



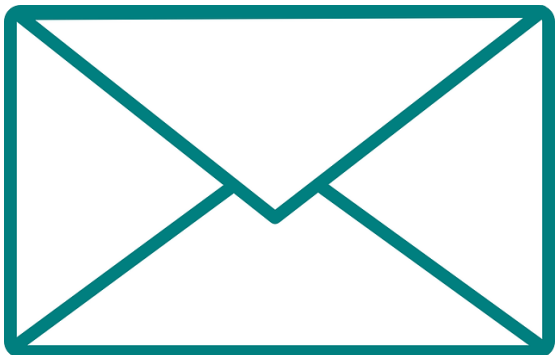
# Valley Messenger

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

OCTOBER 2019

## Pastor's Pulse ~

## Reflections on Reconciling



By now you know we have voted to become a Reconciling Congregation. 439 people voted; 360, or 82%, voted yes. It needed to be that decisive, otherwise the collective will of the congregation wouldn't be resolute enough to do what our choice obliges us to do.

We have a lot to live into. It will no doubt be years before we know the full implications of our choice. But this much we can know now: Our church family has reached a critical mass. We believe we cannot be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ without protesting our denomination's discrimination of LGBTQ persons and those who love them. We can't be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ without countering hatefulness with hospitality.

As you read this newsletter, we are forming a Welcome Task Force to address SRVUMC's next steps as we come to embody this decision. It's a team convened by our lay leader, **Kathleen Saghafi**, and will comprise both those who voted for and against becoming a Reconciling Congregation. You will hear more soon. If you have any questions or concerns about the task force and the measures we will recommend, know that Kathleen and I welcome your thoughts.

In the meantime, enjoy the email on the next page from a member of Los Altos UMC congratulating us on joining the Reconciling fold. It is one of a dozen or so emails LAUMC members sent to Pastor Kim. We will be publishing more in future *Valley Messengers*.

**Pastor Dan**

## Don't Miss What's Inside

- 1 Pastor's Pulse: Reflections on Reconciling
- 2 Announcements from Our Pastors
- 3 Church Council Takeaways
- 4 Mind, Body and Soul
- 7 Kindness at the Golden Arches
- 8 October Communion Offering
- 9 Upcoming Mission Opportunities
- 11 Prime Time Players
- 12 Between the Bookends
- 13 Family Ministries
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Next Issue: November 2019**

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org) by **October 13, 2019. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM OUR USUAL SCHEDULE.**

**SRVUMC**

**902 Danville Blvd  
Alamo, CA 94507**

**Office Hours:**

8:30 a.m.-12, 1-4:30 p.m.

**Phone (925) 837-5243**

**Fax (925) 837-7263**

[www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org)

**Ministers**

EVERYONE

**Lead Pastor**

Kim Risedorff (ext. 107)

**Associate Pastor**

Dan Sturdivant (ext. 108)

**Director of Family Ministries**

Laura Roy (ext. 106)

**Youth Director**

Rebecca Bernstein (ext. 109)

**Office/HR Manager**

Susan Dowling (ext 104)

**Accountant**

Julia Wang

**Office Assistant**

Patsy Kyles

**Facilities & Purchasing Manager**

Marilyn Clarke (ext 102)

**Music Director**

Bruce Koliha

**Organist**

Nadia Blank-Koliha

**U.M. Preschool Director**

Paulette Ove (ext 113)

**AV Director**

Linda Green

**Messenger Editor**

Lisa Jancarik

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

**Communications Manager**

Shana Carroll

**Director of Recreational Ministries**

Joey Fuca

(925) 837-2011

Hello,

My name is Linda Hargrove-Teets. I have been a member of Los Altos United Methodists Church (LAUMC) for a long time, well before our decision to become a reconciling church.

At the time of our decision many of us were at least a bit apprehensive about the changes we would now face. I have found in life (and I am on the brink of 80) that we humans avoid change. Don't know what to expect, so stay put.

However, the result of our decision here has been one of inclusion. Appreciation of individuals for their character regardless of their choices that are different. And, the Spirit of LAUMC has become much stronger, much richer in depth.

Our vote has also given us the opportunity to learn: to learn about a whole segment of our society that neither group knew much about. We learned about each other, and in doing so, discovered the many things we have in common as well as what we never knew we didn't know.

Most importantly, we love each other, thereby fulfilling Christ's commandment to us all to love each other!

I wish you God's greatest blessings for your new journey and I pledge to you that I will be praying for you. I am so excited for you!

**Discovery Dinner**

**October 20, 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

**Fireside Room**

Meet newcomers to SRVUMC over a relaxing meal. Pastor Dan cooks!

**Making a Difference!**

How is our church making a difference in peoples' lives? Come and hear the stories during our Stewardship Season, October 13 through 27.

Folks from our community will be share how being a part of this community has enriched and transformed them. As you support the ministries of this church, **you** are making a difference in peoples' lives. Thank you!

