



Valley Messenger

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

SEPTEMBER 2018

Pastor's Pulse ~

Stephen Ministry: Listening, Not Fixing

Greetings,

Pastor Dan and I thoroughly enjoy serving here at SRVUMC! Most of all, we cherish opportunities to get to know you. Please continue to invite us to your small groups, make an appointment to meet with us, or join me at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays to walk along the Iron Horse Trail. Getting to know you is a key priority. Thank you to all who wear name tags, or even better, begin conversations by reminding us of your name. We want to get to know you, and are grateful to be here.

Ever wonder what one person can do to respond to the pain and turmoil in life? One thing I hope you'll consider is becoming a Stephen Minister. If you are seeking a way to grow in faith and help others, maybe God is calling you to learn more about this program.

Don't Miss What's Inside

- 1 Pastor's Pulse: Stephen Ministry
- 2-3 Announcements from Our Pastors
- 4 Church Council Takeaways
- 6 Patsy, Katrina, and Roles at the Office
- 7 Peace and Justice News
- 8 September Communion Offering
- 9 Upcoming Mission Opportunities
- 11 Prime Time Players
- 12 Between the Bookends
- 13 Family Ministries
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Next Issue: October 2018

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by **September 15, 2018.***

I learned about Stephen Ministry when my family and I joined SRVUMC in 1997. I was a new mom, new to the area, and feeling unmoored. Every week, my Stephen Minister would come to my home for an hour. She would listen with her whole heart. She didn't try to fix things, and she didn't give me advice. She did pray for me. And there was no charge! What a wonderful gift this experience was. I felt cared for, heard, and encouraged. There is such power in having a safe place to say whatever is on our minds. I became a true believer in the Stephen Ministry program. I went on to become a Stephen Minister, and then a Stephen Leader (one who trains others to become Stephen Ministers.)

What I love most about this program? Two things. It truly helps those in our church and broader community when they have a Stephen Minister. Those going through transitions, grief, empty nest, divorce or faith crisis find the support they need. AND, it changes those of us who serve as Stephen Ministers. We experience the power of trusting God, as we practice listening (not fixing). The training for being a Stephen Minister changes us, and shapes how we work, parent, and engage with others.

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How to become a Stephen Minister? Begin by learning more and asking questions about the program.

Join Al Banisch and myself for information meetings on Sunday, September 30, after both worship services. We'll meet in the Conference Room at 10 a.m. and noon.

Come to the one that suits your schedule.

If you are looking for a meaningful way to grow in faith and serve your community, please come to one of these meetings, and feel free to contact **Al Banisch, Stephen Leader, 303/906-2184, or me, 925/837-5243, ext. 107,** with any questions.

Serving with you in the Spirit of Christ,

Pastor Kim



Congregational Thanks

On behalf of **Pastor Kim** and myself and quite a few others who you ferried between the airport and San Damiano Retreat Center, thank you for making it so easy for us to participate in the Academy for Spiritual Formation. It's an opportunity—one that may not come around again, certainly not so close-by—to do something hard that we'll never regret, to steep ourselves in the Spirit that called us to ministry in the first place.

July 29 through August 3 was the first of eight five-day retreats we will attend over the next two years at San Damiano. The strength of this congregation makes it possible for us to do that: you are helping us to pay for it (yes, it's expensive). Your lay leadership, both pastorally and administratively, is so solid we're free to give ourselves without distraction to the routines of worship, reflection, prayer and rest that makes the Academy the crucible of spiritual formation that it is. And then there's your forbearance in letting your two new pastors, still on the steep of their learning curves, be away at the same time for extended stretches. It says a lot about who you are and a lot about what you think of us. It's a blessing, grace upon grace.

In the coming months I'm sure Kim and I will have more to share about how the retreats go and what they are bringing about in our lives and ministries. Also, your curiosity is welcome. We'll tell you all about it if you ask.

My prayer, one that's already being answered, is that the spiritual fruits ripening in us will be fruitful for you and for all the many people our faith community blesses in the years to come.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dan

September Worship

Join us for the sermon series **Bread, Bath and Beyond!**

September 4, Bread: Looking to fill the holes and hunger in your life? We'll explore the power and meaning of Communion, as we serve one another the Bread of Life. Join us for Table Talk.

September 9 Bath: In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we hear the radical, life-changing truth that God calls us "Beloved" and is simply delighted in us. How will we live differently, knowing we are loved and cherished?

September 16 Beyond! The sacraments of Communion and Baptism prepare us to be beacons of grace in the world. Join us for this special Sunday when the Chancel Choir helps lead worship.

September 23 through October 14: Worship themes will be **A Church Under Construction**. What does it mean to be people of faith in the 21st century? As we move into a renovated Sanctuary, how will we be renewed and receptive to bold new ways of living our faith?

