



Valley Messenger

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

JUNE 2020

Isn't This *Living*?

Pastor's Pulse ~

Whenever we were hiking or camping and the weather turned foul—thunderstorms, hail, even a tornado—our Boy Scout leader, Mr. Koerner, never failed to shout, “Isn’t this *LIVIN’*, boys!” He was not being ironic. Nor was he trying with his implacable cheerfulness to coax a troop of sullen adolescents out of their grumbling and misery. He meant it. To him running for cover to avoid being concussed by ashtray-sized hailstones or struck by lightning was a kind of reward for venturing outside. A sodden sleeping bag or something as disastrous as waking up to discover a bear had eaten or drenched with slobber all our food and most of our toiletries (think toothbrushes, deodorant), was for Mr. Koerner a sign of the creator God’s inherent playfulness. We thought he was a raving lunatic.

He wasn’t. He was one of the sanest people I’ve ever known. Unexpected inconveniences and setbacks or anything at all that scuttled one’s plans, far from being disappointments (let alone punishment), were affirmations of what a delight it is to be

Don't Miss What's Inside

- 1 Pastor's Pulse: Isn't This *Living*?
- 2-3 Announcements From Our Pastors
- 4 Farewell to Dan and Maria
- 5-6 Letter from District Superintendent Shinya Goto
- 7 Great Decisions of Our Age June Topics
- 8 Spring Cleaning!
- 9 Mission Opportunities
- 10 June Communion Offering: Meals With Grace
- 11 Prime Time Players
- 12 Between the Bookends
- 13 Family Ministries
- 14 Among Ourselves
- 15 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Next Issue: July 2020

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

alive. I have no way of confirming it now since Mr. Koerner is long gone, but my guess is that his resilience was based on a belief that unexpected troubles were the entirely predictable dynamics of being in relationship with a living and active God. Any relationship with another demands a certain amount of nimbleness. How much more so in our relationship with God.

Amid all the unexpectedness of the first half of 2020 I've been thinking a lot of Mr. Koerner. Amid all the unasked- and unprepared-for exigencies that have upset our routines, upended our carefully-laid plans and thrown our futures like a deck of cards into the air, I've imagined Mr. Koerner just ahead of me on the path with his walking stick and his Smokey the Bear ranger hat saying to me without breaking stride, “Well, young man, isn't this *living*?”

Yes sir, it is.

I don't know how this transition to my new appointment is going to go or how I'll deal with the challenges I find when so much is still uncertain about the post-pandemic church. How will such a vulnerable community gather? I'm also rather grumpy about being separated from you during the last months of my ministry here. At least I'm getting used to missing you.

SRVUMC

**902 Danville Blvd
Alamo, CA 94507**

Office Hours:

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

Phone (925) 837-5243

Fax (925) 837-2763

www.srvumc.org

Ministers

EVERYONE

Lead Pastor

Kim Risedorph (ext. 107)

Associate Pastor

Dan Sturdivant (ext. 108)

Director of Family Ministries

Laura Roy (ext. 106)

Youth Director

Rebecca Bernstein (ext. 109)

Office/HR Manager

Susan Dowling (ext 104)

Accountant

Larry Bieber

Accounting Assistant

Theresa Omar

Office Assistant

Patsy Kyles

**Facilities & Purchasing
Manager**

Marilyn Clarke (ext 102)

Music Director

Bruce Koliha

Organist

Nadia Blank-Koliha

U.M. Preschool Director

Paulette Ove (ext 113)

AV Director

Linda Green

Messenger Editor

Lisa Jancarik

newsletter@srvumc.org

Communication Manager

Shana Carroll

**Director of Recreational
Ministries**

Joey Fuca

(925) 837-2011

One of the few things I'm certain of is how much you are going to enjoy Mantu Joshi, your new associate pastor. He is gentle and wise and seasoned. I admire his faithfulness and the way it has shaped his family life and career. He has the best kind of humility: he knows what he's doing and is unbothered by how much there is still to learn. And he recognizes both as gifts of God's grace. If you all are as welcoming to him and supportive of him as you have been to me, then he'll be set and so will you as a result.

We still have a few weeks before I need to say goodbye, so I'll save that. I will say now, though, how intensely proud I am of our church for the way you all have adjusted to the COVID-19 crisis. I'm proud of other things, too, of course, but you all have been exceptionally nimble in responding to the needs of our church during this time, particularly to our need to be in service to the larger community. You are making a mark. This church is becoming as solid and as vital as it has ever been.

