



Valley Messenger

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

JANUARY 2020

Pastor's Ponderings ~

Twenty years ago, when I was a member at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, I was a part of a Women's Faith Sharing small group. To this day, I cherish the friendships formed there, as well as the chance to explore and grow in faith. I hear from many of you that your small group enriches you in similar ways.

In 2020, we will be expanding the number of small groups we offer. Pastor Dan and I recognize that small groups are a vital part of a healthy faith community. This is where I need your help.

If you are currently a part of a small group, please email me (krisedorph@srvumc.org) a few words describing what that small group means to you. Why do you make the commitment to go to this group? What have you learned or gained from being a participant?

If you have ever served as a small group leader, please send me a few words describing how this role has enriched or challenged you. What do you value about leading a group?

If you are searching for a small group, I'd like to hear from you as well. What are you hoping for when you think of joining a small group.

To grow our small group ministry, the most crucial ingredient is having leaders who are called to this ministry. Will you consider leading a small group? Small group leaders organize and lead the small group. Most importantly, they care about each group member. They listen to God. They continually learn how to provide a welcoming and safe setting for participants to share, grow, and learn. Might God be calling you to this ministry?

In February, Phyllis Meyer will be offering a two-part training class for new small group leaders on Sunday, February 9, from noon to 3:30 p.m. and on Sunday, February 16, from noon to 3:30 p.m. You'll be hearing more about this opportunity. And I look forward to hearing from you about your own experience in small groups and your hopes for future small groups.

Here's to the year ahead, and being a community where we grow in faith—mind, body and soul!

Pastor Kim

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Next Issue: February 2020

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by January 15, 2020.

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Stewardship 2020 Update

Thank you to all who have handed in your financial pledges for 2020. Your estimate of giving allows our financial team to make wise decisions about our 2020 budget. If we have not yet heard from you, please let us know how you would like to financially support the ministries and outreach of our church. Pledge cards are available in the church office and Sanctuary lobby. Thank you!



Words of Devotion...and “Church-y” Words

What did you enjoy most about doing a daily devotional reading during Advent? Our devotional book, *Making Room*, invited us to connect with our awareness of God every day.

Let's continue that practice! *Upper Room* devotional books are available in the church office. Online devotionals of all types are also available. A daily devotional time is like having nutritious food each day: it's essential to well-being.

Our worship in 2020 will encourage us to live, aware of God, right here with us.



In January, we'll follow Jesus' journey to teaching and healing in our sermon series, **“A 20/20 Vision for Living a Meaningful Faith.”** (Did you find the pun there?)

For February, we need your help! Our sermon series is: “Churchy Words: Awe-filled or Awful?” Please send in the words or phrases connected with church that you touch you, confound you, or annoy you. For example, when you hear words like: Light of Christ, blood of Jesus, sin, beloved child of God—which ones would you like to explore more in worship? Send your churchy word to Pastor Kim, krisedorph@srvumc.org.

See you in worship!



Thank you Notes and Welcome Notes

In January we welcome new leadership to church committees.

First, a shout out to all who have chaired a committee: **Paul Kuelz, Ann Kuelz, Bob Dominici, Randy Durenberger, Larry Henderson and Fred Schreiber.** Thank you for giving of your time, energy and vision!

Now, a welcome to those stepping into leadership roles in 2020:

Marilyn McCurdy, Preschool Commission

Jane Lang, Finance Committee

Erin Lowther, Youth Council

Terry Sherman, Lay Leadership and Nominations

Steve Roath, Staff Parish Relations Committee

_____ Missions Committee (leadership needed)

We are also grateful for all those who are serving on these committees. Your willingness to attend to the administrative needs of our church is crucial and appreciated!

Update on Mission Committee

A huge shout out to **Paul Kuelz**, who has served as chair of our Missions Committee for fourteen years! Thank you, Paul! Paul is ready to step back from serving as chair of Missions Committee, and we will honor his request. While several folks were asked to serve as chair, we still do not have that position filled. ***See Paul Kuelz or Pastor Kim (email kris-edorph@srvumc.org) if you would like to consider that role.***

While we do not have leadership for our Missions Committee, we will continue to be active in serving others with love. Thank you to all who serve at Trinity Center, Monument Crisis Center, Contra Costa & Solano Food Banks, Angel Tree and Thrift Shoppe/Discovery Center. In addition, we will continue to support mission trips to Guatemala, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and places in the United States recovering from fires, floods and storms.

