



# Valley Messenger

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

MARCH 2019

## *Pastor's Pulse ~*     **The Journey to Jerusalem: Faith, Fitness and Fellowship**

Welcome to the season of Lent, an ancient tradition in the Christian Church. This year Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 6**. In the season of Lent, we intentionally prepare for Easter. On Easter, we celebrate Christ's Presence here with us always. To take in the life-changing truth of Easter, we set aside time to go deeper into the meaning and mystery of God-here-with-us.

This year, I invite you to think of Lent this way: we are in training. Just like we train or prepare for athletic or academic events, this year we are getting ready for Easter by going on a journey to Jerusalem. Our theme for Lent is "The Journey to Jerusalem: Faith, Fitness and Fellowship."

There are 7,416 miles from Alamo to Jerusalem. And we are going to keep track of all our physical activities, record the miles, and journey to Jerusalem, together. Ready? Here's how it will work: every time you walk, run, bike, hike, golf, play tennis or pickleball, do yoga, sing in a choir, play ukulele or workout in any way, you will earn "miles" on the journey towards Jerusalem. For example, when you play pickleball for half an hour, you earn three miles. (Stay tuned for instructions on how we will have you record the miles.)

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***Next Issue: April 2019***

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org) by March 15, 2019.*

That's not all! If you talk about your faith with someone else while "working out" you can **double your miles** (we'll provide conversation starters for these). You'll earn miles when you work out and talk about your faith with anyone, not just participants at our church. And, if you talk about your faith with someone you have never really talked with before, you can **quadruple your miles**. ***We will celebrate our Journey to Jerusalem on the Sunday after Easter, April 28.***

For small groups meeting during Lent, we will be reading ***Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey*** (Companion in Christ Series by Stephen Bryant and Marjorie Thompson.) You can purchase this work new or used on Amazon. The book is out of print, so please help us track down enough copies. We will have some copies available in the office and after worship. We will provide copies of the Leaders Guide for those leading small groups.

Looking forward to the journey with you,

***Pastor Kim***

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## Journey to Jerusalem Mileage Chart

- Walk/run/bike record the miles covered
- 30 minutes of pickleball = 3 miles
- 1 hour of golf = 3 miles
- 1 hour of tennis = 3 miles
- 1 hour of yoga = 3 miles
- 1 hour of singing = 3 miles
- 1 hour of ukulele playing = 3 miles

Talk about your faith with another person while doing these activities, and **double** your miles.

Talk about your faith with someone you have never spent time with before, and **quadruple** your miles.

## Worship Services in Lent

During Lent, we are invited to deepen our journey of faith, as we ponder the meaning of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. All are invited to participate as we journey towards Jerusalem together.

**Ash Wednesday, March 6**—Join us for the most courageous worship service of the year. We gather to acknowledge our need for repentance and renewal, knowing that we need God's help. The Chancel Choir will help lead this worship service which includes the imposition of ashes.

## Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday, April 14**—With Scripture, music and the waving of palm branches, we begin to tell the story of Jesus' final week here on earth. *Children wave palm branches at 9 a.m. service. Easter egg hunt for the children begins at 10:45 a.m. See Page 13 for the schedule of children's activities during this season.*

**Holy Thursday, April 18**—The story of how Jesus lived his death continues. We remember how he gathered with his followers, and how they were fed by this time of communion.

**Good Friday, April 19**—There is no resurrection joy without the crucifixion. Tonight, we ponder the evil forces in us and in our world that push us to deny and attempt to destroy the Presence of Christ.

## Easter Services

**Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m., Courtyard**—Led by youth and our Living Water Band, this quiet service allows us to experience the rising of the Son in a powerful and unique way.

**Traditional Easter Services with Chancel Choir, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**—Halleluiah, Christ is Risen!





## **A Congregation-Wide Discussion Welcoming LGBTQ Family, Friends: *Our Faith Journey in Changing Times: Following Jesus; Spirit Powered***

**March 10, 17 and 24, 2019  
4:30 to 6 p.m., Fireside Room**

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The issues facing the greater church (ordaining gay pastors; same-sex marriages in United Methodist churches) ask each of us to look at ourselves: “How wide should our welcome be?” People of good faith differ.

