



Valley Messenger

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

MAY 2019

Pastor's Pondering ~

Welcoming Practices

We've celebrated Easter, the life-giving truth that God's Presence is always with us!

Now, the question is, how do we live this Easter truth? Jesus' faith in God-with-him was most clearly seen in the way he treated others: he's known for his love. Jesus saw others the way God saw them, and he offered God's love to all. How we treat one another is perhaps the most visible sign of *our* faith. Practicing compassion, empathy, respect, patience, and kindness **is** the journey of faith.

As we live into our faith, we have opportunities to welcome and include others. This is an intentional behavior, and it doesn't happen unless we practice. There are specific things we can do on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Below are some practices I'll be trying to incorporate into my journey of faith. I hope you'll join me.

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Next Issue: June 2019

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by May 15, 2019.

1) Welcome newcomers. If you are saying to yourself, "Oh I don't need to do this because I feel awkward or uncomfortable", or "other people are better at this", please re-think your response. If you are the person sitting next to someone new, and you don't take the opportunity to greet and talk with that new person for at least a minute or two, that new person will perceive our church as unwelcoming and unfriendly.

2) Practice the Rule of 3. Right after worship, look for three people you do not yet know by name or remember by name. Sometimes we forget each other's names, or feel awkward when we think we **should** know a person's name. Ask again. It's okay; let's give ourselves that grace.

Many newcomers try to slip out quickly, but if we can connect with them, they will have a greater sense of welcome. This is an important outreach effort that must have priority over greeting friends. All you have to do is introduce yourself and say, "Good Morning!" or "So glad you were here this morning!" Ideally, every member of the congregation serves in this capacity.

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3) Please wear your nametag. It looks good on you.

4) Treat others the way you want to be treated. Take a moment to remember a time when you were treated with kindness, and felt welcomed and included. My guess is that it was a positive experience that stayed with you. Let's do that for each other, each and every week.

Kindness Matters,

Pastor Kim

But I Need a New Nametag!

If you are missing your nametag, please request a new one from Patsy in the church office for \$8.

Exploring How To Be a Welcoming and Inclusive Church:

Follow-up to Our Community Gatherings

In March, we had three community gatherings, where we talked about our faith and our understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity. We explored Scripture and shared our stories. An average of 100 people attended each session.

Two things were clear:

- 1) There was strong support at the community gatherings for becoming a Reconciling Congregation.
- 2) We did not hear from everyone.



Going forward, we will be contacting all members to hear **your** perspective. Your input will shape how we go forward. A group of church members, called the Core Team, will be available after worship services starting on **April 28**. Core team members will also be contacting people by phone and reaching out to people in small groups.

In these on-on-one interviews, they will be asking you: what are your hopes for our church? They will also be able to answer your questions about what a Reconciling Church is, and isn't. **Please** make yourself available for these interviews.

You can also call the church office (**837-5243**) and request that a Core Team member contact you. We want to hear from everybody. Please set aside time this month to meet with a Core Team member and share your perspective. Thank you!

Save the Date!

Speaker Rev. Richard Ernst

Shares Experiences with Reconciling Congregations

Sunday, May 19, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Wesley Fellowship Hall

We'll continue our conversation on whether or not SRVUMC should become a Reconciling Congregation. Retired UM pastor Rev. Richard Earnst, who served the Cal Nevada Conference for decades, will be joining us. Dick has a wealth of experience with Reconciling Congregations and will lead us through a discussion of the fears and realities of the Reconciling process, as well as the land mines to watch for, and the unexpected fruits.

Dick will be joined by another speaker (TBA) representing a different point of view. Watch the Mini Messenger for updates!

In the coming months, we will continue to explore the question of whether SRVUMC should become a Reconciling Congregation. Many of us have lots of unanswered questions about what it means to be “Reconciling.” To further our own ongoing discussion, here’s how one Colorado church answered some key questions on their own website, <https://www.gostandrew.com/about/reconciling/>

What Does It Mean To Be a “Reconciling Congregation”?