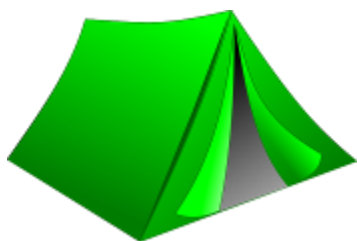
We are a faith community committed to serving the region and the world. In 2020, we have the opportunity to reimagine how we structure, encourage, and expand the way we serve. We recognize that serving is an essential expression of our faith and a source of meaning, purpose and joy. How will we do that, going forward? Your insights are needed and welcomed.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities



MedShare

Saturday, March 21, 1 to 4 p.m.—Sign up over the next month to sort medical supplies in the MedShare warehouse. Volunteers can be as young as ten years old, although volunteers younger than 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Anyone under age 18 must bring a completed parental permission form downloadable [here](#). Contact **HollyAnn Melton** at hollyann-melton22@yahoo.com for more information.



Winter Nights, May 4 through 14—This year, SRVUMC partners with St. Isadore's Catholic Church in hosting area families. ***To learn about volunteering opportunities this year, contact Bob Baker at 510-917-5709 or email rbaker3600@aol.com.***

SRVUMC 2020 METHODIST MEN'S

ANNUAL CRAB FEED

6:00 PM/ Feb 09

Deposit Top for Door Prize



\$50.00 Adults

\$25.00 12>18

\$5.00 6>11

Under 6 Free

Chicken \$25.00 & \$15.00, Under 6 Free

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR DOOR PRIZE

Door Prizes! Dining! Vacation Condos! Golf! Plenty More...

This year features on-table hot butter warmers for all the fresh Dungeness crab you can eat!

Other spectacular menu items range from salads and sauces to desserts!

Crab Feed 2019, in case you had forgotten what a great meal the Methodist Men can put together. Look at that turn out!



Social Media Isn't Just for Cat Videos!

Sermon Videos Posted

You can catch a Sunday sermon anytime at https://www.facebook.com/pg/sanramonvalleyumc/posts/?ref=page_internal, the San Ramon Valley UMC Facebook page. Check out all the videos by clicking on "Videos" under the menu on the left side of the page.



Thank You Angels!

Angels have no philosophy, but Love

—Terri Guillemets



You all took the angel tags, bought the gifts, and got them back to SRVUMC so that the children would get them on time. Thank you so much for going out of your way to make someone else's Christmas a bit brighter!

Through your loving generosity, SRVUMC was able to serve six agencies during the 2019 Angel Tree Christmas season, providing both gifts and gift cards. The agencies served were Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services, Bay Area Rescue Mission, STAND!, Fred Finch Youth Center, the Tri Valley Haven District and Trinity Center.

Your loving sharing made this outreach happen! Angels are around us—you are one!

Thank you SRVUMC Angels!

The 2019 Angel Tree Committee

Eight Suggested SRVUMC Resolutions for 2020

Sure, I'm going to lose weight and floss more regularly. So what else is new for 2020, right? Maybe this year, our resolutions will improve our spiritual health or support our church.

1. Fill out your attendance card if you don't already. Decades of advertising may have conditioned you to be reluctant to share your information on a little card. This one isn't a setup for spam, just an indication of how well-attended a worship service is.

2. Say hello to someone you don't recognize at worship services or coffee hour. Just hello; if conversation doesn't feel natural, don't force it.

3. Try a small group meeting to see if you like it. You're allowed to decide it's not for you and move on to something else. You might be pleasantly surprised to find that you have more in common with the people in the pews than you think, though, and there is plenty to do.

4. Come to a Church Council meeting. There's no point in having an opinion about how things work on the church campus if you don't come to where the action is at least once in a while. If you're concerned about something, you might be able to get it put on the agenda before a meeting so it can be addressed formally.

