participants in this Coalition include several members of the Martin Luther King Jr. PeaceMAKERS Committee of our church, and others are welcome as well. This connection with others together addressing issues right in our own home neighborhood has added to our PeaceMAKERS' desire to broaden our concern for Peace with Justice to focus not only on world issues, but also to involve ourselves and our congregation in issues close at hand. We look forward to expanding our membership and our concerns, in line with the United Methodist Church's traditional emphasis, not only with personal discipleship, but also with ACTION to transform our community and our world.

For more information about our SRVUMC Committee, please contact our Chair, Joyce Kayser, [joycewkay@gmail.com](mailto:joycewkay@gmail.com), (925) 820-4507, or our newest member, Pastor Sunny, [sahn@srvumc.org](mailto:sahn@srvumc.org), (925) 837-5342, Ext. 109.

## Hiking Group

## Natures Adventurers Hiking Group

*Upcoming Hikes*



**October 11, 2014:** Bothe, Napa

**October 25, 2014:** Mount Tamalpais

**November 8, 2014:** Sunol Wilderness

**November 22, 2014:** City Tour

For more information about these hikes, please contact Bill Van Bezey at [vanboneye@comcast.com](mailto:vanboneye@comcast.com)



*Everyone Welcome to Come Bowl*

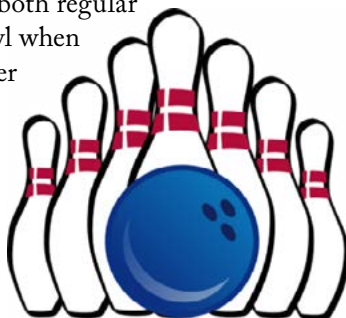
## Don't Miss the Fun!

*Monday Nights, 7:15pm*

Looking for a fun way to meet people, get some exercise, and even improve your bowling game? Come join the fun with bowling group at 7:15pm on Monday Nights at Danville Bowl.

This group is made up of bowlers with all levels of bowling experience. We're looking for both regular bowlers and substitutes to bowl when the need arises. Cost is \$15 per week, and that includes your ball and shoes.

For more information, email Barb McWilliams at [DeanandBarbara@aol.com](mailto:DeanandBarbara@aol.com) or Vera Robinson at [vrobgrf@yahoo.com](mailto:vrobgrf@yahoo.com)

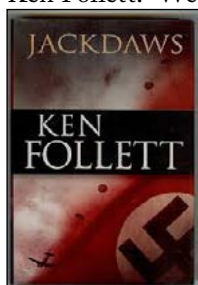


## Book Groups

### Christ Care Book Group

*Wednesday, October 22, 10am, Library*

The Christ Care Book Group will meet October 22nd in the church library at 10 am to review and discuss "Jackdaws" by Ken Follett. We will meet January 28th, 2015 after reading "The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson. The



Christ Care Book Group does not meet in November and December. We welcome you to join us. We welcome you to join us. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Gloria Fenton at [gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gloriafromsanramon@sbcglobal.net)

### Afternoon Book Group

*Monday, October 20, 1 pm,  
Rm. 202, Wesley Center*

Our October meeting is on Monday, October 20th, and we will discuss our next book, "The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin.

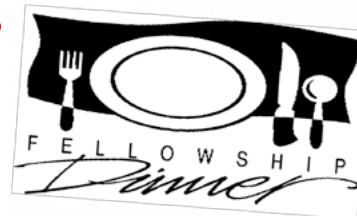
We did not come up with any ideas about for a November book, so please bring some suggestions with you to the October meeting.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Scott at [merebruin.scott@gmail.com](mailto:merebruin.scott@gmail.com)



## Dinner for "8"

Doubles or Singles join together for awesome culinary dining at it best! It's a chance to share in fellowship, connect with old friends and make new friends.



Sign up by contacting Winnie Stribling at [WinnieStribling@msn.com](mailto:WinnieStribling@msn.com) or Barb McWilliams at [deanandbarbara@aol.com](mailto:deanandbarbara@aol.com)

## Group Forming Now!

### Wesley Writers Small Group

*First Meeting, October 13, 7pm*

Did you ever feel the desire to write creatively? If so, you may want to consider becoming part of the Wesley Writers small group. The Wesley Writers provide an experience in community with other writers, opportunity for spiritual growth, and encouragement and support for those who want to write creatively.