It's Sunday Morning...Where Are Our Pastors?

As **Pastor Dan** and I move into our new roles here at church, you will see one of us leading worship services each Sunday. When Dan is preaching, I'll join in worship for one service. Then, I'll be visiting or leading a Sunday School class or small group during the other service. Dan will be doing the same when I preach. We are both here each Sunday morning, except when on vacation. This approach gives us a chance to participate in other groups that are happening the same time as worship, and sitting in worship (rather than leading it) gives us a whole new perspective. Looking at worship as a member of the congregation helps us keep learning and growing as worship leaders. We notice what works well, and what doesn't. Our goal is to craft worship experiences that engage and inspire. See you in worship!

—*Pastor Kim*

Our choirs are meeting again! And singing is good for you! Daniel Pink, in *When: The Scientific Secret of Perfect Timing* puts it this way:

The research on the benefits of singing in groups is stunning. Choral singing calms heart rates and boosts endorphin levels. It improves lung function. It increases pain thresholds and reduces the need for pain medication. It even relieves symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome. Group singing—not just performances but also practices—increases the production of immunoglobulin, making it easier to fight infections. In fact, cancer patients who sing in choirs show an improved immune response after just one rehearsal.

And while the physiological payoffs are many, the psychological ones might be even greater. Several studies demonstrate that choral singing delivers a significant boost to positive mood and lifts self-esteem while reducing feelings of stress and symptoms of depression. It enhances one's sense of purpose and meaning, and increases sensitivity towards others. And these effects come not from singing per se, but from singing in a group. *(page 195, with plenty of footnotes and documentation.)*

Join a choir today, and invite your family to do the same. Find out more by contacting our choir directors:

Chancel Choir

Bruce Koliha, Music Director brucekoliha@gmail.com

Living Water Singers

Greg Zema, Director gregzema@gmail.com

Bros and Belles and Carillon Handbell Choirs

Winnie Stribling, Director Winnie_stribling@msn.com

Youth Choir

Teri Hawk, Director hermhawk@aol.com

Children's Choir

Beth McLelland, Director iteachk@pacbell.net

Church Council Takeaways for August 21, 2018

Software changes coming for the Church office • Welcome to Morgan Bailey, new Tot Spot co-manager • New attendance cards in use soon

Finance Committee (Bob Dominici): Pledge/Giving is slightly favorable to plan. Appointed staff is still favorable to plan with retirements. Apportionments approach a match to income. Office/Property is on budget, and Programs are still under budget at this point.

| | Jan-July ACTUAL | Jan-July BUDGET |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Pledges, Gifts | \$ 6,665,520 | \$ 641,831 |
| Other Income | \$ 29,946 | \$ 23,738 |
| Total Income | \$ 6,695,466 | \$ 665,569 |
| Appointed Staff | \$ 155,108 | \$ 159,718 |
| Non-appointed Staff | \$ 271,116 | \$ 305,650 |
| Apportionments | \$ 64,606 | \$ 64,916 |
| Office/Property | \$ 134,128 | \$ 124,079 |
| Programs/Other | \$ 16,986 | \$ 24,978 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 641,944 | \$ 679,341 |
| Net Variance | \$ 6,053,522 | \$ (13,772) |

Regarding the Benevolent Fund Distribution of Undesignated Balance: plans for these undesignated funds are still in discussion, with actions on hold.

Motions by Finance: Motion to notify Shelby vendor of cancellation for October 23, 2018. Currently, the church pays a monthly fee for a small number of people within the church to use the service, ShelbyNext, for access to church contact information like member phone numbers. **Motion PASSED.**

Finance moves to work with an outside agency to use QuickBooks beginning in December with a goal of full transition for 2019. Church Windows software issues have been wasting time in the office and setting us up for errors. ARC books are currently managed with QuickBooks. The agency would give the Church access to updated, standard accounting software QuickBooks at a much lower monthly rate (approximately \$127/mo.) than currently being paid for Church Windows. **Motion PASSED.**

Board of Trustees (Mark Miller): Sanctuary work continues on schedule, and AV plans are finalized. Roof replacement is underway. Fallen tree limb damaged some fencing

behind the ARC. Overcharge by PG&E should be resolved in September. BOT is evaluating alternative uses for Children's Ministry rooms when not in use for their primary purpose. BOT has been investigating the increase in water rates; however, it appears to be a matter of increased use.

Nominations and Leadership Development (Fred Toney): Kathleen Saghafi and Lyn Arscott have begun in their new roles with the Church Council and the ARC Committee, respectively. New voices are sought for other leadership roles within the Church.