5. Read a devotional like *The Upper Room* or review the Scripture reading from Sunday worship. You may connect differently with the material when you're in your own space instead of in the pew.

6. Volunteer! Some activities, like sorting food at the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano or medical supplies at Med-Share, are great family activities that get everyone out of the house and working together. Watch for local mission opportunities if travel isn't practical for you.

7. Check on someone you haven't seen at church lately. Maybe you already know they are in long-term care or have been unwell. Just call to say hello or send a note to say you were thinking of them. It's easy to feel ignored or forgotten if you can't participate in church activities, and a simple gesture can have a big impact.

8. Reserve Sundays for fellowship with the office staff you see in worship. They'll be ready to hear what's on your mind on Monday. If you are afraid you'll forget, then call the office to leave a message. Of course, you can talk to ministerial staff—Pastor Kim, Pastor Dan, Laura or Rebecca—anytime!

“Can” You Help Us Out?

Youth Ministry Wants Your Recyclable Beverage Cans and Bottles

Our Youth Ministry is collecting certain recyclable cans and glass bottles for the deposit offered on each in the state of California.

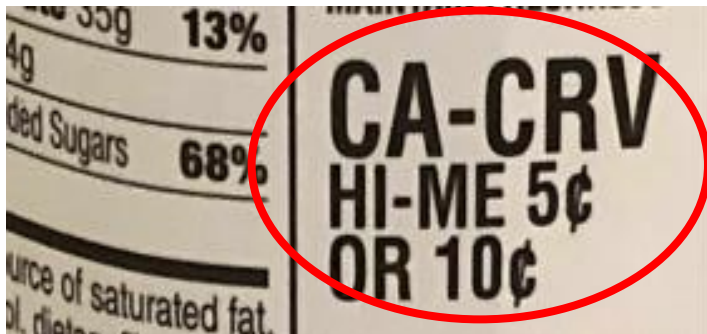
The cash collected from this effort will be used to subsidize youth mission trips. Traditionally, each youth wishing to participate in a mission trip has been responsible for covering his or her own expenses, typically running into hundreds of dollars per youth, per trip. Other youth groups in the region have successfully defrayed costs for youth mission trips to a significant degree in this way.

You can help our Youth in this project by bringing your ***rinsed*** containers to drop sites around the church campus. Inside Wesley Center, the upstairs kitchenette next to the Youth Room or the right inside corner of the Youth Room itself.

According to the [CalRecycle website](https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/), each eligible beverage container under 24 oz. volume can be redeemed for \$0.05 and containers over 24 oz. can be redeemed for \$0.10. To determine if a container is eligible for the redemption value, look for a label on the container reading

- “CRV” or “CA CRV”
- “CA Redemption Value”
- “California Cash Refund” or “CA Cash Refund”

It is important to pay attention to the label for these containers because state law allows recycling centers to reject the entire load if ineligible materials are found within it.



Eligible Containers*

- Beer and malt beverages
- Wine coolers
- Carbonated or non-carbonated fruit drinks, water or soft drinks
- Coffee and tea beverages
- 100% fruit juice less than 46 oz.
- 100% vegetable juice 16 oz. or less

Ineligible Containers*

- Milk
- Medical food or infant formula
- Wine and spirits
- 100% fruit juice 46 oz. and larger
- 100% vegetable juice larger than 16 oz.
- Food and non-beverage containers

*According to <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/bevcontainer>.

Did You Know?

In California, about **24.5 billion** CRV-eligible containers were sold in 2018. Of those, about **6 billion** ended up in a landfill. For every 10 lbs. of aluminum recycled, 37 lbs. of carbon emissions is eliminated from the atmosphere. For 10 lbs. of clear plastic, 3.3 lbs. of carbon emissions is eliminated, and 10 lbs. of [much heavier] glass bottles eliminates nearly a pound of carbon from the atmosphere.

Source: <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/Consumers/Facts>.

January Communion Offering

Human Relations Day

Human Relations day is one of the six Special Sundays celebrated within the United Methodist Church. The Sunday we observe Human Relations Day this year, January 19, falls each year on the Sunday closest to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. On this day, Methodists are called upon to consider all God's children as human beings in relationship with one another. ***The offering for Human Relations Day will be collected on January 5, Communion Sunday.***

"The basics of the UMC Human Relations Day focus is to strengthen the Church's outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth," **Paul Kuelz** told the newsletter in an email.



