



# Valley Messenger

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

**FEBRUARY 2020**

## *Pastor's Pulse ~*

## **General Conference Proposals**

You may have heard news reports concerning the future of the United Methodist Church, as we have diverse convictions around gender identity and sexual orientation.

Recent news reports referred to one proposal called, "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation", describing it as a decision already made. While many news sources reported this as fact, this is not the case. The Protocol of Reconciliation is one of several proposals that will be considered by the General (worldwide) Conference of the United Methodist Church which will meet May 5 to 15 in Minneapolis, MN.

On our own church campus, General Conference delegate **Rebecca Bernstein** will hold an information session on **Sunday, February 9, at 4 p.m. in Wesley Center**. As a delegate representing our area, she will share information she has access to, and answer as many questions as she can. All are invited!

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***Next Issue: March 2020***

*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 February 15, 2020.*

The complete text of the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation is at: <https://cdnsc.umc.org/-/media/umc-media/2020/01/03/15/48/Protocol-of-Reconciliation-and-Grace-through-Separation>. What is notable about this proposal is that it is supported by people on every side of the topic.

It is true that the conversation around the future of the United Methodist Church is more and more about how we might, possibly, split. We will have to wait until May to see what the General Conference decides.

So, we are still waiting for the decision. We do think it is noteworthy that the conversation in many ways is moving toward a split. Leading up to General Conference 2019, the conversation was around how to preserve the church without splitting. Now more and more proposals and groups of people are seriously suggesting splitting as a viable option. While this group and this proposal in no way speak for the UMC, it's entirely possible that they give us a gauge of where we might be headed in May. But again, that's only a possibility! Most people thought the Traditional Plan would never pass in 2019, and

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## **Kindness Matters: Share Your Stories**

We are introducing a new feature to our monthly newsletter, and asking you to share your experiences of kindness. Where in the past month or so have you experienced kindness? Our intention is to remember and be grateful for the moments when we are touched by another's kindness. You can mention people by name, or not. We'd like to hear your brief descriptions of how you encountered kindness at church, at work, downtown...anywhere! We will print as many as we can in our monthly newsletter.

For example, last week I came home from an evening meeting feeling a bit discouraged. Before I went to bed, I prayed, asking God for help. The next morning, an email from Bob Baker felt like an answer to prayer. He offered to help with our Close the Gap stewardship effort this past month, by speaking in worship about how he and Judy decided on how much to give financially to SRVUMC. With humor and courage, he spoke about how our giving matters. Bob's kindness touched me and enriched our community.

*Send your reflections on kindness to Pastor Kim: [krisedorph@srvumc.org](mailto:krisedorph@srvumc.org).*

## **Small Group Leaders Needed!**

Want to make a difference? Consider being a small group leader and walking alongside others on the journey of faith. Our 20/20 vision at SRVUMC is to increase the number of small groups offered, and to do that we need your help. Please consider being trained as a small group leader this month.

Small group leaders are people that care about others, and have a passion for an activity (reading, hiking, visiting shut-ins, cooking, etc.) or a topic (mysticism, current events, Bible studies, etc.). A small group leader does not have to know everything about the Bible—or any topic! They are willing to learn alongside others. Learn more, and explore the possibility of leading a small group.

Join **Phyllis Meyer** for a **two-part** training class for new small group leaders:

- **Sunday, February 9, from noon to 3:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, February 16, from noon to 3:30 p.m.**

Lunch will be provided. *Sign up at church on Sundays, or call Patsy Kyles in the church office at 837-5243.*

## **Stephen Ministry Grows!**

Our Stephen Ministry program is thriving, and in order to have it grow we need more Stephen Leaders to help run the program. We are grateful that Lisa Jancarik, a current Stephen minister, will take the leadership training in February, and join Al Banisch and Pastor Kim as Stephen Leaders. Please send a note, card, encouragement to her **before February 15**. Lisa will be at the training from February 16 through 22.

*Send to: Lisa Jancarik, Stephen Ministry Leadership Training, DoubleTree Hotel, 2085 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92802.*



*(Continued from Page 1.)*

indeed it did, so we would be wary of anyone claiming they can predict what will happen in May. A significant piece of this proposal is that groups have agreed not to press charges related to LGBTQ issues during the four months leading up to General Conference which frees everyone to focus on our mission and ministry rather than church trials.

