



Valley Messenger

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

DECEMBER 2018

Don't Miss What's Inside

- 2 PPV: Longing for Completion
- 3 Church Council Takeaways
- 5 Upcoming Mission Opportunities
- 7 December Communion Offering
- 8 Christmas Offering
- 9 Between the Bookends
- 10 Prime Time Players
- 13 Youth, Children and Family Ministries
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Next Issue: January 2019

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

Where's the Message from the Pastor?

The Pastoral POV message appears on Page 2...just for this month.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5 p.m. Family Service with Children's Pageant and Living Waters Band

8 p.m. Traditional Service

11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion

Note that this year there are three services! We look forward to seeing you and your loved ones at one of them.

Advent Theme: Wait Watchers

Hungering for the Things That Matter

In this season of waiting and watching, we explore the ancient stories with the awareness that to welcome the Christ Child into our lives, we might need to change some of our daily habits. We will weigh the benefits of living with awareness, even in times of darkness.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday December 2.

Service of the Longest Night Friday, December 21 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel

On the darkest night of the year, this worship service remembers that for some, this season is not filled with holiday cheer. It might be that the darkness in the world around us feels overwhelming; it might be that we are missing a loved one; it might be that we are simply not sure what we believe Christmas is all about. So, we gather, for silence, music and candlelight.



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Pastoral POV

Longing for Completion

By Pastor Dan Sturdivant

And so, we arrive at Advent and soon Christmas and soon a new year. Advent, because it is at the end of our calendar year, begins our liturgical year. We begin again our cycle of devotion. We wait in the candle-lit quiet for the music to rise, for the new thing God will do.

* * *

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) is without dispute the greatest German-speaking poet of the 20th century. He is the poet laureate of inwardness and longing. He understood that waiting was more spiritually fertile than arriving. His poems confront us with what is absent, as you'll see in the sonnet below. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, we say, because what and who we long for confronts us with the immediacy of our incompleteness. When I miss you or some place I love, something in me is missing. I'm in a kind of advent.

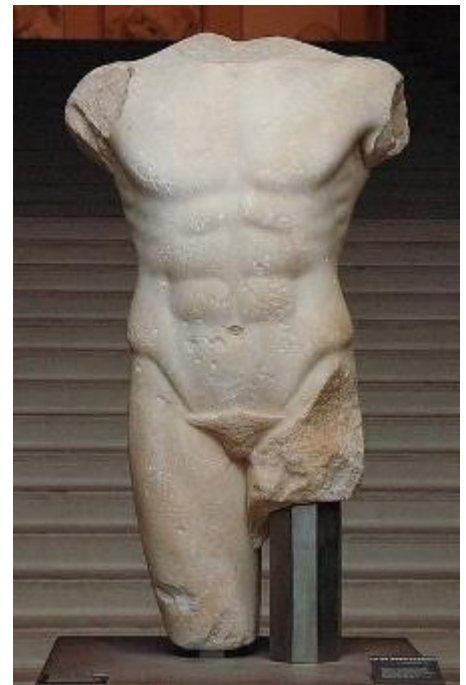
"Archaic Torso of Apollo" is one of Rilke's best known poems. It was inspired by the *Miletus Torso*, a 5th century B.C. Greek statue in the Louvre (<https://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/male-torso>). The artist is unknown.

*We cannot know his legendary head
with eyes like ripening fruit. And yet his
torso
is still suffused with brilliance from inside,
like a lamp, in which his gaze, now
turned to low,*

*gleams in all its power. Otherwise
the curved breast could not dazzle you
so, nor could
a smile run through the placid hips and
thighs
to that dark center where procreation
flared.*

*Otherwise this stone would seem de-
faced
beneath the translucent cascade of the
shoulders
and would not glisten like a wild beast's fur:*

*would not, from all the borders of itself,
burst like a star: for here there is no place
that does not see you. You must change your life.*



Male torso, Louvre. Photo by Marie-Lan Nguyen, public domain.