*Contact the church office  
if you want to add your  
story: 925-837-5243.*

**Save the Date!****2020 SRVUMC Women's Retreat**

**January 31 to February 2, 2020**

**Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz**

**Led by Pastor Kim Risedorff**

**Registration Sunday, November 3 and 10**

See church website for details/registration form or pick up a hardcopy in the Narthex.

Feel free to bring your adult daughters or other young women!

# Church Council Takeaways

**You belong at Council meetings! • Welcome Committee begins transition activities •  
Can you bring more excitement to Coffee Hour?**

Church Council met on **September 17** with significant time spent discussing ideas put on the agenda in advance of the meeting in addition to the regular monthly reporting by members. During the idea discussion time, Kathleen Saghafi presented some follow-up on the CORE team (now the Welcome Team) following the August vote on joining the Reconciling Ministries Network and adopting a new Welcome Statement. As a separate topic, Council President Debra Carter invited members and attendees to suggest ways to increase participation in Church Council meetings by any church members and constituents.

**Welcome Committee Rollout (Kathleen Saghafi):** Committee has had its first meeting since the vote. One initial project is to update outdoor signs to reflect Reconciling status. The current proposal is to apply a Reconciling Ministries Network logo to existing wooden signs outside. The Church Council has asked for a photo of how the sign will look, so a vote on endorsing the proposal will occur electronically, after a digital photo is emailed to the council members. The Welcome Team is also preparing a press release describing the transition to Reconciling status following the vote.

**Pastor Report (Pastors Dan and Kim):** Another Discovery Dinner is scheduled for people interested in formally joining the church (*see Page 2 for details*). The last dinner, livelier than the Discovery classes it replaced, saw sixteen people join the church. Pastor Dan reports a good turnout for the Small Group Sunday with some signups and interest in many of the groups represented. Pastor Dan invites suggestions to make coffee hour a bigger draw and more interactive experience for newcomers. A few suggestions were batted around at the meeting, but the project is ongoing and requires some committed volunteers and their own thoughts.

**Family Ministries (Laura Roy):** Hap Magee BBQ was attended by over 60 people, a mix of preschool and Sunday school families. The children's choir is back in session with some new faces. Laura also put out the call for trunk decoration and volunteers for the October 26, Trunk or Treat event (*see Page 5*).

**Youth Ministry (Rebecca Bernstein):** No Confirmation class this year, as SRVUMC transitions to an every-other-year

model for Confirmation classes. The Chopped event saw 35 kids from four churches participate. This event and planned lock-ins allow youth from this church to socialize with peers from other churches like Asbury and Los Gatos. Fall Retreat was attended by 18 youth, but the church pays for a minimum of 30 youth. Rebecca points out that the facility used did not see full utility by the youth and suggests looking at other locations for future events of this kind.

**Trustees (Presented by Jerry Ricker):** Board of Trustees (BOT) requested an energy audit. They have changed HVAC service providers and secured energy rebates. BOT has also upgraded thermostats in the ARC and replaced a faulty smoke detector, which had been causing false alarms and costly service charges.

**SPRC (Fred Schreiber):** Charge Conference is early this year, near Thanksgiving. At that time, SPRC will present reports including performance reviews and other human resources data. Currently, the committee is working to compile this information in time for the Finance Committee and the Church Council review and approve in advance of the Charge Conference.

*This digest article doesn't cover everything discussed.  
Attend the next Church Council meeting on October 15.*

## What Would You Come To Talk About?

At the September meeting, longtime Multifaith ACTION Coalition (MFAC) member and advocate **Laura Sanchez** spoke to call attention to the ways that our congregation can support MFAC. This coalition of over 100 area faith organizations works together to address the causes of poverty in the region, and she feels we could be doing more.

*See Page 4 for the information Laura shared with meeting attendees about MFAC.*

Laura already knows what Church Council wants everyone to know: if you have something to discuss about our church, you can ask for space on the agenda of an upcoming Church Council meeting. **Contact Debra Carter at [hermine2@icloud.com](mailto:hermine2@icloud.com) for more. Next meeting is October 15.**



## Kindness Matters:

### Helping Our Community Members on Sunday Morning

*On Sunday mornings, please leave the parking spaces in front of the Sanctuary and office building open for those with mobility issues.*



## Get Involved With Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition!

Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition of Contra Costa County, MFAC, is a five-year-old organization of members of over 100 faith communities in this county whose aim is to address the causes of poverty in our county mainly through engagement with policy-formulating organizations and advocacy in local and state governing bodies.

SRVUMC can be more involved! There are five task forces (Education, Employment, Food Security, Health Care Access, and Shelter and Housing) plus a Racial Equality Team. Laura Sanchez been a member of the Shelter and Housing Task Force since its beginning five years ago, and John Orr is interested in and has made contacts with the Health Care Access Task Force.