We also want to acknowledge that non-United Methodist news sources often do not understand our complex system of government, so we would urge you to check news about United Methodists with our official source: <http://www.umcom.org/>.

**Pastor Kim**

## Proposal Flashcards

What follows on the next few pages are short summaries of some of the proposals under consideration by the 2020 General Conference. These proposals come from various groups, not individuals. The summaries are based on content appearing on UM News in a table you can download at <https://cdnsc.umc.org/-/media/umc-media/2020/01/09/19/07/General-Conference-UMC-Plans-Chart-V6>. You can read more about some individual proposals from these resources:

<https://indyplanumc.org/> for the Indianapolis Plan

<https://um-forward.org/new-plan> for the New Expressions Worldwide Plan

<https://umcnext.com/> for Next Generation UMC

<https://nccumc.org/bishop/protocol-of-reconciliation-grace-through-separation/> For Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/connectional-tables-us-regional-conference-legislation-now-available> U.S. Regional Conference Proposal

### 1. New Denominations of United Methodism (Indianapolis Plan)



**Denominations.** Outlines two or three global denominations, specifically citing traditionalist and centrist. A progressive denomination might form out of the centrist denomination. The United Methodist Church as we know it continues as the centrist denomination. More denominations could form out of fifty or more churches or an annual conference.

**LGBTQ.** In the centrist denomination (UMC as we know it), interim exemption from LGBTQ prohibitions; interim suspension of complaints and disciplinary actions related to LGBTQ bans.

**Who Decides What.** Annual and central conferences choose to join any denomination by simple majority. Local churches may choose, by simple majority, a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.

**Finances and Assets.** Continuation of pensions through each new denomination. Apportionments paid by all denominations through 2020. All denominations support funding for central conference ministries through 2024.

**Structure and Agency.** All denominations develop their own structures, polity and governance. Wespath, UMCOR, UMW, UM Men, UMPH become independent bodies to serve any denomination.

**Dates.** Would be effective at the close of General Conference 2020 (has not yet occurred). Decisions about denomination alignment would be made over 2021 with the opportunity to choose a denomination remaining open until 2028.

## 2. New Expressions Worldwide (N.E.W. Plan)

**Denominations.** Dissolves the United Methodist Church as we know it into four denominations: traditionalist, moderate, progressive and liberationist.

**LGBTQ.** Establishes an immediate moratorium on charges, complaints and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions. Does not indicate constitutional amendments.

**Who Decides What.** A transitional council develops a plan of separation. Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.

**Finances and Assets.** General church assets divided equitably with provision for arbitration.

**Structure and Agency.** New denominations develop their own structures, polity and governance. General agencies become independent 501(c)3 organizations.

**Dates.** Would be effective at the close of General Conference 2020 (has not yet occurred). Special General Conference would be held prior to 2024 to approve a plan of separation. Transition time for local churches extends until next Special General Conference.



## 3. Next Generation UMC (UMCNEXT)

**Denominations.** One or more. The United Methodist Church as we know it remains intact with options for new Methodist denominations that continue in a relationship with the United Methodist Church.

**LGBTQ.** Removes LGBTQ prohibitions and Traditional Plan additions. Moratorium on new or pending complaints and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions, effective at the close of the 2020 General Conference.

**Who Decides What.** Congregations, clergy and conferences determine their affiliation with a denomination. Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose to separate from the UMC and retain property, assets and liabilities.

**Finances and Assets.** General conference includes grant funding for new denominations in relationship with UMC in the 2021-2024 budget.

**Structure and Agency.** Creates a U.S. regional conference and a U.S. Regional Committee of the General Conference. Special commission proposes new constitution and governance structures.

**Dates.** Commission on a 21st Century Church begins August 2020. Special General Conference meets 2023. Local church disaffiliation provisions expire in 2025.



## 4. Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation

*(This is the one some media outlets presented as a done deal.—Ed.)*

**Denominations.** Two or more. The United Methodist Church as we know it remains intact with the creation of a new traditionalist denomination. Other Methodist denominations may also be formed.

**LGBTQ.** Requests holding in abeyance all administrative or judicial processes related to LGBTQ prohibitions and some church closures.

**Who Decides What.** Annual conferences, by 57% majority, may decide to join a new Methodist denomination. Local churches, by simple or by 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than that of their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.

**Finances and Assets.** \$25M paid over four years to new traditionalist denomination with no further claims to UMC assets;



\$2M is held in escrow for other possible new denominations. Annual, jurisdictional and central conferences retain property, assets and liabilities regardless of denomination affiliation.

