



Valley Messenger

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

NOVEMBER 2019

Pastor's Pulse ~

Sorrow and Gratitude

November includes two major events. We begin the month with All Saints Day, remembering those we have lost, those we miss, and the loved ones who are no longer here. At the end of the month, we gather to feast and celebrate Thanksgiving.

November holds both of these very human experiences, and so do we. In any life, in fact in any given day, we are likely to encounter both sorrow and thanksgiving. They exist side by side. The invitation of November is to honor both.

Let's start with All Saints Day. It's a day of remembering and missing and honoring those we love who are no longer with us. Join us in worship on November 3 as we remember all our loved ones. Join us as we recognize some losses cannot be fixed: they can only be carried. In our culture, most people approach grief as a problem to be solved, or gotten over. The message we hear over and over again is that the whole point of grief is to get out of it as quickly as possible. We have this notion that

grief is some strange thing, some bizarre and incorrect response to someone you love being torn from your life. Grief is not a problem to be solved. It's an experience to be carried.

It's about moving forward rather than moving on. All Saints Day is a tender time. We gather to remember, to give thanks for our loved ones. It's a day to be kind and gentle with ourselves and each other, as we stand before the mystery of life and death. It's a day to be a community of faith that gathers to care for one another.

Thanksgiving, then, is not the opposite of All Saints Day. All Saints Day invites us to consider our own mortality and how fragile life can be. This holiday invites us to cherish life, embrace our loved ones, and live fully in the awareness that today is a gift. That's the heart of Thanksgiving—a time when we pay attention to all the aching beauty around us. We give voice to the blessings that are part of life.

November includes sorrow and gratitude, as Robert Frost notes in his poem, *My November Guest* (**next page**):

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Next Issue: December 2019

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by November 10, 2019.

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My November Guest

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,

Thinks these dark days of autumn rain
Are beautiful as days can be;

She loves the bare, the withered tree;

She walked the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.

She talks and I am fain to list:

She's glad the birds are gone away,

She's glad her simple worsted gray

Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees,

The faded earth, the heavy sky,

The beauties she so truly sees,

She thinks I have no eye for these,

And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know

The love of bare November days

Before the coming of the snow,

But it were vain to tell her so,

And they are better for her praise.

—Robert Frost



When we voted to become a Reconciling Congregation, we began to receive emails from members at Los Altos United Methodist Church, offering encouragement and congratulations. Here is one of those letters:

I'm writing to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations on your congregation's inspiring decision to become a reconciling church.

I can't think of anything more impactful and aspirational than for human beings to come together to pledge unwavering acceptance of others in the name of faith.

BRAVO.

What this all will mean for you and for the SRVUMC community will continue to develop in unexpected and transformational ways.

And this continues to be the magic that is our Los Altos UMC congregation, a place that has become a way of life for all, from the young, the middle-aged, and into the triple digits among us. We are a welcoming place to worship and celebrate our differences and what makes us human through passionate hospitality to one another and compassionate service.

I wish you blessings as you embark on something magical, as you risk something big, for something GREAT!

With love and compassion,

Angela

Our Annual Church Conference

Saturday November 23, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

District Superintendent Shinya Goto will preside. In addition to voting on the business of the church, Shinya will lead us in a discussion of our church's strengths and future. All are invited to attend, and your input is needed. *All church participants are encouraged to attend, and all church members are eligible to vote.*

Making Room for Advent

Advent will soon be here, which means that Advent small groups will soon be starting. This period offers an opportunity for existing small groups to take time from their regular routines and for new groups to form for the season.

Our own **Sarah Stribling** is assembling a daily devotional guide that will be thematically synced with the pastors' Sunday sermons. The theme is ***Making Room***: making room in your day, in your awareness, in your relationships for the light of gospel truth to enter in.

Stay tuned for more. Pastor Dan will be contacting small group leaders. As for new short-term groups, would you like to join one? Lead one? Talk to **Pastor Dan** or email at dsturdivant@srvumc.org.

Make room in your life to be a manger for Christ to be born.

WE DON'T NEED
ALL THIS!