Do small things to contribute to large and important actions! Our phone calls, emails and letters made a difference with laws just passed in our California legislature. In Walnut Creek, speaking and writing to the city's planning commission helped move them through considerable opposition to approve the permit for St. John Vianney's Church to have a Safe Parking program for up to eight cars per night, homes to some members of Trinity Center!

*For more information, talk to SRVUMC members, Laura Sanchez or John Orr, and see the MFAC website: [www.multifaithactioncoalition.org](http://www.multifaithactioncoalition.org), or the MFAC email: [contactmfac@gmail.com](mailto:contactmfac@gmail.com).*



Buckets can be filled with small drops! Some can only be filled that way. Is this your "burning bush"?

**Laura Sanchez**

# Mind, Body and Soul...

## ARC Activities Are Your Activities!

**Pickleball**—Drop-ins are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$5/person to play. **Contact Rusty Lent at (925)676-9148 or [lentfam@yahoo.com](mailto:lentfam@yahoo.com) for lessons, Tuesdays from 1 to 3:30 p.m., \$15/person.**

**All Church Time**—for church families and their guests on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m.. No charge to play.

## Gentle Yoga

**Mondays and Fridays, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.**

**Fireside Room**



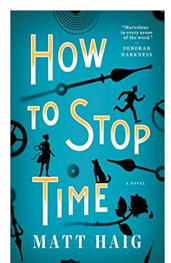
*Contact Sylvia at (925) 820-0296 for more information or to sign up.*

## Afternoon Book Group

**Monday, October 21, 1 p.m.**

**Rm. 202 Wesley Center**

*How To Stop Time* by Matt Haig



## Pastor Dan Wants to Know: What's YOUR Small Group?

Here are a few of the groups scheduled to meet in October. Check out <https://srvumc.org/calendar/> to see many, many more activities slated for this month and get involved!

**Iron Horse Moms**—parents of preschoolers and toddlers socialize with childcare on site.

**Writers' Group**—writing workshop in the library.

**Gospel According to Uke**—play the ukulele!

Tai Chi and yoga, too!



*Small Group Sunday was a great success! Here are a few photos from that morning. Maybe you found something new to try?*



**Partner With Us on This Fun Annual Event!**

## Trunk or Treat!

**Saturday, October 26, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

**ARC Parking Lot**

Various groups and or families in our church community can join us in some fun. Each group will decorate a car "trunk" in a theme of their choice and hand out some candy to our visitors and families. The theme decorations can be as simple or as elaborate as elaborate as your team would like.

One our goals is to reach out to families, especially those who came to VBS and our preschool families. This is a great way to connect!

Some fun themes for decorating could be: island décor, a favorite sports team, a hobby, pirates, pumpkins or fall, a Bible story, favorite children's book...so many fun ways to go.

***We will have snacks and a jump house too!***

Please let me know if you will come and party with us! Contact Laura Roy [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).

# Stephen Ministry: I Waded In

SRVUMC Stephen Minister



## What Is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen ministers are lay people who offer one-to-one emotional support to individuals struggling with grief, illness, and all manner of transitions in life, from empty nest to job loss. A Stephen minister makes a weekly visit with a care receiver to listen to what's on that person's mind. The minister will pray with the care receiver, if the person is comfortable with prayer together, but Stephen Ministry isn't about proselytizing someone who is in a grim chapter of life. Principally, the minister serves as an emotional outlet for the care receiver.

## I Nearly Bagged It

I nearly withdrew my application over the time demand and the application itself. My husband's eyebrows shot up when I mentioned 50 hours of training for this project. The time sounds like more than it was, as classes were spread out over most of the spring. Plus, the friends I made in class discussions made the time go by quickly. The other factor that nearly drew me away was the application itself, which consists largely of essay questions. Answering those questions pulled the lid off some parts of my life I thought I had pretty much sealed up for good—a dramatic medical history with a lot of emotional baggage.

Our church had a Stephen Ministry program years ago, before I joined, and some of the longtime members I know today had been lay ministers in the program back then. Ultimately, I turned in the application because my friends sounded excited for me and allowed as how I'd get a great deal out of the training process. They were right.

## Class Time

I have to admit, as I've gotten older and taken more advanced studies, my patience for warm, fuzzy classroom exercises has waned.

I've never really outgrown the need to roll my eyes at fluff like online articles offering "Ten Tips for Improved Emotional Well-being in 2019." Was I going to be able to cheerfully apply myself to getting-to-know-you exercises at our first meeting, for example? As it happens, my classmates proved to be insightful people and the material much more meaningful than Oprah or Dr. Phil.