The group meets in a supportive, confidential and inspirational environment, providing support for the spiritual and creative needs of writers while offering motivation, encouragement, and often guidance and assistance in the enjoyment of writing.

Participants' writing interests naturally will be varied and diverse - poetry, short stories, inspirational essays, memoirs, novels, stage plays, articles, children's stories - anything creative. Opportunities to improve writing skills through writing exercises will also be offered. Whatever one's writing interests or skill level, Wesley Writers promises to be an enlightening and enjoyable support community.

A new Wesley Writers group will start October 13th and will meet bi-weekly at 7pm on Monday nights through the fall term into mid-December. To allow for effective sharing, enrollment is necessarily limited.

Participation in Wesley Writers is open to all. Prior writing accolades are not a prerequisite - only the desire to write, and a commitment to working toward the goals that you establish for your writing.

We may occasionally align ourselves with church-wide study topics, such as the Lenten series, and may take on special writing activities, such as Messenger articles, devotional booklets, etc. We will also be a 'point of connection' with various outreach and mission activities, allowing members a convenient and informed means for volunteering in service.

Interested scribes-in-waiting should contact Co-leaders: Brad Stribling by calling (925) 838-2601 or emailing [bradstribling@msn.com](mailto:bradstribling@msn.com), or Terry Sherman at (925) 735-0475, or [dtsh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtsh@sbcglobal.net)

# SRVUMC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Stephanie Ham, Director of Children's Ministry

*Verse of the month: Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

When we hear the word creativity, we respond in a handful of ways. Many of us get excited. We love everything to do with creativity. We can draw or paint, sing or dance, and LOVE the arts. Others of us break out into a cold sweat thinking about that one art class we had to take in high school. Still others of us simply ignore it. We think we're just not creative. Never have been; never will be. And if you look at your kids, I bet at least a few of them feel the same way. They hate being on stage, they have no rhythm, they can't play an instrument, and they start to flip out whenever they see a box of crayons. For whatever reason, they've been taught to think about creativity in terms of arts and crafts, music and dance.

But there's something about creativity that we all need to remember. We're not creative because of our talents. We're creative because that's how God made us. He designed each of us with a mind to think beyond ourselves and imagine the possibility for, well anything. It's God's image in us that gives us the capacity to see beyond the ordinary and to understand a dimension of life that a dog, or a tree, or a whale cannot experience. Our imagination—our creativity—is a reflection of His image.

That's why we're taking the month of October to look at **creativity**: using your imagination to do something unique. It's so important that leaders and parents work to tap into a

## *Bottom Lines for the Month of October*

- You were created, so you can be creative
- Use your imagination to figure it out.
- Use your imagination to do what you were made to do.
- Use your imagination to do more good.

child's imagination and fuel their creative side. Not simply because we want to unleash a child's potential to do unique things, but because we want every child to grow up and put faith in what God can do in their personal life, and believe in what He wants to do through them. You have an opportunity throughout a child's life to spark his or her creativity, and to say over and over again to every child, "You have amazing potential to create because you were created in the image of an amazing Creator."

Really, creativity is simply imagination plus action. When your imagination leads you to do something good, to make a unique mark, to find a unique answer or solution, you are being creative. God wants to do something unique with our lives. We are created in His image, and because of His work in us through Jesus, we have an amazing capacity to use our creativity to do more good things. Every parent, every leader wants the children they influence to live their lives to the fullest. When we really believe we are made in the image of God, we believe in a new set of possibilities. When you understand the image of God that is in you, you begin to look at life from a new perspective.







September started off with a bang with the Fall retreat, High School and Middle School Youth Group (UMYF), Tutor Time, Fall Sunday School and Confirmation programs all getting into gear. October shows little sign of slowing down! In addition to our programs for youth, we will also now be offering a class for parents that addresses the question of How to Parent Teens in a Confusing Culture. A small sampling of class topics that includes: "What do I do if my teen won't talk to me?," "What do I do if I don't like my child's friends?" and "How much of my own past to I share with my child?" The class meets on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm. Please let Luke know if you would like to join!