Excerpts From the Website of St. Andrews UMC in Highlands Park, CO



What does it mean to be a Reconciling Congregation?

As Christians, we strive to follow Christ’s example of welcome and love for all. But the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (the United Methodist book of rules and doctrine) contains unwelcoming language about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons. This is the only group of people expressly made to feel unwelcome by official denominational statements, and the only group denied full rights of participation in the UMC.

To be reconciling simply means that we disagree with the unwelcoming language of our official denominational statements, and we choose instead to be inclusive of all people.

The Scriptures are the highest source of guidance in our faith. The Gospel shows us that God’s love and character are most clearly expressed in the life of Jesus, who sought to create a community that went beyond our narrow conceptions of God to include everyone.

How did we become a Reconciling Congregation?

Most churches who take this step, engage in prayer, study, and dialogue about the concerns of LGBTQ persons in the church for a period of several months.

[Pastor Kim’s Note: At SRVUMC, this will include having a Core Team offer one-on-one interviews starting April 28. See Page 2 of this newsletter for details.]

Why single out LGBTQ persons? Why not just welcome everyone?

We do welcome everyone. But the Reconciling Congregation movement highlights the open discrimination which LGBTQ persons face in our church and society. In the United Methodist Church, LGBTQ persons are the only social group for

whom participation in some aspects of general church life is barred by church law. At the same time, we know that there are other persons and groups in our society with whom our churches must be reconciled. The process of becoming reconciling invites us to consider how we want to welcome others who have felt left out of church.

For example, St Andrews UMC adopted this welcoming statement: **St. Andrew UMC has a place for you.**

We embrace Jesus’ message that God loves everyone and affirm that all persons are of sacred worth. We are proud to celebrate diversity as we work to live our vision of radical hospitality. We welcome people of every age, race and gender identity; diverse nationalities, ethnicities, and sexual orientations; any family structure, economic reality, physical and mental ability, education and faith history. While there are differences among us, we can love alike though we may not think alike. You are invited to join this nurturing community on a faith journey toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect. If this is your first visit, welcome. If you are returning, welcome home.

Why do we have to make a public statement?

Many churches and Christian leaders are public about their anti-gay actions and statements, so we feel that we should be just as public. The overwhelming perception within the LGBTQ community today is that they are not welcome in

churches. We want our public statement to help overcome that perception. Remember Jesus' statement about hiding your light under a bushel (Matt. 5:15)? We don't want to keep quiet about this! Our status as a Reconciling Congregation is something we celebrate.

Does being a Reconciling Congregation mean that we're an all-gay church?

No, it means that we're an "all kinds" church. At St. Andrew, you'll find people across the spiritual, political, and social spectrum. Most of us are native English speakers, but some

are not. Some of us are politically conservative while others are liberal. Most of us have European ancestors, but some of us don't. Some of us understand the Bible in a fairly literal way, while others believe that the Bible is to be understood as an expression of the historical time and place it was written. Most of us are heterosexual, and some of us are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered. But in the end, we have this in common: we think that diversity is God's good gift, and we celebrate it!

Church Council Takeaways

Church Council Meetings Could Take on a More Attendance-Friendly Format

In advance of the April 16 meeting of the Church Council, Chair Debra Carter sent an email to council members proposing a change in format. She suggested that committee chairs, who typically provide oral reports at monthly meetings, instead circulate brief written reports among council members a few days in advance of each meeting. Then, hard copies of emailed reports would be made available at the meetings. Questions could be addressed in the meeting, but often the content of these reports does not require further discussion.

Currently, some committee chairs do contribute written reports. Laura Roy and Rebecca Bernstein have been providing their reports to the Church Council this way for months, with hard copies circulated for attendees' review. Debra described their contributions made in this format as "most helpful."