What makes this an Advent poem is that what is missing in the statue is more meaningfully present now than when the statue was “complete.” It is “suffused...from inside” with what has been lost.

The final two lines of the poem come as a shock, forcing you to look again at what was enlivening the poem from the start. You and I are the subject of the poem. We are incompleteness hungering for completion, though too much may have been lost; we are partial, chipped, pocked and scoured; parts of us, perhaps the best parts, have been hacked off, defaced by circumstance, perhaps by negligence, or vandalism. We see in this torso a remnant more radiant than the whole. In this

light we see ourselves no longer “in a mirror, dimly.” We glimpse what God sees, the authenticity in our brokenness, and we see how little our lives reflect the love in which they are held. We must change. Start again.

We need a star to follow, a Christ-child to love. We must wait for the music to rise, watch and make ready to receive what God alone will do.

["Archaic Torso of Apollo", from *Ahead of all Parting: The Selected Poetry and Prose of Rainer Maria Rilke*. Edited and translated by Stephen Mitchell. The Modern Library, Random House, Inc. 1995. p. 67.]

Church Council Takeaways

Meetings October 23 and November 13, 2018

Rebecca Bernstein named Youth Director • Changes to Church Council Proposed

Possible Changes to Church Council Structure and Procedures

Pastor Kim proposed several changes to the Church Council at the October meeting:

- **Streamlining some committees that might be redundant or inactive.** Among committees to be considered for dissolution following the December 4, 2018 Charge Conference are five practice committees (Intentional Faith Development, Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, Extravagant Generosity). At the October meeting, Church Council moved to merge the Benevolent Giving committee into Missions. Another motion to merge the Endowment Committee into the Finance Committee was removed from further discussion: these committees are to remain distinct.
- **Setting and sharing Church Council agendas.** Pastor Kim suggests that making Church Council meeting agendas known more broadly in advance might improve meeting attendance. The Council is to further consider ways to share agendas with a wider audience, like posting to the church website, social media or in the Friday email. As a related issue, the Church Council will also consider means to solicit proposed agenda items from the congregation at large to make sure topics discussed are relevant to congregants.
- **Including at-large voting members from within the congregation.** Pastor Kim proposes adding three at-large members from the congregation. The practice is in

keeping with the Book of Discipline, and historically, SRVUMC has had as many as four at-large members at a time. This motion for three at-large members to be added carried in the October meeting. In the future, Youth, Children's Ministries and Hospitality Committees might also get voting positions on the Church Council.

Discussed at the November 13 Meeting

SPRC: To consider pastoral review and compensation in advance of Charge Conference. Approval by Church Council originally slated for December 4 meeting rescheduled for November 20. The congregation will have the opportunity to see the pastoral compensation at the Charge Conference. SPRC seeks to make itself more accessible and interactive with the congregation at large. Non-appointed staff job descriptions have also been updated for this year. **SPRC and Office Manager Katrina Combs** are reviewing the possibility of extending healthcare to the families of staff; currently, staff are currently covered individually, but not their families. The Church has five full-time staff covered individually. Staff would bear some of the cost of coverage.

Nominations and Leadership Development: Roster developed and most new leaders within the congregation have been voted upon for each committee (still awaiting some votes). Roster of our leaders will be visible in the coming Charge Conference.

Vision Update: In cooperation with the **SPRC's strategic plan and Pastor Kim**, a new vision statement has been de-

veloped for our church community. ***“We are a community on a journey with God, searching for meaning, purpose and joy.”*** Pastor Kim emphasizes on community and a journey with God. Discussion focused on comparison with the “Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds” mission, which belongs to the larger United Methodist Church. Pastor Kim plans to start with the staff in implementation of the vision with respect to community.

Pastor’s Moments: Rebecca Bernstein has been offered a full-time position as Youth Director. A recent linguistics graduate from the University of Washington, her communication skills are significant strength. December 16 will be her first day. She has traveled recently in Kurdistan and speaks French and Russian (*Note: See Page 12 for a photo of Rebecca*). Currently, eight to ten youth participate in youth group meetings, with somewhat better attendance on Sundays. A total of 50 youth participated in one or more church activities last year.