Good Stewardship and Mailed Newsletters

We want to be sure you receive our monthly church newsletter, and we want to be good stewards of our resources. Most of you receive the newsletter in your email inbox. ***(If you do not, send your email address to the Patsy Kyles at the church office: pkyles@srvumc.org)***

We do mail printed copies of the ***Messenger*** newsletter, and that's where we need your help. To get the bulk rate for mailing the newsletter, we need to mail 200 copies. To reach that total, we send 80 newsletters to folks who already receive an emailed copy. That means 40% of the printed newsletters mailed by USPS go to households that don't need or necessarily want them. During this season of stewardship, we are reflecting on this use of resources and considering ways to be more efficient.

If you need a printed copy, would you be willing to pick up your copy during the week? Printed copies are available in the church office, in Wesley Hall, or in the church lobby on Sunday.

- **If you decide you can pick up your copy** instead of receiving it via U.S. mail, then please call the church office and let us know: **837-5243**.
- If you are currently receiving a mailed copy and would like to switch to an **emailed copy of newsletter**, please email Patsy at the church office and let her know: pkyles@srvumc.org.

If you decide that you still need your printed copy to arrive via U.S. mail, then you can still have a mailed copy. Just please be intentional about that decision to help us manage the newsletter budget.

Did You Know?

You can access the current newsletter (as well as years of archived copies!) online through the www.srvumc.org website.

1. Open your internet browser (Chrome, Firefox, etc.).
2. Type www.srvumc.org in the main box of your internet browser. If you put it into the search box, then you will get other results, but choose the first result.
3. Find "NEWS" in the menu showing under the gray field at the top of the web page. Clicking on NEWS will drop down a menu that show "The Valley Messenger" as a choice. Click on that option.
4. Click on any blue, underlined issue listed to read it. The PDF file that opens can be read on your screen, printed out on your own printer, or downloaded to your computer.

What Are Church Council Meetings Really Like?

By Lisa Jancarik

They sound painfully dull, don't they? Here's what happened at the one I attended on Tuesday, October 15.

I've been attending these monthly meetings for at least two years now, so I stuck to my routine. First, I visited the cookies someone had thoughtfully provided (see? Haven't your church council members been telling you that you should come to meetings?). Then, I picked up the agenda and copies of the reports summarizing much of the activity of the last month – the Board of Trustees, Youth and Family Ministries, not to mention Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Finance all report to the Church Council monthly.

I also signed the attendance sheet as a “guest”, a designation simply meaning that I am not a council member—I belong there as much as any other SRVUMC member or constituent does. One benefit of being a “guest” is that we get the comfy furniture in the Fireside Room. Before the meeting was called to order, I shared a laugh with Laura Roy, teased Terry Sherman, and said hello to half or more of the other people in attendance. There were maybe a dozen and a half of us in the room.

It was time to get down to business. Chair Debra Carter and the Church Council have worked to streamline the meetings this year. Lately, less time is spent repeating the content of written reports submitted in advance. Instead, people like Laura Roy (who submitted the Family Ministry report) hit the highlights of a given report and then take questions. This measure has made room for more lively discussion and keeps the meetings moving briskly along.

The Highlights

Kathleen Saghafi showed everyone there the design to update the roadside signage that will incorporate the United Methodist logo, worship times, and the Reconciling Ministries logo. For the near term, this plastic, temporary signage will slip over the permanent signs SRVUMC already uses. Everyone in attendance got a good look at the proposed design and had a chance to ask questions. *Motion passed to approve the de-*

sign.

The night's big surprise came from **Rebecca Bernstein's report on the Youth Ministry** when she revealed that our young people report feeling less integral to the congregation than adult members and constituents, particularly as they approach their late teens and twenties. One reason for the disconnect is because older congregants don't say “hi” to them. Youth also feel that having their own name tags would facilitate conversations with other members by making introductions easier.

Rebecca's revelation that the youth aren't feeling fully part of the larger church body because adults around them don't greet or include them in small talk sparked some spirited discussion. If you've been under the mistaken impression that kids don't want an awkward “so, how's school going?” from an older person, then you weren't the only one. We all reacted to her message with surprise and committed to change the dynamic, to “embrace the awkward”, and to go out of the way to say “hi!” to youth.

Pastors Kim and Dan presented the Pastors' Report near the end of the evening. Nationally, church attendance on Sunday mornings is down over the past several years, and now the thinking is that churches need to consider other times and settings to reach people in their spiritual need. Their report gave us all some food for thought: how will our church work in twenty-first century society, when the days of the 40-hour workweek are behind us and mobile device screens are before us?

