



Valley Messenger

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

JULY 2019

Cultivating Community

Pastor's Pulse ~

"We are a community on a journey with God—mind, body and soul." As we live into our core values, our focus this year has been on community. Our first year at SRVUMC, Pastor Dan and I have been getting to know our new community, and that's where we need your help.

Every time you become aware that you haven't seen someone at church for a while, please touch base with them and say you miss them and hope they are okay. Or, let us know: **Dan (837-5243 ext 108); Kim (837-5243, ext 107).** We welcome the opportunity to reach out and check in. Thank you!

Brian McLaren, is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. He was recently asked what makes a church thrive and grow. His research shows that cultivating a community that is kind and welcoming helps. What does that type of community look like? According to him:

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Next Issue: August 2019

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

1. The members treat each other well. If a congregation is full of backbiting, unresolved conflicts, and distrust, people coming in will "smell it in the air" and look elsewhere. The qualities of love, kindness, warmth, and welcome are not sufficient causes for lasting growth, but they are necessary conditions.

2. The members simply can't shut up about their church. They are so inspired on Sunday that they want to talk about it on Monday at the water cooler or on Facebook. Not only that, but they honestly feel, "My friends' lives would be better if they could be part of a community like ours," so they invite them out of generosity.

3. Visitors almost always come because of #2 - a friend who welcomes them. But visitors only become members when existing members welcome them, include them, make space for them, and involve them. Churches that are warm to each other (#1) aren't necessarily warm to newcomers.

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*There's a lot more we could say, but I think any list of reasons for growth would begin with those three.**

Thank you for being a community on a journey with God—mind, body and soul. Both Dan and I are so grateful to be in ministry with you, and we look forward to the year ahead.

Pastor Kim

*From Brian McLaren's reply to a question submitted online at <https://progressingspirit.com>.

Did You Know?

July is a great time to build our church community! Bring a neighbor to Grill-n-Chill, cheer on the Grill Team in the Danville Fourth of July Parade, or play pickleball for free at the ARC during "All-Church Time" with a friend (*see Page 6 for more ARC info*)!

Grill and Chill 2019

**Please join us over four Thursday evenings as we Grill and you Chill
and we enjoy some fun entertainment!**

5:30 p.m. in the Courtyard

Week #1: Thursday June 27, VBS Weenie Roast—Vacation Bible School concluded with a weenie roast and other kid-friendly food as we watched the children entertain us with the music they learned at VBS!



Thursday July 4 – NO GRILL AND CHILL – it's the Fourth of July! Don't miss our always fun entry in the Danville Fourth of July Parade!

Week #2; Thursday July 11, Go Hawaiian!—Enjoy our ukulele sing-and-play-along and feast on grilled teriyaki chicken and other Hawaiian fare.



Week #3: Thursday July 18, Yeehaw! Line Dancing—Learn how to line dance in the courtyard! Grilled steak and all the fixins'. Dust off your cowboy boots and let's have some fun!

Week #4: Thursday July 25, Talent Night—There is so much talent in our Church! Fifteen (15) spots available to dazzle us with your talent. Contact **Teri Hawk** at hermhark@aol.com for details. Traditional hamburgers and hot dogs.

Arrive 5:30 p.m. for 6 p.m. dinner. Each event, \$8 per person, \$20 a family up to four. We will cook for 60, so sign up and RSVP in the Courtyard so we know if we need to make more!

Vegan, non-dairy options will be available—we will make six servings each week. **Please make a firm RSVP with either Teri Hawk or Nancy Benvenuto one week prior.** We want **everyone** to be able to enjoy this fun church-wide event!



Church Council Takeaways

Welcome statement approved by Church Council • Congregation vote on becoming reconciling by secret ballot August 11 through 25 • Voting process detailed

Notable from the June 11 Church Council meeting:

The Church Council approved the Welcoming Statement as it appears in the text box to the right. The statement meets the requirements of the Reconciling Ministry Network (RMN), but it expands the focus beyond the sexual orientation and gender identity issues. To join the RMN, a church must craft a welcoming statement, and then its members must vote to join the network by at least a 75% supermajority.