According to UMCgiving.org, the special offering collected nationwide will support neighborhood ministries (called "Community Developers" in this program), community advocacy through the United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The United Methodist Church distributes the collected offering in the following way: 57% to Community Developers, 33% to United Methodist Voluntary Services, and 10% to Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Grant applicants seeking funding from the Youth Offender Program monies collected by the United Methodist Church in observance of Human Relations Day are building outreach and assistance to nonviolent youth through education, advocacy or leadership training. Applicants are either United Methodist churches or organizations themselves or are ecumenical groups whose program impacts at least one local United Methodist church.

Not everyone impacted by the Human Relations Day outreach is a youth, however. Recovery programs for adults on the margins benefit from the Human Relations funding, too. Other organizations relying on this funding assist poor students or families with basic needs, like money for bills and groceries.

According to Julie Dwyer, general church content editor for United Methodist Communications, "The Human Relations Day apportionment allows our ministry to thrive in places that we would not otherwise be able to impact."

In California, some organizations using Human Relations grants to impact their communities include Buena Vista UMC, Norwalk UMC and Wesley Community Center. For a full map of several Community Developers at work through the Human Relations grants around the United States, visit [this PDF](#).

To read more about Human Relations Day, check out <http://www.umcsgiving.org/your-impact/P0/2745>, a website with more articles about how this offering supports people on the margins in all sorts of places.



MLK Speaker Rev. Julius Van Hook

January 20, 5 p.m.

Wesley Center

Rev. Julius Van Hook, Interfaith Juvenile Chaplain for Contra Costa County, currently serves at the Martinez Juvenile Detention Center and the Orin Allen Boy's Ranch in Byron. Rev. Van Hook previously served as Supervising Chaplain at the Alameda County Probation Department. He is ordained by the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), California Northwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Stephen Ministry: Steve's Story

By Steve Brown

Life is a journey, and it takes you places you may not see coming. So it is with me, and how I became involved with Stephen Ministry.

I grew up with San Ramon Valley UMC and many, many fond memories. To be honest, I had a hard time believing all of the Bible stories when I was young, and my own personal faith journey started later in life—out of college. I realized my own mortality, and it profoundly changed me. I started looking for the Truth in everything about life, the universe, God. I read many books, of which several spoke to me, and I began to feel God's existence/presence, no longer just a cerebral mind-/concept-thing to try to believe in. As I started opening up with others about "The Big Questions of Life", I found more people coming into my life on similar journeys, and all of us benefited further. I was understanding the interconnectedness of everything, and how God/energy works, and I realized I was more present and empathetic to each one of us on our own journeys. I've been a changed person ever since and no longer "fear" anything. I know God exists, and Love is all there really is, and to share it. That's my own faith journey in a nutshell; so how did I get involved in Stephen Ministry?

Well, over the past several years, I've noticed that people needing to talk seem to open up to me, and I found myself in many deep and personal conversations. I found it pretty easy to do, and once in a while, things would come into my heart/mind/voice in real time, that I wasn't sure how they did, but they seemed to be the "truth" that was needed to be said at that time. During the past few years, in the midst a lot of heavy and chaotic things going on, they happened again and again, and I realized I literally have a God-given gift for this. I guess "the moment" I decided to join the Stephen Minister program was almost exactly a year ago, when one of my best friends passed from pancreatic cancer. While I was on the phone with his wife, it happened again: perfect words just started flowing out of my mouth. I knew I had to do something with this and serve others.

I had always seen the framed photos of SRVUMC Stephen Ministers in Wesley Center and know and respect many of them. However, I honestly did not know much about it and had not heard about them in a long time. When I saw the notice that a new class was starting up and learned more about it, I said Yes. It's a fantastic program, and the training, frankly, everyone should go through!

The point of me sharing this with you is not to state that I am a uniquely gifted person who was personally touched by God and born to do this. I'm sharing my story because I truly believe we *all* are touched and gifted by God, if we allow ourselves to be present, open, and know this. Once you really become present, surrender and know Him, you too can be forever changed, and in the process, be of service to others in need and both be changed, together in Christ.