As I drove away that evening, my thoughts were still engaged in some of the evening's topics. Announcements on Sunday mornings and newsletters are where many of us hear about decisions that have already happened, but Church Council is where people we know wrestle with them.

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on November 19. Come to the Fireside Room, and maybe there will be cookies this time, too.

My Journey to Stephen Ministry

By Al Banisch

In one of my favorite hymns, the writer John Michael Talbot imagines God voicing these words: “I have made the stars of night. I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

Then the people respond with “Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.”

Have you heard the Lord calling in the night? Or in the day?

On a Sunday morning in 1996 I heard that call. I was at church—Southminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA—and Dr. Allen Foster, our senior pastor, announced that our congregation would be joining a new ministry. It was called the AIDS Interfaith Care Team, a network of caregivers from local churches and synagogues who would provide comfort to people who were diagnosed with, and at that time, dying from, AIDS.

I knew little about AIDS; it was a new, mysterious, and terrifying phenomenon. I didn’t know anyone with AIDS and didn’t particularly want to. Like others, I worried that being anywhere near with someone with AIDS might expose me to risks myself. What if they sneezed—would I contract this horrific disease? And what qualified me for providing care to someone else, regardless of their condition? I’d never been one to do that kind of work. Clearly this ministry was not for me.

But the tug was relentless. I felt it during the service. I felt it after the service. I felt it the next day. The words of the hymn just kept repeating in my head. God wasn’t really asking “Whom shall I send?” He was saying “I am sending you.” I finally responded, praying “I will go, Lord, if you lead me.” And He did.

The time I spent over the next year or so with friends like Brad and Tondra was life-changing. These were people who were not only dying, but dying after having been shunned by family and friends. They sought to confide in people who would not judge them, but would listen as they shared their hopes and their fears. People who would pray for them. People who would love them. To my amazement, God led me, blessing me with the ability to do these things.

A couple of years later, my family and I moved to Danville

and, after some months of church “shopping,” decided to join SRVUMC. It was here that I first heard of Stephen Ministry. It wasn’t exactly the same type of ministry for which I served in Pittsburgh, but it seemed to require similar skills. I reached out to the SRVUMC Stephen Leaders and learned that Stephen Ministers are called to listen to, pray with, and simply be present with people experiencing life’s many challenges. After interviewing with Dawn Boyd and Shirley Stephenson, I joined the 2001-2002 training class.

I served as a Stephen Minister at SRVUMC for only a short time, as my family relocated to Colorado in 2004. But I continued my ministry for twelve years at the Parker United Methodist Church, where I also trained and served as a Stephen Leader. I am delighted to have returned to California, and to SRVUMC, and to have supported our pastors in reestablishing this wonderful, caring ministry.

Maybe you’ve thought about training to become a Stephen Minister yourself. Maybe God isn’t asking “Whom shall I send?” but instead whispering “I am sending you.” If you feel this tug—even just a little—and want to learn more about this ministry, please feel free to contact me (albanisch@comcast.net) or Pastor Kim (krisedorph@srvumc.org). We’ll also be holding an informational session in November.



Mind, Body and Soul...

Afternoon Book Group

Monday, November 18, 1 p.m.

Rm. 202 Wesley Center

The Lager Queen of Minnesota

by J. Ryan Stradal

(Debbie leading)



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 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.

Sunday Morning Adult Class at SRVUMC

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

**Through November 24, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
Church Library**

Join us on our “Compassion” journey to the habits of practical, everyday compassionate living that make a difference. Bill Rust leads an Adult Class here at SRVUMC exploring acclaimed religious author Karen Armstrong’s book, *The Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. It guides 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. Come for good conversation where we learn, listen, share, and grow. All welcome. Join us!

Nurturing the Seeds of Compassion

Monthly Afternoon Interfaith Retreat on Compassion

By the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa and SRVUMC

Sunday, November 6, 3 to 6 p.m. (Optional Dinner)

San Damiano Retreat Center

**Knowledge: Learn Another Culture; Strangers Now
Neighbors**



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

Contact **Bill Rust, 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.