Children's Ministry Report (Laura Roy): Sunday school numbers in the TK through second grade group have grown recently with several visiting families. **Morgan Bailey**, currently a senior at St. Mary's College, begins as new co-manager for Tot Spot beginning in a few weeks. The Children's Committee is deciding between two curricula, selected from among six options. Laura Roy attends preschool orientations to meet parents and invite families to the Family Barbeque in Hap Magee Park on **September 9 (see Calendar on Page 13)**. New for the fall: "Moms & Munchkins Lunch Group" to begin in October.

Youth Ministry Report (Jamere Crawford): Fall retreat planned for teens under 16 in October.

Peace and Justice Report (Laura Sanchez): Multi-faith ACTION Committee (MFAC) annual review and inspiration dinner held August 29. The committee continues to work with MFAC and Moms Demand Action on gun violence. Moms Demand Action meetings are held in the Church Fireside Room on the last Wednesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Pastors' Issues (Pastors Kim and Dan): Pastor Dan and ARC manager Joey Fuca discussed possible Church activities in ARC. **Connect & Belong Committee** seeks ways to gain information about new and regular attendees. A new, simplified attendance card rolls out in a few Sundays. **Pastor Kim** is visiting members who have dropped off in their attendance to learn about their reasons for drifting away from regular worship at SRVUMC. She also notices 9 a.m. service attendees have numbered in the mid-100s recently with 10:30 service attendees typically numbering in the 60s.

The Spiritual Brain: Science and the Religious Experience

Dave Coombs Leads Adult Sunday School in September

The **10:30 a.m.** class is based on a video series of the same name presented by Dr. Andrew Newberg. Dr. Newberg is a renowned brain researcher and has spent much of his adult life examining humans' quest for spirituality and the role the brain plays in the quest. Each class will begin with a 30-minute video from Dr. Newberg followed by discussion. In addition to Dr. Newberg's video, David will introduce material from Barbara Bradley Hagerty's book *Fingerprints of God* and William R. Miller's book *Quantum Change*.

- Is the brain hardwired to experience God?
- What is happening in the brain when we have transformative insights or mystical experiences?
- Why do these experiences happen when we least expect them?

These are some of the questions Dr. Newberg will answer during this exciting lecture series. The schedule will be released in 30 days.

For more information, contact **David Coombs** at 925 837-5915 or email dfcassoc@comcast.net.

Afternoons at the ARC! (The New Gym)

Monday and Wednesday afternoons September 10 through November 14 3 to 5 p.m.

Gym games and homework help! Meet for one hour in the gym for games like dodgeball, volleyball, foursquare and more. Then meet for one more hour of homework help with volunteers to assist. Healthy snacks provided. **Cost is \$25 for the ten-week session.**

Open to youth in grades 3 through 8. Sign up online here: <https://srvumc.org/afternoons-at-the-arc/>



Looking for a way to give, and to also grow in faith?

Become a Liturgist!

Thursday, September 9, 6 to 7 p.m.

Room 206, Wesley Center

Liturgists surveyed not only enjoy this ministry, but also getting more out of worship. What's not to like? Come join the team!

This is the final information session, but you only need to attend one session. This means you haven't missed your chance yet!

Current liturgists, as well as anyone curious about what it involves, are welcome to attend. **Pastor Kim** will lead.

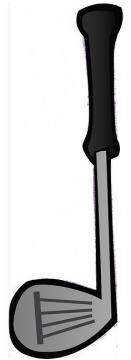
SRVUMC Golf Outing

Boundary Oaks in Walnut Creek

**Saturday, September 15, First tee
time 10:40 a.m.**

The format is a four-person scramble. Put together your own group, or we will place you in a foursome. **Cost is \$67 per golfer, which includes green fees, cart and prize fund.** Sign-ups are in the courtyard between services.

Contact **Paul Kuelz** at paulkuel@sbcglobal.net for more information.



Be an Acolyte! Inviting All 2nd to 6th Grade Children!

The word *acolyte* is from ancient Greek word that means attendant, or "follower." Light and fire remind us that God is here with us. When you bring the light (fire) into the Sanctuary where people are gathering to worship and you light the candles, you are reminding people that God is with us at home, at school, and at work as well as in the worship service. When you light the torch again, before extinguishing the candles, and then walk out with your torch lit, you remind the people what when we scatter out into the world, God will be there with us. Lit candles also remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Acolytes are scheduled to serve on a rotating basis for the 9 a.m. Sunday service. **Contact Laura Roy** at lroy@srvumc.org.

Patsy, Katrina, and Roles at the Office

This summer has been frantically busy for many of us, not least **Patsy Kyles**, our office administrator, and **Katrina Combs**, our office manager and accountant. If you're still trying to wrap your head around who is doing what in the church office these days, here's a short explanation.