**Our three discussion groups in March will explore the ways our faith might guide us.** What does the Bible say about homosexuality? What does our reasoning tell us? What does our experience teach? All perspectives are invited. Indeed, they are crucial for our community to understand the issues before us, their stakes, and how God is calling us to respond to the future confronting us. There will be room for civil dialogue, for honest speech and generous listening.

Are we willing to become a Reconciling Congregation, openly welcoming to all? What, exactly, does that mean? How do you feel about the contentious LGBTQ issues now facing the greater United Methodist Church, which might split the church?

Come on **March 10, 17 and 24** to learn more. Ask questions if you want to. We will explore and share together, learning from each other. Attend one, two or all of the sessions. Attentive listening is always full participation.

*For more information, contact Pastor Kim at [krisedorph@srvumc.org](mailto:krisedorph@srvumc.org), Pastor Dan at [dsturdivant@srvumc.org](mailto:dsturdivant@srvumc.org), or Bill Rust at [wrusjrarb@aol.com](mailto:wrusjrarb@aol.com).*

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## **Church Council Takeaways**

**Seeking tax exemption for all campus • Core value statement approved • 2019 budget reviewed and approved**

The notes below refer to the January 2019 meeting, much of which was dedicated to financial review of the proposed 2019 budget. Some budgetary figures have been reproduced for the newsletter this month (see next page).

**Lay Leaders' Reports (Kathleen Saghafi)** – Next Discovery Class was begun the week before Superbowl Sunday; Enrollment is 8 to 12.

**Property Tax Update (Terry Sherman)** – Applying for a welfare tax exemption for all activities, not only the worship exemption, which the Church already has for the Sanctuary itself, but not for the other buildings. This project requires input from many of the parties who have a presence on our campus, and developing these materials for submission is in progress.

**SPRC (Fred Schreiber)** – looking at organizational efficiencies, employee benefits programs, competitive practices and compliance with employment practices.

**ARC (Jim Burk)** – Clawson memorial service saw over 300 attendance, including coach Matt Clawson's high school team and many more from the community at large. Volunteers at this service before, during and after were instrumental in its implementation.

**Strategic Plan (Jim McKnight and Pastor Kim)** – Motion: the official strategic plan structure currently in place to be dismantled, and its efforts will be integrated into the main business of the Church, according to the core value statement developed since Pastor Kim's arrival. **PASSED.**



The thesis statement of core values for the new work in progress is ***“We are a community are on a journey with God, mind, body and soul.”*** Developing community is a goal here: 1) building some fraternity among staff; 2) Communion Offering will go to the Discovery Center thrift shop and will seek to add in-kind donations and volunteering; 3) Interfaith Housing Council will partner with us on activities like a diaper drive; and 4) Stephen Ministry class is in progress as part of the community life improvement goal. Motion to approve the core value statement. **PASSED.**

**Finance Committee (Bob Dominici)** – Finance Committee motioned for a balance sheet correction thought to reflect “an old General Fund operating profit that was not transferred to the Reserve Fund historically.” The correction transferred \$32,564.44 from the Long Term Equity Balance to the Church Council Reserve Fund. **PASSED.** The committee also motioned to transfer a SRVUMC General Fund loss for 2018 of \$5377.08 to the Church Council Reserve Fund. **PASSED.** Following a January 16 approved motion by the Endowment Committee to transfer \$40,000, the Finance Committee motioned to perform this distribution. The amount is made in consideration of Consumer Price Index and Inflation Protected calculation, not to exceed 5% of the Fund balance. **PASSED.**