Pastor Dan**When Will the Church Campus Be Open?**

We continue to shelter in place in order to keep everyone safe. At the same time, we're wondering when we can gather again. At San Ramon Valley UMC, we will not open until health officials and local government officials okay church openings. Even then, we will encourage all vulnerable participants to stay at home.

Because new information comes out almost daily, we will make decisions based on the latest information. Our values, as we make decisions about how and when to gather, include:

- Do no harm
- Create and sustain authentic faith experiences
- Serve the most vulnerable among and around us.

We are forming a task force that will consider how we will open and what needs to be done to keep everyone safe.

We will be sending out a survey to hear from you. Stay tuned, and please plan to complete the survey.

This is not an easy time, and all plans are laced with uncertainty. We also have an opportunity to strengthen and expand how we do church together. We will continue to do all we can to bring a quality online worship experience to you. We continue to learn ways to help us connect with one another and serve the community around us. We continue to pray for one another and listen to God's guidance and call on our lives. Church continues!

June Sermon Series

The Power of Community

June 7—The Power of Community: Caring for One Another

Pastor Kim preaching

Genesis 37: 12-14

Communion Sunday

June 14—The Power of Community: Being Bold

Pastor Dan preaching

Genesis 37: 17b- 22

Just takes one voice to speak up and prevent further harm, and shape a community!

June 21—Father's Day—The Power of Community: Paying Attention to Our Dreams

Pastor Kim preaching, *Living Water Musicians lead!*

Genesis 41: excerpts ending with verse 37, "Can we find anyone else like this—one in whom is the spirit of God?"

June 28 —The Power of Community: Planning for the Future

Pastor Dan Preaching

Genesis 41: 46-49

Followed by a farewell party for Dan and Maria.

General Conference Dates

Move to 2021

Hello Everyone!

For those who are following along with my (and the greater UMC's) journey with General Conference, the dates have officially been moved to 2021.

According to Kim Simpson, chair of the Commission, "As we looked at the complex issues that we will need to navigate to reschedule the event and the lack of options available, it does not appear feasible to plan for 2020. These issues include the undetermined length of the pandemic, uncertainty around travel bans in different areas of the world, delays in processing visas due to government and business closures and other questions."

The new dates as of now are **August 31 through Sept 10, 2021**, although there has been some conversation around whether those dates consider and accommodate young adults, educators, and parents. While the dates are not likely to be changed at this point, it's been enlightening as well as frustrating to be a part of the conversation that asks, "how are we creating an environment in the structure of the church that is inviting and understanding of people who don't work in the church, including but not limited to young people."

As your General Conference delegate, I'll keep you updated with information and interesting topics of conversation as they come. —**Rebecca**

Family Ministries Remains Active During Pandemic

Maybe you've been wondering how SRVUMC stays alive for its younger members. Every Sunday, Laura Roy does a virtual Sunday School through Zoom for between 15 and 25 children. Laura notes some attrition in the attendance as kids and their parents tire of videoconferencing. She says that this effect seems to be true for other churches, too, but she is trying to maintain interest with bingo, scavenger hunts and stories. Outside of videoconferencing, Laura makes an effort to connect with kids individually, often writing notes to remind kids that they are loved.

Family Ministry has also done two "**Drive By and Drop Off**" events, one for Easter bags and another for Mother's Day craft/gift bags. Another similar event is planned for Father's Day. (*See Pages 7 and 13 for gift bag photos.*) Another way to remain connected with our SRVUMC families will be with a planned **Zoom Parent Connection Dinner**, so watch for more information from Laura about that event if you are looking to connect with other moms and dads.

The campus closure presents an opportunity to reorganize and update classrooms for improved age-appropriateness, so look around for changes in your child's classroom when the facility eventually reopens. Currently, Family Ministries has no set date to resume on-campus events. Laura reports to the Church Council that Family Ministries will follow CDC and county guidelines for these events, in conjunction with the overall plan for the church.

Have You Marked Your Calendar?

Join the Throngs of Well-Wishers as We Say Farewell to Dan and Maria

Sunday, June 28, 10:30 a.m.

Facebook Livestreaming

After Sunday Service we will have a chance to grab fresh coffee, get comfy in our favorite PJs, and then tune in. Oh, also get something sweet, maybe a doughnut, cinnamon roll, etc. as we send off this sweet couple!

