



Valley Messenger

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

APRIL 2019

Pastor's Pulse ~

The Covenant: Sticking It Out

If you've been married for any length of time, you will understand what my grandpa meant when, after sixty-five or so years of marriage, he said to me, "Big D, being married ain't for sissies." You fall in love. Then you get married. Even in the most ideal marriage, you may love your spouse, but the in-love-ness comes and goes. Mostly goes, seems like.

You will be frustrated with and disappointed by your spouse. You will feel alienated and misunderstood when your spouse is disappointed in you. There will be times when your spouse brings out the worst in you. And vice versa. She or he will bear only surface resemblance to the one you fell in love with. You will wonder if this is not your spouse's monstrous evil twin.

This is why we have the marriage covenant. If we didn't, most of us wouldn't stick it out.

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Next Issue: May 2019

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

If you are blessed enough to be able to hang in there, it will probably be because every now and again something will happen between the two of you. A grace reveals to you again what it is about this person's being that brings you joy. It's the basis of your mutual affection, the spring that renews your love.

What's true of a marriage is true of my relationship with my faith tradition. While it's a stretch to say I've been in love with the United Methodist Church, I've certainly loved the people of the congregations I've served, and I've loved with all my heart the Spirit the Christian tradition has always strived to embody. When it comes to the denominational expression I happen to be married to, the UMC, I've been frustrated often and disappointed to the point of anguish. At times I have considered divorce. Given the Special General Conference's recent decisions, I've wondered if divorce is imminent whether I want it or not.

I've watched the church I love devastate people I love, many of whom, like me, grew up in the UMC. I have felt betrayed by my church's betrayal of those who might have sheltered in its

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harbor. I have felt betrayed when it has looked to me as if the name and spirit of the risen Christ has been taken hostage and forced to say things it doesn't mean.

And yet. In the turbulence, in the controversy and animosity and outrage, in the red-alert fears of institutional crisis, I have seen again what it is about the body of Christ that brings me joy, that is the basis of our mutual affection and the spring that renews our love. I have seen our people come together with their hearts bravely open, willing to listen generously across divides and to measure what the love to which Jesus calls us is worth.

Pastor Dan

Worship Services in Lent: Check Times Carefully!

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.



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 14—Worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m. With Scripture, music and the waving of palm branches, we begin to tell the story of Jesus' final week here on earth. Easter egg hunt for the children.

Holy Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.—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, 7 p.m.—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

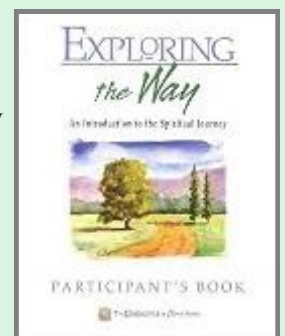
Some worship times have changed from previous years.

6:30 a.m. in 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.

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

You Can Still Join In!

If you want to join the Lenten study of *Exploring the Way: An Introduction to Spiritual Journey*, then you can still find a study group. Inquire in the church office about copies of this out-of-print but still relevant book. Other announcements in this newsletter give specific details about groups meeting on Tuesdays or on Thursdays during this time of spiritual consideration.



Community Gathering Update

Thank you to all who attended our Community Gatherings this month, which focused on our church's policy on welcoming all, including all in the LGBTQIA communities. At these gatherings, we listened to one another, explored Scriptures, and shared our hopes for our community. An average of 100 people attended each gathering, and your words and reflections helped clarify our next step.

Going forward, I am asking for 8-12 volunteers who will meet as a small group. They will be trained to offer one-on-one interviews to all in the church community so that we hear the diversity of perspectives. The small group participants will also learn what a Reconciling Church is, and what it is not, so that they can share this information. Please contact **Pastor Kim** if you can be part of this small group at krisedorph@srvumc.org.

As we go through this process and make decisions together, may we practice listening to each other and the Holy Spirit. However we go forward, we want to know we are guided by God, Divine Love. We can do that, one moment, one prayer, at a time.