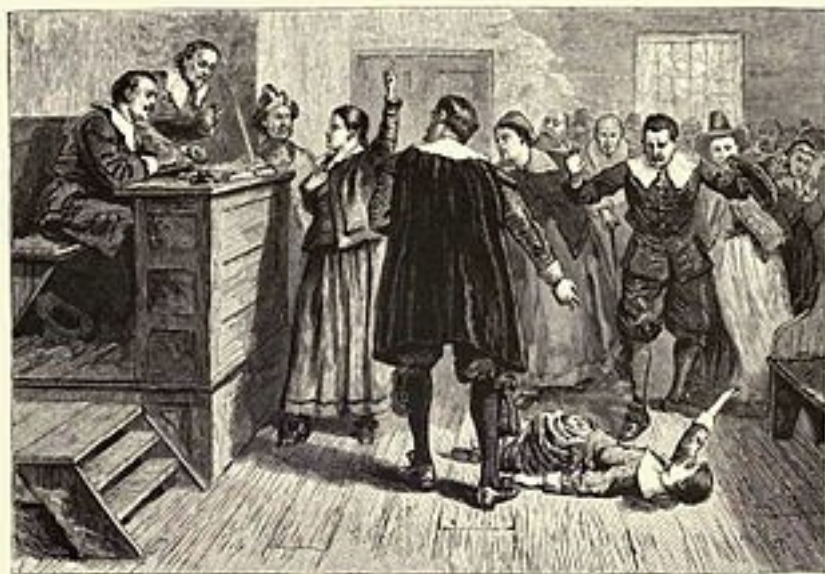
**Tuesday, March 5—Prime Time Pot-Luck and Presentation**

Please join us to hear **Gay Scott** talk about her family ties to the Salem witches... interesting! Please bring a dish to share, or stop at the deli or bakery. We always have plenty of food—it's your company we really want!

**Tuesday March 19—Prime Time Lunch with Friends**

**Chef John Sanders** will make his homemade British fish and chips. His coleslaw is the best and then we have banana splits for dessert! Come for the friendship, fun and fellowship!

This is our chance to say **thank you** for being a part of our church community—just come and enjoy. Best \$5 meal in the Valley!



WYCHURCH AT SALEM VILLAGE.

*Public domain image of the Salem witch trials from William A. Craft's Pioneers in the Settlement of America, Vol. I., 1876.*

## Looking for Legos!

Do you have some your children have outgrown? Or would you like to donate a set? We are looking for the traditional size for ages 5 and up for our classroom. Please bring to the office or see **Laura Roy** ([lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org)). Thank you!

## Mission Opportunities...

### MedShare

The Mission Council organized a volunteer event at MedShare in San Leandro on January 19, 2019.



MedShare identifies, sorts and packages donated medical supplies that are shipped to underserved hospitals and clinics in developing countries around the world.

Sixteen members of our congregation attended the three-hour sorting session, which included a tour of the facilities led by their volunteer coordinator, Shana.

*The event was successful, and more are planned! If you are interested in attending the next volunteer opportunity, please contact Chris Hoff at (925) 367-3360 or [christopher\\_hoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:christopher_hoff@sbcglobal.net)*

Special thanks to all volunteers and to **Bill Van Bezey** for helping with the driving.



## Did You Know?

### Notes on Community History

By Carole Johnson

—Across El Portal, on the southeast corner, a historical marker indicates that close to this spot in 1772, **Comandante Pedro Fages**, looking for a way around San Francisco Bay, had traveled all the way to Antioch, and then he turned back. His wanderings led him through what is now Contra Costa County, where he was the first white man to explore the area. He came from Monterey with an entourage that included a Franciscan missionary, 14 soldiers, a muleteer, and a native American servant. The **Fages-Crespi Expedition** used Mount Diablo as a landmark for their explorations. Were you in the Valley in 1972 when the marker was dedicated? It was the Sunset Nursery, which was on seven acres, owned by the Sandkuhle Family from 1925. I remember attending the dedication of the plaque with my Scout sons—focusing on the two hundredth anniversary.



*Pedro Fages, c. 1770s.*

—At that same time, there was a wooden marker across the street on the north side of Rutherford Creek (placed there by the Danville Women's Club in June 1940) where the Union Academy was built in 1859. The trustees of the school were **Robert Love, Silas Stone, and John M. Jones**. That's Love of Love Lane and Stone of Stone Valley Road. The school, a large three-story structure, was a boarding and day school. It burned to the ground in 1868 and was never rebuilt. By that time district schools had been established in the young towns of the Valley.