Our Fall Retreat was a time of great fellowship and fun as we explored the theme "Share the Love." We spent our time thinking about what it means to be a Christian in light of our theme verse: Philippians 2: 1-4. Between a trip to the beach, camp fires and the Monte Toyon high ropes course, we looked at how we can share our gifts with one another to reflect the love of God for all people. The highlight of the event was the spiritual walk we did on Saturday night through a path that the youth built (and illuminated with Glow Sticks), to remind one another that when we share God's light with one another, we help each other walk the path of life.

Finally, a special "Thank You" to those who continue to support the Youth Ministry program with their time and gifts. If you are looking for an easy way to support us, we are always in need of folks to provide us with dinner for Wednesday night youth group. We reimburse all food costs and always enjoy a home cooked meal together! If you would like to help out by preparing us a meal, please contact Luke, and we will select a date that works for you!

## Youth Ministry Calendar for October

**Thursday, Oct 2:** *High School First Thursday Dinner Out* at Chipotle from 6:30-7:30pm

**Sunday, Oct. 5:** *Youth Sunday School and Confirmation* at 9:00am; *High School UMYF* and from 4-5:45pm.

**Wednesday, Oct. 8:** *Tutor Time*, Wesley Library from 3:30-5:30pm; *Middle School UMYF* from [6-8pm](#). *Parenting Teens in a Confusing Culture* class in Rm. 204 from 7-8pm.

**Sunday, Oct 12:** *Youth Sunday School and Confirmation* at 9:00am; *High School UMYF* from 4-5:45pm.

**Wednesday, Oct. 15:** *Tutor Time*, Wesley Library from 3:30-5:30pm; *Middle School UMYF* from [6-8pm](#). *Parenting Teens in a Confusing Culture* class in Rm. 204 from 7-8pm.

**Sunday, Oct 19:** *Youth Sunday School and Confirmation* at 9:00am; *High School UMYF* and from 4-5:45pm  
*Confirmation Class Covenant* service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

**Wednesday, Oct. 22:** *Tutor Time*, Wesley Library from 3:30-5:30pm; *Middle School UMYF* from [6-8pm](#). *Parenting Teens in a Confusing Culture* class in Rm. 204 from 7-8pm.

**Sunday, Oct 26:** *Youth Sunday School and Confirmation* at 9:00am; *High School UMYF* and from 4-5:45pm  
*Confirmation Class Covenant* service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

**Wednesday, Oct. 22:** *Tutor Time*, Wesley Library from 3:30-5:30pm; *Middle School UMYF* from [6-8pm](#). *Parenting Teens in a Confusing Culture* class in Rm. 204 from 7-8pm.

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Nancy Alexander	Barbara Schneider
Gail Soldavini	Lyn Bristow
Phyl Roth	Jada Koonce
Brigitte Greene	Clyde Bazell

## Our Christian Sympathy to:

- Joyce Kayser and family on the death of her sister.
- Gene, Lisa, Steve, Dave and Laura Brown and their families on the death of Louise on Monday, Sept. 22nd. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on Sunday, Sept. 28th.

## Continued Prayers For...

*All those who continue to live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families:*

Bill Andrew; Judy Branden; Lyn Bristow; Louise Brown; Lenore Cooper; John Evans; Brigitte Greene; Dick Greeno; Ann Hatfield; Dave & Lillian Holleman; Cary Johnson; Johnny & Donna Johnston; Del Kennedy; Dale & Daphne Kimbell; Jada Koonce; Alleen Landstrom; Larry Liggett; Jen Lotz-Kush; Margaret Matteson; Alex Maddux; Ruth Meier; John Neary; Mary Ogden; Alice Reynolds; Ethel Ricker; Mike Robinett; Charlie & Phyllis Roth; Ann Schroeder; Dick & Pat Shoner; Carol Webb; Joan Webb.

## Contact Information Updates

Please update the following information in your directory:

- Steve & Jacci Osborn, 1860 Glen View Dr., Walnut Creek 94595
- Jennifer Ludlam: Cell: 213-631-6202; email [jennifer.ludlam17@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.ludlam17@gmail.com)

## Welcome to:

Lennox Dauphin, on September 10th, Paula Boswell's new great-grandson.