Property Taxes: The church’s attorney has talked with the county assessor’s office about “unrelated business income.” The legal guidance asserts that there may be some activities that do not qualify for the tax exemption of nonprofit organization. Next step to file with the state board for tax-exempt status (OCC). Historically, SRVUMC has paid some taxes for holding some concerts, for example. Property taxes have been paid for ARC’s new construction, which had triggered an assessment; however, some portion of that sum may be refunded if the property is determined to be tax-exempt.

Stewardship: Pledges are still gratefully accepted as part of the ongoing stewardship campaign. ***The annual church budget is still under development pending a more complete sense of pledges for 2019.***

ARC: The drains and gutters on the ARC building had some blockage from construction debris, but leaves during this time of year could create a problem. Gutter guards are to be considered for placement.

Children/Family Ministry: Recent attendance by children reached 20, with 12 participating in the children’s choir. The Children’s Committee has calendared its events through summer 2019. New programs Afternoons at the ARC and Parents of Young Children draw some attendance. The Tuesday morning Mom, Pop and Tots group is seeing less enthusiasm and will be publicized more broadly. The next big event is **December 2 Advent Fair** (*Note: See Page 11 for details*).

Peace and Justice: Laura Sanchez reports attending the

Community Task Force

December 12, 7 p.m.

Beth Chaim Congregation on Holbrook Drive

Work with police, teachers and school administrators to counter the rise of hate speech and bullying in our area.

“These are our neighbors, and we need to support them when they are attacked, knowing that they are not the only ones experiencing hateful expressions in our neighborhood.” —Laura Sanchez

Beth Chaim Congregation synagogue’s Community Task Force to counter the rise of hate speech and graffiti. Recently in our area, a swastika appeared on a hillside and antisemitic graffiti in Osage Park. Hate speech and bullying of Jewish students has also increased noticeably in the past year. The task force works with the Danville police and San Ramon Valley Unified School District to monitor and respond to bullying and hate speech/graffiti. Currently, Laura is the only non-Jewish member. However, she would like to not only represent SRVUMC with this group but also to encourage other church members to take part in their important local work. Church Council endorses the efforts of the Peace and Justice Committee with in this matter and requests that she keep the council updated.

All-Church Conference

December 4, 2018 at 7 p.m.

The annual all-church conference is open to all members of San Ramon Valley UMC, and it is an opportunity to learn about how the wheels turn between Sundays. United Methodist Churches typically use this time to share an annual report. Among the information to be presented at the December 4 meeting:

- Pastor’s compensation
- Membership report (in development currently)
- Leadership rosters showing lay committee members

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

LOCAL

Rise Against Hunger meal packing day is scheduled for **Sunday, February 24**, following the 9 a.m. service in Wesley Center. Let's see if we can pack 20,000 meals in 2019!



Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build is scheduled for **April 28** in the Church courtyard.

WORLD

Volunteers in Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

Hurricane Maria, one of the most powerful hurricanes in history, devastated the Island of Puerto Rico in 2017. It will be a long and challenging recovery. The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR) has issued an invitation for teams to assist them with the long-term rebuilding phase of recovery from Hurricane Maria.

You are invited to join a Volunteers in Mission Trip, **February 15 to 23, 2019**. We are going to assist with the rebuilding effort. Our specific assignment will be made closer to the time of the trip but will include a variety of construction tasks.

The MCPR has arranged for teams to stay at a retreat camp or a local church. Conditions will be somewhat rough—little or no electricity, no air conditioning and no hot water, although drinking water and meals will be provided.

The team will be led by **Leslie Carmichael of Los Altos UMC** and **Steve Elliott from San Ramon Valley UMC**, both very experienced team leaders and co-leaders of the California-Nevada Conference Team to Puerto Rico in March 2018. The MCPR is currently limiting teams to people 18 years and older.