November Communion Offering Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

[Contra Costa Interfaith Housing \(CCIH\)](https://ccinterfaithhousing.org/) serves East Bay clients in need of services, resources and affordable housing. With locations in Pleasant Hill, Bay Point, Concord and Pittsburg, CCIH provides support through a number of service groups, individuals and faith communities working to end homelessness and poverty in the East Bay. CCIH provides the tools and resources to help families break intergenerational homelessness and poverty. Since serving 27 families in 2004, CCIH has leveraged its successful programs and community partners to increase its impact in providing vital services, resources and housing to more than 1,300 people per year across Contra Costa County as of 2019.

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) Garden Apartments plans to triple the number of permanent housing solutions to vulnerable families, youth and seniors from 125 households to 375 by 2024. The role of their donation manager would then expand to become closer to a three-quarter-time paid worker from what it is now (\$10 to \$15k/yr). SRVUMC has decided that we could call this our own pledge and offer them a three-year commitment to support this role financially. Our November Communion offering will support CCIH.

We have invited **Deanne Pearn**, Executive Director from CCIH, to speak at the church in early November. Details to follow. For more information on CCIH and to find volunteer opportunities, please see their website at <https://ccinterfaithhousing.org/>



Deanne Pearn, Executive Director of CCIH, to speak at SRVUMC in early November. Source: <https://ccinterfaithhousing.org/staff/>

Roush Kitchen News

A big “thank you!” goes to **Boyd Hasik** for building the new shelving unit for the storeroom! We were able to clear the floor of boxes and allow a better view of supplies. It looks great—go see!

Continuing Green: the green compost bins in the kitchen may receive paper plates as well as the compostable flatware. We will work on getting compostable cups in the near future. No more Styrofoam nor plastic, please.



Note: If you have left personal serving dishes or silverware please pick them up. They are usually left on the counter in the far corner which gets pretty cluttered.

Thank you,

Anita Weir-Ball, Kitchen Manager

A Little Birdie Told Me...



**CHURCH VOICEMAIL (925)
837-5243 WORKS ON THE
SABBATH!**

**STAFF WORSHIPS! (AND
HAPPILY SAYS “HI!”)**

Psst...

*If you want to make someone’s day,
send a note to a friend in long-term
care.*





Angel Tree

November 17 Through December 8

Christmas trees will be decorated in the Narthex with gift requests for you to choose from. Each card's request has been given to us by one of the agencies our church will be helping this year. Although it may seem early to be undertaking this project, the shopping and distribution must be done by early December for timely distribution of gifts.

This Christmas program has been a very successful outreach mission project for many years. The agencies our church will be assisting this year are: STAND! For Families Free of Violence, Bay Area Rescue Mission, Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services, the Fred Finch Youth Center, and Trinity Center. Thank you for keeping the Angel Tree needs in mind as you plan for Christmas this year. For questions, contact **Linda Green, Roni Item, Beth McClelland, or Nancy Garnick.**

Trinity Center Needs Your Help!

Trinity Center is currently looking for used car donations to help members working towards more permanent housing join the Center's new Safe Parking Program. ***The cars need to be in good running condition and be street legal.*** This vehicle will not only allow for access into this program, but will aid in easier access to resources, employment (or finding a job) and getting to and from school.

The Safe Parking Program will begin on October 7, and enrollment is limited to qualified Trinity Center members only. This program is intended to be a temporary program as participants work toward a sustainable housing situation. Members will receive

- Help with completing applications for housing that is affordable
- Suggestions for short- and long-term housing options
- Counseling on safety-net programs and enrollment in benefit programs
- Assistance with Homeless Court issues
- Ensured access to healthcare

If you are unable to donate a vehicle, you can still help! Please share this message and spread the word with your networks and connections!

If you are able to donate or have any questions, please contact **Todd McCarl, SPP Program Coordinator**, by email toddmc@trinitycenterwc.org or by phone 925-895-5243. ***Trinity Center will happily provide their Tax-ID number so your donation can be used towards a tax deduction. Thank you!***



Wildfire Recovery Mission Middletown, California, October 2019

The devastation of wildfires is awful. Everything is in ashes. Lives shattered. Lives lost. Whole communities gone. The so-called Valley Fire that roared through Middletown, California in the fall of 2015 was no exception. In Lake County, 76,000 acres burned, and 1,500 homes and businesses were destroyed. Thankfully, only four people died.

