



Valley Messenger

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

APRIL 2018

A Parsonal Point of View ~

New Life Where We Need It Most

I'm in my seventeenth day of a cold. I'm feeling all the usual symptoms including the lack of creativity. In the process of looking for inspiration that might jumpstart my creative juices, I "happened" upon Scott Hozee's powerful 2016 reflection on Easter. The following are excerpts from his sermon.

John's gospel is probably the most user friendly of all the resurrection accounts. Scott Hozee* says "if Easter's joy and proclamation required the blare of trumpets, the thunder of pipe organs, and the shining brightness of white banners and vestments—if that type of setting were the *only* place where Easter could thrive—then who among us could take that back home with us?"

Rather than the resurrection taking place during the light of day with countless witnesses to attest to the fact that it really happened, the resurrection took place in the shadows of an early morning, in a graveyard.

What I learn again and again is that "Easter happens where death occurs, because that is the only place it is needed."

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Next Issue: May 2018

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

Hozee reminded me that "in the shadows of our lives, the risen Savior is lurking, bursting with new life. You see, the darkness of this world does not need to lift completely in ways no one could miss for the truth of Easter to be available."

Darkness does not need to lift completely for the truth of Easter to be available, and death does not stop the new life Jesus brings. "We have the hope of new life where we need it most: in the midst of a world full of death and dying."

In the midst of an illness that is hard to shake, this is the word I need. In the midst of the uncertainty that retirement brings,

Easter Schedule

6:30 a.m. — Sunrise service led by Jamere Crawford, Living Water Singers & Band

8:00 a.m. — Ron Dunn preaching, Living Water Singers & Band

9:30 a.m. — Ron Dunn preaching, Chancel Choir

11:00 a.m. — Ron Dunn preaching, Chancel Choir

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Lorraine McNeal (ext. 108)

Director of Youth

Ministries

Jamere Crawford

Office Administrator,

Membership,

Accounts Receivable

Shannon Dever (ext 105)

Finance Administrator

Accounts Payable

Coreen Janes (ext 104)

Facilities & Purchasing

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this word is an anchor that will hold me steady.

I wish you and yours new life, new hope and fresh joy this Easter and beyond.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lorraine

*Scott Hozee, Easter, Year C, March 2016

Church Council Takeaways

**Welcome to Office Manager Katrina Combs • Endowment
distribution largest ever at SRVUMC • Gender Equity Workshop**

The Church Council also met last month on February 28. What follows includes updates to items discussed per the minutes from that meeting together with the March 20, 2018, meeting.

Gender Equity Workshop: Debra Carter and Fred Schrieber provided follow-up on the recent workshop they presented with Lea Hickman. Goals of this workshop were to advance women leaders in the church as well as men, with a long-term goal of recruiting young people into the church. Frustrations were aired, but also many suggestions for improving the gender culture within the church.

Endowment: Recent distribution from the Endowment Committee topped \$60,000, the largest ever for SRVUMC. On March 11, committee chair Dick Lam reported during services how that money would be distributed among youth, music and other programs. The At the end of 2017, the Endowment Fund had \$1.2 million under investment, much of that balance from planned gifts, like annuities.

Financial Committee: January giving \$247K went much above plan, offset somewhat by a drop-off in February. Much of the surplus comes from payroll, as some staff positions remain unfilled. Most individual programs on campus are running under plan year-to-date. Total surplus for YTD is reported at \$51K.

SPRC: Church Council approved the hiring of Katrina Combs as Office Manager in a special, single-item agenda meeting on March 9. Katrina and her family live in Concord. She has experience as office manager, including accounting skills. Katrina says she is “delighted and excited” to join the staff here at SRVUMC. SPRC continues to seek staff for accounting responsibilities. Katrina will be included in this hiring process, as the person filling the role will report to her.

COLA increases for staff, as budgeted, have gone forward. The increase is three percent for many staff, with a prorated increase for newer staff.

Board of Trustees: Construction plans, including the seismic plan, for the Sanctuary remodel have been submitted to the county for approval. BOT has opted to separate plans into three projects to smooth the timeline for county approval on each. In response to questions about seating in the redesign, the only change in seating capacity will be the addition of four handicap spots in the Sanctuary.

Working with the Contra Costa Health Department for permitting of the kitchen to new standards. Several volunteers involved in food prep have completed a required food handler course and passed a test for certification.