# The Great Decisions of Our Age

## 10:30 a.m. Sundays

### Fireside Room

What are the great global policy decisions facing the U.S., and how should Christians respond? Our church will hold a series of **eight weekly discussions** on critical global issues using a guide prepared by the Foreign Affairs Association (FAA). This program is part of an annual nationwide program, whereby groups of concerned citizens throughout the U.S. will discuss important issues and why we should be concerned.

The series will be facilitated by **Lyn Arscott** after the first worship service. A short DVD prepared by the FAA will be shown on each topic, followed initially by discussions in small groups and finally as a combined group. ***The discussion series guidebooks will be on sale for \$35. Contact [lynarscott@comcast.net](mailto:lynarscott@comcast.net) if you need a copy.***

4/28	<p><b><i>Refugees and Global Migration</i></b></p> <p>What leads someone to seek the status of refugee or economic migrant? Who determines whether someone is a refugee or migrant? How effective are the international laws, policies and organizations that have evolved to assist and protect refugees and migrants?</p>
5/5	<p><b><i>The Middle East: Regional Disorder</i></b></p> <p>The middle East remains in turmoil. The U.S. has a goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. Does the US see a path forward in Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq?</p>
5/12	<p><b><i>Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future</i></b></p> <p>To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future nuclear arms control negotiations? How can we stabilize our nuclear future?</p>
5/19	<p><b><i>The Rise of Populism in Europe</i></b></p> <p>Problems associated with mass migration are part of the reasons for the rise of populist parties in Europe. In addition to calling for stronger borders, these parties can be anti- American, anti-NATO and are a serious concern for the security interest of the USA.</p>
5/26	<p><b><i>Decoding US-China Trade</i></b></p> <p>Trade is measured in outdated metrics. Do tariffs work? What tools can the U.S. use to counter China's unfair trade practices?</p>
6/2	<p><b><i>Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics</i></b></p> <p>Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Russia and China are committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy. Is the U.S. prepared to respond?</p>
6/9	<p><b><i>United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested</i></b></p> <p>The war on drugs, immigration and trade issues have taxed the relationship between the two countries. What impact will the new leadership of both countries have on this crucial partnership?</p>
6/16	<p><b><i>State of the State Department and Diplomacy</i></b></p> <p>Many positions in the State Department have never been filled and meetings between foreign leaders have been undertaken with little advance planning. How will these changes affect the relationship between the U.S. and its allies and adversaries?</p>



# UMCOR Sunday: March 31

## (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

In 1940, Bishop Herbert Welch founded The Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (MCO) to address the displacement of populations during World War II. Over more than a decade, the humanitarian arm of the United Methodist Church resettled and assisted refugees in more than five different countries. Over time, its scope expanded to address hunger in Bangladesh and famine and drought in African nations like Ethiopia.



*Hurricane Maria. Source: NASA NOAA-GOES project.*



*Devastation by the Camp Fire. Source: [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org)*

Today, UMCOR responds to major disasters we hear about on the news, like Hurricane Maria's impact on Puerto Rico. UMCOR sent medical supplies and other staples, as well as volunteers to assist at distribution points operated by the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. Partnering with FEMA and other organizations facilitates efforts there. On the mainland, efforts to relieve Hurricane Harvey victims continued in 2017 throughout affected areas in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and Georgia.

Abroad, 2017 efforts by UMCOR also reached mudslide victims in Sierra Leone and Mexican earthquake victims. The mudslide victims needed immediate relief with food and medical care, but UMCOR also worked there to provide tents, water filters and containers, bedding and hygiene kits for the displaced. Near Mexico City, UMCOR partnered with the local Methodist Church for cleanup and needs assessment. The large number of deaths (at least 320 people) there created a large need for pastoral support as well as material goods.

Closer to home, UMCOR supported The California-Nevada Conference's relief efforts with last November's Camp Fire. At the time UMCOR granted Bishop Carcano's request for a grant, the Camp Fire had only been 30% contained.

To read more about the sophisticated role of faith-based organizations like UMCOR in disaster relief, a quick online search reveals many places where UMCOR is active. For example, [this month](#), the Swansboro and One Harbor United Methodist Churches are partnering under UMCOR to repair homes after Hurricane Florence. Meanwhile, efforts continue in Puerto Rico after 2017's Hurricane Maria. According [Coral Springs Talk](#), a Catalina bishop says that about eight volunteer teams are active per week on what will overall likely be a five- to ten-year rebuilding project.