Music! Skits! Videos! Laughs! Presentations!

Join the Multitudes!

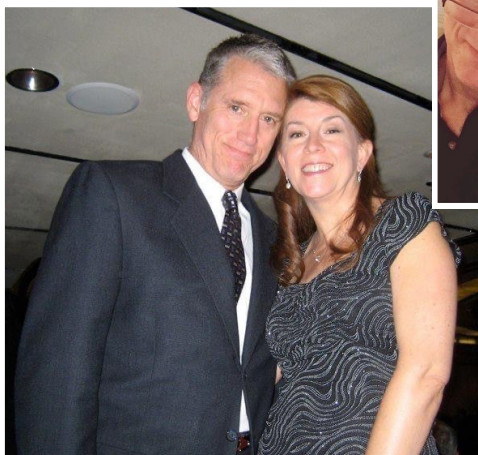
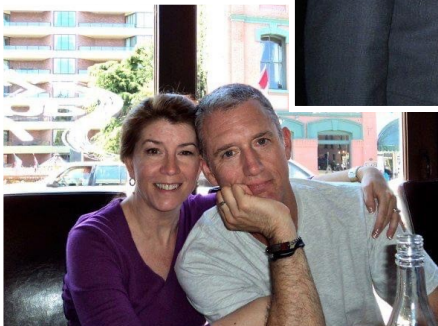
Gift donations shall be sent to the church office. Gifts may be made:

- Through the church website, www.SRVUMC.org/give/ (The website provides step-by-step procedures for various methods of donations.)
- By personal check mailed to the church office, SRVUMC, 902 Danville Blvd, Alamo, CA 94507
- With the "Give Plus + " App on your mobile device

All donations should cite, **"Dan and Maria Farewell Gift."** Gift donation point of contact is **Susan Dowling**, sdowling@srvumc.org.



*Join in the livestreaming
send-off for this "sweet"
couple!*





Dear Sisters and Brothers of El Camino Real District,

This is one of the last letters I will write to you before I leave the district in June this year, and perhaps the most important of all. I ask you to read until the very end!

I pray that you are safe and well amidst the order of shelter-in-place. At the onset of the outbreak, our District team began asking people in the district, “What are the needs? How can we be helpful?” Very soon, it became apparent that the most vulnerable among us are those without a visa who have lost their jobs. They were already vulnerable, but their hardships have been magnified during Covid-19, without an income or governmental support. Most of them had been working in restaurants, construction, agriculture, house-cleaning, and caretaking, but lost their jobs almost immediately after shelter-in-place was ordered. Here are several stories of families who have reached out to us. All names have been changed for privacy.

• **Margarita is an 80-year old woman from Mexico.**

Though she and her husband, who is in a wheelchair and unable to work, have lived in the United States for decades, they have yet to receive their permanent residency. She takes a five o’clock morning bus from downtown San Jose to Milpitas where she cleans houses three days a week for living. Last year, with an invitation of her neighbor, she began attending a local United Methodist Church and eventually became a member. According to her pastor, she happily tithes and volunteers at the church as much as she can. It has been a very difficult two months for Margarita and her husband as she lost her job and is not receiving any financial support.

• **Sophia and her brother are a freshman and sophomore in high school.**

They are both very active in a youth ministry program at their United Methodist Church. Their father returned to Mexico four months ago where he died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Unable to travel to Mexico, Sophia, her brother, and her mother are doing what they can to keep the family together amidst their grief. It was then that her mother was laid off from a fast food restaurant where she had worked for many years, and the family is not able to receive any assistance from governmental programs because of their visa status.

• **Martha has worked as a farmworker in the strawberry**

fields. As a way to improve her life and to care for her three young children, she took part in a program that teaches new skills for work, sponsored by a United Methodist Church. Last month, in addition to losing her job, Martha had to have emergency surgery on both of her breasts to remove potentially cancerous cysts. She does not qualify for medical insurance because of her immigration status. She has to make a payment every time she goes to her doctor appointments. As a single mother, she is trying desperately to provide for her three children during this challenging time.

We have received requests from various churches in the district totaling 121 families that make up 485 people including 253 children. Their stories are each unique and different, but the common theme is that they are all desperately trying to survive with the loss of their main source of income.