We were blessed to be one of the many volunteer teams to go help with the recovery. This was a return trip after having worked in Middletown in the fall of 2018. Our mission was to assist with rebuilding homes.

We were hosted by a local organization, Hope City, to arrange the work. They also provided room and board at dorm they built. Hope City screens the clients for help and raises the money for materials and supplies. They partner with the local faith communities and other groups to make this happen.

Our team of eleven included participants from Asbury UMC in Livermore, Lynnewood UMC in Pleasanton, and San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo. We worked on two homes, doing rough carpentry, building exterior walls and starting the floors.

While the work was interesting, getting to know our clients is most rewarding. We listen to their stories. We get to know their challenges. We affirm their hope.

Among our clients was Ariel. She lost her home. Then, she had a rental, but lately she has been housesitting at other homes with most of her remaining possessions stored in her car. We also worked for Darcy and Bernie. Like Ariel, they lost everything. They live in a used RV on the property next to where their new house is being built. Bernie is doing some of the construction himself, as time permits. It has now been four years, and they look forward to having a new place to live.

After a full day's work, a meaningful part of the mission experience is to relax and share time together. We always have a short group time in the evening for a devotional moment and to reflect on what we are doing. These reflections bring our purpose in focus.

It is such a privilege to live our faith by serving others with love on these trips. There is something so rewarding about bringing hope to others. We are grateful for the time, the talent and the resources to do so.

Sincerely,

Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Steve Wilson, Coleman Johnson, Patti Arnold, Judy Guidry, Bob Hoffman, Dick Crawford, Cynthia DeLand, Bob Sanchez and Ron Logan.



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

We have two mission trips scheduled for early 2020. Both are available for registration now. Consider the opportunity to join us on one. A mission experience is just the right blend of serving others with love, personal growth and Christian comradery.

Returning to Guatemala to Distribute Wheelchairs

Teamed with Asbury UMC and Lynnwood UMC, we will be making our fourth trip to Guatemala to distribute wheelchairs. There are so many people in this country who cannot afford a wheelchair. This gift of mobility is life-changing. Thanks to your generosity, we will be delivering 250 wheelchairs this next trip. In addition to the wheelchairs, we will volunteer a couple of days at a hospital in Antigua. ***This mission will be the week of January 12 to 18, 2020. The estimated cost of the trip is \$1,000 to \$1,200 (hotels, most meals, insurance and other in country costs) plus \$700 to \$800 airfare.***



Wheelchair distribution, 2019.

Assisting with the Recovery in Puerto Rico

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! We will be returning for our third trip to assist with rebuilding damaged homes.

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. Our specific location will be decided closer to the time of the trip.

While conditions have improved significantly, you should assume limited electricity, hot water and air conditioning. Drinking water and meals will be provided. The team will be led by Leslie Carmichael of Los Altos UMC and Steve Elliott from San Ramon Valley UMC, both very experienced team leaders and co-leaders of the California Nevada Conference Team to Puerto Rico the last two years.

You are invited to join our mission trip, February 14 to 22, 2020. The estimated cost of the trip is \$500 for individual participant expenses like housing, meals, insurance and other in-country costs, plus \$600 to \$800 for airfare.



Roofing in Puerto Rico, 2019.



Welcome Larry Bieber to SRVUMC Staff!

Larry joins our church staff as part-time accountant and bookkeeper. He brings with him 30-plus years of experience and is an active member of the First Covenant Church in Oakland. Stop by and welcome him next time you are in the church office!

Larry grew up in Lake Oswego, OR, and attended the University of Puget Sound. He joined the Peace Corps from 1968 to 1970 and served in Botswana, Africa. He spent his career with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, but after his retirement, he found he missed working. Welcome, Larry!



Fall is in the air, and we are all getting ready for Thanksgiving—and always being thankful! Just one event in November in observance of Thanksgiving:

Tuesday, November 5—Prime Time Potluck and Presentation, Noon, Wesley Center

Our very own Thelma Orr, wife of our Prime Time Potluck Presentation leader, John Orr, will talk on her experience fighting polio with one of the original medical groups in the world at the heart of the research in Southern California in the late 1940s and 50s. Interesting! Please bring a dish to share, or stop at the deli or bakery (as I did last month!)—we always have plenty of food, it's your company we want! Great food, great friends, and great

fellowship!