# Guatemala Wheelchair Distribution

Imagine, if you will, never having walked due to a birth deformity; losing one or both legs to diabetes or other health challenge; or being disabled in a tragic accident...and suddenly the gift of mobility comes into your life. That was the blessing we offered during our wheelchair mission to Guatemala in January 2019. Monies for this mission trip were collected as our August 2018 Communion offering.

Through the generosity of the Asbury, Lynnewood and San Ramon Valley United Methodist churches, a team from those churches traveled to Guatemala to distribute 100 wheelchairs in partnership with the **Wheelchair Foundation** and **Rotary Clubs** of Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango.

This was a remarkable opportunity to engage with families that had no means to purchase a wheelchair. They carried, carted or hobble-walked a family member everywhere. Our recipients included disabled and mobility challenged children, adults and seniors.

We started our week volunteering at Virgen Del Socorro in Antigua. This long-term care facility, run by the Franciscan Order of the Catholic Church, is for children and adults with permanent disabilities. Many of these residents suffer from



cerebral paralysis.

We found this to be a rewarding and enlightening experience so appreciated by the residents.

Our second day of volunteering was at the Hospital of Santo Hermano Pedro, a charity hospital that turns no one away, and the facility only charges what a person can afford. This Franciscan hospital provides medical services by local staff

and volunteer physicians from around the world. We worked in the daycare center and the nutrition clinic for young children. We were particularly touched by how children with cleft palates and other congenital deformities receive feeding assistance to help them achieve improved health.

The third day of our mission included a stop at Salud Y Paz, a rural medical clinic for the Mayan people who do not have access to good healthcare otherwise.

We delivered six suitcases of medical supplies collected at the three churches supporting this mission. What an appreciated gift! Our wheelchair distribution was at an event in Quetzaltenango sponsored by the Rotary Club. It was exciting to walk into an outdoor pavilion filled with anxious families selected to receive a wheelchair. Each family was called forward to accept the wheelchair. We collectively celebrated the grateful, beaming recipient and their family. It was one of the most heartwarming moments you can imagine and one of the most humbling.

We delivered what seemed like an endless stream of wheelchairs. To see a child experience mobility for the first time in her life, brought tears to our eyes. Adults who had lost a leg, or seniors who could no longer walk on their own, were simply grateful beyond words. We changed many lives that day, with great love, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Thank you for your donations, prayers and the privilege to be your representative to the people of Guatemala.*

*Steve Elliott, Nancy and Steve Garnick, Dan Ashton, Raeanne Passantino, Judi Bauerlein, Carol Perry, Gail Soldavini, Doug and Mary Ellen Haey.*





# Upcoming Mission Opportunities

**Spring Mission to Houston**—We will be traveling to Houston to assist with recovery from Hurricane Harvey, one of the most damaging storms on record. We will be working with Harris County rebuilding homes. We will fly out on **Saturday, April 6** and return on **Saturday, April 13**. We will be preparing our own meals and staying at a church in the area where we are assigned. The cost of the trip will be \$175, plus airfare of about \$300 to \$350. For more information contact **Steve Elliott** (925-362-8687 or [sac612@msn.com](mailto:sac612@msn.com)).



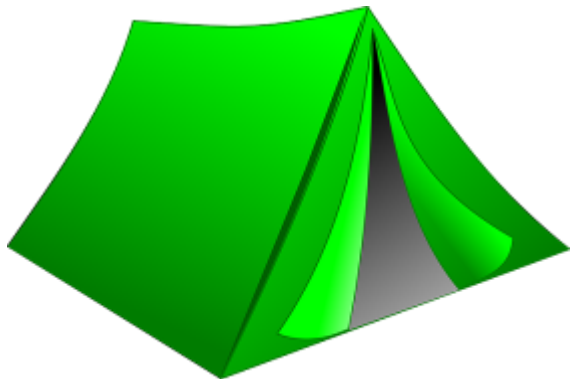
## SRVUMC Hosts Winter Nights

**March 25 Through April 8, 2019!**

Winter Nights is a program which helps homeless families who are working to regain housing. *To volunteer to help or to donate to this effort, or for more information, please contact Susan Dowling at [sue\\_dowling@comcast.net](mailto:sue_dowling@comcast.net) or 925-963-9806.*

Donations needed are: Gas cards, Wal-Mart or Target Gift cards, Lysol or Clorox wipes, socks of all sizes, baby wipes, umbrella strollers, **new** twin-size fitted sheets, wash cloths, flashlights, extra batteries of all sizes.