The cost will be \$500 for participant costs including meals, lodging, insurance and transportation plus \$425 to \$800 for air travel. Volunteers will need to complete a registration packet including registration form and medical information and liability release.

Contact **Leslie Carmichael** at carm-lee@pacbell.net or 650-468-7890 or **Steve Elliott** at sac612@msn.com or 925-640-9797.

A pre-trip meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019. Registration closes on Saturday, December 15, 2018.



Photo from www.umvim.org.

Did You Know?

- Maria ranks among the top ten most intense Atlantic hurricanes according to data from the National Hurricane Center.
- Approximately 80% of the island's agriculture was destroyed for an estimated loss of \$780 million.
- The complete destruction of the island's power grid left 3.4 million residents without power.
- 95% of cell phone networks and 85% of above-ground networks for phone and internet were knocked out.

(Info borrowed from Wikipedia.org)



Full house! November 18 marked the dedication of the organ in our newly remodeled Sanctuary before many familiar faces. Thanks to George Clarke for this great photo!

Mission Memories



Ten LIFT volunteers joined with Blue Star Moms (moms of active service men and women) to assemble holiday care packages. LIFT donated \$400 for snacks, toiletries and other supplies on November 15.



December Communion Offering

Trinity Center Winter Evening Program

The Trinity Center Winter Evening program provides a hot meal at the Trinity Center and overnight shelter at the Armory. While the Trinity Center itself is non-residential, its arrangement with the National Guard and Walnut Creek city council allows it to provide overnight accommodations for several area homeless people. This year, the program will operate from **December 3, 2018 to March 29, 2019.**

How Occupants Reach the Armory

Last year, according to separate articles in the [Mercury News](#) and [East Bay Times](#), sixty-one people were signed up to stay at the Armory overnight program, originally designed to accommodate between 38 and 50 people. Each was vetted by Trinity Center, and the center does not accept drop-in guests: the shelter's nightly selected occupants arrive by bus rather than dropping in from nearby Civic Park, a regular gathering spot for homeless people. Also, the program does not allow in-and-out privileges during the 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. hours of service.

Many Armory guests were referred to the program by workers in the Contra Costa County Coordinated Outreach, Referral and Engagement teams. CORE teams of two people contact homeless people, usually at makeshift living arrangements, and put them in touch with area shelters like Trinity Center's program at the Armory. These teams are not a part of Trinity Center itself but cooperate with area shelters.

History of the National Guard Armory and Homeless Shelter Programs

Launched in 2016, Trinity Center's plans for an overnight shelter at the Armory in Walnut Creek encountered some trials. Although the Winter Evening program was originally conceived as a five-month project, the actual span was cut to four months to accommodate the National Guard's calendar for the facility. Also, the state's modification of its fee schedule for use of its buildings that year put an unanticipated strain on the Trinity Center's budget for the program. Winter Evening launched a week later than originally scheduled, and the extra money was paid to the state. Other concerns ranging from security staff to plumbing issues cropped up that year, but the program's continuation speaks to its ultimate success on those fronts.

The Winter Evening program is only partially funded, according to the [Trinity Center website](#), so we have an opportunity to make a significant contribution to its success in the 2018/2019 season. You can also visit that website for more information about Trinity Center, or if you wish to volunteer with the Evening program.

SAN RAMON VALLEY CHORALE

December 2 and December 8; 4 p.m.
San Ramon Valley UMC

Many of you have enjoyed past concerts by the SRV Chorale, conceived in 2016, directed by Bruce Koliha and accompanied by Nadia Blank-Koliha. The Chorale is comprised of a blend of talented alumni from local high schools, as well as accomplished singers from religious and community organizations. Our varied repertoire is classical, eclectic, and challenging.

Our **Fall Concert, "From Darkness to Light"** gives hope to our troubled world with music by Eric Whitacre, J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms and more! **Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and are available at www.svchorale.com or the door.** Don't miss this treat for eyes and ears!

Contact **Shannon Dever** for more information: **925-743-3068** or shannondever62@gmail.com.