**Structure and Agency.** UMC and new denominations may enter into ecumenical agreements and participate in agencies or mission activities.

**Dates.** Deadline to form a new denomination is May 15, 2021. Local churches have until December 31, 2024 to vote to affiliate with a different denomination than their annual conference.

## 5. U.S. Regional Conference (Connectional Table)

**Denominations.** The United Methodist Church as we know it remains intact with a new regional structure for the U.S. This plan does not call for a major restructure of the larger UMC.

**LGBTQ.** A key point of this proposal is that it does not address LGBTQ issues directly. It relates strictly to U.S. structure.

**Who Decides What.** Until a U.S. regional conference is formed, an interim committee of the General Conference handles U.S. matters. Development of a U.S. regional conference requires constitutional amendments (specifically to Part IV, Chapter 4) by 2/3 majority vote of General Conference and annual conference members.

**Finances and Assets.** No changes proposed regarding general church assets.

**Structure and Agency.** Under the two-stage plan, an interim U.S. regional committee handles U.S. matters. Ultimately, a U.S. regional conference is created comprising current jurisdictions.

**Dates.** Interim committee in place from 2021 to 2024. By 2024, the new U.S. Regional Conference convenes.

## Church Council Takeaways

### From the January 21, 2020 meeting

**Family Ministry (Laura Roy):** Parent Connection continues in January. Christmas Craft Fair offered kids some new crafts to do that were well-received. December saw a Birthday Bingo Party for Jesus: watch for more bingo and chili events (one scheduled for February 23, see Page 13 for more).

**Youth (Rebecca Bernstein):** The Youth wish to thank **Glen Park** and **Bill Rust** for their time with the high school youth group. Upcoming mission trips in 2020 include four days working with bank City Impact and the Waller Center, followed by three days at Rock-N-Water Christian Camp for river rafting (**June 28 through July 5**). Later in the summer (**July 25 through 31**), Youth have a mission in Portland through an organization called YouthWorks. Recent joint lock-ins with Central UMC and Concord churches brought 45 youth from six churches have connected our own youth with other area teens.

**Next Church Council meeting is Tuesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. You will know more people there than you think and have an opinion about more than you realize!**

## UMCOR and the Australian Wildfires

In response to the severe and unrelenting wildfires in Australia, UMCOR is working with partner organizations to assess current damage and analyze the best route for support.

If you would like to support relief and recovery efforts to address the needs of people who have been affected by this disaster as well as other disasters worldwide, please give to the International Disaster Response Advance #982450 online at <https://advance.umcor.org/p-641-umcor-international-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx?fbclid=IwAR24BEJt9g1p4BwzvCYH98pLhwwW7qUsBQILjR3AHiUIWJZtpYhhjWXsduM> or write a check made out to SRVUMC with "International Disaster Response" in the memo line.

This UMCOR fund supports all manner of people afflicted by natural disasters, victims of endemic disease, and refugees, not just the Australia fires.

You can read more about what UMCOR is doing by following them on Facebook.



# Winter Nights Coming In May

Every year, SRVUMC hosts the Winter Nights shelter. This year, we will host during **May 4 through 18**. We will be joined by St. Isidore's and Danville Congregational Church in hosting several homeless families in Wesley Center.

If you have participated before, then you know how fulfilling volunteering for this event can be. If not, it will be one of the best things you ever did. This is a great family activity!

We need help in the following areas:

- Set up and take down
- Meal preparation (we can help with recipes)
- Overnight host (we have a nice air bed this year)
- Child activities
- Tutoring
- Dish washing
- Laundry

**Bob and Judy Baker** are organizing the event this year, taking up the reins from Sue Dowling who did it for the past three years.

Please email **Bob Baker** at [Rbaker3600@aol.com](mailto:Rbaker3600@aol.com) and indicate your desire to get involved, or call their cell, **510-917-5709**.