Debra would like to see a format where only two council members present oral reports at a given meeting, with presenters to rotate from month to month. However, time-sensitive or critical issues would be addressed at a monthly meeting, regardless of the rotation.

Time not spent on oral reports could become an "open idea" period, when Council members, regular attendees and congregants will be encouraged to bring to Council meetings their opinions, new ideas and concepts for discussion" according to Debra's email.

The Church Council voted on April 16 to adopt this format. The measure will be implemented at the **May 21, 2019** meeting.

"My goal is to maintain transparency but also allow for our leadership group (the Council) to have time to address important issues, creative ideas and implementation of our vision, without getting bogged down in day-to-day details that

can often be handled outside of our once per month gathering," said Debra in her email. She added that she hopes the new format will encourage more attendance by congregants who have ideas to share that may feel uncomfortable or stifled by the current rigid structure of the monthly meetings.

A few takeaways from March and April Church Council meetings:

1. Kathleen Saghafi noted that her goal was for all congregation members to be heard. Beginning April 7, she has encouraged members to seek her out during coffee hour or in any manner they wish to express their concerns or ideas. She has also put a suggestion box in the narthex where members can submit ideas and concerns. Suggestions will be kept confidential.
2. Pastor Dan and the Connect & Belong team are building a hospitality ministry to create a spirit of warmth and welcome for visitors and new members.
3. Lyn Arscott continues to represent SRVUMC in community efforts to rid the creek behind church property of the invasive weed arundo. His article about this work recently appeared in the *Contra Costa Times*.

Delegates for the Annual Conference

Pastor Colin of Walnut Creek UMC visited the April 16 Church Council meeting to formally nominate our delegates. The Council voted to formally approve these delegates, who have accepted their upcoming role to represent our church.

Congratulations to our delegates Marti and Sketch Sketchly and Rebecca Bernstein.

We hope you have a fulfilling experience!

...Mind, Body and Soul

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.



Seminar on Meditation, Mindfulness, and the Present Moment

Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m. to Noon, Wesley Center

Facilitated by Rev. Connie L. Habash



Many people hear of the benefits of meditation and want to try it, but struggle. Let's face it—it's hard to sit still and quiet when our lives constantly pull us to the to-do list, the state of the world, and any number of stressors that agitate us. Still others are concerned about a conflict of interest with their religious tradition.

The truth is that meditation doesn't have to be difficult, a drudge, nor anything that conflicts with your religion. In fact, a good meditation practice can deepen your connection to God and your spiritual practices, no matter what you believe. It's just for you. And there are a number of ways to step gently into meditation practice without the pressure of sitting stock-still for an hour in a pretzel pose!

It all begins with becoming aware in the present moment and discovering its sweet and simple blessings. You may think of this as mindfulness practice—bringing your awareness to the here and now. Much of what causes us stress and anxiety in our lives is the constant agitation of our mind. Mindfulness helps us quiet and calm the mind by attending to what is right now in our experience, rather than following trains of thought or emotion that can upset or distract us.

This morning workshop will take you, step by step, into the inner peace that comes from being right here, right now. We'll explore some simple mindfulness practices, both indoors and out. We'll have some enlightening discussion on the mind, emotions, and the body, and how they come into play during meditation, and also cultivate a sense of humor about meditation and ourselves. The day will be sprinkled throughout with some short, guided, and very doable meditation practices, gradually building your ability to sit or walk in mindfulness and presence.

Join us, and begin the return to your natural state (yes, it's within you!) of inner peace and calm.

A \$20 fee will be charged to cover the cost of the facilitator. Contact Lyn Arscott lynarscott@comcast.net with questions and check Connie's website for more information about her <https://www.awakeningself.com/>

...Mind, Body and Soul

Nurturing the Seeds of Compassion

Monthly Afternoon Interfaith Retreats on Compassion

Sundays, 2 to 8 p.m.
San Damiano Retreat Center



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 ongoing 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.