The Board of Trustees voted in favor of allowing [Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America](#) local chapter to meet at the church. The “Moms” have been asked to make a donation to cover facilitate expenses. The social principles of the UMC with respect to guns and gun violence are outlined in a 2016 position paper <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/gun-violence>.

Strategic Plan: 2018 church goals have been drafted for Church Council consideration. These goals will be revised and finalized over the next month. Among these goals, increasing the leadership roles of women and young people.

Children and Youth: Laura Roy reported beginning promotion of VBS and sports camp (*see page 9 calendar*). Iron Horse Moms continue to meet on the campus, and Laura has been keeping them informed about children’s activities at SRVUMC and facilitating the relationship with this large, local group of young families.

Committee News: Laura Sanchez reported on the Peace and Justice Committee business. Recent events include the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, as well as marches, interfaith communication meetings and work with the Interfaith Community of Contra Costa County. This committee also addresses issues of housing in the regions. In the coming year, the group seeks to take on other kinds of interfaith events.

The Church Council meets next on April 17, 2018. All Church Council meetings are open to church members.

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.***



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.



Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

Together, a number of service groups, individuals and faith communities are working to end homelessness and poverty in the East Bay. According to this organization's [website](#), the annual income required to rent a two-bedroom apartment in Contra Costa County and still have money for other necessities is \$74,880, but the average annual income for CCIH clients is \$20, 242.

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County consists of 110 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. In 2017, ICCC launched its Diffusing Hatred program in its congregations and community centers. This program seeks to equip citizens of Contra Costa County with nonviolent communication skills and the tools to diffuse tense situations or interrupt harassment. For the ICCC April calendar of events, click [here](#).



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.



Rise Against Hunger began in 1998 as **Stop Hunger Now!** and is based in Raleigh, N.C. This organization and its volunteers has provided over 310 million meals in 74 countries around the world together with its non-government organization partners. Rise Against Hunger distributes its meals through various partner organizations. The promise of a nutritious meal improves attendance at school and in adult training programs. At San Ramon Valley UMC, we have sponsored meal-packing events, short mission opportunities great for entire families to do together. \$0.29 per meal funds dehydrated rice or soy meal, dehydrated vegetables, and spices along with 23 essential vitamins and minerals. As our volunteers know, a group of forty to fifty volunteers can pack 10,000 meals in about two hours!



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 supported the Playhouse program, together with Blue Star Moms.



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

LOCAL

- **Food Bank of CC & Solano**, 4010 Nelson Ave, Concord, Saturdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 21, July 7, September 22. Contact Lee Rust, chijocol@aol.com or 925-820-9047.
- **Guatemala UMVIM Medical Mission Trip July 6-16, 2018**. The United Methodist Church of Walnut Creek is planning a return medical support trip to Guatemala. This will be a multi-church mission trip. Project site location is Mazatenango, Guatemala. Team focus: Medical with non-medical support, community involvement, education. Cost estimate \$1800 including airfare. Time will be available for sightseeing. For information contact **Paul Kuelz**, 925-831-3128 or paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net.
- **Haiti Updates:** Join the Thomas Food Project in providing an Easter food package to families. Go online to <https://www.jacotransfer.com/> and order any item you wish, or you can donate on the Give page of www.srvumc.org to donate directly to the Thomas Food Project.



Mission Volunteers & Communion Giving

February 2018 Volunteers

- **Coffee hour - 14 volunteers**
- **Sodbusters - 20 volunteers**
- **Food For Thought - 20 volunteers**
- **Souper Center - 4 volunteers**
- **Sunshine Singers - 18 volunteers**

Month	Entity	Amt
Jan	Food for Thought	\$1,816
Feb	Limb Restoration Open Heart Kitchen	\$638 \$638
Mar	UMCOR Sunday	\$1,856
Totals		\$4,948

Save These Dates for Retirement Celebrations!

Sunday, May 6 – Shannon Dever

Luncheon following second service

Sunday, June 10 – Pastor Lorraine

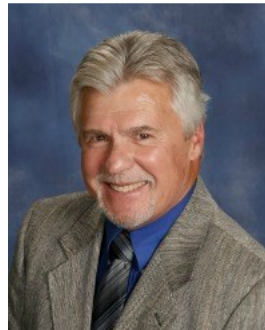
Reception between services

Sunday, June 24 – Pastor Ron

5:00 p.m. Catered Texas-style BBQ dinner

Tickets go on sale May 13.