The congregational vote on the question of joining the RMN will take place over August 11 through August 25, a span including three Sundays. A secure ballot box will be available outside the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings; otherwise, it will be available in the office during the week. The ballot box will be attended any time it is available. During the week, office staff will attend the ballot box, and they will be trained on the guidelines for the voting process. On Sundays, volunteers will attend the box. One day each week, the ballot box will be available for extended hours for voters who can't come to the church office during regular office hours, and the box will be attended by volunteers for that time. **If voters need to come during the extended hours, they will need to make arrangements to do so with Debra Carter or Kathleen Saghafi.** The voting guidelines must be clear and detailed, and staff or volunteers must rigorously adhere to them with no exceptions to maintain the credibility of the voting process.

Voters will come to the church campus; however, absentee ballots will be available for those who cannot physically come (e.g., travel, disability, college attendance). Rebecca Bernstein has volunteered to post updates to the church's Instagram site about the issue and the voting process to inform our congregation's college students. Active participants in the church will be allowed to vote: the Book of Discipline defines an active participant as someone who has contributed to the church or been present at a church activity at least once in the past three years (does not include most ARC activities). A voter will be given a ballot and will sign a list indicating that he or she has voted, but the ballot itself will be anonymous. Each ballot will be numbered to

Proposed Welcome Statement

"We, the people of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ is unconditionally accepting and actively loving of all people regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, faith history, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. We welcome and embrace all, including those who have been excluded from the house of God. Our hearts, our minds and our doors are open to all who want to share the love of Jesus Christ in our community and world."

minimize the risk of duplication (e.g., mailed to absentees).

Pastor Kim noted at the June 11 meeting that 157 interviews had been conducted by the Core Team to discuss the question of reconciling, with 145 people indicating that they would vote "yes" on the issue, with four as a definite "no."

Finance (Bob Dominici): We are within our budget; however, monthly income has been dropping, and it was 50% below budget in May.

Pastoral Reports (Rebecca Bernstein, Dan Sturdivant, Kim Risedorph): Rebecca reported that the middle school youth group typically averages 12 to 14 attendees, and the high school group typically has three or four regulars. She is working to involve the youth more in services—serving Communion or as liturgists. Pastor Dan is developing small groups. He suggests a potential group for male caregivers; up to eight men are interested.

Family Ministry (Laura Roy): Four consistent volunteers help with classes once or twice monthly, but more are needed to cover the "two in a room" policy. Sunday mornings are averaging 20 children, although attendance commonly drops during the summer months. July and August will focus on fall staffing, curriculum preparation and classroom cleanup. A parent BBQ is planned for July 14 (*see Page 9 for more information*).

UM Missionary Katherine Parker Presents Gift From Nepal to Pastor Kim Risedorph

By Carole Johnson

Katherine Parker is currently on itineration (a six-month period) in her home CA-NV Annual Conference and in other conferences across the nation which include her supporting churches. On May 22 she was hosted by Grace UMC in San Ramon and shared the theme of “Sangsangai: Hand in Hand for Mission in Nepal.”

During the afternoon of May 22, Katherine toured the SRVUMC campus, meeting staff members and volunteers. During her visit, she gave a special gift to Pastor Kim and to the church for our support in her work as a UMC Missionary. She serves as a Health and Community Transformation Advisor with the [United Mission to Nepal \(UMN\)](#), which has a vision of a *“fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepali society.”*

She is next scheduled to be in the Tri-Valley area on Sunday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at Livermore (Asbury), on Sunday, July 28, at 3 p.m. at Walnut Creek, and at 7 p.m. at Lafayette.