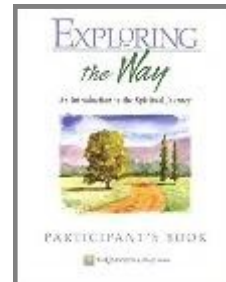


Lenten Small Group

Thursdays, April 4 and 11

7 to 8:15 p.m., Rm 202

Join **Pastor Kim** as together we explore spiritual practices that enrich our journey with God. We'll be using the book *Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey*, available in the church office. *Join when you can!*

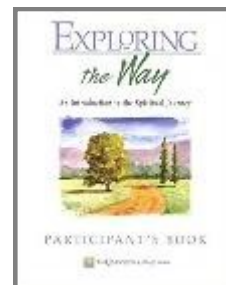


Living Out Loud

Tuesdays

6:30 to 8 p.m., Rm 202

Join leader **Katie Mannell** to explore spiritual practices that enrich our journey with God. We'll be using the book *Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey*, available in the church office. *Contact Katie at 925-984-3691 if you are interested in joining.*



Community Meetings on Results of General Conference

All are invited to attend community meetings hosted by **Bishop Carcaño**. In each gathering, the Bishop will update us on results of recent General Conference and how we are responding as a Conference of the United Methodist Church. *A video of the March 30 meeting in Los Altos appears at <https://laumc.org/news/>, the website for Los Altos UMC.*

April 7: 2:30 - 5 p.m. Epworth UMC, Berkeley

April 9: 6:30 - 9 p.m. First UMC, Yuba City

April 16: 6:30 - 9 p.m. First UMC, San Leandro

April 24: 6:30 - 9 p.m. Tulare UMC

April 28: 2:30 - 5 p.m. Korean UMC of Santa Clara Valley

April 29: 6:30 - 9 p.m. Eureka UMC

April 30: 6:30 - 9 p.m. First UMC, Santa Rosa

Afternoon Book Group

Monday, , 1 p.m.

Rm. 202 Wesley Center

April 15—*The Gown* by Jennifer Robson

(Nancy R leading)



...Mind, Body and Soul

Managing Grief by Claire Chow Grace UMC

19901 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon
April 2, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

No one is immune from grief. We all experience losses of different kinds and have a variety of reactions to our losses. In this Grace Talk, we will learn more about the grief process and about how to help ourselves and others going through this difficult time. Ultimately, grief can also be a moment of transformation, helping us to understand ourselves and our relationships better and deepen our spiritual connections.

Claire Chow is a marriage and family therapist who has practiced in the San Ramon area for 30 years with a specialization in grief and cross cultural issues. She has led many grief groups and taught about this subject to graduate students. Ms. Chow is a longtime member of Lynnewood UMC in Pleasanton.



Mindfulness Seminar

Saturday, June 1

9 a.m. to 12 noon

Wesley Center

Rev. Connie Habash



Take a morning out of your busy life to discover and re-connect with your True Self. Learn techniques to practice deep inner reflection to bring clarity and inspiration.

Rev. Connie Habash is an experienced teacher of yoga and mindfulness and will lead a seminar to help us on our spiritual journey and guide us to live the qualities of love, truth, service and peace.

For more information see her website, <https://www.awakeningself.com> or email Lyn Arscott at Lynarscott@comcast.net.

Church Members Pickleball Sessions

All church members are invited to join a fun time playing pickleball in the ARC. Sessions are reserved for church members on

- Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m.
- Sunday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m.

We have a hardy group of regular players but have room for more. All abilities are welcome, and we will provide instruction for beginners.

Contact Donna Lindquist (dxljean@aol.com) or Lyn Arscott (lynarscott@comcast.net) for further details.



...Mind, Body and Soul

Thresholds to the Holy Wise Women's Retreat Thursday, May 23 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville



Thresholds mark an entrance into a room. Thresholds can also mean a beginning, a stepping into a new experience. At our Wise Women's Retreat, open to all women, we will pause to be aware of all the thresholds we encounter every day. The practice of pausing and being aware opens us to something holy: the thresholds of our longings for meaning, purpose and joy.

Join us as **Pastor Kim** leads this retreat and looks forward to getting to know you better. **The cost is \$60 and includes lunch. Sign-ups will begin in April.** Invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a meaningful day.

Pastor Kim is looking for three to five individuals to help with organization of this retreat. Your role would be to help with registration as well as welcoming people to the retreat. Please contact Pastor Kim—she's eager to have a team working with her: krisedorph@srvumc.org; 925/837-5243, ext. 107.

Walking to Jerusalem

Our theme for Lent is The Journey to Jerusalem: Faith, Fitness and Fellowship.

There are 7416 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, play golf, play tennis, play pickleball, do yoga, sing in a choir, play ukulele or work out 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.