## More to Consider

During my prayer and homework time, I was struck by a thought I had never considered before: Jesus would have almost certainly done some one-on-one ministry. We read about the lessons, sermons and miracles because those are the parts of his ministry that were recorded. However, twelve men—beloved friends—would have had some pretty major events in their own lives over the course of Jesus' ministry. He must have known about a parent's failing health, the tension with the wife who missed the steady income of a fisherman, and whatever else was going in the disciples' personal lives. Of course those men would have had some hardships in their adult lives, and they would have needed support. It's inconceivable that Jesus wouldn't have offered it, privately and with His limitless compassion. Christ is meant to be at the center of Stephen ministry, and perhaps the link is more natural than seemed obvious at first.

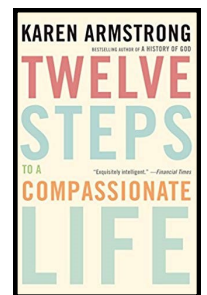
## Sunday Morning Adult Class at SRVUMC

### Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

Church Library

*A journey to the habits of practical, everyday compassionate living that make a difference*



Bill Rust is leading a class exploring acclaimed religious author Karen Armstrong's book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. It is guiding us on a faith-based journey to timely, urgently needed habits of practical, everyday compassionate living that can make a difference to us, our community and beyond. This is a great opportunity for good conversation together where we learn, listen, share and grow. *Through November 24. All are welcome—join us!*



# Kindness at the Golden Arches

By John L. Green

The ragtag man walked towards the Golden Arches. Bob's body ached, and many steps were needed just to work out the soreness in his joints. He was one of only a handful of homeless people within the affluent community, and he stood out like a neon sign whenever he ventured out of his secret residence of tall bushes and trees a couple blocks away, near the highway. This early March Friday morning was especially cold and dreary from the overnight rains. He reached the door and entered the restaurant just as an attendant was opening for business. The attendant was used to Bob, but they rarely spoke to each other.

The restaurant and Bob had an agreement. If Bob did not cause trouble, was not loud and cursing, and didn't annoy the usual early morning customers, then he was given privileges. He could use the men's room for general duties as long as it was left clean; he could sit in a rear booth and rest in the warmth, but he could not sleep or appear to be sleeping; and he would have to leave by 7 a.m.

"No coffee today, Bob, the manager is here," the attendant said in reply to Bob's expectant look, and Bob shuffled to the men's room. He didn't—he never did—look in the mirror. He urinated, washed his hands and face, and tried to clean and remove the knots from his beard. He ran his fingers through his dirty hair, hoping he would not appear too threatening. But there was nothing he could do to make his filthy and odorous clothes more presentable.

Three customers entered behind him. Each slid into an empty booth with his order. As required, Bob sat alone in the back booth. The two closest customers were dressed in office-type attire. A third wore laborer's clothing, boots, Levi's, and a leather coat over a wool shirt.

The restaurant's heat started to reach Bob's body, and he exhaled a sound of growing comfort. He was quiet and considerate as he approached the first office worker, and asked, "Scuse me, sir. Can you spare some change for a cup of coffee?"

The customer replied without looking up, "No, I don't have any change."

In a timid voice, he repeated his request to the other office worker. The man glanced up just a moment, but his nonverbal glare was a definite, "No! Move on!" Bob was accustomed to the man's harsh look.

"Can you give me some change for a cup of coffee?" he asked the boots wearer.

"Yes. I can, but let's get you a breakfast to go with it." Bob's face showed relief as he and Boots walked to the counter. Bob started to tell Boots what he wanted to order, but Bob was gently interrupted.

"This is for you. Order whatever you want," Boots told him. And Bob did, this time with less timidity, and the clerk paid closer attention to Bob, as Boots stood next to him.

Boots stayed long enough to pay and to make sure the order was filled, and he accompanied Bob to a table. Boots told him he had to leave. As they said goodbye, Bob gave a slight smile and a quiet thank you to the stranger for his kindness.



## Share Your Books!

Here are some guidelines for the donation of books to the library:

- Only books published in 2000 or after.
- Books in good condition with no underlining or other defacing.
- Books that are not risqué, violent, or offensive.



*John Green at the Kindness Korps table on Small Group Sunday.*

# October Communion Offering: World Communion Sunday

Six churchwide special Sundays mark the United Methodist calendar, and each year, the United Methodist Church celebrates World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October. This year, **October 6** will be the day our own church joins with other Christians from a range of denominations to celebrate our unity.

World Communion Sunday began in 1936 to celebrate our ecumenical oneness in Christ with a spirit of unity and peace. In The United Methodist Church, the Sunday offering collected that day funds scholarships and mentoring for students from around the world. Specifically, the offering collected on World Communion Sunday is apportioned in the following way (per <http://www.umcgiving.org/question-articles/world-communion-sunday-faq>):

**World Communion Scholarships:** 50%, with at least half of the amount collected annually supporting students outside the U.S.; these scholarships fund students pursuing their master's or doctoral work at universities or seminaries. Candidates for these scholarships are deemed likely to offer at least five years of service to their churches or communities after graduation.