In partnership with the conference Office of Disaster Response, the El Camino Real District is starting a fundraising campaign to raise \$50,000. As a part of the effort, we are also applying to the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) for up to \$20,000, which will be used as a matching grant. When we meet the goal, we will be able to offer the average amount of \$400 per family depending on the size of the family. If we receive more, we will give more! The purpose of the fund is to provide the basic support for their groceries, as well as other supply needs and expenses such as their medical fees. We know that \$400 per family is not enough. The state of California is currently working to provide a fund to undocumented immigrants, but it is projected that not all undocumented immigrants would receive it. Even if a family were to receive both our fund and the state fund, the combined amount will not come close to meeting all of their needs such as rent and other payments. Our hope is simply to help with their most basic needs.

There are two ways to donate toward this cause. One is to send a check to the conference with a memo: “ECR relief fund”. Another is to click [here](#) for online giving. The donations are tax deductible. Pastors, I ask you to pass this message on to as many people as you can in your congregation and beyond!

What I have come to experience in my ministry is that God is not a God of scarcity. Time and again, God has proven to be a God of abundance and God’s abundance is revealed

through God's people. As John Wesley once said, "(Money) is an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends. In the hands of his children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of a husband to the widow, and of a father for the fatherless; we may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain. It may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, a lifter up from the gates of death."

With my sincere gratitude,
D.S. Shinya Goto

Update on Church Council

By Debra Carter, Church Council Chair

Yes, Council continues to meet (albeit by Zoom) during this uniquely challenging time. Here is a brief report.

As of late last year, the format for Council meetings is significantly changed in two ways. First, verbal reports are now being alternated monthly among the committee chairs. As result, there are half as many routine presentations at each meeting. The extra time we gain allows for the second change—an "idea discussion" at each meeting. The subject of the discussion varies. The topic is usually a proposal or concern from one of the pastors, or from a Council member, or a response to events or activities emerging from the Conference or from the outside community (most recently, of course, COVID-19).

Two important projects are now underway, both of which grew out of idea discussions. The first is a task force that is exploring possibilities for the future of our church: *Envisioning the Future of SRVUMC*. This effort dovetails perfectly with the Conference's recent selection of SRVUMC to be part of the ambitious "Healthy Church Initiative."

The second project is a comprehensive study of the various monetary funds that the church maintains. The goal is to streamline our financial management systems to simplify record keeping, to more efficiently monitor our finances and, ultimately, to make the best use of our resources as we go forward.

The Council is here to serve our church and our community. We strive to be as creative, ambitious and effective as we can, and we welcome new ideas. Council meetings are open to members and constituents: **the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. (via Zoom, until further notice). Feel free to email Debra Carter, Council Chair (hermine2@icloud.com), or Kathleen Saghafi, Council Vice-chair (kathleensaghafi@gmail.com).**

On Iron Horse Trail With John Green

Mr. Fred Rogers said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

Mr. John Green said, "When wearing masks, we must now look at one another's eyes to catch a smile. I miss the full-face smiles."

With so many walking for exercise, may I suggest an activity for you if you are walking on the Iron Horse Trail? Take a moment at each bench and read the memorial plaque attached to the bench. I try to imagine the person or persons named, and the words of love and affection to them are beautiful. The emotion stays with me for the rest of the day. The trail north of the San Ramon Valley Museum has many benches along the route; other sections of the trail have some, but fewer.

Stay safe!



This photo comes from East Bay Regional Parks. The park service reminds you to wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Also, trash collection is limited, so plan to take it with you (visit www.ebparks.org for more info).

Great Decisions of Our Age

June Topics on Zoom

11 a.m. Sundays

What are the great global policy decisions facing the US and how should Christians respond? Our church is holding an ongoing series of weekly discussions via Zoom on the 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 Arcscott and instructions for signing into Zoom will be issued later by email to all interested people. A 20-minute DVD, prepared by the FAA, will be shown on each topic followed by group discussion. Contact lynarscott@comcast.net if you are interested, and send him your email if you have not already done so for additional information.

The following topics are scheduled:

June 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"?



June 14—The Philippines and the US

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 large-scale war on drugs that many criticize for its brutality. What does the future hold for US relations with the Philippines?

June 21—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?



Easter goodies delivered with health precautions, too. Laura Roy and the Family Ministries volunteers have been busy this Easter sharing the love among our church families...but not coronavirus!

Spring Cleaning!