More information to follow in the weeks to come. If you would like to assist with any of these events, please contact **Anne Burk** at (925) 946-1192 or anne.burk@sbcglobal.net.



Pastor Ron, Pastor Lorraine, and Shannon have guided us with vision, love, hard work, and dedication for many years. Now we have an opportunity to celebrate them and say thank you for all they have given to us.

If you wish to contribute to retirement gifts for Pastor Ron, Pastor Lorraine, and Shannon please write a check payable to SRVUMC and indicate in the memo line "Retirement Gifts." Then **designate how much you would like to donate for the gift for each person**. You can use the form below or write a note with your check. Please send, or drop off, your donation to the church office as soon as possible so we can determine the amount available for the gifts. Thank you from your Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Name of Recipient	Amount of Donation
Pastor Ron Dunn	
Pastor Lorraine McNeal	
Shannon Dever, Office Manager	

Name of Donor _____

e-mail _____ Phone _____



Between the Bookends

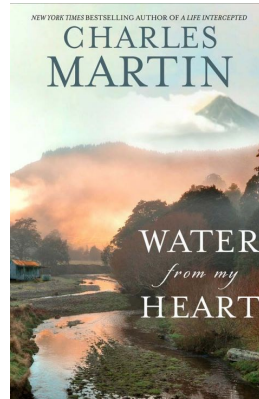


By Paula Boswell, Library Assistant

How very sad that we will no longer be able to read Sally Christopherson's wise, inspiring and insightful words about new books on our shelves and book cart. Sally had a vast knowledge of literature based on her decades-long work at Barnes & Noble and the many years she worked as our church librarian. She was a tireless worker, dedicated to her job with great enthusiasm and passion. Sally will be greatly missed. In her memory, we hope to keep her spirit alive.

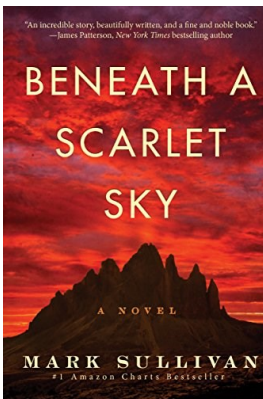
We will do our best to continue Sally's work. However, we need the help of our readers. If you have read a great book, suitable to a church library, please donate it by leaving it on the desk in the library. If you would rather keep the book yourself, just tell us about it. Are there books you have heard about and would like to read? Mention them to us. And please, return the borrowed books promptly so others may enjoy them.

The last books Sally and I discussed were bestsellers by master storyteller Charles Martin. You will find two of them on the book cart.



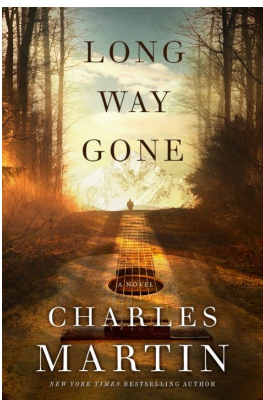
Martin, Charles. *Water From My Heart*. This book takes readers to many locations around the world. It tells about governments infested by corruption, about companies who view people as money machines, and of people who will destroy their neighbors simply because they have the power to do so. In the end there is healing, redemption, forgiveness

and love. Another masterpiece by this amazing author who, even in the most harrowing moments, never sees the need to use foul language.



Sullivan, Mark. *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*. A masterful tale of an Italian teenager's courageous struggle to fight for the greater good during the Nazi occupation in Northern Italy during World War II. The author, while visiting in Montana in 2006, heard snippets of this extraordinary untold story. Through extensive research Sullivan traced the hero, Pino Lella, down in 2006. The story

he heard was of a music- and girl-loving teenager who becomes involved with the underground forces, helping Jews escape over the Alps, endangering his life many times. So much happens in this book, you just have to read it to believe it. Once you start it it's impossible to put down. Historical fiction at its best!



Martin, Charles. *Long Way Gone*.

The prodigal's son parable for today's world. The main character is a musical prodigy who becomes the draw for his father's tent revivals. But he soon comes to believe he is something special and rejects his father's way of life, striking out to find his own way.

For those who love great characters, for those who want to be touched and challenged, this book is a must read.

We read to know that we are not alone.