**Ethnic Scholarship Program:** 35%; The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry oversees applications for a host of scholarships supporting students from a host of backgrounds.

**Ethnic In-Service Training Program:** 15%; Administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for Ethnic Leadership and Development, these funds support students seeking roles in lay leadership or clergy throughout the United Methodist Church. These one-time grants cover expenses related to recruitment, training and mentoring, or retention.

See [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) or [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org) for more information.

## Make Sure We Don't Miss Your Message!

Submission deadlines for the newsletter's next three editions will be different: **October 13** (for the November edition), **November 10** (for the December edition), and **December 8** (for the January edition).

Often, United Methodist pastors are burdened with debt resulting from loans to complete seminary. Or worse, they are prevented from answering their call to ministry because they aren't equipped to face what may seem an overwhelming financial obligation. Others serve the church with different academic skill sets. Each of these students achieved their academic goals with monies collected from United Methodist Churches on World Communion Sunday.

- The Rev. Nickie Moreno Howard, Texas native of Mexican heritage, received the Journey Toward Ordained Ministry (JTOM) Scholarship, funded through the World Communion Sunday Offering. In addition to financial support, Moreno Howard was mentored and met others experiencing similar life struggles. Following her graduation, she became a JTOM mentor, supporting a new class of scholars.
- Ofelia Duldalao, from the Philippines, completed graduate school thanks to funds received through the United Methodist World Communion Sunday special offering.
- Annie Solis Escalante, of Peru, used her UMC funds to complete a master's degree in social management. After graduation, she put her education to use by developing projects with the Health and Healing Program of the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

*Much of the content for this article comes from <http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/world-communion-sunday-pastors-leaders-kit#Reading>. That website features a range of materials, including podcasts and videos about World Communion Sunday within the United Methodist Church.*





# Upcoming Mission Opportunities

## Returning to Guatemala To Distribute Wheelchairs—January 12 to 18, 2020

We will be making our fourth trip to Guatemala to distribute 250 wheelchairs. There are so many people in this country who cannot afford a wheelchair. This gift of mobility is life-changing.

In addition to the wheelchairs, we will volunteer a couple of days at a hospital in Antigua. The mission details, estimated cost of the trip, and a registration packet are now available. **Contact Steve Elliott at [sae612@msn.com](mailto:sae612@msn.com) or 925-362-8697.**



## Assisting with the Recovery in Puerto Rico—February 14 to 22, 2020

Hurricane Maria destroyed the Island of Puerto Rico in the fall of 2017. It will be a long and challenging recovery, and we would like to continue helping! You are invited to join our mission trip: we will be returning for our third trip to assist with rebuilding.

Last year we worked in small towns along the coast. Our team will stay at a retreat camp or a local church depending on our assignment. The estimated cost of the trip (airfare, housing and meals) and a registration packet is now available. **Contact Steve Elliott at [sae612@msn.com](mailto:sae612@msn.com) or 925-362-8697 for more details.**



## Did We Miss You?

Our office is currently reviewing its membership records, and the **Celebrants page (Page 15)** relies on this information, together with just plain remembering if we've seen you around lately. ***If you've been overlooked or know someone else who has, please let us know at [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org).***



**Kids Give Back**

Community Service Club



## Help Kids Give Back!

Thanks to Beth McKnight, we had a great **SRVUMC club** last year. Beth can no longer lead the group, but this opportunity to have our children do service projects throughout the year is a valuable ministry. If you would like to brainstorm ways to keep the club going, then please let Laura know and we will find a way. **Email Laura Roy at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).**

# Thank You for Support of the Backpack Drive at Monument Crisis Center!

*Dear Pastor Kim and Wonderful Community of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church,*

Thank you all for your terrific support of our 2019 “Back-2-School” Backpack Drive! With the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, your donation of 27 new backpacks filled with school supplies **has made a difference** in our community, helping to give at-risk and low-income students such a terrific sense of pride and enthusiasm for the challenges that each school year brings, as well as the tools needed for academic and personal success. With your generosity, we were able to distribute over 1,400 backpacks to underserved youth in Contra Costa County, children who rarely have anything new that they can call their own—so very special and so very appreciated! The entire team here at the Monument Crisis Center is truly grateful for the continued generosity of the community at SRVUMC: you helped make Back-2-School happy for so many! We send you our best wishes for a blessed autumn season.

Your encouragement also enables us to continue our mission as a nonprofit **Family Resource Center**, dedicated to providing nutritious food, education, general assistance and referrals, through dynamic service programs to over 10,000 low-income and at-risk clients in our community, as well as providing paths to independence and sustainability. Over the

past year, with the help of hundreds of volunteers and donors, we distributed enough food to provide 1.5 million meals to families and individuals who struggle daily with hunger, malnutrition, shelter, safety and the immense challenges that accompany poverty.