The Artwork Presented

Thangka is ancient religious art and is used as a teaching and meditation tool. This artwork was created for Katherine to share with her 27 supporting communities by artist Binode Ghising. Since becoming a Christian, he has used this traditional Buddhist representation to tell about the life of Christ. As a unique visual presentation, Katherine displayed a large framed picture that depicts the Biblical stories from birth of Jesus and culminates with the Ascension.

SRVUMC and Katherine

SRVUMC has a Covenant Relationship with Katherine and sends support through The Advance and UM Global Ministries (a portion of our Christmas Offering). The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100% of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry.

This partnership is much more than a financial commitment. It is a dynamic relationship in which the church and missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. When a church covenants with one missionary, it is supporting the entire United Methodist missionary community on their behalf and in their name. You can learn more about Katherine and her work at <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-1547-parker-katherine.aspx>.

July Communion Offering

Based in Concord, [Monument Crisis Center](#) offers nutritious food and other resources to families in Central and Eastern Contra Costa County. Last year, Monument provided about one million meals to its clients.

Monument began in 2003 with a small group of concerned citizens. Startup funding came from Safeway Foundation, the Salvation Army, Soroptimist International of Pleasant Hill and independent donors, while enthusiasm came from area high school students. On their first day of operation, they distributed food to 84 families. Today, Monument distributes food to more than 15,000 households per year, and each distribution serves between 80 and 120 families. The group purchases food from the food bank, but it also receives private food donations, taking in 12,000 lbs. of food in donations every month.

Monument's core effort is food distribution, but it is not its only program. For example, its Youth Enrichment Program offers after-school tutoring, a teen center and summer camp for school-age kids. Monument also hosts a resource fair annually, acquainting visitors with employment, health and wellness, and English language classes available to them. Finally, Senior Moments provides lunch and bingo, as well as health screenings and some groceries with this opportunity to socialize.

**Monument
CrisisCenter**



Family Ministries Collects New Backpacks for 2019 Back-2-School Backpack Drive

Monument's core effort is food distribution, but it is not its only program. They help children a great start to their new school year so...we are helping with their Kindergarten through 5th grade Monument Crisis Center Back-2-School Backpack Drive 2019! July's Communion Offering will go toward purchasing school supplies in support of the backpack drive, but you can also give a backpack stocked with the supplies listed to the right.

We will have Monument Crisis Center barrels in Wesley Hall and the back of the Sanctuary from Sunday, June 23 through Sunday, July 14. We will have a Backpack Blessing on Sunday, July 21.

Supply List for the Backpack Drive:

- [1] NEW BACKPACK (NO SOLID RED OR BLUE)
- [1] 3-RING BINDER (1 - 1 1/2")
- [1] BOX OF CRAYONS
- [2] SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS (WIDE RULE)
- [1] BOX OF COLORED PENCILS
- [1] LARGE ERASER
- [2] POCKET FOLDERS
- [1] 12" RULER
- [1] PACKAGE MARKERS
- [1] PENCIL SHARPENER
- [2] GLUE STICKS
- [1] SET OF 3 X 5 INDEX CARDS
- [1] PAIR OF SAFETY SCISSORS

Please no mini backpacks.

Mind, Body and Soul...

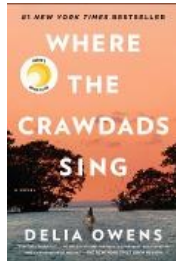
Afternoon Book Group

Monday, July 15 , 1 p.m.

Rm. 202 Wesley Center

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

(Debbie leading)



What Do People Do at “All-Church Time” at the ARC?

Did you know that you can use the church recreation center as an excellent way to cultivate community with other church members? **Come and join in pick-up games of pickleball or basketball (or just shoot hoops)** as a great way to relax and socialize in a fun, active setting.