A Quiet Campus Offers a Chance To Deep Clean

The recent extraordinary quiet on the church campus has created the opportunity for deep cleaning and sanitizing our high-traffic areas.

Back in April, Ed Nalepski and his wife, Bozina, of Ed's Cleaning Service cleaned and sanitized the Sanctuary, including steam-cleaning the upholstery and carpets and washing windows there. When they moved on to Wesley Center, their family cleaning service scrubbed tile floors and carpets, sanitized kitchen and storeroom surfaces, and cleaned appliances. They also cleaned highchairs, tables and folding chairs and sanitized their associated storage areas. The pair has also cleaned restrooms and windows in Wesley, not to mention offices and the Youth room, sanitizing door handles and light switches in each of these areas. In May, they took on the administration building and the Fireside Building, with plans to finish up with the preschool. Their cleaning service is expected to show the same attention to detail to these parts of the church campus as they have already given to the Sanctuary and Wesley Center.

- **Jeff Lang, Brian Roberts and Boyd Hasik** have been busy installing emergency lighting and smoke detectors
- Boyd has also installed a sign at the front of the property announcing the live streamed worship service online
- The elevator in Wesley Center has also been serviced
- Jeff has also worked with **Bill Van Bezey** to thoroughly clean the carafes for tea and coffee.
- Jeff has also addressed a problem with the ARC HVAC system and has been working with **Jerry Ricker** on some security tasks.

When we can all be together again, our campus will be ready for us thanks to all these efforts!



Ed scrubbed the carpets in Wesley Center as part of the thorough cleaning he and Bozina gave the church campus. While they cleaned, our own Boyd, Jeff and Brian, along with others, have taken on repairs and upgrades to get us ready for our eventual return.

Did You Know?

SodBusters is still very active keeping our church campus landscaping tidy. You can bring your socially distanced self out to help!



Contact Gary Swanson at garyswanson811@gmail.com for information.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities



Each month, Hope Solutions (formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing) provides new and lightly used household items and furniture for incoming clients. **The list changes from month to month, especially with larger items, so visit <https://www.hopesolutions.org/volunteer/> and scroll to the Furnishings Program to see which items are requested for a given month.** If you would like to donate, please contact **Sandibel Arnold** at sarnold@hopesolutions.org to arrange pick up, drop off, or delivery for your items.

Generally welcome:

Household and Kitchen Items: cleaning supplies, cookware, dishes, glasses, silverware, wastebaskets, trash bags, buckets and mops, brooms and dustpans, stepstools, laundry baskets, microwaves, dish drainers, vacuums and shopping carts.

Bathroom Items: hand towels, washcloths, bath towels, bathroom rugs, shower curtains.

Hope Solutions is not able to accept donations of used bedding or used pillows, used mattresses, used towels of any kind, nonworking items, broken or worn out items, stuffed animals or used car seats.

Hope Solutions has other ongoing ways to volunteer and donate. Watch for their Backpack Drive, for example, whenever you visit their website.



MedShare Puts Volunteer Sessions on hold until at least June 2. Watch for more info about upcoming sessions once California's shelter-in-place restrictions have been revised.

Trinity Center Thanks You for Your Support!

Executive director of Trinity Center Leslie Gleason recently sent her thanks to San Ramon Valley UMC for our \$900 donation. Our April Communion Offering was directed to the Food for Thought program.

The Food for Thought program provides nutritious lunches on most Fridays of each month for between 45 and 50 of Trinity Center's homeless clients. SRVUMC volunteers also share their time to support this program.

"Your partnership is critical to our effort to support the needs of people who are homeless and those that are at risk of homelessness," said Gleason in her letter addressed to the whole church.

The overall goal of Trinity Center is to make a difference toward ending homelessness, and SRVUMC has partnered with this organization for several years (Food for Thought was developed by **Horace Crawford** and **Ron Dunn** seven years ago).

"With the help of investment from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements in the availability of basic human services such as food, clothing, and health services for the underserved adult community as well as greater access to housing and employment," said Gleason.

Did You Know?

Trinity Center is considered an essential service, so it remains open throughout the shelter-in-place order. However, for now the organization is focusing its efforts on the Day Shelter Basic Needs Program, the Overnight Evening Program, and the Safe Parking Program.

You can read more about how Trinity Center is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic [here](#), where you can download the PDF with details about their ongoing goals and operations.