What Patsy Does

If you've called the main office number this summer, then Patsy is very likely the person who took your call. Patsy has been an office administrator and executive assistant for years, and her warm disposition helps set a welcoming tone at the church office. She's the one who takes care of membership concerns, including updating church records, like attendance. Patsy keeps the white board in the office updated with news of hospitalizations, births, prayer concerns and bereavements. She also stays busy with preparing Sunday bulletins and staying on top of church mailings, plus other (less interesting) paperwork. This responsibility also means working with the volunteers who fold and mail church publications. Basically, if you need to report something to the office, Patsy is probably who you're looking for, and most of us will have a reason to interact with her at some point. If you visit our church campus during the week, poke your head into the office and say hello to Patsy.



Patsy basking in the late summer sunshine of SRVUMC.

What Katrina Does

If you're already getting to know Katrina, then you may be attending Church committee meetings or playing a role with the budgets for various Church groups and events (even if you aren't, you're still welcome to pop into the office to just say hi). As office manager, Katrina supervises staff and handles many familiar aspects of any office—IT, human resources, and legal requirements—but generally not the sort of item that will show up in the Mini-Messenger on Sunday or even in this newsletter. Her direct style and familiarity with standard accounting practices make her the kind of person who can help SRVUMC conduct its financial business with transparency and consistency. Katrina likes numbers and keeps the wheels turning for us mostly behind the scenes, but you can still get to know her—you just might be at a monthly Church Council meeting (*any of us can attend them!*) if you do.



Katrina and her husband hiking in San Francisco.

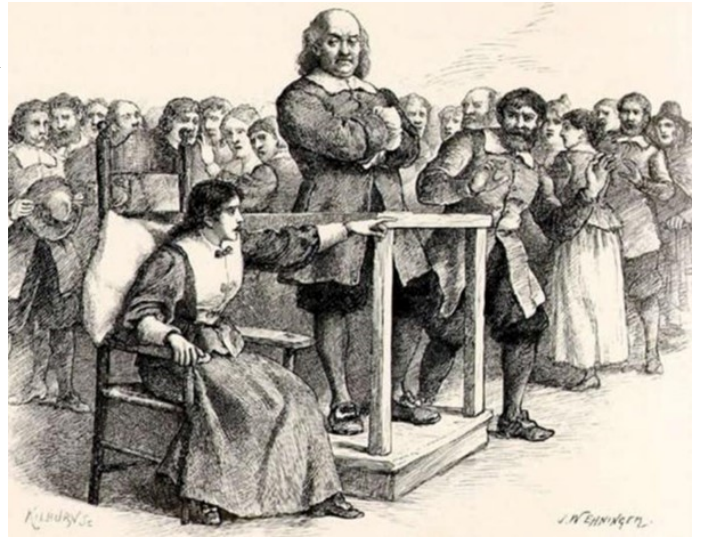
Speaking of Roles...

Have you ever considered being an usher? Bring that wonderful, extraverted personality of yours to serve an important role for our Church! Contact **Bob Dominici** at rjdomo@aol.com if you're interested.

What Do You Know About Witches?

Saturday, September 15, at 8 a.m. in Wesley Center

In 1692, an ancestor of **Gay Scott** was accused of witchcraft in Salem. This knowledge created in Gay a passion to find out more about what was going on in the minds of the people at that time. Gay will share her findings with the **Men's Breakfast Group**. Gay is a long time member of our church and a member of the *Associated Daughters of Early American Witches*. Those of you who know Gay will agree that she is definitely not a witch.



Doing Peace and Justice

by **Laura Sanchez**, Chair, Peace and Justice Committee

(Matthew 22:37-39, NIV Bible)

Jesus replied: “**‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**”

And they asked: “**Who is my neighbor?**”

Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition is a four-plus year-old organization of members of over 100 congregations of various faiths in Contra Costa County committed to alleviating the root causes of poverty experienced by our neighbors in this county. The organization has gained a positive reputation for its education within its congregations and for its visible advocacy for city, county, and state policies that address these causes. We are known throughout the county as **MFAC**. Our advocacy is appreciated by the legislators, boards, city councils and planning commissions for our voice for principles of justice, as different from the more often heard voices of business or resident self-interest. The several meetings held in the past at SRVUMC about the need for housing available to more diverse income-earners are representative of MFAC education efforts. Also, SRVUMC has had two members of MFAC task forces over the past four years. Often, this work is one drop in the bucket at a time. Without a bucketful, change doesn't happen! **The six MFAC task forces are for: education equality, employment opportunity, food security, health access, housing and shelter access, and race equality.**

Hopefully there will be more of our congregation members interested in becoming work-bees for positive change in our cities and our county.