—William Nicholson

Farewell, Sally. Thanks for encouraging us to look "between the bookends." It's been a joy to work with you. — Editor





We had such a fun trip to the **Charles Schults Museum** in Santa Rosa and were able to deliver five bags of food to the Santa Rosa food bank for fire victims. Thank you for all who participated — what a fun day! We'll do it again, for sure! Mark your Calendar for **May 30**, when the Prime Time Players will visit the **Ruth Bancroft Gardens** in Walnut Creek. All are welcome!

Tuesday April 3—Prime Time Pot Luck and Presentation, Wesley Center, 12:00

We will be treated to an award winning short film (Academy Award nominee) — thank you, John Orr! Bring a dish to share or stop at the deli or bakery. We always have plenty of food, and it's your company we want!

Tuesday April 17—Prime Time Lunch with Friends—Wesley Center, 12:00

Please join us for lunch — freshly prepared salmon, with rice pilaf, asparagus and something yummy for desert. Best \$5 lunch in the valley. Over 55? Come on — we know who you are! Please join us for great food, great fellowship, and great fun! We are blessed to have each other — thank you!

Give Peace to Every Heart...

Taize Chant
Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m.
Sanctuary



Would you be interested in learning some lovely Taize songs and chants? Or maybe you would prefer to sit in silence and listen. Please join us for repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes interspersed with readings, prayers and periods of silence. Taize will relax your frazzled nerves. In case you didn't know, Taize music highlights simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture, repeated or sung in canon. The repetition is designed to help meditation and prayer. There are no performances, only practice. All levels of singers or non-singers are welcome, and regular attendance is not required. Join us when you are able.

Questions: **Teri Hawk** hermhawk@aol.com or **Dory Schramm** kiddus@aol.com

Is Your Kiddo Registered Yet?

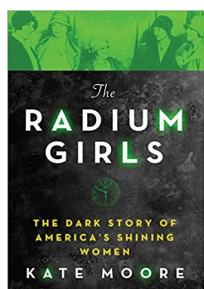


Afternoon Book Group

Monday, April 16, 1 p.m.

Room 202, Wesley Center

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore (Nancy Reynolds leading)



Great Decisions of Our Age

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Wesley Center

Contact lynarscott@comcast.net if you need a copy of the accompanying book (\$30).



April Topics:

- 4/8—U.S. global engagement and the military
- 4/15—The waxing of Pax Americana
- 4/22—Russia's foreign policy
- 4/29—China and America: the new geopolitical equation



Announcements

April 1—EASTER. No Sunday school, confirmation or youth group. Childcare will be available in *Tot Spot* (8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. services)

April 4-7—College Road Trip

3rd Grade Bibles

April 11—Introduction Class, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

April 15—Bible presentation, 9:00 a.m. Service

May 6—All Church: Connect, Care & Celebrate. 5 to 7 p.m. Get to know our kids! Join our children, youth and their families for a dinner and a chance to hang out.



June 4 to 7—Mega Basketball Sports Camp, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Grades 1–5. Link to register: <http://www.myvbs.org/srvumcsports/>

June 16-22—Youth Works for high school and middle school in Portland, OR. Space is limited.

June 25 to 29—Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Link to register: <http://www.myvbs.org/srvumc/>

July 28-August 5—SSP in Spokane, WA. Space is limited.

Sunday School Topic:

WEEK 1

Easter — *No Sunday School*

WEEK 2

SAY THIS: When you think you can't wait, talk to God about it.

WEEK 3

SAY THIS: When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.

WEEK 4

SAY THIS: When you think you can't wait, think about what's true.

WEEK 5

SAY THIS: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

Remember this: *"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord!"* Psalm 27:14



3rd grade
BIBLE PRESENTATION

It is tradition at SRVUMC to present Bibles to our third grade students as gifts from the congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be the starting point for a deeper relationship with God as they are on their journey of faith. To prepare the students we will have Bible introduction class the week before to help them get acquainted with this wonderful book. Please contact **Laura Roy** for more information.

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!

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

Music

These choirs are free and open to everyone to participate.

Cherub 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.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Karen Scalzi
John Schnittker
Dave Holleman (Oregon)
Jo Ann Hirsch

Our Christian Sympathy To...

ClaudeC Johannessen and family on the death of **Rich** on **March 22**. **Rich** was a longtime and much loved member and he and his humor will be missed. Memorial details TBD.