June Communion Offering

Meals With Grace

Meals with Grace is our own home-grown program created to deliver meals to people both inside and outside of the church to make their COVID-19 crisis just a little bit better. We aim to serve church members who are isolated and can benefit by a little fellowship during their shelter-in-place, and to recognize and thank the broader community for their critical and direct service to others.

Some recipients who have received lunches and dinners are Danville firefighters and EMTs, healthcare workers at Reutlinger Assisted Living Community Center, Contra Costa County Hospital, and the Monument Crisis Center staff. We are providing food through Safeway, Trader Joe's, and by supporting local restaurants. Breakfast and lunch establishment Crumbs, owned by SRVUMC members **Sam and Amy Sidhom**, participates with its menu of familiar favorites. Another Danville fixture, Bridges, began assisting as well, helping to meet a hospital requirement of individual containers one hundred meals, refrigerating them until pickup by volunteers.

This relatively new program started with a small number of meals going to a few church members. Now that the Meals With Grace team has developed their logistics, they are delivering to places where staff and workers are going the extra mile during this pandemic. They have already delivered hundreds of meals.

If you would like to contribute to this mission, please do so with a donation to the church referencing "Meals With Grace" on your gift. You can also contact **Bob Baker** (rbaker3600@aol.com) or **Anne Kuelz** (annekuelz@sbcglobal.net) if you want to volunteer your time. If you know folks or groups of front-line workers who would appreciate a meal, please call the church office.



Above: Thanks to the firefighters at Danville's Station 35, located on Silver Oak Lane, just off Blackhawk Rd. They serve at one of ten fire stations in the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. The card inserted with their goodies reads: "Providing you a Meal with Grace with our thanks for your dedication and service to others."



While we can't meet for lunch on the **first** and **third** Tuesday of the month...***we CAN pick up the phone and call!*** Try calling **five** church people a week, especially your Prime Time Friends. And especially those you wouldn't normally call—think of someone you shared a meal with over the past several years, find them in the directory (or call Patsy in the office), and have a nice chat with someone who may be feeling lonely. It makes a world of difference!



Miss you, and love you,

Nancy Benvenuto

Afternoon Book Group

Monday, June 15, 1 p.m.

Zoom meeting!

***The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett**

Discussion leader Marilyn Scott



Contact Debbie Koos at glkoos@comcast.net for Zoom member ID and password.

Did Pastor Kim Really Send That Email?

Did you receive an email that you thought came from Pastor Kim? Her email has been spoofed, and if you look carefully you will see that it is not her email address. (Her correct email address is krisedorph@srvumc.org).

Another way to spot these spoofed emails is that ***Kim will never, ever, ask you to buy gift cards or send money to her.*** We are so sorry this is happening, and want you to be aware.



Just Talking. Just Us.



If you are struggling with something and need to talk in confidence, San Ramon Valley UMC's Stephen ministers can help. Ask Pastor Kim, Al Banisch (albanisch@comcast.net) or Lisa Jancarik (lisajancarik@gmail.com) for more information.

What's Happening to VBS? How Will We Get to the North Castle Now?

Don't worry...

Vacation Bible School Is Going Virtual!



Kits of materials will go out to participants in early July. Then, kids can do VBS activities at their own pace. Alternatively, they can meet in community through Zoom during the week of **July 27 through 31.**

Check out our Family Ministries announcements on Page 13 of this newsletter for full information.

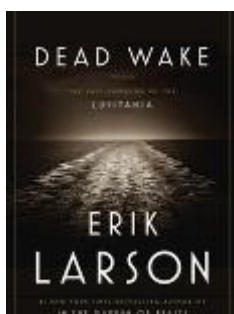


Between the Bookends



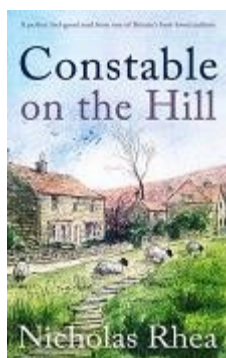
By the Library Committee

We hope that during this time of confinement you have found some solace in books. And we also hope that when we are again permitted to come to church, you will return whatever church library books you have and check out some new ones. All of the books reviewed here are available on Amazon as Kindle books in case you want to read one before the library reopens. —The Library Committee