Are you one of those? Contact **Laura Sanchez**, laura3627@gmail.com and see the MFAC website at www.multifaithactioncoalition.org.



*We are Advocates and Communities
Taking Initiative for Our Neighbors*

September Communion Offering

This month, your Communion Sunday offering supports two familiar charities with which our Church has upcoming mission opportunities. In the past, our mission efforts have been scheduled concurrently, but this year, we will sponsor another Stop Hunger Now! meal pack-out on a different date than the Playhouse build.

The Habitat Playhouse

First, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church and Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley partner again, this time to bring joy to the youngest members of the populations they serve with the Habitat Playhouse. The Habitat Playhouse project is an aspect of Habitat for Humanity that invites groups to build and donate playhouses to charities or individual families. To sponsor a playhouse, a group raises \$2000 and then builds the playhouse themselves.

SRVUMC's playhouse is nearly built, and the Mission Saturday effort will focus on painting the playhouse.

"Creative, and artistic volunteers would love this project as it is entirely up to us to decide on the theme of the house," said Paul Kuelz.

Other groups working through Habitat for Humanity have chosen familiar cartoon characters and other cheerful themes.

When completed, our playhouse will go to the Blue Star Moms. Working with Habitat, that group will designate the particular family who gets the playhouse. The recipient family will be Tri-Valley residents with a parent serving overseas.

Rise Against Hunger (Formerly Stop Hunger Now!)

SRVUMC volunteers have participated in lively meal pack-outs before, when church members have packed over 10,000 meals in a little over 90 minutes. This satisfying project requires \$0.29 per meal to fund the raw materials such as dehydrated rice/soy meal, dehydrated vegetables and spices, along with 23 essential vitamins and minerals. The upcoming pack-out has plenty of space for volunteers and is appropriate for families with children old enough to follow directions.

These meal packets will be sent to partner schools in developing countries, who serve these hot meals to their students. A daily hot meal provided at school for each child serves as an important incentive for parents in these regions to send their children to school or for them to attend adult training programs. Improved school attendance and nutrition assist in breaking the cycle of poverty for these families.

Stop Hunger Now! began in 1998 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.

At San Ramon Valley UMC, we have sponsored meal-packing events, short mission opportunities great for entire families to do together. As our volunteers know, a group of forty to fifty volunteers can pack 10,000 meals in about two hours!



The meal packing events have been a part of SRVUMC missions for years!

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing

Our next meal packing event will occur on **Sunday, November 4 immediately following the 9 a.m. service.** There will only be one service that morning. The meal packing will be held in Wesley Hall. All ages are welcome to participate.



Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank – Our next scheduled date to sort and box food at their facility is **Saturday, September 23.** Contact **Lee Rust** at chi-jocol@aol.com or at 925-820-9047 for more information.



The Sodbusters are looking for volunteers to share in the upkeep of our church campus. Work with the group or fit some yardwork into your own schedule. Please contact **Gary Swanson** at garyswanson811@gmail.com or 925-437-2887.



Valley Fire Mission in Lake County, November 11 to 17. Contact **Paul Kuelz** at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net for more information about assisting in the fire recovery in the Middletown area.

Hurricane Harvey Mission Trip to South Texas, Corpus Christi area. Assist in recovery from one of the most damaging storms on record. We fly **Saturday, October 13** and return **Saturday, October 20.** Our group will prepare meals and stay at the First United Methodist Church in Sinton, TX. The church offers sleeping rooms with bunk beds, a kitchen, gathering areas, and a shower trailer. **Cost is \$200 plus airfare (about \$400).** Contact **Paul Kuelz** at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net.

MedShare. Please join us volunteering at MedShare in San Leandro to help sort medical supplies on Wednesday, **September 12.** Meet at the church at **8 a.m. to carpool.** Lunch will be provided. Please contact **Chris Hoff** at 925-367-3360.



Small Group Sign-ups!

September 9 in the Courtyard between services.

The Adult Sunday Discussion Class “Taking the Sermon into the World”

This Sunday class will continue through the fall, meeting in **Room 202 upstairs in Wesley Center** after our last Sunday in the Fireside Room on September 2. It will continue to be facilitated by various members of our congregation. Can you lead a class? Please contact **Laura Sanchez** at laura3627@gmail.com to volunteer for this easy, yet important role.



Plan for Your Future Like You Plan for Vacation: Wish You Were Here!

Funding a Charitable gift annuity with us is like sending your friends a postcard that says, “Wish you were here.” A gift annuity shows just how savvy you are—it shows you planned and that you have arrived! A gift annuity offers fixed, annual, lifetime payments, tax savings and other benefits, while supporting ministries that matter most to you.

| <u>One-Life Annuity Annuitant's Age</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Age 90 | 9.5 |
| Age 85 | 8.3 |
| Age 80 | 7.3 |
| Age 75 | 6.2 |
| Age 70 | 5.6 |

New gift annuity rates released! It is a great time to support ministry and increase your income.