Our safety net services include the Nutrition and Food Distribution Program, After School Café tutoring for elementary and middle-school children, MCC Teen Program for at-risk neighborhood youth and Senior Moments for our older and often forgotten population. We also provide health and wellness programs, employment, literacy, computer and community education workshops. Additionally, we have a variety of nonprofit partner agencies providing pro bono services including routine health care screenings, a mobile urgent care clinic, parenting classes, and legal aid. Working together with our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and generous donors like **you**, we are *Creating Community*, with positive impact and dynamic change.

**Sandra Scherer, Executive Director**  
[sscherer@monumentcrisiscenter.org](mailto:sscherer@monumentcrisiscenter.org)

## Nurturing the Seeds of Compassion

### Monthly Afternoon Interfaith Retreat on Compassion

By the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa and SRVUMC  
Sunday, October 6, 3 to 6 p.m. (Optional Dinner)  
San Damiano Retreat Center

**Looking Beyond the Immediate Community: Concern for Everyone**



Spend an afternoon learning, sharing in good conversation, and being “opened” by practices of compassion in a different faith tradition each month, **this month Sikhism with Dr. Erica Bains**. An extraordinary experience! Karen Armstrong’s book, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* is our guide.

Contact **Bill Rust**, [wrusjarb@aol.com](mailto:wrusjarb@aol.com) to register or for a program brochure. Fee \$10-20 (optional dinner \$20).

**P.S. If you can’t make this retreat, then check out Page 6 for an announcement about Bill’s class here at SRVUMC on Armstrong’s book.**

# PRIME TIME *Players*

**Tuesday, October 1—Prime Time Potluck & Presentation, Noon, Wesley Center**

**Pastor Will McGarvey**, Executive Director at the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, will update us on passionate work the “IC o 3” is doing in our county, luring us into building new ways of being the human family. Always a great speaker with interesting information! Bring a dish to share, or stop at the deli or bakery, or just come! We always have plenty of food, and it’s your company we really want!



**Tuesday, October 15—Lunch with Friends, Noon, Wesley Center**

Chef John Sanders will be cooking up his stuffed pork loin (the best EVER), with a green salad, roasted potatoes and green beans with tarragon dressing and chocolate cake with ice cream for dessert—YUM! This is our way of saying **thank you** for being a part of our church community: good food, good fun and good fellowship. Best \$5-10 (good-will donation) in the Valley! Why doesn’t **everyone** come to this? The food and company are *great!*

**Thursday, October 31—Inter-Generational Preschool Halloween Parade and Lunch, 11 a.m., Courtyard**

Back by popular demand! Pull out something silly to wear and welcome the preschool children and their families. Enjoy the parade—beyond darling! And join us for lunch with the preschoolers and their parents. A very special event! Anyone up for the “Reading Corner”? or helping with “bob for apples”? More to come!



## **Catharine Baker To Talk to the Men’s Breakfast On Saturday, October 19 at 8 a.m. Wesley Center**

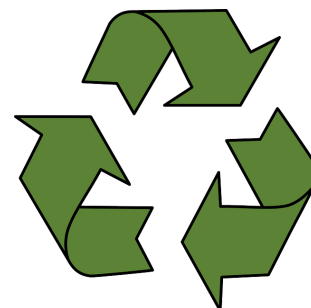


Catharine Baker will talk to the men’s breakfast group about her experiences during two terms as our local representative to the State Assembly. Catharine is a member of our church and was the only Republican from the Bay Area elected at state or federal level. Guests and family members are invited to attend. Let **Dean McWilliams** ([OSI310@aol.com](mailto:OSI310@aol.com)) know if you plan to have breakfast so that we can obtain a head count.

## **Roush Kitchen Goes Green!**

This past year, I have purchased 9,000 pieces of plastic flatware for our church. You may have noticed the green compost bins added to the kitchen for food product waste? So, I have found compostable flatware that, along with paper plates and napkins, can all go into those compost bins to breakdown into organic matter rather than float in the oceans or fill dump sites. You probably also noticed the bamboo stir sticks at coffee hour and paper straws to recycle. The additional cost for using these products is \$120/yr. We are shepherds of this planet, and each small effort makes a difference. Thank you for helping make this mission a reality.

—**Anita Weir-Ball, Kitchen Manager**



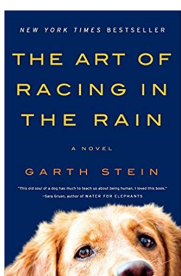




# Between the Bookends

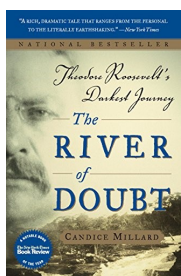
By The Library Committee

The library now has a large print copy of the popular book *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance.