Christmas Offering

Mission Work in Nepal and Zimbabwe

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

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



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

Winter Nights

Many SRVUMC members are already very familiar with this project. Organized by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Winter Nights serves our local homeless population. Each congregation hosts for two weeks, providing bedding, meals and other services (***Note: this year, we will host in the Wesley Center in March—you can sign up to help!***). Two thirds of this project's budget comes from the contributions of individuals and congregations in Contra Costa County. Guests are screened and have dependent children. Remember, this program is distinct from the Trinity Center's Winter Evening program at the Armory, the recipient of our December Communion Offering.

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties



According to this organization's website, 1 in 4 emergency food recipients are children. Roughly 178,000 people are served monthly. Of the 20 million pounds of food this organization distributes annually, 12,000,000 is fresh produce (Source: www.charitynavigator.org). The food comes from manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, but also from gardens, food drives and individuals.

The charity's website reports that 96 cents of every dollar goes directly to food programs, and each dollar provides two healthy meals.

Bay Area Rescue Mission and Shelter



The Bay Area Rescue Mission and Shelter (BARM) ministers to men, women and children. Since their founding in

1965 as a private institution, they have served millions of meals and offered shelter to thousands. Each year, BARM prepares 1,450,000 meals for homeless and shelter guests according to the group's [website](http://www.barm.org). The Christian-focused organization also provides job and life skills training, as well as outreach to disadvantaged youth in the region.

Fred Finch Youth Centers

Established as an orphanage in 1891 by Duncan and Eunice C. Finch, the Fred Finch Youth Center has evolved to serve area children and adolescents with a range of personal challenges.



This organization has center locations in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and San Diego Counties. The children, youth and young adults impacted by Fred Finch face mental, developmental or emotional challenges; trauma or abuse; and/or substance exposure. These hurdles are made higher by poverty, stigma or discrimination. Fred Finch assists with residential care for some children and adolescents, but many receive services through their public schools or through the Fred Finch non-public school special education. The organization's [website](http://www.fredfinch.org) offers insight into its programs like Passport to Life in cooperation with the juvenile court system and a carnival for its residents to share with loved ones.

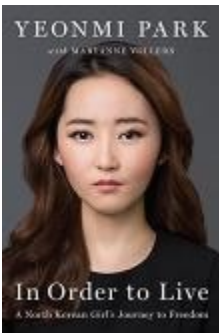


Between the Bookends

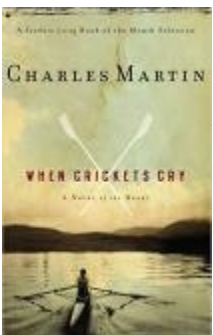


By Paula Boswell

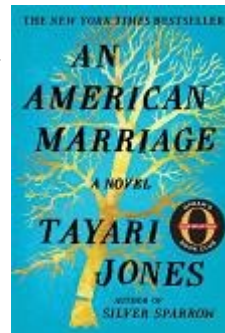
When you receive this *Messenger*, services will at last be held again in the Sanctuary. That's something we have all been looking forward to. However, for you, book lovers it means that the book cart will no longer be in easy reach. So please, readers, go get that cup of coffee afterwards at Wesley Hall where you will find the cart and return box next to the coffee tables. The library now has its own email: library@srvumc.org. If you have any question or would like to reserve a book, let us know. Hope you will be as thrilled as the library team about the December selections.



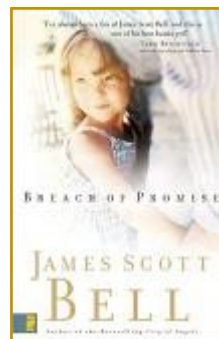
Park, Yeonmi, *In Order To Live*. A North Korean girl's journey to freedom. If you ever feel *you* have serious problems, read this remarkable true story. The author writes about life as a teenager with her family. She shows us what it was like to live in a country where citizens are oppressed, brutalized, starved and brain-washed. Bribing and black-marketeering abound. Nobody can be trusted. With great difficulty she and her mother escape to China, only to be subjected to other horrors. Eventually the two are able to flee and, via Mongolia, find their way to South Korea and later the U.S. The book is a testament to the strength and power of the human spirit. An absolute must-read.