- **May 5, 3 to 6 p.m.**—We will look at the compassionate practice of empathy (the fourth step in Armstrong's book) through the lens of prayer and spiritual practices of the Hindu faith tradition. \$20 fee.
- **June 2, 2 to 8 p.m.**—We will look at mindfulness (the fifth step) through the Islam and Sufism traditions, with Iftar dinner after sunset. \$40-60 fee.

Each retreat is a standalone event. Reserve early! The first retreats were over-subscribed! Ask **Bill Rust**, wrusjarb@aol.com (or see church directory), for a program brochure and registration information.



The Children's Soccer Experience

ARC soccer classes:

Soccer Shots Returns to ARC!

Since 2017 Soccer Shots partnered with ARC offering non-competitive soccer fundamentals to children 2 through 8 years old. The response was overwhelming from the families that participated! We have been serving school locations since 2010 and are looking forward to continuing to offer OPEN-TO-ALL public classes at ARC!

- **Classes** for children 2 through 8 years old starting **Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 10:40 a.m.**
- **Summer camp! June 10 through 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. Games, prizes, free jersey and craft/book time!**

Soccer Shots has been consistently ranked the #1 Children's Fitness franchise in the United States. We are an age-appropriate curriculum based program teaching children the fundamentals of the world's most popular sport in a positive and encouraging environment. Soccer Shots teammates will learn basic skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting, team-work and sportsmanship all while having FUN!

Please visit our website at soccershots.org/eastbay or send us an email for more information at eastbay@soccershots.org.

We look forward to working with your little player soon!



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 if you need a copy.***

5/5	<i>The Middle East: Regional Disorder</i> 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?
5/12	<i>Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future</i> To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future nuclear arms control negotiations? How can we stabilize our nuclear future?
5/19	<i>The Rise of Populism in Europe</i> 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.
5/26	<i>Decoding US-China Trade</i> Trade is measured in outdated metrics. Do tariffs work? What tools can the U.S. use to counter China's unfair trade practices?
6/2	<i>Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics</i> 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?
6/9	<i>United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested</i> 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?
6/16	<i>State of the State Department and Diplomacy</i> 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?

May Communion Offering

The May Communion offering will be going to the **Discovery Counseling Center of the San Ramon Valley**. Established in 1971, community-based, nonprofit Discovery Counseling Center offers affordable and high-quality mental health services for individuals and families in the greater San Ramon Valley community. Some of the services offered include individual therapy for children through seniors, couples, family and group counseling; school counseling intervention programs; alcohol and drug recovery; counseling for LGBTQ individuals, and more.



This venerable, local organization works in schools and other community outlets to reach people in all stages of life and facing a variety of struggles, from divorce to substance abuse. The Discovery Center has two counseling centers, one located in Danville (Town and Country Shopping Center, near McCaulou's) and a satellite center located in San Ramon.

Together with San Ramon Valley Unified School District, The Discovery Counseling Center offers anti-bullying programs EmpowHer and Guy'd to Greatness, currently operating in ten of the district's elementary schools to reach its fourth- and fifth-graders. Discovery Counseling Center also provides the school district with a program for students receiving a first-time alcohol, tobacco or marijuana suspension to offer counseling as a means to reduce suspension days.

The organization is not a crisis center. Discovery Counseling Center urges anyone in need of immediate support to call the Contra Costa Crisis Hotline at 211 or text "hope" to 20121.

Furthermore, its mental health services create a training environment for a few students completing their post-masters or third-year doctoral education under the supervision of licensed Psy.D., MSW and MFT staff.

The **Thrift Station** opened in 1973 to support the Discovery Center's efforts and has become a fixture of downtown Danville. Give to the Center by donating quality household items and clothing for the Thrift Station to sell at their 486 San Ramon Valley Boulevard location in Danville, at the Crossroads shopping center. Bring your gently used clothes, shoes and household items to the back door of the store to drop them off. You can also shop there yourself, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Finally, you could opt to volunteer at the Thrift Station. Over one hundred volunteers manage sales, take in donations, sort, price and display donated items available for sale in the shop. **Contact thriftstation@discoveryctr.net or call the Thrift Station at (925) 820-1988.**

For a further list of mental health services or to schedule an appointment, go to www.discoveryctr.net or call (925) 837-0505. The Discovery Center is not a crisis center: if you require immediate help, call the Contra Costa Crisis Hotline at 211 or text "hope" to 20121.