## Help Wanted

## Ushers Needed for Memorial Services

If you are willing to be on a volunteer call list to usher for memorial services, please call the Church Office. We find ourselves calling on the same few people every time, and we need a larger pool to draw from. This is an important ministry of the church and we would be most grateful for your service. Training is provided.

## Shared Bulletins

Our Nature's Adventurers Hiking Group attended Alison Berry's church, Sierra Pines UMC, on Sept. 14.

## Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$6/ea.)



# November Celebrations

## Birthdays

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1 Jacque Foster<br>Rob Rudow<br>Brad Tolstedt<br>Connie Winter                             | 10 Natty Oberhauser-Lim<br>Gay Scott<br>Susie Steele  | 18 John Coombs<br>Kelly Finney<br>Skipper George<br>John Green   | 26 Monica Albertoni<br>Ryan Howard<br>Eric Newburn<br>Rachell Newburn                                      |
| 2 Molly Huff<br>Daphne Kimbell<br>Julia Morgan<br>Kristin Schleicher<br>Marge Wood         | 11 Mary Nelson<br>12 Julie Dastic<br>Heather Hammer<br>Melissa Lotz                                   | Bob Knowles<br>Charlotte Speck<br>19 Caitlyn Shaw<br>Gerard Takiguchi  | Elise Norrid<br>Hannah Norrid<br>Annemarie Warwick   |
| 3 Sally Christopherson<br>Jo Ann Hirsch<br>Sara Markley<br>Myla Niederauer<br>LaVena White | 13 Sandy Greenwood<br>Mark Jewett<br>Dick Lam<br>14 Felicia Hillard<br>Suzan Rowland<br>Steve Wilkens | 20 Mandy George<br>Kelsey Grossman<br>Katie Turley<br>21 Connor Finney<br>Steve Hawk   | 27 Margo Cefalo<br>Todd Christian<br>Steve Koepp   |
| 4 Corinne Cooper<br>Nicole Cooper  | 15 Tim Hickman<br>Karina Marsh<br>Jack Nelson<br>Carrie Tolstedt<br>Barbara Valdriz<br>Al Ziarnik     | 22 Deb Bandy<br>Emily Caporale<br>Mary Nygreen<br>23 Allison Cefalo<br>George Clarke<br>Adam Kennedy<br>John Sayers<br>Linda Schardt | 29 Brad Hawthorne<br>Paul Kuelz<br>Hal Lyons   |
| 6 Bea Kropf (96)<br>Susan Millinich<br>David Ongman  | 16 Donna Bain<br>Lael Takiguchi   | 24 Pat Patteson (93)<br>Dana Takiguchi<br>25 Mike Henderson  | 30 Jefferson Armanini<br>John Evans<br>Daniel Glover<br>Stephanie Glover<br>Linda Farhang<br>George Nelson |
| 7 Susan Thomas   | 17 Jim Loar<br>Kyle McFarland   |  |  |
| 9 Stephanie Ham<br>Steve Marsh<br>Charliene Tallett (90)<br>Lara Mays<br>Katie Wong        |   |  |  |

## Wedding Anniversaries

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Val & Duncan Miller<br>LaVena & Ron White    | 16 Laurie & Joe Rousseu                               |
| 2 Susan & Patrick Dowling                      | 17 Shannon & Bill Dever<br>Jennifer & David Shin      |
| 6 <b>Le Anne &amp; Bart Jacobi (54th)</b>      | 18 Teri & Scott Armanini                              |
| 8 Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei & Gary Krumrei        | 21 Dory & Tom Schramm                                 |
| 10 Sharon & Don Brockman                       | 22 <b>Julia &amp; Ed Land (78th!!)</b>                |
| 11 Catharine & Dan Baker                       | 27 Lynne & Larry Henderson<br>Priscilla & Ted Wolfram |
| 12 Cathy & Steve Colman                        | 29 <b>Gloria &amp; Robert Fenton (62nd)</b>           |
| 13 Saba & Shadaab Kanwal<br>Tamra & Kevin Keen | 30 Ann & Jeff Schroeder                               |





OCTOBER 2014

## Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary

Non-Traditional Worship, 10:30 am, in the Sanctuary

Centerpoint Worship Service, first Wednesday of each month, 7pm, in the Sanctuary

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

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly  
10/1/2014

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