Jerry Christopherson, Carrie Metcalf and family on the death of **Sally** on February 28. **Sally Christopherson** was our wonderful and dedicated librarian for many years and she will be missed. No memorial service is planned.

Flo Spanier and family on the death of her daughter, **Deanna**.

Thank You...

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your good wishes, cards, food & prayers during my month-long battle with acute asthma, bronchitis, and that terrible flu bug that is going around. I'm so much better now and very grateful for your tender loving care & friendship. God's blessings, **Kay Jones**

Congratulations To...

The Fuca family on the birth of long-awaited **Joseph James Fuca** on April 15.

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; Alleen Landstrom; Edith Liggett; 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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Contact Information Change

Paula Boswell's new email: paulaboswell1925@gmail.com

Name Tags

Please contact Shannon Dever in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$7/ea.). ***With new staff members, it's helpful if we all wear our nametags!***

April Celebrations

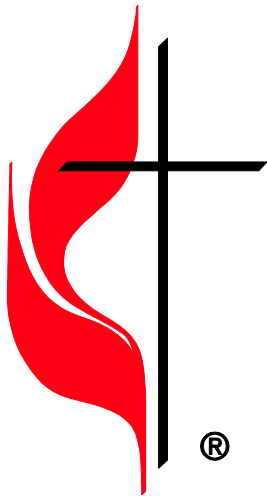
Birthdays



1 Steve Brown	10 Kevin Dimler	Kathi McShane	
Julien Hansen	Lucy Carrico	18 Shelley Lettis	
Jim Hardy	Dave McWilliams	19 Jennifer Andres	25 Gloria Fenton
2 Dave Webb	Sandy Yarmolich	Nancy Vazquez	Jessica Kuelz
Paul Yarmolich	11 Jeff Leontini	20 Bill Dastic	Donna Lindquist
3 Elizabeth Andrew	Blaine Mucklow	Eric Johnson	Kelly Ryan
4 Linda Green	Craig Schleicher	Lavonne Rodean	26 Karen Brown
Joanne Van Bezey	Bill Schneider	Trevor Vazquez	Steve Garnick
5 Barbara Brick	Rhona Sherrill	21 John Evans	Joyce Rodgers
Jayne Schnittker	12 Alice Anthony	Bonnie Roberts	27 Lynne Henderson
6 Lonnie Bristow	Charlotte Garner (93)	Lillian Scherer (96)	28 John Mitchell
Sam Colman	Madison Luecht	Brian Uitti	Nancy Reynolds
Spencer Drake	13 Warrie Alday (91)	22 Sally Andrew	Dan Whiting
Taylor Munk	Doug Hinz	Randy Christensen	29 Shirley Stephenson
Lee Russ	Bee Gee Millinich	Jill Shibuya	Vera Robinson
Sarah Stribling	Rosanne Ogles	23 Charles Fiedler	30 Brent Willman
7 Molly Ehlers	14 Christy Campbell	Boyd Hasik	
Martha Kitajima	Cliff Campbell	24 Rafael Altamirano	
Jan Knadle	Madeline DeWalt	Jim Aude	
Johnathan Robinson	Bruce Koliha	Larry Henderson	
8 Nancy Benvenuto	15 Alexis Bybel	Debbie Koos	
Jeryn Blair Smario	Ruth Riggin	Rosemarie Place	
Trudy Pasquale	16 Judy Pearson Kobsar	Bill Steele	
9 Randy Helms	17 Randy Durrenberger	Annette Warwick	

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Deanna & Clayton Clark	Teri & Steve Hawk	Deborah & Johnathan Robinson	25 Joanne & Randy Durrenberger
3 Ginger & Warren McGuffin	Sara & Jim Rossini		Kirsten & Scott Ericson
6 Susan & Ron Dunn	Jayne & John Schnittker (62nd)	20 Wendy & Tony Cooper (55th)	26 Melanie & Boyd Hasik
7 Jean & Chuck Desmond	11 Marilyn & George Clarke	Laurie & Terry Stocking	
Kathy & Adam Kennedy	Winnie & Brad Stribling	23 Kim & Will Maddux	
8 Linda & John Green	12 Debbie & Greg Koos	24 Lael & Gerard Takiguchi	



APRIL 2018

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 2018

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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