This is a way we can support the Mental Health Awareness Month in May.

Mission Memories...

Recovering From Hurricane Harvey

When Danielle bought her home in June 2017, little did she know that two months later Hurricane Harvey would deposit three feet of water in her living room. Can you imagine?

It has been a rough two years for Danielle. She is now divorced, three months pregnant and, to top it off, her dad passed away just after the storm. Then, add poor quality repairs by an unscrupulous contractor to her woes and a well-meaning new stepfather, and you have the situation of the very deserving young lady we helped on this most recent mission trip.

This was our second trip to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery. We were in the Corpus Christi area in October 2018. The massive flooding of this hurricane is hard to comprehend. It left billions of dollars in damage across the entire width of South Texas.

Composed of veteran missionaries from three Tri-Valley United Methodist Churches (Asbury, Lynnewood and San Ramon Valley), our team hit the ground running!

We addressed a host of electrical, plumbing and carpentry problems, including redoing/correcting prior work. Complicating this project was discovery of termite damage and a couple of water leaks.

It was rewarding to work for Danielle. She was most grateful.

As with all our trips, we added in a little sightseeing and sampled local food. In this case, the NASA Space Center, Tex-Mex, BBQ and seafood. We worshipped at the Baptist church where we stayed.

One of the hallmarks of all of our mission trips is the Christian comradery. We tell stories, laugh a lot, share touching devotional moments, and enjoy each other's company in the evenings. All of this rounds out a very meaningful mission trip experience.

We closed out the week by presenting Danielle a homemade quilt as a reminder of our service. Danielle said we were an answer to her prayers: she'd had no idea how she was going to get her home back in order. Her mother, Peggy Sue, kept saying "Have faith." Isn't that what life is all about...having faith and answering prayers?

In mission together,

Coleman Johnson, Doug and Mary Ellen Huey, Steve Wilson, Bob Hoffman, Paul Kuelz, Roger Everett, Dick Crawford and Steve Elliott



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

MedShare—We will be returning to MedShare to help pack and sort unused medical supplies to be sent to countries in great need on **Saturday, June 15, from 1 to 4 p.m.** If you are interested in joining our group of volunteers please contact **Chris Hoff** at christopher_hoff@sbcglobal.net



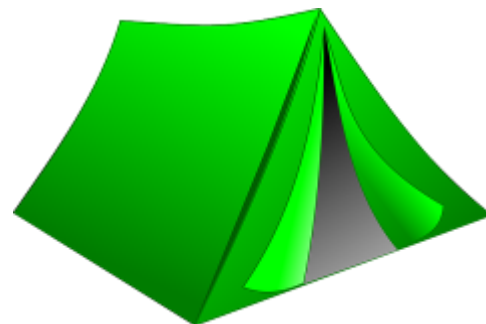
Left: Volunteers from another MedShare pack-and-sort mission in January 2019.



Thank You for Winter Nights 2019!

Thank you for donating your money, time, and expertise to support SRVUMC's Winter Nights program this past month. We had the pleasure of hosting 27 people for two weeks, and we added a new baby for the last three days. Everyone really appreciated the warmth and food provided by the volunteers who cooked, shopped, chaperoned, handled laundry, managed the facility and the kitchen, loaded and unloaded their truck of belongings, tutored, donated items and food, and provided activities for the children. For the last week of March, we had close to 150 volunteers, including about 25 volunteers from the community and another fifteen from the Danville Congregational Church. The following week, St. Isidore's also had about 100 volunteers, on our campus, doing the same jobs. What a wonderful community effort!