*Top: Tents set up in Wesley Center welcome area families. Middle: Dinner is prepared by volunteers in the Mary Roush Kitchen and served in the Wesley Center. On school mornings, bag lunches await kids on their way to class. Bottom: Mealtime offers a chance for guests and volunteers to share some dinner conversation.*

## Donations for Winter Nights

For the donations box in the Wesley Center lobby:

- Lysol spray
- Bathroom cleansers
- Towels (washcloths, face towels, bath towels)
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Baby wipes
- Size 6 diapers, Size XL Goodnights, Infant diapers
- Packing tape
- Ink cartridges for HP 62 & 63 printers

*Gas cards or gift cards are also welcome, but give them to Sue Dowling in the church office instead of leaving them in the Wesley Center box.*

# Great Decisions of Our Age

## *Eight-week Series Begins Sunday, April 19*

What are the great global policy decisions facing the US, and how should Christians respond? **Starting on Sunday April 19, at 10:30 a.m.,** our church will hold a series of eight weekly discussions on critical global issues using a guide prepared by the Foreign Affairs Association (FAA). This program is part of an annual, nationwide program, whereby groups of concerned citizens throughout the US will discuss why the issues are important and why we should be concerned.

The series will be facilitated by **Lyn Arscott** and will be held after the first service in the Fireside Room or Wesley Center (TBD). A short DVD, prepared by the FAA, will be shown on each topic followed initially by discussions in small groups and finally as a combined group. *The discussion series guidebooks will be on sale for \$35. Contact [lynarscott@comcast.net](mailto:lynarscott@comcast.net) if you need a copy.* The following topics are scheduled:



### **Climate Change and the Global Order**

Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to come up with a plan, the US remains the notable holdout. What is the rest of the world doing to combat climate change? What impact will the effects of climate change have on global geopolitics?

### **India and Pakistan**

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode a wave of Hindu nationalism to a historic reelection in 2019. His first order of business was to revoke the special status granted to the Kashmir region, inflaming the rivalry between India and Pakistan. How will the Kashmir situation affect the region, both economically and politically?

### **Red Sea Security**

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the US building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation?

### **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor a large variety of projects to curb trafficking and slavery. Billions of dollars have been allocated to these efforts. What is the international community doing to combat slavery and trafficking? What are the experiences like for those being trafficked?

### **U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle**

Combatting illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which hold the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the US. With funds from the US cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration?

***Continued from Page 7***

### **China's Road Into Latin America**

As the Trump administration continues to withdraw from the world stage, China is looking to fill the void. How does Latin America fit into China's "One Belt, One Road" plan? How will the relationship with China affect the region? Should the US be concerned about China's growing "sphere of influence"?

### **The Philippines and the U.S.**

The Philippines has had a special relationship with the United States since the islands were ceded by Spain to the United States after the Spanish-American War at the end of the 19th century. However, since the election of Rodrigo Duterte, the country has pivoted more toward China, and away from the US. Duterte has also launched a largescale war on drugs that many criticize for its brutality. What does the future hold for US, relations with the Philippines?

### **Artificial Intelligence and Data**

Policymakers in many countries are developing plans and funding research in artificial intelligence (AI). Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution. The EU, Brazil, and other Western countries have adopted regulations that grant users greater control over their data and require that firms using AI be transparent about how they use it. Will the US follow suit?

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***Mark Your Calendar!***

# **Annual Crab Feed**

**Saturday, February 8**

**Wesley Center**



***Buy your tickets! Reservations required! 925-837-0971***

***Details to follow from Methodist Men's Group***



# February Communion Offering

## Rise Against Hunger

The February Communion offering supports the Rise Against Hunger packing event here at San Ramon Valley UMC slated for March 2020. The exact date for the 2020 Rise Against Hunger mission work will be announced in the Mini Messenger and the March newsletter, but this year, the event will occur on a **Saturday** at 10 a.m. instead of a Sunday.



[Rise Against Hunger](#) began in 1998 as **Stop Hunger Now!** and is based in Raleigh, NC. Since its original initiatives in distributing nutritious meals to the starving, this organization has broadened its efforts to improve food security for people worldwide. Rise Against Hunger trains farmers and families in agricultural methods and business skills. Many of these small-scale, local farmers provide the vegetables that are dehydrated for the Rise Against Hunger meals. Furthermore, the organization also works with in-country partners in the wake of disaster to provide crisis relief.

About 11% (815 million) of the world's population currently lives in hunger, according to a 2017 report by the United Nations. The Rise Against Hunger [website](#) tells us that 160 million of those people are children, who suffer long-term developmental and health effects if they are malnourished. This percentage of malnourished individuals is down from 23% of two decades ago. Most people who suffer from hunger resulting from regional conflict and climate change. Rise Against Hunger takes the view that ending world hunger can be achieved by 2030.