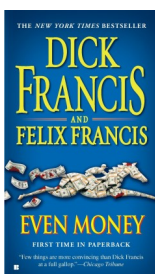
**Stein, Garth, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.** This book is now a movie and also Costco's book-of-the-month for August. The unusualness of this story is that it is narrated through the eyes and nose of Enzo, a dog. He is attuned to everything that is occurring within the family: Denny, the race car driver; Eve, his supportive wife; and Zoe, their daughter

who is the light of their lives. Enzo's feelings for the family as a whole and his astuteness about the illness that is ravaging Eve are compelling. If only he could talk, he knows he could help to solve their problems. This book teaches a great lesson on humility, compassion, and never-ending hope. The message in this story will linger in the reader's mind for a long time. As Enzo often repeats, our successes and our failures have been brought on by ourselves. We determine our own destiny.



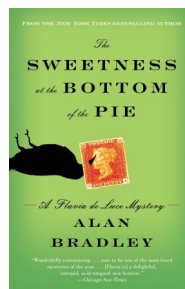
**Millard, Candice, *The River of Doubt—Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*.**

Millard's well-researched and absorbing account is a tribute to former President Theodore Roosevelt's final adventurous journey into the unknown. Her descriptions of the Amazon River and tributaries, jungle, plants, animals and primitive peoples are so vivid you feel transported there yourself. This true, well-documented, suspenseful, and frightening adventure leaves no stone unturned. At the story's conclusion, you know intimately the former president, his son Kermit, Brazilian explorer Rondon, and other characters. This is a thrilling adventure story.



**Francis, Dick & Felix, *Even Money*.** Any Dick Francis fan knows his stories always revolve around horses and racing along with a murder mystery. This book will not disappoint. However, his son, Felix, adds a younger person's perspective with more introspection and

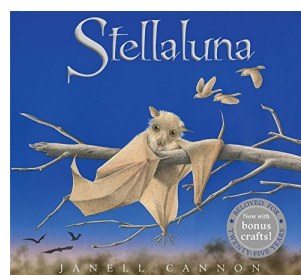
complicated characters. Ed Talbot is a bookmaker on the racing circuit in southern England. His wife, Sophia, is currently hospitalized, suffering with manic depression. Ed's assistant, Luca, a younger man who specializes in electronics and computers, is involved in some track manipulations of phones and computers, to their great advantage. When an older stranger claiming to be Ed's long-supposed dead father is killed before his eyes, Ed's adventure begins as he strives for the truth and finding the murderer. This is another exciting mystery which pulls you in immediately.



**Bradley, Alan, *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*.** This is a very British mystery with the stately home, the loyal servant, the prestigious boys' school, and the local police inspector. Flavia, the eleven-year-old protagonist, is smart, feisty, determined, and somewhat devilish. When a corpse turns up in her garden, she sets out to find the killer,

convinced that it is not her father, whom the police have arrested. This amateur detective will win your admiration and your heart.

**A book suggestion for children:**



**Cannon, Janelle, *Stellaluna*.**

This is a story about a young bat who is separated from her mother by an attacking owl. As she falls from the sky, she tumbles into a bird's nest. There she becomes friends with baby birds. They all learn that although some creatures are different, they are all alike in many ways. What a thought-provoking book for young listeners.

***"There is no substitute for books in the life of a child."***

**— Mary Ellen Chase**





## Sunday School Topics

### WEEK ONE

**EXODUS 2:1-10 Moses is Born**

**SAY THIS:** You can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen next.

### WEEK TWO

**EXODUS 3-6:12, 7-12:42 Moses and the Burning Bush/The 10 Plagues**

**SAY THIS:** You can do what you should even when you don't feel ready.

### WEEK THREE

**EXODUS 13:17-14:31 Israel Goes Through the Red Sea**

**SAY THIS:** You can do what you should even when things seem impossible.

### WEEK FOUR

**NUMBERS 13-14 Joshua and Caleb**

**SAY THIS:** You can do what you should even when others are afraid.

### REMEMBER THIS:

**"Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go."—Joshua 1:9b, NIrV**

### COURAGE:

Being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid.

## Contact Us!

**Laura Roy**

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

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

(925)837-5243 ext 106

**Rebecca Bernstein**

Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

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

(925)837-5243 ext.109

## Calendar

**October 26 Trunk or Treat, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** in the ARC parking lot.

Snacks and a jump house, too! **For more info, see Page 4 of this newsletter.**

**December 1 Christmas Craft Advent Festival, 10:30 a.m.**

**December 24 Christmas Eve Pageant and Service, 5 p.m.**

## Parent Connection

**Second Sunday of the Month**

**Starts October 13, 4 to 6 p.m., Fireside Hall**

Dinner, monthly discussion and other activities. Childcare available in Tot Spot. **Email Laura Roy to sign-up for childcare at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).**

## Kids Give Back!

Thanks to Beth McKnight we had a great **SRVUMC club** last year. Beth can no longer lead the group, but this opportunity to have our children do service projects throughout the year is a valuable ministry. If you would like to brainstorm ways to keep the club going, then please let Laura know and we will find a way. Email Laura at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).