A gift that keeps on giving to your church SRVUMC. For more information contact your Endowment Committee.

New 8-week Summer Gentle Yoga Series August 3 – September 24 Mondays and Fridays, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Fireside Room

Classes focus on releasing tension, connecting with the breath, deep breathing, stretching and helping students to gain greater strength, balance and flexibility. Gentle yoga moves slowly, using classical Hatha yoga postures, emphasizing correct alignment and offering modifications and variations to accommodate all levels of yoga students.

Please bring a yoga mat, yoga blanket or large towel, two blocks and a strap. Some props are provided. All levels are welcome.

One class per week: \$108

Two classes per week: \$188

Single drop-in class: \$15

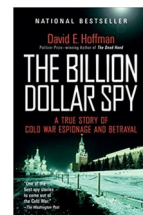
To sign up contact Allison at yogawithallison@att.net or 925-200-5958.

Afternoon Book Group

Monday, September 17, 1 p.m.

Rm. 202 Wesley Center

***The Billion Dollar Spy* by David Hoffman**
(Debbie leading)

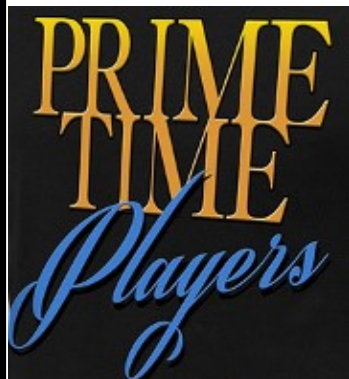


“Everyday Peacemaking”

**A Presentation by Rev. Will McGarvey of
the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa
County**

September 23 at 3 p.m.

Fireside Room



Prime Time Potluck and Presentation—September 4, 1st Tuesday of the month, at noon in the Wesley Center. Our own **Warren McGuffin** will play his banjo and tell us the history of bluegrass music in America. Bring a dish to share or stop at the deli or bakery. We always have plenty of food: your company is what we want! Over 55? Come for great fellowship, fun, and GREAT food!

Prime Time Lunch with Friends—September 18, 3rd Tuesday of the month, noon in the Wesley Center. Chef **John Sanders** will prepare traditional British fish and chips, with a classic coleslaw—all good! Come for a good meal, great fellowship and fun. The best \$5 meal in the valley! Over 55? Come join us!

The Church Is Hitting the RAILS! Roaring Camp Train Trip, Santa Cruz— September 25, departs 9 a.m. from Church parking lot. \$29 per person (\$24 per person if we have twenty-five people!) We are attempting to rent a sixteen-passenger van for the day, so we need sign-ups! Lunch at Cowboy Bar and Grill in Felton, \$10-15. We will return around 4 p.m. Contact **Jerry Ricker** at jerryricker@astound.net or 925-382-2862.



Oil the Sewing Machine and Fill the Candy Molds! It's Time To Get Ready for SRVUMC's

11th Annual Holiday Boutique Craft Fair Saturday, November 10, 2017 9 to 3 p.m.

Crafters, start preparing for the show featuring treasures created by our own church folk and members of the community! For the past ten years, we have consistently shown high-quality handmade items, such as

- Jewelry
- Quilted table linens
- Handmade shawls & sweaters
- Fused glass ornaments
- Handmade caramels
- Silk floral arrangements, and more!



If you have creative talents, we need you! It's time to reserve a space and get busy creating works of art or tasty treats. **A space fee of \$35 and 10% of your total sales will be donated to the church.** Let's bring out all our hidden talents and make the 11th Annual Craft Fair the best yet!

Contact **Shannon Dever** at shannon-dever62@gmail.com for information or to sign up. *Friends and family welcome!*



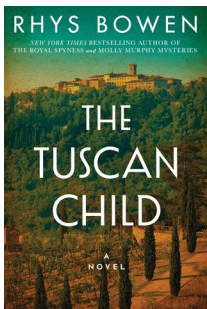
Between the Bookends



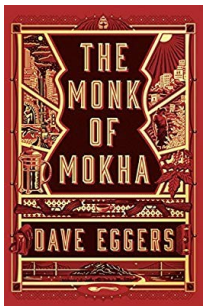
By Paula Boswell

A great big thanks to our readers for donating books to our library. We welcome them all. You can simply leave them on the desk in the library, Room 101 in the Wesley Center. If we had to buy all our books, our small library budget would soon be exhausted. Keep them coming! The library team is also most grateful to the Writers Club of our Church for the lovely new picture in the library, made from a jigsaw puzzle put together by **John and Linda Green**. Come take a look at it!