Next year, we will host from May 4 to 18, so mark your calendars. Again, thank you for your generosity and support.



—*Susan Dowling, Winter Nights Coordinator*

SRVUMC Endowment Fund Distribution



The Endowment Committee requests your donation to the Endowment Fund in loving memory of your mother on Sunday, May 12, and/or your father on Sunday, June 16.

Your donation will continue to help build the fund principal, which now exceeds \$1.35 million and provides and the church with "The Gift that Keeps on Giving." You can designate your gift towards a specific church fund or function or offer it as an undesignated donation to support the church in a variety of ways.

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that a \$40,000 Endowment Fund distribution was made in April, based on a portion of 2018 year-end fund earnings. This year's distribution goes to funds supporting various church activities, including Missions, Music, Sunday School, Children's Ministry, Youth Activities, Library, Capital Needs, Wesley Maintenance, and the SRVUMC Reserve Fund.

Please continue to support the Endowment Fund and, in turn, the longevity of SRVUMC's vital and enjoyable faith activities. **For further clarification, please contact Bob Dominici at (925) 788-6121 (mobile).**



The *first* and *third* Tuesdays of the month we meet to say thank you to all those who do so much (or not) for our church community. Mark your calendar for the first and third Tuesdays of the month!

Tuesday, May 7—Prime Time Pot Luck & Presentation, 12 noon, Wesley Center

Bring a dish to share and join us to hear a presentation on our Family, Children's and Youth Ministries with Laura Roy and Rebecca Bernstein. On Palm Sunday, we had 37 children and youth on campus for Easter activities! WOW! Laura and Rebecca are breathing new life into our programs, and we are so excited! Hear their plans and strategies. Bring a dish to share, or just stop at the deli or bakery. We always have plenty of food: it's your company we love!

Tuesday, May 21—Prime Time Lunch with Friends, 12 noon, Wesley Center

Enjoy the best home-cooked meal in the Valley! Simply fun, fellowship and food: this is a great chance to just chill and chat with friends from church. Chef John Sanders will be starting with his (all from scratch!) Waldorf salad, pork scaloppini with capers (the BEST!), mashed potatoes and oven-roasted asparagus. Plus, strawberry shortcake for dessert!

May Outing! Wednesday, May 29—High Tea in Niles Canyon, 9:30 a.m. church parking lot. Join us for high tea at a Thyme for Tea for a looovely morning tea! We will car pool from the church lot to enjoy tea and a variety of sandwiches starting at \$20 depending on our numbers. Please RSVP to Nancy Benvenuto at Nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com or Jerry Ricker at JerryRicker@astound.net.

Tips for Remembering Someone's Name (When You Meet in Church)

(Drawn from an article appearing on www.forbes.com)

1. **Focus on the person.** Make eye contact and listen to what he or she has to say to you.
2. **Repeat their name aloud.** "Brad? Nice to meet you, Brad."
3. **Ask a question.** "What did you think of the solo this morning, Brad?" Now, you have time to cement their name in your mind and to gain a detail that will help you remember more about them.
4. **Repeat his or her name silently.** *Brad, Brad, Brad...*
5. **Make a vivid association between their name and something familiar.** Bizarre = better! (A "brad" is a type of nail, so picture a nail when you see Brad.)
6. **Conclude the interaction with their name.** "It was great to meet you, Brad. Sticking around for coffee hour?"

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!

Afternoon Book Group

Mondays, 1 p.m.

Rm. 202 Wesley Center

May 20, 2019—*The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff
(Marilyn leading)





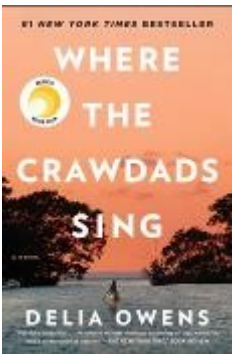
Between the Bookends



By Paula Boswell

A message to our loyal book donors: we are unable to accept books with underlining or writing in them. However, more donations of appropriate large print books would be greatly appreciated.