This organization and its volunteers have provided over 445 million meals in 74 countries around the world. Rise Against Hunger distributes its meals through various partner organizations. The promise of a nutritious meal improves attendance at school and in adult training programs. At San Ramon Valley UMC, we have sponsored meal-packing events, short mission opportunities great for entire families to do together. \$0.29 per meal funds dehydrated rice or soy meal, dehydrated vegetables, and spices along with 23 essential vitamins and minerals. As our volunteers know, a group of forty to fifty volunteers can pack 10,000 meals in about two hours!



# Upcoming Mission Opportunities

**MedShare.** Please join us volunteering at MedShare in San Leandro to help sort medical supplies on **Wednesday, March 21 from 1 to 4 p.m.** Please contact **HollyAnn Melton** at [hollyanmelton22@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyanmelton22@yahoo.com).



**Rise Against Hunger** on a Saturday in March this year in the Wesley Center. Watch for the exact date and time in the Mini Messenger and the March newsletter. If you and the family haven't packed meals together before, you've been missing out on a great chance to do some meaningful volunteer work that all the generations can handle!



## Watch This Space!



Next month, we'll hear from Steve Elliott about the January **Guatemala** mission trip.

In April, we look forward to learning about the February mission trip to **Puerto Rico**.

*Right: Volunteers at work on the 2018 mission trip to Puerto Rico.*



## Update on Living Room Conversations

An op-ed piece appeared in the January 20, 2020 edition of **Newsweek** coauthored by Joan Blades and Richard L. Tafel calling for America to recommit to the Golden Rule. Blades founded MoveOn.org as a bipartisan project to move the country away from division. Tafel launched Log Cabin Republicans as a similar effort.

Decades later, Blades has cofounded "Living Room Conversations" as a model to connect people from a range of political viewpoints in respectful, considered discussion.

Read the full opinion piece entitled "In 2020, Our Bitterly Divided American Needs to Recommit to the Golden Rule" written by Blades and Tafel at <https://www.newsweek.com/2020-divided-america-golden-rule-1479734>

If you think this is a worthwhile church effort and are interested in being in discussion and sharing groups in our church, please call the church office (837-5243). The groups would not have to be limited to church members. Members could invite friends either at church or in their neighborhoods who maybe think differently than them about what is happening in America and the world.



**"Faith communities have a unique ability to provide sanctuary for all voices to be heard."**

**—Joan Blades and Richard Tafel, Newsweek**



## **REMEMBER – the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month!**

As we settle into the spring season (so funny as one growing up outside Chicago—spring was **not** after Christmas—but I feel here it is!), let's look forward to great food and fellowship for our 55+ plus crowd, and anyone else who wants a great meal (for a very reasonable donation!) and fellowship—that's what this is all about!

### **Tuesday, February 4, Noon, Wesley Center— Prime Time Pot-Luck and Presentation**

Art preserves history, ritual, beliefs and the daily fabric of life. Please join us as we have the opportunity to discover how people transform their town with murals, recapturing the things they treasure with symbols and other representations. Please bring a dish or stop at the deli or bakery. We always have plenty of food: it's your company we want!

### **Tuesday, February 18, Noon, Wesley Center—Prime Time Lunch with Friends**

Just for fun and fellowship! Come enjoy an amazing home-cooked meal by Chef John Sanders (Tootie Sander's son who cooks for us in honor of his mother! We are blessed!). John will be cooking us his amazing **pork scalloppini with capers and mashed potatoes**. Start with a homemade **Waldorf salad** and finish off with **strawberry shortcake**.



*Mural artist Kristin Farr's work outside the Leshar Center for the Arts. This 28-foot mural was completed in October 2018 and will remain in place for five years.*

## **Checking In: Are You Getting The Messenger?**

We want to check in and make sure our new way of delivering our monthly newsletter is working for you! Our intention is to reduce costs of mailing 200 copies by encouraging all to pick up a hard copy of the newsletter at church or have it emailed to you.

Please let us know how we are doing. Did you receive the January and February newsletter in a way that works well for you? Email **Patsy Kyles** at [pkyles@srvumc.org](mailto:pkyles@srvumc.org) with any encouragement, concerns, or suggestions.

## **Don't Put It Off!**

That person you've been meaning to call wants to hear from you.