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 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.

Pick up a booklet at the church office or after worship with all the details. Send in your miles by submitting them on the registration card in worship, writing them on the clipboard in the office, or emailing them to **Patsy Kyles** at pkyles@srvumc.org (with "Miles" in subject line).

Journey to Jerusalem Mileage Chart

- Walk/run/bike and record those 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



Bringing Hope to Puerto Rico

Steve Elliott

“Today is a beautiful, happy day...it is a pleasure to have people like you in our lives...God bless you forever and ever.” — Samuel Cruz

And with that greeting on our first day in Puerto Rico, we launched into a remarkably fulfilling week of mission work.

Now chronicled as one of the worst hurricanes in history, Maria left Puerto Rico devastated. This U.S. territory will be in recovery for many years.

This year’s mission brought us to the region of Arecibo on the Atlantic Coast. Our team of seventeen, from seven different Northern California churches, fanned out across the rebuilding of three homes. Each home suffered the wind and water damage only a major storm can bring.

In addition to meaningful work that was much appreciated, getting to know the people we served and worked with made this mission trip special. All of the families we served were gracious, heartwarming people. They were so welcoming to complete strangers coming into their homes. They trusted that we had their best interests at heart. They offered hospitality beyond their means.

Among our families were Glorianne, Agustin and baby Abigail Milagro (Miracle in Spanish). They are a young family trying to restore their home where Glorianne grew up. Despite so many family challenges in the past year—post-partum depression, the passing of Glorianne’s mother, limited economic means, not to mention the loss of the second floor of their home—they are upbeat about the future.

Elizabeth, her husband and four-year old daughter had not yet lived in their newly built home when the hurricane hit. But, beaming from ear to ear, they were gleefully preparing to move in after we finished the last touches.

At our third house, the team thoroughly enjoyed working with Luis and Christian, the construction workers provided to guide the team. Even with our language differences, they were always positive and joyful as they guided us in the work.

As with all mission trips, one of the blessings is the team camaraderie we shared for a week. It is amazing, how after a day or two, we bonded around a common purpose. We shared



meals, bunk beds inches apart, dribbling showers and touching devotional moments. Each day started with 6 a.m. cell phone alarms and ended with group time at dusk. We rallied around minor injuries, laughed at our own idiosyncrasies and shed a tear or two at tender reflections about living our faith in mission.

And on the final day of work, as is our tradition, we presented each family with a homemade quilt as a sign of hope and friendship, each with prayer knots tied by us and our home churches.

As we transition back to life in California, each of us brings back fond memories. We ended our second mission to assist with the recovery even more determined to keep coming back until the work is done. We are already anticipating our return in 2020.

Sincerely,

*The 2019 Puerto Rico California Nevada
Conference Mission Team*



The 2019 Puerto Rico team from our conference.

Easter Offering

Supporting Youth Mission Trips and Local Organizations

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) provides permanent, affordable housing and vital support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals in Contra Costa



Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

County. CCIH forms strategic partnerships with affordable housing developers and public/county entities to achieve its ends. Their support services are vital in assisting families with a myriad of challenges that range from mental health intervention to academic and employment assistance. Furthermore, their program models also provide sobriety support, conflict resolution, and parenting skills.

Additionally, resident leases allow for permanent housing, as long as the provisions of the lease are upheld. Permanent housing and on-site support services create self-reliant, dignified, and sustainable lives for residents. For more information on CCIH or to see volunteer opportunities, please see their website at <https://ccinterfaithhousing.org/>

The Garden Park Apartments, located in Pleasant Hill, provides that much needed support. To view a recent television clip from KTVU, visit <http://www.ktvu.com/news/non-profit-provides-more-than-just-housing-for-homeless-families>.

Greater Richmond Interfaith Project (GRIP) is an interfaith and multiracial organization dedicated to serving the region's homeless, hungry and disenfranchised. Begun in 1966, modern services range from the *Souper Center* for nutritious, hot meals daily and the GRIP Resource Center for showers and



GREATER RICHMOND
INTERFAITH PROGRAM

toiletries, mail and telephone access, and emergency clothing for clients. The Family Housing Program provides emergency shelter for families with children with its 75 beds. Finally, its Families in Transition program partners with the West Contra Costa County Unified School District to assist with transport, school uniforms and school supplies for homeless, runaway, unaccompanied or foster youth. For more information on GRIP, please visit their website at <http://www.gripcares.org>.