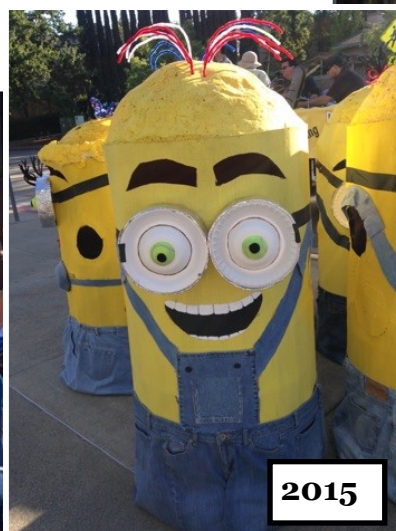
“All-Church Time” means you can bring your family and friends to play these games **at no charge** during these hours:

Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Sundays, 3 to 5 p.m.

Note that you can also drop in at other times to play pickleball (M-F, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) or basketball (Sat. noon to 2 p.m.), but there is a \$5/person fee then.

Ways we have cultivated community in Danville’s Annual Fourth of July Parade: how many do you remember?





Wow! Summer is upon us! It's over 100 degrees in Alamo as I write this—UGH! But we can get summer fog at any minute and be reminded why we live here. Join us for some GREAT summer Prime Time events—always fun, food and fellowship!

Tuesday July 2, Prime Time Potluck and Presentation, Noon, Wesley Center—Please bring a dish to share...or stop at the deli or bakery! Our very own Pastor Dan will comment and take questions on how decisions are made within the United Methodist General Conference. Recent moves have made the news and have us all talking about the role of the Methodist Church, and our own roles as Methodists. Come learn how major United Methodist policy decisions are made. Information and education is power!

Tuesday July 16, Prime Time Lunch with Friends, Noon, Wesley Center—Fiesta! Join us for authentic homemade enchiladas, a small taco salad, Mexican rice and tres leche cake for desert: yum! The best \$5 to \$10 meal in the valley! Why doesn't everyone come to this event every third Tuesday? It's so fun, and the food is so good!

Sunday, August 25, SF Giants Meet the Oakland Athletics! Just 25 tickets available for our annual outing to watch our favorite baseball teams meet up at the Coliseum in Oakland! Starts at 1:05 p.m., so **meet on Campus at 11 a.m. to carpool to the stadium.** \$5 for parking, \$45 a ticket. Find Jerry Ricker or Nancy Benvenuto for tickets. It's so much fun!



It's Okay To Be Human

If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone.
Ask for help. Our **Stephen Ministers** are trained and ready to listen, pray with you, and provide confidential one-on-one Christian care. They will walk alongside you during times of transition, uncertainty, grief, or challenge.

Contact Pastor Kim Risedorff for more information:
(925) 837-5243 ext. 107.



Stephen Ministry



Psst...Does the book on your bedside table belong on the Book Cart?

Help Celebrate You!

If you notice that the newsletter's Celebrations page has overlooked you or made a similar mistake with your information, then please email newsletter@srvumc.org so the newsletter's records can be updated. People want to send you cards and congratulate you on your special day!

Please also mention it if you know someone has moved on from our church community. If you have contact information for them, then the newsletter can ask them if they still attend. The best source of information about you is...you!



Between the Bookends



By the Library Committee

With summer in front of you, why not try reading a genre you haven't read before? If you love fiction, try some nonfiction. If you usually read serious tomes, try a little humor, or down-home reminiscences. And there's always that wonderful historical fiction—a story based on actual events presented in a way that helps you imagine what people must have felt while living through them. Read our recommendations, take a look at the cart, or visit the library to find something that you will enjoy.



Jenoff, Pam, *The Lost Girls of Paris*. This is another novel showing the fierce determination and bravery of the WWII generation. Set in New York, London, France, and Germany, the story is told through the eyes of three women: Grace whose interest is aroused by the discovery of a packet of photographs she finds in Grand Central Station, Eleanor who organizes and deploys a group of British women to aid in

the French resistance, and Marie who is one of the female operatives who handles radio communications, message carrying, and even sabotage. This is an exciting book that will enlighten the reader on an aspect of WWII that is not generally well known.