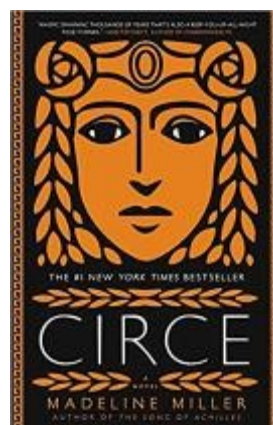


## **Afternoon Book Group**

**Monday, February 24, 1 p.m.**

**Rm. 202 Wesley Center**

*Circe* by Madeline Miller (Nancy Garnick leading)







# Between the Bookends

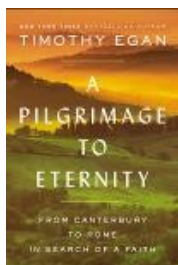


By the Library Committee



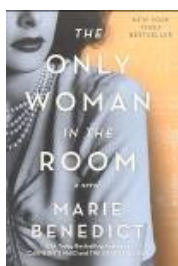
**Buck, Rinker, *The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey*.** This present day re-enactment of making the "Oregon or Bust" trek in a covered wagon is fascinating. Rinker Buck, his brother Nick, Jack Russel Terrier Olive Oyl, and three mules—Jake, Beck, and Bute—are the cast of characters. Be prepared to be educated about mules, covered wagons,

conservation, and the history of this famous trail. No stone is left unturned. Rinker honestly shares his euphoria, fears, and fantasies on the trek stretching from Independence, Missouri to Baker City, Oregon. Touching moments are revealed describing the wonderful treatment this group receives from the ranchers, farmers, and small-town folks they encounter. The brothers' love and excellent care of their animals during this five-month adventure speak volumes about their character. Some of their experiences keep you on the edge of your seat, heart thumping. Some of their story makes you smile and laugh or touches your heart. This book is at times a thrill-a-minute, at times thought-provoking, and always entertaining.



**Egan, Timothy, *A Pilgrimage to Eternity*.**

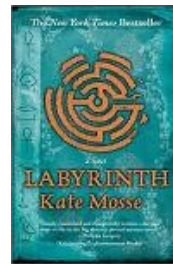
Driven by concern about his own faith and the survival of the Christian church, Egan sets out on a pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome. He follows an ancient pilgrimage route south through England, France, Switzerland, and Italy to Rome. The book is part travelogue, part Christian history, and part spiritual quest. At the beginning of each section of the book, there is a good map of the route that Egan is taking. He covers the whole route, although a couple of times he resorts to easier forms of transportation than his feet. Walk with Timothy Egan on the Via Francigena; you will not regret it.



**Benedict, Marie, *The Only Woman in the Room*.**

Do you recall the stunning beauty Hedy Kiesler, the Hollywood starlet who played opposite great actors such as Charles Boyer, Jimmy Stewart, Spencer Tracy, and Clark Gable? No? Perhaps you recall an Austrian actress who, upon arriving in California,

was discovered by Mr. Mayer of MGM and made to be a Hollywood icon known as Hedy Lamarr. This historically based novel reveals that besides her strong acting ability, she had a scientific mind. This she decided to put to use to help defeat the Germans who invade and control countries surrounding Germany. With the help of a musician/composer, she invented a secret communication system that detected submarines in the water and transmitted that information to an airplane. Aspects of her frequency-hopping idea can be found in the wireless devices we use today. So, when we look at our cell phones, we stare into an invention based, in part, upon Hedy Lamarr's invention.



**Mosse, Kate, *Labyrinth*.** This novel moves between 2005 and 1209 in and near Carcassonne, France. In 2005, Alice stumbles into a cave near an archaeological dig where she volunteers and finds two skeletons, strange writings on the wall, and the pattern of a labyrinth. Eight hundred years earlier in 1209,

on the eve of a brutal attack by the Dominicans against the Cathars, who are accused of heresy, a young woman, Alais, receives a critical task from her father, Pelletier. He gives her a ring with a labyrinth design and a mysterious book for safekeeping. This book is part of a sacred trilogy connected to the Holy Grail! Each heroine faces danger, unravels mysterious clues, and is stalked by evil persons who are after the grail, but both women continue to do what they believe is right. This well researched book brings the Languedoc region and Carcassonne castle alive to the reader. If you enjoyed the *Da Vinci Code*, this book will be appealing.

**"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."—Sir Richard Steele**







## Calendar

**Sunday, February 9, 4 to 6 p.m.**

— **Parent Connection:** Join us for another **Game Night!** We had so much fun in January that we will do it again! Dinner and childcare provided.