Also, the program encourages the children to read by letting them earn movie passes for specific hours of reading. Donations of movie gift certificates are needed.



## Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

The duties include:

- Restocking pews
- Sorting through the week's unused bulletins
- Changing the paraments
- Generally tidying up the Sanctuary after the worship service

Each person takes a month, so once your month is done, you don't have to do it again for a while. This is a good opportunity to spend some quiet time in the Sanctuary while performing an important service for the church. Please contact **Patsy Kyles** (925-837-5243 or [pkyles@srvumc.org](mailto:pkyles@srvumc.org)) if you are interested.

## Looking for a New Spiritual Practice?

### Altar Flower Arrangers' Team



Consider joining the Altar Flower Arrangers' Team to find a new way to experience God's presence, a creative outlet and a unique way to bring God's beauty into our Sanctuary.

**Training provided.** Contact **Devon** (925-200-8915 or [ddrake57@comcast.net](mailto:ddrake57@comcast.net)) for more information.



*Are the children and youth of SRVUMC important? Do we want them to feel welcome and loved? Are we seeking ways to invite families to join us on our faith journey?*

As a church community we need to find ways to engage with our young people. You can still team up with our young people, even if you haven't signed up yet.

Opportunities will include: assisting on Sunday mornings, weeknight programs and mission trips, meals, summer outreach and special events.

Contact **Laura Roy** ([lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org)) or **Rebecca Bernstein** ([rbernstein@srvumc.org](mailto:rbernstein@srvumc.org)) to find out how to team up because we hope everyone can say... *Love Wins – I'm In!*

## A Note from Your Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

*The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is looking for ways to connect with you!*

SPRC's focus is to ensure we support the building of continual strong relationships and communication between our church staff, our congregation and our UMC District Superintendent.

We'd welcome your thoughts and feedback as we reach out to connect. See any of our SPRC members including **Anne Burk, John Fenoglio, Peggy Crawford, Gary Swanson, Marilyn McCurdy, Fred Schreiber, Brenda Domergue, Rhonda Poole or Brad Stribling**. They'll be glad to chat about SPRC and will welcome your thoughts and reflections.

Have a great 2019!

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee

## Regular Active Events at SRVUMC

**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 through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$5/person.

**Pickleball lessons** offered Tuesday/Thursday 1 to 3:30 p.m. \$15/person. Contact **Rusty Lent** (925) 676-9148.

**Gentle Yoga in the Fireside Room.** Mondays and Fridays, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Contact **Sylvia Benzler** (925) 802-0296.



## Afternoon Book Group

**Monday, , 1 p.m.**

**Rm. 202 Wesley Center**

**March 18—*One Summer: America 1927* by Bill Bryson**  
(Sharon leading)





# Between the Bookends



By Paula Boswell

I'm happy to say we have received several "lost" books back but...there are still a few that have not been returned. Here are the titles:

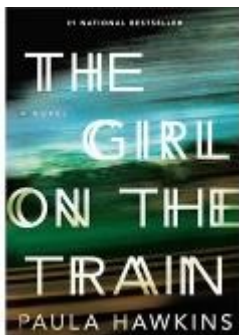
- *The Kommandant's Girl*
- *Oleander Girl*
- *Hidden Figures*
- *Camino Island*

Please, when you return a book, **don't** put it back on the cart. Instead, put it in the return box which is never far from the cart. You see, we have to check a returned book in before we put it back on the cart so we can track who checked it out. By the same token, when you try to check out a book and the check-out card in the back pocket is missing, don't take it; instead, put it in the return box.