This year, consider learning to listen and be present for people who carry emotional burdens. Stephen Ministry training prepares you for this fulfilling act of love.



Welcome Me

By Lisa Jancarik

I've only been a member with San Ramon Valley UMC for about five years now, but I think about my early visits here often. In June of 2014, we arrived in Danville about a week after Dana's ninth birthday party.

The stress of that summer was compounded by the extreme loneliness. None of the neighborhood kids ever came out to play, so Dana made no friends. The "welcome wagon" was really a lady who turned up with a sheaf of ads and wouldn't go away until I intimated that our dog, Rose, was unfriendly. Most other adults ignored me in favor of their devices. I tried walking the dog at different times of day because Rose had been an excellent lubricant for conversation in my old neighborhood. Instead, Rose was attacked by another dog a few steps from our back gate, scaring Dana enough that she refused to come along when I walked the dog after that. We had a few other truly miserable experiences in trying to connect with people that summer—trying to meet neighbors, ask questions of public school employees, even chat with people in line at Safeway. My point in telling you about a handful of the ugly moments in the settling-in process isn't to disparage an area that feels like home to you, but rather to illustrate how badly a new person in worship may be craving a little kindness and welcome.

By the time I showed up at SRVUMC in those early days, my loneliness had fermented into bitterness, and I was probably genuinely unpleasant to be around. I needed to feel welcome and find familiarity somewhere. I was already out of patience with secular Danville and had stopped trying to make friends with the neighbors. If I couldn't find some comfort in church, then I may have taken it as a sign of God's indifference to my rather grim emotional state. San Ramon Valley had only one or two services to get it right with me before I looked someplace else or gave up entirely.

The early service suited us well. John isn't a churchgoer, so I could go on my own and return by the time he was finishing up his coffee. I met the greeters and leafed through the *Mini Messenger* with curiosity. I no longer recall the announcements, but I was struck by how much was going on outside of church services: Bible study, sure, but also Grill-n-Chill (what's that? Sounds interesting...) and mission activities. The scope and range of activities here showed imagination and, more importantly, that people here liked spending time

with each other well enough to commit to hiking or a range of activities together. Moreover, it wasn't just bingo for the 70+ crowd and a token weekly youth group. I could see people in different places in life as I looked around the Sanctuary.

I recognized the opening hymn, and the pastor (then Pastor Ron) delivered announcements with some good-natured chuckles from the pews. It was nice to see the balance between respect for the place of worship but casual familiarity among people in the pews. Standing up to say hello is a tricky moment for an introvert like myself—the irony of being entirely ignored is that it would have made me feel conspicuous. Instead, I met people I would later come to know as Vin Hirsch, Peggy and Horace Crawford, Bill and Lee Rust, and Laura Sanchez. Feeling genuine warmth from their greetings made me decide to return. I'd been treated with such indifference outside of church by that point that having someone notice in coming weeks that I'd returned for a second or third visit would have a huge impact on me. Plus, meeting them didn't feel like the newbie getting pounced on by the church "sales team": they really were just saying hello and asking where I was from.

Of course, eventually I took on the position of the newsletter editor, allowing me an even greater window into a vibrant community full of interesting, open-minded people. I cherish the congregation God has put into my life when I needed you all most, but it only happened because I liked what I saw in those first few Sunday mornings.

Top Ten Reasons Visitors Don't Return to a Church

1. An unfriendly or awkward stand-and-greet time
2. Unfriendly church members
3. Unsafe/unclean children's areas
4. No place to get info on the church
5. Bad church website
6. Poor signage
7. Insider church language
8. Boring or bad church services
9. Members telling guests they are in the "wrong seat"
10. Dirty facilities

(Source: [article by Thom S. Rainer](#))

Beat the Winter Blahs!

With Fellowship and Fun

Get Off the Couch!

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.

Tai Chi—Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Find Food for Thought in Small Group Discussions

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Wesley Center—adult education classes led by our own Dave Coombs, Bill Rust or Laura Sanchez. Follow the signs for these insightful groups on Sunday mornings!