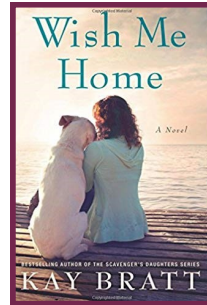
Here are the new books for your reading pleasure:



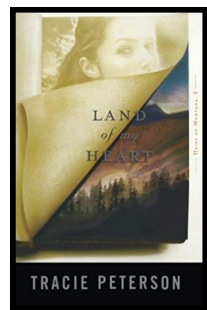
Bowen, Rhys, *The Tuscan Child*. A British pilot is shot down in Nazi occupied Tuscany in 1944. How he survived is a mystery. After her father's death in 1973, his young daughter Johanna finds a love letter in his desk, addressed to a woman in an Italian village, returned "address unknown." The letter hints at happenings he never revealed to her. Intrigued, she goes on a journey in search of long-buried secrets. She discovers several answers along with a way of life attuned to the bounty of nature. Though a work of fiction, this could very well have happened.



Eggers, Dave, *The Monk of Mokha*. Meet the Indiana Jones of Coffee! It's the true story of a poor kid from San Francisco's Tenderloin who has found success as a coffee importer. The author takes us on the journey of this young Yemeni American as he follows his dream of helping coffee farmers in Yemen while making his fortune. To succeed, he must immerse himself in the process of coffee making and expand his knowledge of Yemeni culture. He takes on this task through war-torn territories with gusto and bravado. A must-read for all you coffee lovers.



Bratt, Kay, *Wish Me Home*. After a traumatic situation, Cara, a young, troubled woman from Georgia decides to go to Key West, Florida, mostly on foot. Along the way she befriends a stray dog she calls Hemi, after her favorite author. A strong bond develops between woman and dog. The journey is fraught with adventure, friendships and danger until she finally finds a home for both her and Hemi. The whole experience makes her a strong, self-reliant woman who realizes she has much to give others.



Peterson, Tracie, *Land of My Heart*. This Christian novel takes place during the Civil War. After the father of a Missouri family of eight was killed, sixteen-year-old Dianne convinces her bereaved mother to leave the life they've known and move to an uncle in Montana. They buy three wagons, load them up, and join a wagon train. The long journey takes us through wilderness, danger, deprivation and heartaches. Through it all, Dianne becomes a stronger woman, facing the challenges of these hard pioneer days with courage while making many new friendships. Don't miss this Western historical novel.



*If you only read the books that everyone else is reading,
you can only think what everyone else is thinking.*

—Haruki Murakami



Calendar: Save the Date!

BBQ for Families of Children Birth Through Grade 5, Sunday, September 9, 3 to 5 p.m. at Hap Magee Park. Join us for a relaxing barbecue to kick off the new school year. Hap Magee has everything—a great play and water feature area with lots of room for fun! We have secured some picnic tables. We will supply hot dogs, drinks, chips, salad and shaved ice. *Donations accepted to cover the cost.* RSVP to lroy@srvumc.org

October 27 – Trunk or Treat is coming soon! Start planning your Trunk! **Saturday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Contact Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org if you want to be a part of the fun!

December 2 – Advent Festival, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

Become an Acolyte! Contact Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org, and to learn more, see Page 5.



Afternoons at the ARC! (The New Gym)

Monday and Wednesday afternoons, September 10 through November 14, 3-5 p.m. *See Page 5 for more!*

Contact Us!

Laura Roy

Children's and Family Ministries
(Children through Grade 5)

lroy@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext 106

Jamere Crawford

Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

jcrawford@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext.109

Sunday School Topics

WEEK ONE: Nehemiah Hears About the Wall — **Nehemiah 1:1-2:1-9**

Bottom Line: Be on the lookout for what needs to be done.

WEEK TWO: Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall — **Nehemiah 2:11-18**

Bottom Line: Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

WEEK THREE: Nehemiah Helps the Poor — **Nehemiah 5:1-12**

Bottom Line: Don't wait for someone else to help people in need.

WEEK FOUR: Nehemiah and Sanballat — **Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4,6**

Bottom Line: Stay focused on what needs to be done.

WEEK FIVE: Wall is Rebuilt — **Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17**

Bottom Line: Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

Memory Verse: "Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord."

—Colossians 3:23a

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.

Weekly Programming

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 to 8) Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9 to 12) 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.

Homework Helpers Needed for Afternoons at the ARC! Monday and Wednesdays 3 to 5 p.m. September 10 to November 14. Sign up at <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/4090a4bacaf28a7fd0-after>

Music

Performances 2nd Sunday of the month. Additionally, they may perform for Christmas Eve and Christmas concert, Palm Sunday, May Music Concert.