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (ICCCC) consists of 108 congregations and organizations of various faiths, including Jewish, Buddhist, Islamic and Christian traditions. This group's work includes promoting immunization among the area's impoverished children through



Health and Faith In Action; the **Winter Nights Shelter** program (now in its 13th year) through the Social Justice Alliance; the Singing Messengers, who send musical teams into area nursing facilities; and outreach to youth, including incarcerated youth. In 2017, ICCCC launched its Diffusing Hatred program in its congregations and community centers. This program seeks to equip citizens of Contra Costa County with nonviolent communication skills and the tools to diffuse tense situations or interrupt harassment. For more information on ICCCC or to see volunteer opportunities, please visit their website at <http://interfaithccc.org>.

Youth Mission Ministries

Donations will help in funding the two Youth summer mission trips.

Gleanings for the Hungry, July 7 to 13, 2019 – Middle- and high-school students spend a week of service working on the peach processing line, preparing the fruit to be shipped out to Gleaning's partner ministries around the globe.



Sierra Service Project, July 21 to 27, 2019 – High-school students spend a week in Smith River, CA, working with homeowners and local organizations on construction or other community-building projects.



April Communion Offering

Habitat For Humanity Playhouse Build 2019

This month, your Communion Sunday offering supports The Habitat For Humanity Playhouse Build.

The Habitat Playhouse project is an aspect of Habitat for Humanity that invites groups to build and donate playhouses to charities or individual families. The money raised goes towards the building of homes by Habitat For Humanity. To sponsor a playhouse, a group raises \$2000 per playhouse, and then builds the playhouse themselves. The playhouses to be constructed are prefabricated, meaning most of the measuring and cutting has already been done. SRVUMC's effort will focus on painting the playhouse and final assembly.

Creative and artistic volunteers love this project. The theme of the playhouse is selected by the child or children that will be receiving the playhouse. Once a playhouse is designed, decorated, and assembled, it's donated to the local children who requested the house's theme. That moment—seeing children run in and out of their new, custom-designed playhouse—is the most memorable part of volunteering with the Playhouse program.

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.



Volunteering to Build the Playhouses on April 28

We will be building two Habitat Playhouses in the church courtyard. Unlike normal Habitat builds where they require participants to be 16 years or older, the Playhouse build ***does not have an age requirement, but a parent must be present.*** The build will begin following the first service at approximately 10:15 a.m. For those wishing to attend the 10:30 a.m. service, that is not a problem; you can join us following the late service. We will be building two playhouses, which means we would need 30 to 40 volunteers to help in doing the final assembly (attaching trim and roofing shingles) and the most important part: painting the playhouse to the theme requested by the child or children receiving the playhouse! The build is usually completed by 2 p.m., and lunch and drinks will be provided. ***If you have any questions or would like to sign up to volunteer, please contact Paul Kuelz at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net or at (925) 831-3128.***



Left: one of the 2015 playhouses constructed for donation to Blue Star Moms. Above: SRVUMC volunteers enjoyed this fulfilling creative outlet to make some local kids happy.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Upcoming dates for 2019 are scheduled. All dates are Saturday, and each date has a maximum of 15 volunteers. The dates are

- April 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- July 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Started in 1975, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano stores and distributes perishable and nonperishable food items acquired through donation or purchase. They distribute food directly to low-income people at community sites and make food available for other nonprofit organizations serving ill or needy people and children. For more information on the food bank, please visit their website at www.foodbankccs.org.

Food donation bins are also located in the church narthex and in the entrance to Wesley Center.

If you are interested in volunteering for any or all of the dates, please contact **Lee Rust** at chijocol@aol.com.



SRVUMC “Rises” to the Meal-packing Occasion in 2019

By Paul Kuelz

On Sunday, February 24, approximately 75 volunteers helped pack 20,000 meals to help the hungry around the world. Since SRVUMC began packing meals in 2014, we have packed 95,000 meals for *Rise Against Hunger*. We have been steadily increasing the number of meals packed at this event. This year was our first year of packing 20,000 meals—and we were still able to complete the packing in less than two hours. Congratulations and thank you to all!