Our book cart with books for you to check out may be a little harder to find when coffee is served outside after services. But...it's there, near the serving tables. Let's take a look at what we have added for your reading pleasure this month:

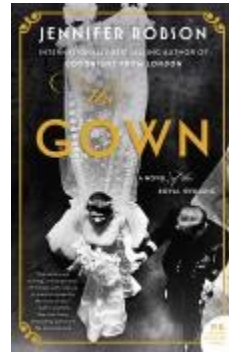


Owens, Delia, *Where the Crawdads Sing*. The story begins in 1969 with the discovery of the body of young, popular Chase Andrews at the foot of a fire tower in the marshes off the coast of North Carolina. Was it an accident or murder? We are transported back to 1952, when the mother of five-year-old Kya walks away from her marsh shack and family never to return. Over time, the rest of Kya's older siblings drift away. Her alcoholic father stays with her until she is ten years old, teaching her to fish, collect clams, maneuver their small boat and prepare basic meals. When her father disappears one day, Kya is left to care for herself. Tate, a friend of her older brother, takes an interest in Kya and teaches her to read. He uses science books to teach her, and soon Kya is learning the proper names of flora and fauna in her beloved marsh. The story traces her growing up years, her longings, loves and creative abilities. This is a beautifully written book with a "whodunit" and a finale that packs a punch!



Punke, Michael, *The Revenant*. This story, based on facts, centers around legendary mountain man Hugh Glass in the early 1820s when traders and fur companies were searching for new areas in the Rocky Mountains. Hugh Glass guides trappers through unforgiving territory while fighting off hostile native tribes and trying to find food to feed the men. Every day is a challenge for survival. At one point, Hugh is attacked by a bear and very seriously injured. His companions, sure he will soon die, steal his weapons and abandon him. I'll

leave it to the reader to find out how Hugh managed his way back against almost impossible odds. The author takes the legend of Hugh Glass and makes it into a human story. For those who have seen the movie, the book is better!



Robson, Jennifer, *The Gown*. Set in 1947 and in 2016, this historical novel centers around the fashioning of Princess Elizabeth's wedding gown in the studio of designer Norman Hartnell. While the gown provides the background for the novel, the book actually focuses on two women struggling with the difficulties of existence right after World War II and on the granddaughter of one of the women. Talented embroiderers working for Hartnell are Ann Hughes, who has survived the Blitz in London but lost her entire family, and Miriam Dassin, a French Jewish woman who also lost her family but survived Ravensbrück. Along with vanity, villainy, and the lingering horrors of World War II, this engrossing book showcases beauty, generosity, friendship and love.



You may have tangible wealth untold; caskets of jewels and coffers of gold. Richer than I you can never be. I had a mother who read to me. —Gillian Strickland



Calendar

June 3 to 6, 9 to 12 noon. Mega Sports & Faith Camp - FUNdamentals. 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: srvumc.org.

June 24 to 28, 9 to 11:30 a.m. To Mars and Beyond – Vacation Bible School. 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: srvumc.org.

Volunteers NEEDED for 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, science staff, recreation help and more.

To Mars and Beyond! Is this year's exciting theme!

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

MATTHEW 28:16-20, ACTS 1-2

Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel

SAY THIS: Keep going because God is with you.

WEEK TWO

ACTS 16:16-40 Paul and Silas in Prison

SAY THIS: You can choose joy when life gets hard.

WEEK THREE

HEBREWS 12:1 Cloud of Witnesses

SAY THIS: God can help you let go of what is holding your back.

WEEK FOUR

HEBREWS 12:2-3 Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

SAY THIS: Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

LIFE APP: PERSEVERANCE—Refusing to give up when life gets hard.

Remember this: "But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."

—Isaiah 40:31, NIrV

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 Tot Spot, 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.