No Prime Time Lunch with Friends in observance of Thanksgiving.

Mark your Calendars! Tuesday, December 10—Annual Prime Time Christmas Lunch. Chef John Sanders at his best with the most wonderful traditional Christmas luncheon and entertainment. Good-will donation of \$5 to \$10. Best \$10 meal in the Valley!



Annual Methodist Women's Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 7

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wesley Center

This is one of our most special intergenerational events. Mothers and daughters, grandmothers and their grandchildren...maybe even a few three-generation tables!

Mark your calendar and look for sign-ups in Wesley Center!

Host a Table: Kay Jones at Kaydee5702@gmail.com

Tea Food: Nancy Benvenuto at NancyBenvenuto.com

Entertainment: Gemma Seppull at Gemmahed-dle@alum.mit.edu

Did You Know?

Recorded cases of polio occur even in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. However, the disease was first described as a medical condition by British physician Michael Underwood in 1789.

If you come to the Prime Time Potluck on November 5, you might learn more about polio from Thelma Orr, the scheduled speaker.



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.**

Reminder From the Library Committee

The loan period for our books is **three weeks**, the same as the public library. Please write the due date for your books on your calendar and return books in a timely manner.

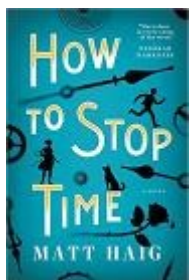




Between the Bookends



By The Library Committee



Haig, Matt, *How to Stop Time*. Tom Hazard tells of his life as a member of a small group of people who, because of a special gene, age much more slowly than normal. The narrative moves between Tom's life in the present day and his life in former times, and it illustrates the difficulties of not aging visibly at the same rate as other people. Tom

has had a checkered life with some happiness but much sadness and always a feeling of unease. He meets some famous people and lives through crucial historical times, but the main focus of the story is on his finding happiness by learning to read people and acting accordingly. This is a uniquely philosophical novel!



Mulley, Clare, *The Spy Who Loved*. Christine Granville was born in Warsaw to an aristocratic Polish father and a Jewish mother. As a young woman during World War II, she used her restless energy and bravery to aid her country and the cause of the Allies by working for the resistance in several countries, mainly through British connections.

Because of her beauty and her magnetism, she attracted people, especially men, and was able to prevail in situations that would have defeated a more ordinary person. This book gives a good overview of various resistance units during World War II, the terrible suffering in Poland due to the actions of both the Germans and the Russians, and finally the unrest following the end of the war when many people, including Christine, had great difficulty fitting into a satisfactory civilian life.

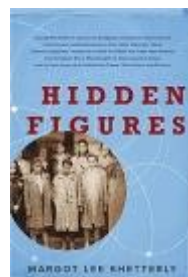


Corrigan, Kelly, *The Middle Place*. A true account of Kelly's struggle with breast cancer as a young mother of two living in the Bay Area. Her journey is enlightening as well as surprisingly uplifting. Her lacrosse all-American dad, George, back in Baltimore is also dealing with bladder cancer at the same time. He is an eternal optimist, and Kelly

worries he sloughs off treatment concerns too cavalierly. She feels she must travel back to Baltimore to be sure her father

is taking proper care of himself. This is where she finds herself in "that sliver of time when parenthood and childhood overlaps." Both characters are amazing individuals. This is a great read.

One more book given in memory of Paula Boswell:



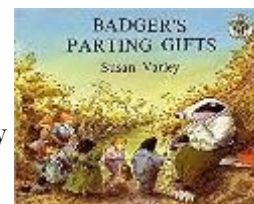
Shetterly, Margot Lee, *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*.

The title really tells it all. The book brings to life a chapter in history that has been unknown for too long. The book highlights four women, one of whom was Katherine

Goble Johnson, a math wizard whom John Glenn insisted double-check the final tabulations before his space flight. These scientists were women, and they were black, two almost impossible handicaps in 1961. An important and unforgettable book!

Two more suggestions for the children in your life:

Varley, Susan, *Badger's Parting Gifts*. When Badger passes away, he wonders how his friends will feel and how they will remember him. This story emphasizes the importance of each individual to another throughout life.