Rise Against Hunger began in 1998 as *Stop Hunger Now!* and is based in Raleigh, N.C. Since its original initiatives in distributing nutritious meals to the starving, this organization has broadened its efforts to improve food security for people worldwide. Besides providing assistance following a natural disaster, Rise Against Hunger trains farmers and families in agricultural methods and business skills. The Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nicaragua, and Kenya are some of the countries where Rise Against Hunger has promoted ecological approaches to agriculture, as well as diversification. Many of these small-scale, local farmers provide the vegetables dehydrated for the Rise Against Hunger packed meals. Rise Against Hunger takes the view that ending world hunger can be achieved by 2030.



At San Ramon Valley UMC, we have sponsored yearly meal-packing events. We could not do this event without the volunteers, but more importantly, without your monetary donations—and for that, I thank each and every one of you. Your donation of \$0.32 per meal funds the ingredients of dehydrated rice, soy meal, dehydrated vegetables and spices along with 23 essential vitamins and minerals. ***Our meals have been shipped to the Philippines for distribution through Rise Against Hunger partner International Care Ministries.*** Again, thank you to everyone involved.



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 through the church website, www.srvumc.org.*

Nurturing the Seeds of Compassion: Monthly Afternoon Interfaith Retreats on Compassion

San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville

Spend an afternoon in learning, sharing, good conversation, and being "opened" by experiencing spiritual practices on compassion from a different faith tradition each month.

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County offers this series of eight afternoon retreats. SRVUMC is helping plan and present them.

Karen Armstrong's book, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, will guide the programs; Joyce Rupp's book, *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life*, will be another key resource.

Each retreat will look at a given theme of compassion in Armstrong's book through the lens of prayer and spiritual practices of a particular faith tradition. The next three retreats are

- **April 7, from 3 to 6 p.m.** (Jewish tradition), \$20
- **May 5, from 3 to 6 p.m.** (Hindu tradition), \$20
- **June 2, from 2 to 8 p.m.** (Islam and Sufism traditions), with Iftar dinner after sunset, \$40-60

Each one is a standalone event. Reserve early! The first retreat was over-subscribed! Ask **Bill Rust**, wrusjrarb@aol.com, for a program brochure and registration information.

Volunteers Needed!

Vacation Bible School

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



Please email Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org if you can help. We need crew leaders, story tellers, art leaders, recreation help and more.

TO MARS AND BEYOND!

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 through the church website www.srvumc.org.*

Donations Needed for Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

Please bring wrapped candy or small toys to the church office by **April 7**. Thank you!



PRIME TIME *Players*

My favorite holiday of the year, Easter, is right around the corner! As we start the Lenten season and prepare for the Resurrection, please join us for our April Prime Time activities.

Tuesday, April 2, Prime Time Potluck and Presentation—12 noon, Wesley Center. Except – ***NO POTLUCK!*** We will bring lunch in (nothing special, and nothing like John

Sander's cooking). We wanted to open this up to a larger church audience, but we didn't want everyone to have to bring a dish to share, so we are providing lunch! Our very own Alice Anthony's granddaughter, Elsie Soderberg, will be presenting on behalf of her work as the communications director at [ZOZU Project](#), a faith-based organization that is providing educational services and opportunities for children in Uganda. The education system was all but destroyed about 40 years ago by a ruthless dictator, and groups like ZOZU are rebuilding that infrastructure—one child at a time. Come, be inspired, and see the hope in these children's eyes!

This Month's Potluck...Isn't a Potluck!

Just bring your appetite and come ready to lunch and learn!



By United States Central Intelligence Agency - [CIA World Factbook](#)

Tuesday, April 16, Prime Time Lunch with Friends—12 noon—Wesley Center. Please join us for a traditional Easter lunch with his traditional Jell-O salad, home-cooked glazed ham, homemade scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots, and mixed berries with **John's Zabaglione sauce**. **Yum!** \$5 is no longer covering the cost of our meals, so offer what you can—the best five- to ten-dollar meal in the Valley! Happy Easter!

What's Zabaglione?

According to [SimplyRecipes.com](#), zabaglione is a centuries-old Italian dessert tracing its origins to the court of the infamous Medici family. Depending on thickness, it may be prepared as a custard for pie fillings or served as a sauce. You may already know it as "zabayon" or "sabayon."

WE NEED A ROOM FOR
THE MEETING THIS WEEK!

WHERE DO WE KEEP...?

SOMEONE LEFT
A MESS IN
THE KITCHEN!