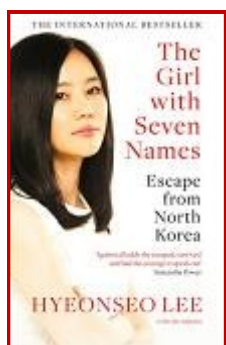
Larson, Erik, *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*. In maritime vernacular, this trail of fading disturbance, whether from ship or torpedo, was called a ‘dead wake.’” This engrossing story is filled with fascinating facts about WWI, German U-boat Captain Schwieger, Captain Turner of the Cunard line passenger ship Lusitania, Winston

Churchill, and President Woodrow Wilson. Through the eyes of the survivors, Erik Larson weaves a fascinating tale of the six-day cruise ending May 7, 1915. The tale is gripping, tragic, and poignant. Just imagine a sister ship of the Titanic sinking in less than 20 minutes! *Dead Wake* is an unforgettable book.



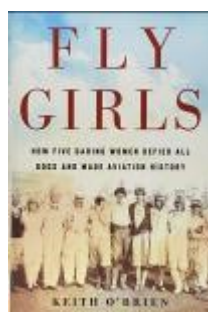
Rhea, Nicholas, *Constable on the Hill*. Set in 1960s Yorkshire, this is the tale of the life of a constable serving small villages with little crime but lots of interesting people and situations. It is arranged by topic rather than in chronological order. In one incident, Constable Nick is called to a local pub because of loud noise. He arrives at the pub to discover it is a group of Methodists enthusiastically singing

“The Old Rugged Cross.” He visits the house of the old lady who made the complaint, gets her to accompany him to the pub, and they end up enjoying the singing together. This is the perfect book for an escape to an earlier, simpler world.



Lee, Hyeonseo, *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story*. Growing up in an area of North Korea across the Yalu River from China, Lee has a happy childhood. However, she begins to question the totalitarian culture as she becomes a teenager and catches glimpses of the more vibrant life across the river in China. Crossing the river for a

quick taste of a different life, she unintentionally becomes a refugee, separated from her homeland and her family. This autobiography shows Lee’s ability to save herself and others by her quick wit and ability to adapt to dangerous situations. It is an exciting read, which also emphasizes the yearning that a refugee can feel for what has been left behind.



O'Brien, Keith, *Fly Girls*. In this nonfiction book, O'Brien, talks about the many women who were as daring, brave, and determined to fly as were the men of that time. He introduces us to Ruth Nichols, Louise Thaden, Amelia Earhart, and many other women who learned that all were connected as they built on one another’s failures and successes and pressed on to-

gether. They also dealt with rejections from Kellogg’s, Wrigley, B. F. Goodrich, and Studebaker as they asked for funding for planes. Because of Earhart’s successful flight across the Atlantic, she was given the Lockheed Electra to fly. It was in this plane that she was lost. Her best friend, Thaden, who won the transcontinental race over Amelia, tried to persuade her not to make the flight. She felt Earhart had done enough to establish women as true pilots of the sky. As the author reveals, Earhart’s tragic death dwarfed the bravery, sacrifices, and achievements of the women who flew with her.



“A little reading is all the therapy a person needs sometimes.”
—Author unknown



Knights of North Castle! We are going Virtual! Want to Join Us? Email Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org.

With all the uncertainties in regards to COVID-19 we have made another change to our VBS. We are going virtual! We will have a planned out program with most of the aspects of our regular VBS, but everything will be online. Music, crafts, science, story time etc.

Our idea is to provide everything needed in early July. We will create VBS home kits that we will either have you pick up or drop off. **One option** will be to do VBS at your own pace over as many days as you wish. **The second option** is we will have one week, **July 27 through 31**, where we meet in community through Zoom. We will greet each other and show the opening and music together. We hope to have breakout rooms for crafts and science for some different age groups. We will miss being with your children in person but we hope to provide them with some fun and engaging activities.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to update or program. We are looking forward to an exciting time with Knights of North Castle!

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

Children's Topics

WEEK ONE

HEBREWS 11:1-12:3 Faith Is...

SAY THIS: You can know Jesus even though you've never seen Him.

WEEK TWO

ACTS 9:1-9 Paul Becomes a Believer

SAY THIS: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see everything.

WEEK THREE

ACTS 9:10-31 Ananias Helps Paul

SAY THIS: Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.

WEEK FOUR

ACTS 10 Peter Goes to the House of Cornelius

SAY THIS: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see others.

REMEMBER THIS: "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see." — HEBREWS 11:1, NIrV

FAITH: Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.

Every Sunday

Watch for new protocols when on-campus worship resumes.