Cherub Choir (PreK through 2nd), Beth McClelland
(iteachk@pacbell.net)

Practice Sundays 10 to 10:30 a.m., Judson.

Archangel, (3rd grade and up)

Teri Hawk (hermhawk@aol.com)

Practice Sunday 10 to 11 a.m. in Conference Rm.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Betty Jo Bennett | Gail Soldavani |
| Julie Dastic | Annemarie Warwick |
| Richard Hsu | Debbie Yang |

Congratulations To...

The family of **Cosima, Amelie and Madelein Sepull** for their upcoming baptism on **September 9 at 9 a.m.**

Continued Prayers For...

| | |
|--|--|
| All those who continue to live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Johnny Johnston; Lea Patteson; Lillian Scherer; | Ann Schroeder; Joan Webb; Jeannine Woolery |
|--|--|

Name Tags

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

September Celebrations

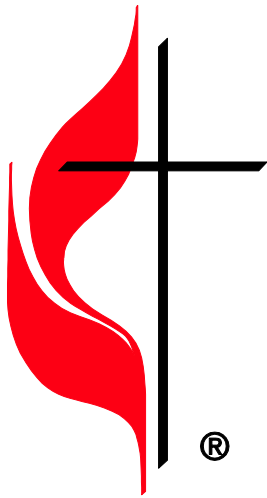


Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Dianne Ehlers | Brad Soderlund | Jaclyn Vazquez | Brad Stribling |
| Meaghan Krakoff | 9 Sheryl Kerr | 17 Connor Choy | 22 Jan Baldwin |
| Marianne Skeoch | Bethany Metcalf | Mackenzie Dimler | Craig Schultz |
| 2 Louise Farrow | 10 Alan Christian | Kelly Nakaso | 23 Holland Ericson |
| Julia Philbert | Ray Tombaugh | 18 Ela Altamirano | Irv Skeoch |
| Brian Stephenson | Jennifer Townsend | Bill Andrew | 24 Alonzo Altamirano |
| 3 Ariel Carpenter | Jeff Stroin | David Coombs | Hayden Higgins |
| Catherine Ehlers | 11 Lilly Hickman | John Harrison | Suzanne Korinke |
| Lucille Eichelberger | Marissa Ogden | Maria Kirby | John Place |
| (94) | Terry Stocking | Mira Samara | Nick Tsai |
| Alice Miller | Linda Stone | 19 Lyn Arcsott | Keith Wesselschmidt |
| 5 Jillian Ericson | Carol Webb | Yuri Beagles | 25 Linda Albertoni Eng- |
| Caitlin Flanagan | 12 Brigitte Greene | Alison Berry | man |
| 6 Nicholas Stocking | 13 Sandi Cook | Kirsten Ericson | Peggy Crawford |
| Ray Winter | 14 Elena Fenoglio | Gregg Mannell | Don Johnson |
| 7 James Smith | Bill Fulcher | Ted Wolfram | 26 Seth Naples |
| Steve Wood | Nathan Morones | 20 Marci Milligan | Pat Ryan |
| 8 Carrie Metcalf | Mike Nicco | Larry Pasquale | 27 Scott Ericson |
| Sarah Fulcher | 15 Cole McKnight | Lydia Sidhom | 28 Clayton Clark |
| Ekua Impraim | 16 Geoff Greenwood | Judy Takeda | 29 James Kocins |
| Corey Merchant | Gary Osterhout | 21 Don Brockman | 30 Nell Ryan |

Wedding Anniversaries

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Carole Lynne & Ed Keller (55th) | Nicky & Mark Jewett | 11 Jamie & Rich Braden | 20 Jana & Ali Vojdani |
| Patricia Ludwig and Mike Prenger | Carrie & Brad Tolstedt | Joanne & Bill Van Beze- | Amy & Sam Sidhom |
| 2 Brenda & Doug Domergue | 5 Amanda & Steve Lee | ey | 23 Annette & Dan Whiting |
| 3 Susie & Jim McKnight (58th) | 6 Rebecca & Tom Byrom | 12 Jan & Bill Foulds | 24 Jeryn & Steven Smario |
| | Elaine & David Hage- | 13 Tammy & Adam Webb | Stephanie & Christo- |
| | bush | Joan & Dave Webb | pher Campbell |
| | Judy & Brad Kobsar | (60th) | 26 Karen & Brian Steffy |
| 4 Laura Brady & Doug Merritt | 8 Cara & Blaine Mucklow | 16 Lee & Bill Rust | 28 Connie & David Lowe |
| | 10 Dot & Gene Ives (64th) | 19 Teresa & Jeff Stroin | |



SEPTEMBER 2018

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. in the Wesley Center

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

Child Care for birth-kindergarten is available during the morning services in the

Children's Building

September 2018

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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