Martin, Charles, *When Crickets Cry*. Chapter 1 introduces the "heart" of the story: Annie, a seven-year-old girl who was born with a bad heart shouting "LEMONADE!" optimistically trying to raise money for a new heart. As the story unfolds, the reader is shown the present of Annie's life and the past of Reese, the narrator. Reese is burdened with tremendous guilty feelings as he thinks his young wife's death was due to his negligence. His life and Annie's eventually become intertwined. Martin weaves a story about redemption, about love reborn and about hope found again. I was so moved by the story and its characters that I immediately read it again.



Jones, Tayari, *An American Marriage*. This story centers on Celeste and Roy, an up-and-coming black couple living in Atlanta, Georgia. Roy is falsely accused of a crime and thrown into jail while on a trip to Mississippi. Roy predictably loses his case in a flawed justice system. He is sentenced to twelve years in prison. As the years pass, Celeste drifts back to an old boyfriend. Meanwhile, Roy's uncle successfully gets the trial reversed and charges dropped. Roy gets released and returns to his wife. I'll leave it up to you to read how they coped with the situation. A satisfying read!



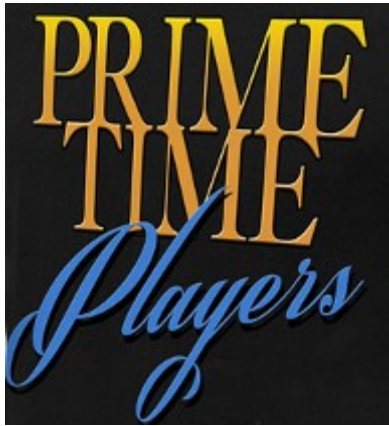
Bell, James Scott, *Breach of Promise*. Mark and Paula, both aspiring actors, are hoping for that one big break. They live in the Hollywood area with their five-year-old daughter Maddie. Suddenly, Paula is offered a major role in a movie to be shot in Rome. Mark takes care of their daughter during his wife's absence. In need of moral support, he joins a nearby church.

Paula, now a megastar, wants a divorce so she can marry the director and get custody of Maddie. The custody battle and court scenes are intense. Marks' growing faith gives him the strength to fight for Maddie against all odds. The story has a very unexpected ending. A real page turner!



If we encounter a man with real intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.

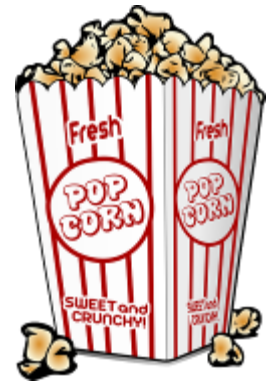
—Ralph Waldo Emerson



Merry Christmas Prime Time Players!

Because of this busy month, we have only two events in December.

Wednesday, December 12—White Christmas on the Big Screen! 2 p.m. show in Walnut Creek. Meet at the church promptly at 1:15 to drive with friends, or meet us in Walnut Creek at the Century Theatre on the corner of Locust and Olympic.



Tuesday, December 18—Prime Time Lunch With Friends, Noon. Chef John Sanders will make a delicious, traditional Christmas meal with cranberry salad, pan-roasted turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and pumpkin praline pie. Yum! We will be entertained by a local bluegrass country group singing silly Christmas Songs—they've received rave reviews! Come for the fellowship, stay for the fun!

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS 2018

Please designate:

_____ In honor of

_____ In memory of (check one)

Name of person/s designated _____

I/We attach a donation of \$10.00 for the purchase of a plant. _____

(Checks payable to SRVUMC are due by Monday, Dec. 17, in the Church office)

Donor's Name _____ Phone _____

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

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

I can help deliver plants to shut-ins Dec. 26 _____

Families, Children, Church and Friends Invited To...