SOMETHING IS BROKEN!

IT'S TOO HOT UPSTAIRS!

IT'S TOO COLD UPSTAIRS!

I NEED TO RESERVE
A PROJECTOR!



Sundays are for the Word of God. Please let our office staff be part of worship without having to answer work-related questions. Thank you!



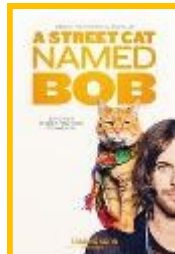
Between the Bookends



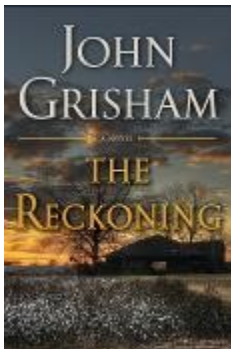
By Paula Boswell

Do you ever wonder how the library team selects books for the Book Cart? Just because we get books donated does not mean we automatically accept them for our library. At least two, often three of us, read the books and decide if they are of enough interest and if they are appropriate for a church library.

In addition to the three new books described below, we also put some books back on the Cart this month that were previously listed but, in our opinion, did not get the readership they deserved: *Glory Over Everything*, *A Street Cat Named Bob*, *Last Bus to Wisdom*, and *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*.

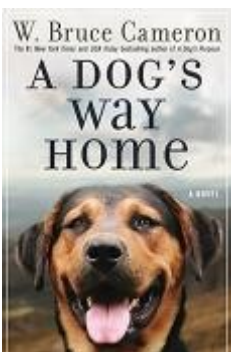


Now for our new selections:



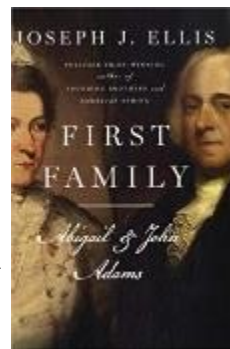
Grisham, John, *The Reckoning*. In this novel, John Grisham takes us on a journey that intertwined the Jim Crow South with the horrors of World War II in the Philippine Islands. Pete Banning, a survivor of the Bataan Death March and POW of the Japanese, is a highly decorated officer who gained the utmost respect from the men he commanded. Yet this

esteemed hard-working cotton farmer, loving father, husband and devout Methodist, calmly shoots and kills the Reverend Dexter Bell. Now the answers to why he did this crime and his defense begin.



Cameron, Bruce, *A Dog's Way Home*. Bella, an adorable rescue puppy, finds a loving home and tries to always be a "good dog." This wonderful adventure story of finding her way home from Durango to Denver is filled with characters, both human and wild, touching moments and even terror for Bella. The entire story is told through the dog's eyes and mind.

That alone makes the story unique and engrossing. The unconditional love of a dog calms and comforts many people along the journey.



Ellis, Joseph J., *First Family: Abigail and John Adams*. This is a story of a marriage between a man and a woman with intelligence and strength who are devoted to each other, their family and to our young country. While Abigail contributes mostly in the domestic sphere, she powerfully supports John's political and governmental endeavors. This book gives

a good review of our early history, and it spotlights the strengths—as well as some of the faults and foibles—of our founding fathers. It also recounts certain conflicts between Adams and Hamilton and Adams and Jefferson, making the reader feel less oppressed by the machinations of our present set of politicians.



***"A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading."* — William Styron**



Calendar

Palm Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt—*Everyone invited!*

April 14, Children's Palm Processional and Preschool Choir at beginning of 9 and 10:30 a.m. services.

- **Sunday School at 9 a.m.** (start in service.) Sunday school for TK through 5th grades. Tot Spot open all morning for under TK children—play and Bible story time.
- **Brunch 10 to 10:30 a.m.** in Wesley Center
- **Easter Egg Hunt** on the playground at 10:45 a.m. *Bring a basket for the hunt.*

April 21—EASTER. Sunday school for ages TK to 5th grade will be at 9 a.m. Childcare will be available in Tot Spot at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

Please bring candy or small toys to the Church Office by April 7 for use in the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday!



Contact Us!

Laura Roy

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

lroy@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext 106

Rebecca Bernstein

Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

rbernstein@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext.109

Sunday School Topics

WEEK ONE

JOHN 11:1-45 Lazarus Raised

SAY THIS: Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

WEEK TWO

JOHN 12:9-16 Palm Sunday

SAY THIS: Whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.