All new books on the cart came from donations. **Thanks!**

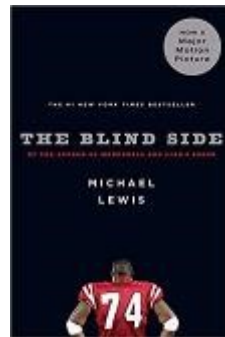


**Bryson, Bill, *One Summer: America 1927*.** American history has never been this fun to read. 1927 was filled with events of momentous historic significance. Charles Lindbergh made the first solo crossing of the Atlantic by airplane. Babe Ruth set the record for most home runs in a season (60) that lasted for decades. Prohibition was in full swing, while speakeasies and bootlegging flourished. Al Capone and his thugs were running organized crime. In fact, Capone's brother, Vincenzo, was a personal body guard to President Coolidge in '27. Ironical! Bryson's breezy, humorous presentation, loaded with tabloid gossip from this era, spices up the stories. After reading this book, you will have painlessly learned more history of the USA than ever before. A page turner!



**Hawkins, Paula, *The Girl On The Train*.** A former bestseller made into a movie, a psychological thriller that will leave you stunned. Rachel, the main character, is damaged, confused and still trying to deal with the after-effects of her recent divorce. During her daily commute to London she becomes preoccu-

pied with a couple she sees from the train, living in her old neighborhood. Then one day only the husband sits on his balcony and the wife never returns. I don't want to give the story away, but it becomes a real thriller... The author very cleverly leads the reader astray until the very end.



**Lewis, Michael, *The Blind Side*.** An engaging true story about the reaction to the strategic development by 49ers coach, Bill Walsh, of the "passing game," where the quarterback must be protected at any cost. Enter Michael Oher, a black kid from the Memphis projects who has the size, speed and agility to guard the quarterback's "blind side." This story is masterfully told as Michael's background and personality unfold like layers of an onion. This story emphasizes Michael and the game of football in contrast to the mother's involvement and influence in the movie. All football fans will love it!



**"Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting at the end of a long day makes that day happier."**

—*Kathleen Norris*



# ***To Mars and Beyond!***

## **Vacation Bible School**

**June 24 to 28, 9 to 11:30 a.m.**



Blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! To Mars and Beyond will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. Register online on the website [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org)

## **Mega Sports & Faith Camp FUNdamentals**

**June 3 to 6, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**



When kids face difficult opponents, adversity, getting tired, and high-pressure situations, good FUNdamentals lead to victory. The same is true in our faith journey. Just like Nehemiah and the Israelites who rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem, faith FUNdamentals based on timeless biblical truths lead to success too. Register online on the website [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org)

## **Safe Gatherings**

We ask everyone who volunteers with children under the age of 18 to go through our Safe Gatherings training and background check. It is vital that we keep our children safe while they are in our care.

Safe Gatherings is a biblically-based boundary awareness and abuse prevention program developed to certify volunteer workers, staff and clergy, enabling them to work with children, youth and vulnerable adults. By completing this certification program, individuals are authorized to work with children, youth and vulnerable adults in any church-related setting.

Once registered with the online learning system, applicants are encouraged to complete the online training process. Training may be completed anytime, anywhere using the online system. Applicants may complete the training modules at their own pace and request reference letters electronically. Lay and clergy references are required as part of the certification process. State and national background checks are completed for each applicant.



***Please bring wrapped candy or small toys together with one dozen plastic eggs to the church office by April 7. Thank you!***





## Calendar

**3rd Grade Bibles/Introduction to the Bible Class—March 17, 10:15 a.m., Bible Presentation: March 24, 9 a.m.**

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.

### *Save the Date!*

**Palm Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt, April 14, 9 a.m.** All Children proceed with palms, Children's Choir sings both services, Sunday school during the 9 a.m. service, 10 a.m. brunch, Egg Hunt following at 10:45 a.m. Palm processional and children's choir singing at the 9 a.m. service.

**Mega Sports & Faith Camp: Fundamentals—June 3 to 6, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** See Page 12 for more info!