Men's Faith Sharing—Saturdays, 8 to 10 a.m. Conference room.

LIFT—Sundays, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

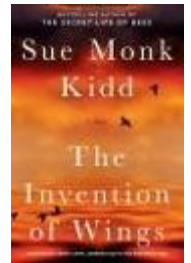
Afternoon Book Group—meets monthly to discuss a different book (see the announcement to the right).

Afternoon Book Group

Monday, January 27, 1 p.m.

Rm. 202 Wesley Center

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd



Have a Little Fun Right Here



Meet the Parents at **Parent Connection** monthly meetings. This month, **January 12, 4 to 6 p.m.** card game night. Dinner and childcare provided.

Bros and Belles Hand Bell Choir—Sundays, 4:15 to 5 p.m. Youth hand bell choir for grades 6 through 12 timed as the perfect lead-in for youth group at 5:15 p.m. No experience necessary!

Carillon Choir—Mondays, 6 to 7 p.m. Hand bells aren't just for the kids. No experience necessary here, either!

Gospel According to Uke—Mondays, 6 to 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. How can you not have fun with ukuleles?

Make a Difference

Library Staff—Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center Library. Keep our congregation busy with books for everyone, in the library or on the book cart!

Trinity Cooking—Fridays, 8 to 11 a.m. in the Roush Kitchen of Wesley Center. Meal preparation for the Trinity Center.

Kindness Korps—Wednesday, January 15, 10 to 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Watch the Mini Messenger each week to see all kinds of activities, and don't be shy about asking around what a group does if you're curious!



Happy New Year! While some of us are still stumbling with writing “-19” on checks and on letters and notes, it’s hard to really believe it’s 2020! I’ve even come to have to modify my “2,000 years ago, our Savior was born” Twenty years-in needs to be noted—2020 years ago! Remember our Prime Time Events are **always** the first and third Tuesday of the month, except November and December, when we have Thanksgiving and very busy schedules! So, from now until November, plan on the ***first and third Tuesday of the month***. First Tuesday, Potluck and Presentation, and third Tuesday, Prime Time Lunch with Fellowship, just good fellowship, food and fun!



Iron lung, c. 1960. Image source: [Centers for Disease Control website.](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/s0910-polio-vaccine.html)

Tuesday, January 7, Prime Time Potluck and Presentation, Noon, Wesley Center—Our very own **Thelma Orr** will speak on her experience being on the front lines of vaccinations first offered in 1955, while polio was not completely eradicated in the US until 1979! Please bring a dish to share, or stop at the deli or bakery on your way over. I’ve always said, “We have plenty of food, it’s your company we want!” But in November—we ran out of food! Yikes! While you are welcome to come in a pinch without a dish...in general, this is a potluck, and if you are attending, please bring a dish!

Tuesday, January 21, Prime Time Lunch with Friends, Noon, Wesley Center—Following his most amazing Christmas luncheon ever, Chef John Sanders will be making his hardy beef stew, his amazing homemade dinner rolls, a winter vegetable salad, and red velvet cake with ice cream for dessert. Why doesn’t **everyone** come to this amazing meal? Best \$5 to \$10 fellowship, friendship, food and fun in the Valley!



We had some holiday fun in 2019! Top left: All the kitchen elves who made the Prime Time Players Christmas luncheon a memorable feast. Top right: The Women’s Christmas Tea features fun decorations, good food, and quality time with “just us girls.” Bottom left: Pastor Dan sings an essentially impromptu a capella “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” to the Prime Time crowd at the Christmas lunch.



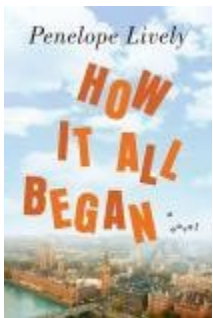
Between the Bookends



By the Library Committee

Start the new year off right by reading a book from our church library, either from the cart or from the library shelves. We have new books that are on or have recently been on the bestseller list, old classics, and informative books on issues of interest. ***Please remember to fill out a card and place it either in one of the two boxes on the cart or in the front of the open card file on the counter in the library.***

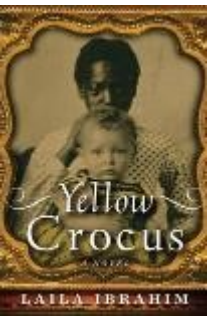
—The Library Committee



Lively, Penelope, *How It All Began*.