9 a.m. Sunday school meets

K to Grade 5: Lamm Hall

Grades 6 to 12: Room 202

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

Childcare for all ages in Tot Spot, either 9 or 10:30 a.m. service.

Weekly Programming

Watch for information about when Middle School and High School Youth meetings will resume.

Music

Watch for information about the Children's and Youth Choirs, as well as Bros and Belles handbells, when we can resume on-campus activities.



Sunday School Update

We have been meeting virtually on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Want to join us? Email Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org. We play games, have a story, and check in with each other.

We've done some drop-offs to stay connected. Watch for Father's Day bags!

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Nancy Alexander	JoAnn Hirsch
Nancy Benvenuto	Susie McKnight
Shana Carroll	Marsha Perkins
Leslie Gross	

Continued Prayers For...

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families, Bob DeChene, Doug Domergue, Connie Erickson, Felicia Hildard, Joan Lee, Lea Patteson, Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder, Shirley Slater, Joan Webb, Jeannine Woolery

Our Christian Sympathy To...

The family and friends of **Fran Darnely**, who died in April.

Sally Andrews, who lost her mother. Cards and prayers are appreciated.

Debbie and John Hammond and their family following the death of their son, Robert.

Gay Scott and her family following the death of David Scott.

The family and friends of **Dorothy Brose**, who passed in April.

Name Tags

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

June Celebrations

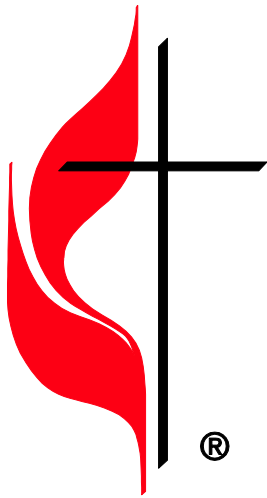
Birthdays



1 John Hammond	10 Alex Buckley	21 Mary Ellen Brown
Gianna Leotini	11 Evan Cerda	Beth McClelland
Marty Osborn	Jeff Lang	Mark Schramm
2 Quinn McDaniel	Trice Rainer	22 Jennifer Helms
Jane VanderWerf	12 Steve Elliot	Matt Davis
4 Nick Brown	13 Nadia Blank-Koliha	Justin Koos
5 Genevieve DeWalt	14 Grace Soderlund	23 Lee Rust
Nader Saghafi	Brian Steffy	24 Amy Parnes
6 Dana Jancarik	16 Nancy Mills	25 Cindy Leonard
ClaudeC Johannessen	Elyse Rigolfi	26 Jaden Andres
John Stienstra	17 Kaylee Bain	Dan Saghafi
7 Tom Byrom	Jo Anne Erickson	27 Tom Mullican
8 Linn Coombs	Leah Schroeder	29 Jess Erickson
Steve Newburn	18 Rudy Ceragioli	30 Sara Rossini
9 Susie Barton	Erin Lowther	John Schnittker
Mike Dominici	19 Sharon Greene	Jerry Slater
Wolf Meier	Grayson Metcalf	Liz Walz

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Joan & Allan Ross	12 Sandy & Bill Gsand (55)	19 Linn & Dave Coombs (53)
4 Norma Jean & Jim Bunker (54)	Joanne & Harry Knapp	21 Marge & Steve Wood
5 Ellen & James Kocins	Linda & Larry Stone (55)	22 Linda & Mark Dew-Hiersoux
Myla & Christopher Niederauer	14 Debbie & Mike Kelly	24 Mary Ellen & Robert Brown (58)
6 Carrie & Jeff Doyle	15 Linda Ashcraft & Richard Hudak	Marla & Bob Schleicher
Cindy & Rob Rudow	Marilyn & Julien Hansen (63)	26 Rosanne & Michael Ogles (55)
9 Peggy & Horace Crawford (58)	16 Teresa & Steve Marohn	Jane & Steve Roath (55)
Victoria & Greg Longstreet	Barb & Dean McWilliams (58)	27 Liz & Don Field (50)
10 Kim Risedorph & Steve Elliott	17 Karen & Tony Stepper (53)	Joan & David Pierce (50)
Marti & Robert Starnes	18 Glenda & Wai Chang	30 Annemarie & Greg Warwick
11 Lori & Dave Ratto	Donna Paula-Willis & Dan Willis	



JUNE 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

June 2020

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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