**Sunday, February 23, 5 to 7 p.m.**

—**Chili and Bingo Night!** Wesley Hall. Chili provided. Come for fun and prizes! Invite your family and friends! RSVP [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).



## Save the Dates:

**March—3rd grade Bible class** and presentation (dates TBD)

**April 5—Brunch and Egg Hunt,** 10 a.m., Wesley Hall and playground

**June 1 through 4—Sports and Faith Camp,** 9 a.m. to noon, grades 1 through 5

**June 22 through 26—Vacation Bible School,** Nights of the Northern Castle, 9 to 11:30 a.m., age 3 to grade 5

## 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

## Sunday School Topics

### WEEK ONE

**JOHN 15:12-13,** No Greater Love

**SAY THIS:** Love others because Jesus loves you.

### WEEK TWO

**LUKE 10:38-42,** Jesus at the Home of Martha and Mary

**SAY THIS:** Love others with your time.

### WEEK THREE

**MATTHEW 5:43-47,** Love Your Enemies

**SAY THIS:** Love others because they matter to God.

### WEEK FOUR

**MARK 14:1-9,** A Woman Pours Perfume on Jesus at Bethany

**SAY THIS:** Love God with everything you've got.

**"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins."—1 JOHN 4:10, 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. Rebecca Bernstein directs.

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

## Did You Know?

Middle and high schoolers can try hand bells. There is no audition and no particular time of year to sign up. You can decide to try it this week! **Winnie Stribling** directs.



# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns...

Shana Carroll                      James Teft  
Leslie Gross  
Sheila McClelland  
Susie McKnight  
Marsha Perkins  
David Scott

## 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 Hil-  
lard, Cary Johnson, Johnny Johnston, Joan Lee, Lea Pat-teson, Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder, Shirley Slater, Joan Webb, Jeannine Wool-ery

## Our Christian Sympathy...

The family of **Mark Miller**.

## Name Tags

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

# February Celebrations

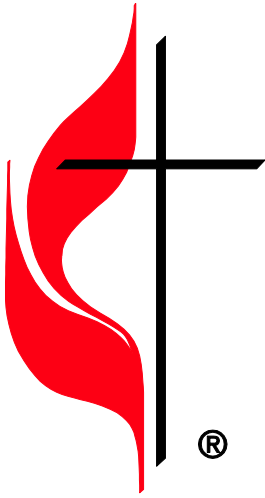


## *Birthdays*

1 Renée Beck	Marilyn Hansen	15 Debbie Hammond
Amy Sidhom	Connie Lowe	Teri Hawk
John Siebert	Mandy Whiting	Jim Ludlam
2 Bob De Chene	9 Jarrett Krumrei	16 Anne Burk
Harry Knapp	Laurie Stocking	Matthew Byrom
Stephanie Lowe	10 John Johnston <b>(100)</b>	Linnea Winter
Ted Nguyen	Emily Malin	18 Nick Item
Dawn Smallwood	Dean McWilliams	19 John Pavel
Cindy Stephenson	Dave Pierce	20 Laura Altamirano
3 Le Anne Jacobi	11 Bob Dominici	21 Heather Clay
Linda Jimerson	Beverly McAdams	22 Lindsay Koos
Kim Wolfram	Doug Merritt	David Shin
4 Joanne Durrenberger	12 Rebecca Byrom	23 Kal Peters
5 Kendall Andres	Joanne Knapp	24 Elisa Ericson
Doug Beck	Millie Loper	Dorothy Ruby <b>(98)</b>
Melanie Hasik	13 Lisa Jancarik	25 Joan Pierce
Stephanie Leontini	Maggie Stienstra	26 Suzanne Stephens
6 Jackie Ceragioli	14 Chuck Lindquist	28 John Corson
7 Debbie Kelly	Charles Stephenson	Laura Sanchez
Katy Mannell	Eleanor Toney	
8 Marge Brower	Katie Ward	

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

- 3 Anne & Jim Burk **(57)**
- 4 Nancy & Cliff Campbell
- Candice & Steve Newburn
- Gay & David Scott **(55)**
- Betty & Irv Skeoch **(53)**
- 6 Donna & Chuck Lindquist
- 7 Joyce & Burt Rodgers
- 16 Kal & Kevin Peters



# FEBRUARY 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

February 2020

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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