## New! Combined Sunday School Class, K-5

Attention parents of children kindergarten through grade 5! We will start offering a combined Sunday school class **September 29 at 10:30 a.m.** It will be held upstairs in Otterbein in the Children's Building. The children can start in choir at 10 a.m. and come across the hall to class. We will have Tot Spot staff to encourage older children to attend class at the second hour.

## 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 5 to 7 p.m.

**High School Youth Group** (Grades 9 to 12) Sundays from 5 to 7 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 once a month. In addition, they perform for the Christmas concert, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and the May Music Concert. Contact Beth McClelland with questions.

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

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

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Shana Carroll  
Marsha Perkins  
Maria Sturdivant

## Congratulations To...

**Priscilla and Ted Wolfram** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Guinevere**.

## Our Christian Sympathy To...

**Karen Brown** and **Levi and Nick Brown** on the loss of their son and father, Sean.

## Continued Prayers For...

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

## Name Tags

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

## Submission Newsletter Deadlines...

Each month, a dedicated of volunteers folds and mails the print version of the newsletter that Patsy has dutifully printed out for us. This year, the calendar at the office will require some changes to the submission deadlines for the newsletter, so please make a note:

- **October 13** for the November edition
- **November 10** for the December edition
- **December 8** for the January edition



# October Celebrations

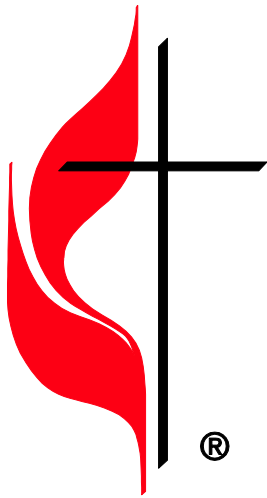


## *Birthdays*

1 Jeff Doyle	Fenoglio	Eric Perry	Nancy Campbell
Theresa Omar	Lisa Laird	Madeline Sepull	Brandon Christensen
2 Bruce Fitch	Barbara Schneider	14 Christine Miller	Kacie Rousseau
Ariyana Vojdani	8 William Barton	Danni Sherman	Jana Vojdani
Sam Hawk	Kevin Hoff	Suzan Roland	Kelly Milligan
Kim Maier	Doug Domergue	Melissa Ward	24 Lauren Nakaso
3 Jim Johnson	Dennis Greene	Natalie Sheppard	Jonathan Vasquez
Heather Morgan	Thomas Valdriz	Larry Watson	Karen Watson
4 Lance Schlichter	9 Anita Ho	15 John Brusher	25 Emily Doran
5 Betty Dorsey	Teresa Marohn	16 Liz Bayat	Bob Schleicher
Christina Ehlers-Beer	Darrellyn Orr	17 Bill Lettis	26 Rochelle Hoff
Colby Milligan	Ann Radick	Ken Randall	27 Alexis Lee
Grace Hickman	10 Paula Lyons	18 Ida Dandridge	Brett Domergue
6 Wendy Cooper	Jim Rossini	Mikala Choy	28 Bill Foulds
Gavin Isbell	Grace Mannell	Priscilla Wolfram	29 Jen Birkby
Jack Schramm	Pam Uitti	19 Walt Torgersen	Aubrie Flores
Heather Jackson	Bob Sada	20 Lauren Nakaso	Allie Metcalf
Dylan DeWalt	11 Robbie Barton	21 Sharleen Keen	Bob Millinich
Millie Sherman	Susan Dowling	Greg Sallee	Dale Stevenson
7 Morgan Dowling	12 Kellen Armanini	22 Bruce Benzler	31 Ed Scott

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

1 Beth & Brett McKnight	Karen & Ken Randall	20 Lynn & Joe Sanguedolce
6 Susan & Rick Doran	16 Susan & Craig Schultz	21 Beth McClelland & Joseph Voelker
9 Liz & Skip George	17 Margo & Ron Cefalo	22 HollyAnn Melton & Ted Nguyen
Jackie & Rudy Ceragioli <b>(60)</b>	Tami & John Mitchell	23 Joan & Lyn Arscott <b>(54)</b>
12 Cadi & Brian Stephenson	Nancy & Epi Vazquez	24 Kathleen & Nader Saghafi
13 Devon & Buck Drake	19 Marla & Stanley Nakaso	
14 Marti & Sketch Sketchley <b>(52)</b>	Rhonda & Brad Poole	
15 Jen & Scott Birkby	Sherrie & Don Weis	



# OCTOBER 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

October 2019

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Alamo, CA 94507  
Permit No. 1

San Ramon Valley  
United Methodist Church  
902 Danville Blvd.  
Alamo, CA 94507