Methodist Men's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 15 at 8:30 a.m.

Wesley Center

- Featuring SRVUMC Men's "Christmas Open Hearts Theatre"
- Santa: For photos with Santa, \$15 adults and \$5 for children under twelve
- Chorales
- Fellowship
- Special Menu: Eggs benedict or pancakes for children (adults, too!)



December 2, 10:30 a.m.

Wesley Hall

All ages welcome!

We will celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. Our busy fair will have craft stations that will focus on preparing our hearts for Christmas. Soup lunch will be served.

RSVP to Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org or use the link at <https://conta.cc/2PtrW1I>.

Christmas Is Coming to SRVUMC! **Annual Christmas Pageant** **Needs Your Help!**

Monday, December 24 at 5 p.m. (Note New Time)

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

The parts include:

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

Simple rehearsal on Sunday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m.

We would send home a script for practice and then do a walk-through at 4 p.m., before the service.

Would your children like to participate? It would be so fun to be the storytellers for our church family this year. **Please email me as soon as possible:** lroy@srvumc.org. Thank you for responding! I'm looking forward to a blessed Christmas season with your families.



Don't Forget!

The church library is missing some popular titles.

Is there any chance you have one on your nightstand?



Gentle Yoga at SRVUMC with Allison Gannon Mondays and Fridays 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Fireside Room

We will explore the balance of effort and relaxation through classic yoga postures and breathwork to invite serenity and inner peace. Classes focus on deep breathing, stretching, releasing tension and building strength, balance and flexibility. Gentle yoga moves slowly, emphasizing correct alignment and offering modifications and variations to accommodate all levels of yoga students from beginners to experienced practitioners and anyone healing from an injury. All levels are welcome. Join at any time—no need to sign up for a full series!

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

Class Cards 10 classes: \$135; 20 classes: \$235

Drop-in Single class \$15

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

The Peace and Justice Committee Updates

Planning is already underway for the 2018/2019 Trinity Winter Evening program. Any donations of time, food, clothing, supplies or money are gratefully appreciated. Visit the Trinity Center website, www.trinitycenterwc.org for more details about the Winter Evening program.

Join our committee meetings for Peace and Justice on the first Monday of each month at 1 p.m. to talk about the changes and future of our committee and its programs. We meet in the church library.



Regular Events at the ARC

ARC All-Church Time! Bring your friends and family and join in the fun at the ARC! No Charge.

Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Sundays, 3 to 5 p.m.

ARC Drop-In Pickleball. Make some time in your week for good times and good health with pick-up pickleball.

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$5/person.

Pickleball lessons offered Tuesday/Thursday 1 to 4 p.m.

\$15 Contact Rusty Lent (925) 676-9148.



Introducing our new Youth Director, Rebecca Bernstein! Rebecca grew up locally but went to school at the University of Washington, where she majored in Linguistics. She starts at SRVUMC on December 16, when we look forward to her enthusiasm and communication skills.



Calendar

December 2—Advent Festival!
10:30 a.m., Wesley Hall. All ages welcome! New, earlier time! RSVP to Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org or use the link <https://conta.cc/2PtrW1I>. See Page 11 for more info.



December 9—Parent Connection, 4 to 6 p.m. Pastor Kim chats with us about how SRVUMC can help young families connect and belong. Join us!

December 23—Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10 a.m.

December 24—Children's Christmas Pageant, 5 p.m. Walk-through at 4 p.m. that afternoon. *More info Page 11.*

February 24—Chili and Bingo Night, Wesley Hall. It's back, with fun for everyone!



Psst...Did You Miss It?

Photo of our new Youth Director is on Page 12.

Children's Ministry Topics

Life Application: Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs.

WEEK 1

John 3:16, God Loves the World

SAY THIS: God did something about our greatest need.

WEEK 2

Luke 1:26-56, Gabriel Appears to Mary

SAY THIS: God can use anyone to meet other's needs.

WEEK 3

Luke 2: 1-7, Jesus is born.