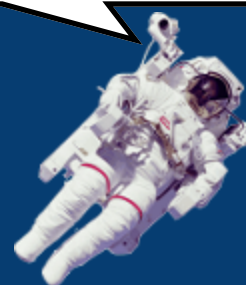
Music

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

**VOLUNTEERING FOR VBS
IS VERY REWARDING!**



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Sally Andrews
Julie Dastic
Barbara Brick

Continued Prayers For...

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

Name Tags

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

May Celebrations

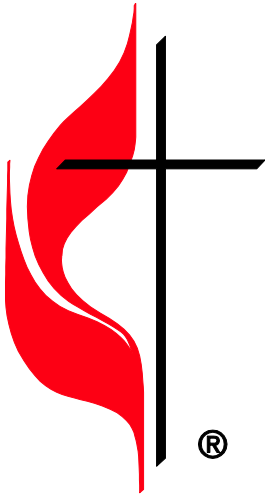
Birthdays



1	Catharine Baker	8	Mitzie Dew	15	Janelle Hawkley	Gary Krumrei
	Barbara Nicco		Matt Hinzie		Greg Longstreet	Julia Leontini
	Bethany Pavel		Kari Mullican		Greg Lowe	25 Karen Dautel
2	Will Davis		Charity Pelletier		Scott Ryan	Clara Malin
	Cheryl Morones		Abby Ten Elshof	16	Lorry Dahl	Thomas Mannell
3	Bruce Templeton	9	Burt Rodgers		Brad Poole	Sara Wolfram
4	Sylvia Benzler		Winnie Stribling	17	Rick Doran	26 Norma Jean Bunker
	Floy Blair	10	Barbara Carlson		Laurie Rousseu	Skip George
	Alana Morgin	11	Louise Hanover (91)	18	Sanjiv More'	27 Justin Farhang
	Mike Prenger		Will Maddux	19	Alice Impraim	Thomas Valdriz
	Jim Warnock		Connor Marohn		Marla Nakaso	28 Kay Jones (93)
5	Jan Rohde		Kathleen Wood	20	Susan Dunn	Tom Schramm
	Hannah Sidhom	12	Patrick Davis	21	Bob Baker	Anna Templeton
	Scott Smallwood	13	Brett Greene		Rich Braden	29 Jan Geahry
6	Laura Brady		Carole Johnson		Brian Dandridge	30 Aksel Schmidt
	Mary Jane Brusher		Jim McKnight		Robby Kelly	31 Christa Farrow
	Susan Doran ⁸		Pamela Peters	22	Ruth Pavlik	
	Cherie Charbonneau	14	Saba Kanwal	23	Gary Hickson	

Wedding Anniversaries

1	Stephanie & Jeff Leontini	18	Donna & Dave Bain	Anita Weir & Jim Ball	Lynn & Richard Dodge
4	Linda Albertoni Engman & Dave Engman	20	Rhona & Mike Sherrill	27 Lillian Baker Holleman & Dave Holleman	Stacey & Brad Judd
		21	Debra & Richard Carter		Anne & Paul Kuelz
5	Floy & Jerry Blair (56)	22	Lisa & John Jancarik	28 Kari & Kevin Dimler	Marilyn & Thomas Mathis
6	Kathleen & Briggs Wood	24	Willy & Charlie Adam	Amber & Matt Marx	Susan & Dale Stevenson
8	Brenda & Darren Cowdrey		Susan Pickering-Gest & Steve Gest	Alice & Roger Miller	(56)
	Marty & Jerry Osborn			Barbara & Mike Nicco	
10	Nancy & Steve Garnick		Connie & Ray Winter	Karen & Scott Sanson	
12	Lisa & Edmund Glover	26	Debra Brady & Steve Veglia	30 Christy & Bruce Campbell	
14	Angela & Tom Norton (53)		Meg & Bob Guldner	Heather & Doug Clay	



MAY 2019

Worship Schedule

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

Living Water Worship, 10:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

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

May 2019

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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