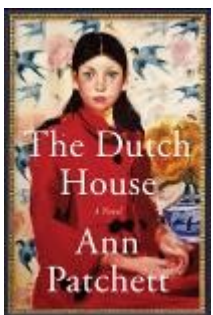
Lively illustrates here how one incident can lead to a chain of events affecting many lives. The story begins with a mugging on a London street which causes a discovery of infidelity, a business deal for an interior designer with an unscrupulous developer who almost ruins her, an old academic's thwarted endeavors to regain his sense of

self-worth, and a tempting love affair. The story deals with characters of varied ages and stages of life, and it immediately makes you feel involved. These finely-drawn characters will leave you wondering about the impact of chance on ordinary lives.



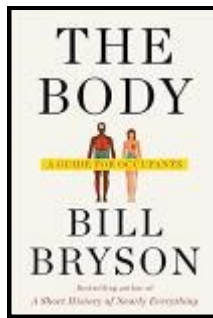
Ibrahim, Laila, *Yellow Crocus*. Beginning in Virginia in 1837, this book is mainly the story of two women: Mattie, a slave, and Elizabeth, the daughter of a plantation owner. Mattie becomes Elizabeth's wet nurse, and the two form a strong, enduring bond. The obstacles that they face reflect the evil that lurks beneath the ostentatious lives of the plantation owners. Read this

page-turner to find out how these two strong women emerge from the bonds that deter them.



Patchett, Ann, *The Dutch House*. Danny and Maeve Conroy are raised in a grand mansion outside Philadelphia called the Dutch House. When Danny is a toddler, their mother abandons them all. Ten years later, their father remarries a younger woman, Andrea, with two young daughters. After four years of marriage, a tragic event quickly thrusts the siblings into a difficult situation which they must deal with together. The

rest of their lives the Conroys face cruelty, resentment, obsession, kindness, and forgiveness, supporting each other all ways. This is a fascinating tale, with many insights and surprises along the way. *The Dutch House* is an absorbing, thoughtful, and beautifully written book.



Bryson, Bill, *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*. Did you know that the cartilage in your joints is smoother than glass...or that the brain processes more information in thirty seconds than the Hubble Space Telescope has processed in thirty years? In his latest book, Bill Bryson explores and celebrates the miracle of the physical and neurological

makeup of the body. He is not a scientist, but he is a voracious collector of facts and has an uncanny ability to explain complex subjects in an easily understood way. As he analyses the human body from head to toe, he presents odd and startling facts with wit, and so we are educated in a most enjoyable way. This book offers a very readable lesson on our bodies.



"There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away."

—Emily Dickinson



Calendar

January 25, 5 to 7 p.m.—Movie Night! Join us for pizza, popcorn and a movie on the Wesley Center big screen! Watch for movie details to follow. Want to help suggest the movie?

Email Laura Roy lroy@srvumc.org.

February 23, 5 to 7 p.m.—Chili and Bingo Night, Wesley Hall. Fun family event. Come win some prizes! Childcare will be provided in Tot Spot for the very little ones.



Sunday, January 12, 4 to 6 p.m.

Previously scheduled card game night brought to you by the Sepull family. Dinner provided. Childcare available in Tot Spot. Meet other parents!

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

LUKE 2:41-52: The Boy Jesus at the Temple

SAY THIS: Knowing God is the most important thing.

WEEK TWO

JOHN 1:19-42, JOHN 3:22-36: Jesus' Baptism

SAY THIS: If you want to know God, start with Jesus.

WEEK THREE

LUKE 4:1-13: Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert

SAY THIS: Discovering what's in the Bible can help you make the wise choice.

WEEK FOUR

MATTHEW 11:1-6: Jesus and John the Baptist

SAY THIS: If you don't understand something about God, ask.

REMEMBER THIS: "The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth."