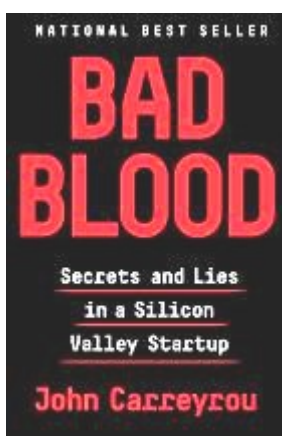


A second book by Pam Jenoff that was lost has been replaced for us. The review originally appeared in the July 2017 *Messenger*.

Jenoff, Pam, *The Kommandant's Girl*. How brave would you be, and which compromises would you make, when the stakes are very high? Emma Gersmann had been married only six weeks and never believed she would deny her Jewish heritage, pass as a

Gentile, and become a German Kommandant's assistant—

and much more to him. But she was desperately afraid for her parents confined in the Krakow ghetto, and her fervent young husband who had left to fight in the Resistance. How far would she go to protect them and perhaps learn information that might help them and save countless lives? Compromises were made. A page-turner.



Carreyrou, John, *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup*. The premise was super: technology to make blood testing faster and easier. The leader was perfect: young, female, smart, charismatic. Money poured in, and big names sat on the board. Theranos, the startup led by Elizabeth Holmes, was up and running, promising to make medical history. Investigative reporter John Carreyrou

brings to light the appalling truth that the pinprick technology was not producing the desired results. Worse, Holmes denied this truth and aggressively marketed her product. While demanding total loyalty and secrecy in her workplace, she continued to dupe investors and endanger the lives of people depending upon accurate test readings. *Bad Blood* is the seminal case documenting excessive ambition and unrealistic expectations in the high tech industry. It makes for very good reading while also teaching us to look beyond glamour and hype to expect integrity in our businesses.



“Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting one at the end of a long day makes that day happier.”

—Kathleen Norris



Calendar

June 23 through July 14—Backpack Drive 2019. Family Ministries collects backpacks loaded with school supplies at the rear of the Sanctuary and in Wesley Center for Monument Crisis Center's annual Back-2-School drive. *More information on Page 5!*

July 14, 5 to 7 p.m.—Parent Connection BBQ Dinner in the Courtyard. Parents of babies through 5th grade students gather together for food and fellowship. We will provide the food and have lawn games for everyone to enjoy. *RSVP to Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org*

Fundamentals Sports Camp Offered Great Faith and Fun!

We had a wonderful week at our Sports and Faith Camp the first week of June. We learned how Nehemiah had to set goals, work hard, persevere, trust his training and celebrate wins just like we do when we play sports. We had 36 campers and an amazing staff of coaches and volunteers.

Please thank Joey Fuca, Lauren Nakaso, Tom Sepull, John Green, Kal Peters, John Sayers, Debbie Byers, and Dana Jancarik for sharing their time and talents with a great group of kids!

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

JAMES 1:17a: Every Good and Perfect Gift

SAY THIS: Show God's goodness to others.

WEEK TWO

ACTS 12:1-19: Peter Gets out of Prison

SAY THIS: Be faithful so others can count on you.

WEEK THREE

MARK 10:13-16: Jesus and the Little Children

SAY THIS: God can give you the strength to be gentle.

WEEK FOUR

JAMES 3:3-10: Taming of the Tongue

SAY THIS: God gives you the power to have self-control.

REMEMBER THIS: "God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns." — *Philippians 1:6, NIrV*

LIFE APP: What God is doing in you to change the world around you?

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. during the school year.

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 is taking a break for the summer but will resume in September. 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

Youth Service Trips

July 7 through 13—Gleanings for the Hungry. Open to students ages 13+.

July 21 through 27—Sierra Service Project. Open to high school students. *A male chaperone is need for the Sierra Service Project mission trip.*

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Dave Bain
Horace Crawford
Suzanne Ricker

Continued Prayers For...

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

Thank You...