Ehlert, Lois, *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*.

This is a colorful book displaying the changes in a maple leaf. There are overlapping pages that will delight the young reader.



"I cannot live without books."

—in a letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Adams (June 10, 1815)



Calendar

December 1, 2019 —Advent Festival, 10:45 a.m. Wesley Hall, Crafts, Soup, Fun

December 24, 2019 —Family Service, Christmas Pageant, 5 p.m., Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

All Are Welcome!

December 1, 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Wesley Hall

We will celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. Our busy fair will have craft stations that will focus on preparing our hearts for Christmas. Brunch will be served. *Please RSVP to Laura Roy: lroy@srvumc.org.*



2nd 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.*

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

1 SAMUEL 17, David and Goliath

SAY THIS: Honor others by giving them a chance.

WEEK TWO

1 SAMUEL 18:1-11; 19:1-7; 20:1-42, David and Jonathan

SAY THIS: Honor others by putting them first.

WEEK THREE

2 SAMUEL 9:1-13, David and Mephibosheth

SAY THIS: Honor others by keeping your promises.

WEEK FOUR

DANIEL 6, Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions

SAY THIS: Honor God by giving Him credit.

REMEMBER THIS:

"Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves."

—ROMANS 12:10, NIrV

Help Kids Give Back!

Beth McClelland led a valuable ministry last year. Learn how you can help now! See **Page 11** for announcement.

New Additional Sunday School Class for Pre-K Through 5th Grade!

We have started offering a combined Sunday school class **September 29 at 10:30 a.m.** It is 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. Tot Spot staff 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
Sheila McClelland Caroline Walsh

Thank You...

During my recuperation, I received many calls, notes, cards and visits from this caring congregation. I thank you all for everything, especially your prayers. —**Caroline Walsh**

Godspeed...

Gloria Fenton on her move to southern California to be closer to family.

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, Felicia Hillard, 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.)

Newsletter Submission 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:

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

November Celebrations

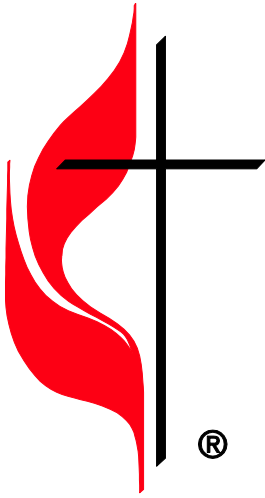


Birthdays

1 Rob Rudow Brad Tolstedt Connie Winter	13 Sandy Greenwood Mark Jewett Dick Lam	23 George Clarke Adam Kennedy John Sayers
2 Kate Kocins Kristin Schleicher	14 Felicia Hillard 15 Tim Hickman	24 Pat Patteson (98) 26 Monica Albertoni Fred Schreiber
3 Joey Gallo Jo Ann Hirsch Myla Niederauer LaVena White	Jack Nelson Barbara Valdriz 16 Donna Bain Lael Takiguchi	Annemarie Warwick 27 Margo Cefalo 29 Paul Kuelz Hal Lyons
5 Gemma Heddle Sepull 9 Charlene Tallett (95) Lara Mays	18 John Coombs John Green Thelma Orr Charlotte Speck	30 Jefferson Armanini John Evans Daniel Glover Stephanie Glover
10 Natty Oberhauser-Lim Gay Scott	19 Gerard Takiguchi 21 Steve Hawk 22 Mary Nygreen (97)	Linda Farhang Elke Torgersen
11 Mary Nelson 12 Julie Dastic		

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Val & Duncan Miller LaVena & Ron White	Jennifer & David Shin
2 Susan & Patrick Dowling	18 Teri & Scott Armanini
6 Le Anne & Bart Jacobi (59)	21 Dory & Tom Schramm
8 Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei & Gary Krumrei	27 Lynne & Larry Henderson (54) Priscilla & Ted Wolfram
10 Sharon & Don Brockman	30 Ann & Jeff Schroeder
11 Catharine & Dan Baker	
13 Saba & Shadaab Kanwal Tamra & Kevin Keen	
16 Laurie & Joe Rousseu	
17 Shannon & Bill Dever	



NOVEMBER 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

November 2019

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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