PROVERBS 2:6, NIrV

Every Sunday

9 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday school meets

K to Grade 5: Lamm Hall

Grades 6 to 12: Room 202

10:30 a.m. Nontraditional Worship

Confirmation meets in room 201 until 11:45 a.m.

Childcare for all ages in Tot Spot, either service.

Weekly Programming

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 to 8) Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9 to 12) Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Music

Children's Choir—Sundays, 10 to 10:30 a.m., TK through grade 5, meets upstairs in Judson. The choir will sing 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.

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 Susie McKnight
Leslie Gross Marsha Perkins
Sheila McClelland David Scott

Our Christian Sympathy To...

Bill Foulds and his family on the loss of his brother.
Laura Roy on the death of her mother.

Whew!

Back on the Usual Schedule!

After a few months of early submission deadlines, the newsletter submission is back to its familiar mid-month schedule. *Please send your articles and announcements for the February Messenger to newsletter@srvumc.org no later than January 15.*

Continued Prayers For...

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Barbara Brick, Bob De Chene, Doug Domergue, Connie Erickson, Louise Hanover, Felicia Hillard, Cary Johnson, Johnny Johnston, Joan Lee, Lea Patteson, Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder, Shirley Slater, Joan Webb, Jeannine Woolery

Name Tags

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



Charter member Cary Johnson celebrated her 100th birthday on December 8, 2019. She was one of thirty-three charter members and sixty-six children with San Ramon Valley UMC when it was organized in 1957. She now lives in Cloverdale, CA. Left: Cary with daughter Marie Pera and granddaughter Donna Tkel. Right: signed poster of birthday wishes from church members. Photos courtesy of Carole Johnson.

January Celebrations

Birthdays

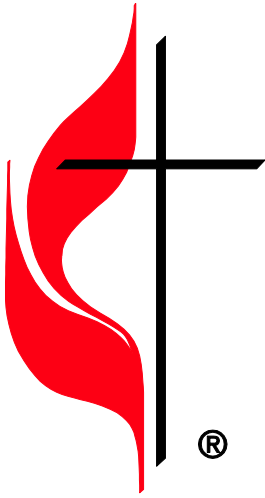


1 Marilyn Clarke	Berry Scott	20 Nancy Garnick	30 Alicia Rossini
Jim Kretsch	13 Bill Nelson	21 Dave Holleman	Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei
2 Steve Marohn	14 Nancy Tiedemann	Kim Risedorph	31 Lisa Chapman
Adena Verdi	Mark Warwick	22 Bob Leyman	
3 Ethan Helms	15 Julian Bybel	23 Jan Foulds	
Val Miller	Liz George	24 Barb McWilliams	
Brian Roberts	Shadaab Kanwal	25 Teri Armanini	
4 Rebecca Ten Elshof	Dory Schramm	Grace Benzler	
6 Kinsley Poole	16 Sam Sidhom	Dorothy Brose	
James Wakefield	17 Gerry Carothers	Roger Ehlers	
Colleen Woolery	Jean Desmond	Taylor Smallwood	
8 Jill Barry	Larry Sherman	26 Katie Presnell	
9 Terry Bailey	18 Elaine Halliday	Jack Presnell	
Andrew Kocins	Mike Kelly	Nick Toma	
Conner Merchant	Jeff Kuemmel	Emily Wood	
Betty Skeoch	Stephen Lee	27 Doug Barton	
10 Chris Hoff	Evan Schroeder	Tami Mitchell	
11 Ann Schroeder	Gail Smith	28 Bill Dever	
12 Scott Davis	19 Elizabeth De Chene	Nancy Harrison	
Belle Peters (93)	Cosima Sepull	Karen Stepper	

Wedding Anniversaries

2 Melissa & Robert Ward	21 Wendi & Michael Cerda
3 Andrea & John Siebert	27 Shirley & Charles Stephenson
5 Judy & Bob Baker	29 Danni & Dan Sherman
7 Jo Ann & Vin Hirsch (59th)	
9 Linda & Alex Farhang	
10 Layne & Mike Alfrey	
11 Suzanne & Bob Korinke	
20 Susan & Doug Hinz	





JANUARY 2020

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

January 2020

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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