**To Mars and Beyond! Vacation Bible School—June 24 to 28, 9 to 11:30 a.m.** See Page 12 for more info!

## Contact Us!

### **Laura Roy**

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

[lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org)

(925)837-5243 ext 106

### **Rebecca Bernstein**

Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

[rbernstein@srvumc.org](mailto:rbernstein@srvumc.org)

(925)837-5243 ext.109

## Sunday School Topics

### WEEK 1

**GENESIS 1:26-28:** Image of God  
SAY THIS: God made me in His image.

### WEEK 2

**LUKE 15:1-7:** The Lost Sheep  
SAY THIS: God wants to have a relationship with me.

### WEEK 3

**1 TIMOTHY 4:12:** Timothy  
SAY THIS: God made me to make a difference.

### WEEK 5

**MATTHEW 22:34-40:** The Greatest Commandment  
SAY THIS: God made me to love others.

### REMEMBER THIS:

"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." —**Psalm 139:14, NIrV**

**LIFE APPLICATION:** Individuality—Discovering who you are meant to be.

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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 Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m.

## Volunteers with Kids and Youth...

See Page 12 for information about Safe Gatherings training for everyone who volunteers with children and youth.

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Bill Barley

Jim Kretsch

Evelyn Evans

Kay Jones

## Thank You...

Thanks for all your prayers and caring during my recent hospital visits and recovery from a lung infection and anemia. I feel especially blessed to be a part of this Congregation that is so caring and proactive in meeting one another's needs. Our Kindness Korps is the greatest!

Thank you, thank you,

***Laura Sanchez***

## Continued Prayers For...

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Julie Dastic, Johnny Johnston, Lea Pat-teson; Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Joan Webb; Jean-nine Woolery

## Name Tags

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



# March Celebrations



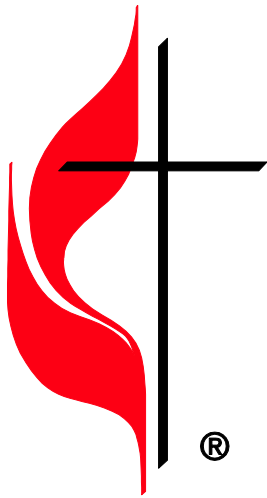
## Birthdays

1	Bart Jacobi	Cathy Colman	Chris Shiber
2	Stuart Kirby	Lucy Hooper	Judy Slinger
	Al Tiedemann	Gene Ives	25 Marcus Durrenberger
3	Debra Carter	Abby Lang	Catherine Godbey
	Stephanie Fenoglio	16 Susan Stevenson	Marianne Templeton
	Steve Roath	Justin Walz	26 Kyle Knapp
4	Mike Scalzi	17 Jack Gordon	Carl Ogden
	Cole Donaldson	19 Jim Burk	27 Dianne Anderson
	Miles Murdough	Nicky Jewett	Elizabeth Beck McDaniel
6	Ed Keller	Grady Milligan	28 Brad Judd
7	Amber Marx	Lori Pavel	29 Katie Hawk
	Cindy Rudow	20 Bill Van Bezey	Lori Ratto
	Joshua Schultz	21 Al Dudas	Katie Riemer
8	Gentry Higgins	22 Joan Arscott	30 Corin Drake
9	Terry Sherman	Liz Field	Sam Hoff
	Paige Steffy	Sandra Willman	Kevin Peters
11	Carrie Doyle	23 Brad Kobsar	31 Candice Newburn
	Karen Sanson	Miles Robinson	Greg Warwick
13	Ellen Kocins	Karen Scalzi	
15	Betty Jo Bennett	24 Susie Codd	

## Wedding Anniversaries

5	Kirsten & Langley Choy	22	JoAnne & Jess Erickson
6	Amy & John Riedel	22	Erin & Rich Lowther
8	Cindy & Tony Leonard	25	Sherry & Sanjiv More'
8	Andrea Bourgeois McWilliams & Dave McWilliams	26	Dianne & Roger Ehlers
8	Nancy & William Mills	27	Darrellyn & John Orr
8	Lori & John Pavel	29	Marilyn & Berry Scott
8	Susie & Peter Ruotsi	31	Susan & Dale Stevenson

**Uh-oh! Did We Miss You?** Our birthdays and anniversaries list is currently undergoing an update. If you are relatively new, or you think we've lost your information, then please email your birthday/anniversary to [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org).



# MARCH 2019

## 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.

March 2019

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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