Horace and Peggy Crawford thank our SRVUMC friends for the prayers, visits, gifts, calls, concern, and the lovely prayer shawl delivered to Horace. All of your blessings have meant so much as Horace navigates this journey.

Name Tags

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

Update Birthdays and Anniversaries

The newsletter's efforts to update its birthday and anniversary records continues! Please email newsletter@srvumc.org if you are a new member since your last special day or if the newsletter has been inadvertently overlooking you. Or, if you prefer not to share that information, please ask to be removed from the lists.

July Celebrations

Birthdays



1 Olivia Durrenberger	12 Linda Ashcraft	Vera Knowles	25 Willy Adam
2 Sarah Garnick	Kellie McFarland	19 Judy Baker	26 Ryan Leontini
Lisa Glover	Sherrie Weis	Diane Barley	Bill Sabin (92)
3 Greg Benvenuto	Katie Wolfram	John Orr	Corinne Warnock
4 Don Field	13 Devon Drake	Marilyn Scott	27 Dan Duggan
6 Xan Alexander	Fern Hibdon	20 Esi Impraim	Darlene Greeno
Susan Hinzie	14 Amy Riedel	John Marshall	Malia Malin
Stephanie Ricker-Schmalz	Kim Soderlund	Ben Ten Elshof	Valerie Miller
7 Brenda Domergue	Robert Winter	21 Christine Duggan	Jerry Ricker
Emily Lucente	15 Karen Garnick-Randall	Carol Fhlug	28 Tony Pelletier
Fred Toney	Gloria Holleman	Harry Hanover (92)	Janet Steffy
8 Billy Andrew	Bob Lambert	Ginger McGuffin	Brian Stocking
9 Graydon Bazell	Donna Paula-Willis	Bill Rust	29 Joseph Saghafi
10 Shannon Dever	Briggs Wood	22 Beth McKnight	30 Mark Miller
Ryan Dunn	16 Vlad Balyuk	Shirley Slater	Jeff Schroeder
Meghan Flanagan	Melissa Stroin	Larry Stone	31 Gail Soldavini
Vin Hirsch (91)	17 Nancy Alexander	23 Pam Lewey	Greg Willis
Kathy Kennedy	Allison Lowe	Mitch Nicco	
11 Ross Rudow	Steve McAdams	Kathy Sheppard	
Marti Starnes	Caroline Walsh	24 Whitney Tiedemann-McCollum	
Teri Voegtle	18 Matthew Hickson		

Wedding Anniversaries

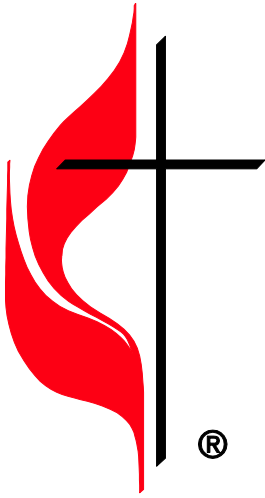
2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts (53)	9 Debbie & John Hammond	Nancy & John Harrison
5 Carol & John Sayers (56)	Linda & Curtis Jimerson	Alice Anthony & Alex Iantuano
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell	12 Helen & Bob Sinclair	22 Jennifer & Don Andres
Judy & Randy Slinger	15 Kerry & Scott Davis	23 Marianne & Bruce Templeton
7 Teresa Fimby-Christensen & Randy Christensen	16 Rebecca & Roger Ten Elshof	28 Beverly & Steve McAdams
8 Kelly & Erik Benjamso	17 Trudy & Larry Pasquale	31 Liz & Ron Cooper
Pam & Alan Christian	20 Katy & Gregg Mannell	Marci & Kelly Milligan
Jane & John VanderWerf	21 Liz & David Bayat	
	Tim & Megan Buckley	

It Happens!

One of these fine couples had to say they'd been overlooked on this page in recent years.

The newsletter apologizes and welcomes your corrections if you don't see your special days here.

Corrections can be emailed to newsleter@srvumc.org.



JULY 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

July 2019

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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