SAY THIS: God gave us the greatest gift!

WEEK 4

Luke 2:8-20, Shepherds Visit

SAY THIS: Share the good news about Jesus.

WEEK 5

1 John 4:9-12, God Showed His Love

SAY THIS: Love others because God loved you first.

Remember This:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."—John 3:16

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

Music

Children's Choir—Beth McClelland Sundays, 10 to 10:30 a.m., TK through grade 5, meets upstairs in Judson. The choir will sing the second Sunday of the month. Also perform for the Christmas concert, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and the May Music Concert. Questions? **Please contact Beth McClelland at iteachk@pacbell.net.**

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 Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m.



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Cameron Jacobi
Johnny Johnston

Continued Prayers For...

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

Our Christian Sympathy To...

The family of **Bill Schneider**. Services for Bill were held November 20.

The family of **David Krick**. Services for David were held November 30.

Name Tags

Please contact Patsy Kyles in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$8/ea.).

December Celebrations

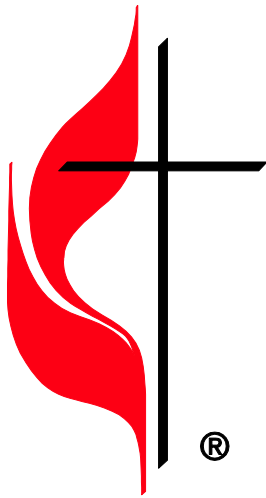
Birthdays



1 K Leigh Alfrey	Suzanne Ziarnik	Jim Braden	
Chuck Desmond	8 Emily Baker	Horace Crawford	
David Hagebush	Cary Johnson (100!!!)	John Larkins	23 Gayle Jackson
Liz Hirsch	9 Kirsten Choy	17 Patrick Dowling	Angela Norton
Victoria Longstreet	Sandy Clark	Teresa Fimby-Christensen	24 Caroline Marsh
2 Sunny Ahn	Ali Kuelz	Gretl Winter	Suzanne Shea
Aimee Knese	Epi Vazquez	18 Anne Kuelz	25 Quentin Alexander
Anita Weir-Ball	10 Wendi Cerda	Kay Tarr	26 Sherry Moré
3 Marissa Clarke	Karen Steffy	19 Myra Gordon	Logan Nicco
Greg Koos	11 David Cashin	Teresa Stroin	27 Lauren Dowling
Jane Roath	12 Laura Brown	20 Kathleen Isbell	Evelyn Evans
4 Lois Hammond	Joan Webb	21 Heather Coffman Givens	28 Jane Knox (92)
Ray Shea	13 Olivia Bybel	Lindsay Portman	29 George Hawk
5 Aly Kelly	Harrison Pavel	Susan Pickering-Gest	Kevin Keen
6 Kathleen Saghafi	Robbie Rigolfi, Jr.	Anna Ralston	30 Phyllis Meyer
7 Niles Bybel	Deborah Robinson	Kate Steffy	31 Warren McGuffin
Connie Erickson	David Shaw	Kerri Wakefield	Phyllis Wood
Kathy Fulcher	14 Lillian Baker Holleman	22 Kevin Isbell	
Merrily Gervais	Ivan Kerr	HollyAnn Melton	
Sketch Sketchley	Annette Whiting	Flo Spanier (97!!)	
Don Weis	15 Cassidy Barry		

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Pam & Bob Dominici (52)	15 Rosemarie & John Place (56)	Yuri & Steve Beagles	29 Eleanor & Fred Toney (57)
3 Sharon & Bob Leyman	16 Aubrie & Jeff Flores	27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz	30 Mary & Carl Ogden (53)
Paula & Hal Lyons	21 Shelley & Bill Lettis	28 Sheryl & Ivan Kerr (56)	31 Georgia & Steve Wilkens
9 Renée & Doug Beck	22 Gerry & Jim Aude	Laurel & Geoff Portman	



DECEMBER 2018

Worship Schedule

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

Non-Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

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

Children's Building

December 2018

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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