WEEK THREE

JOHN 18:1 to 20:18 Crucifixion and Resurrection

SAY THIS: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

WEEK FOUR

JOHN 20:19-23 Jesus Appears to Thomas

SAY THIS: Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

REMEMBER THIS:

"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."—John 16:33b, NIrV

LIFE APP: HOPE—Believing that something good can come out of something bad.

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—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—Grades 6 to 12, Sundays 3 to 4 p.m. in Judson, 2nd floor. Teri Hawk

Bros and Belles Choir—Grades 6 to 12, Practice Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. Winnie Stribling



Psst...you can probably still make a difference to kids and youth. Contact Laura Roy or Rebecca Bernstein.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Judi Bauerlein
Evelyn Evans
Winnie Stribling

Continued Prayers For...

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Julie Dastic, Doug Domergue, Johnny Johnston, Lea Patteson; Lilli-an Scherer; Ann Schroeder; Joan Webb; Jeannine Wool-

Name Tags

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

April Celebrations

Birthdays



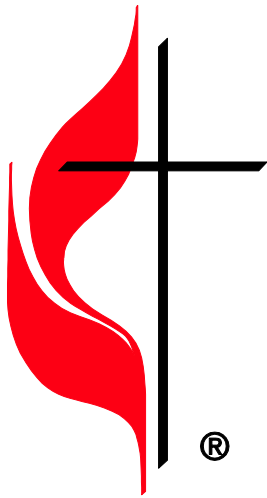
1 Steve Brown	Jeryn Blair Smario	15 Alexis Bybel	24 Rafael Altamirano
Julien Hansen	Trudy Pasquale	Ruth Riggan	Larry Henderson
Jim Hardy	9 Randy Helms	16 Judy Pearson Kobsar	Debbie Koos
2 Dave Webb	10 Kevin Dimler	17 Randy Durrenberger	Rosemarie Place
3 Elizabeth Andrew	Lucy Carrico	Kathi McShane	Annette Warwick
4 Linda Green	Dave McWilliams	18 Shelley Lettis	25 Gloria Fenton
Joanne Van Bezey	11 Jeff Leontini	19 Jennifer Andres	Jessica Kuelz
5 Barbara Brick	Blaine Mucklow	Nancy Vazquez	Donna Lindquist
Jayne Schnittker	Craig Schleicher	20 Bill Dastic	Kelly Ryan
6 Lonnie Bristow	12 Alice Anthony	Eric Johnson	26 Karen Brown
Sam Colman	Charlotte Garner (94)	Trevor Vazquez	Steve Garnick
Spencer Drake	Madison Luecht	21 John Evans	Joyce Rodgers
Taylor Munk	13 Warrie Alday (92)	Bonnie Roberts	27 Lynne Henderson
Lee Russ	Doug Hinzle	Lillian Scherer (97)	28 John Mitchell
Sarah Stribling	Bee Gee Millinich	Brian Uitti	Nancy Reynolds
7 Molly Ehlers	Rosanne Ogles	22 Sally Andrew	Dan Whiting
Martha Kitajima	14 Christy Campbell	Randy Christensen	29 Shirley Stephenson
Jan Knadle	Cliff Campbell	Jill Shibuya	Vera Robinson
Johnathan Robinson	Madeline DeWalt	23 Charles Fiedler	30 Brent Willman
8 Nancy Benvenuto	Bruce Koliha	Boyd Hasik	

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Deanna & Clayton Clark	Jayne & John Schnittker (63)	24 Lael & Gerard Takiguchi
3 Ginger & Warren McGuffin	11 Marilyn & George Clarke	25 Joanne & Randy Durrenberger
6 Susan & Ron Dunn	Winnie & Brad Stribling	Kirsten & Scott Ericson
7 Jean & Chuck Desmond	12 Debbie & Greg Koos	26 Melanie & Boyd Hasik
Kathy & Adam Kennedy	Deborah & Johnathan Robinson	
8 Linda & John Green	20 Wendy & Tony Cooper (56)	
Teri & Steve Hawk	Laurie & Terry Stocking	
Sara & Jim Rossini	23 Kim & Will Maddux	

Are We Missing You?

Please email newsletter@srvumc.org if we should be including your birthdays and anniversaries.



APRIL 2019

Worship Schedule

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

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

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

Children's Building

April 2019

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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