



Valley Messenger

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

JULY 2020

Pastor's Pulse ~

Welcome Pastor Mantu, Heidi, and Children

On July 1, we officially welcome our new $\frac{3}{4}$ time associate pastor, Mantu Joshi.

Mantu is looking forward to getting to know you, even as we continue to shelter in place. The first Sunday in July, Pastor Mantu will be helping to lead worship. Please plan to join in the livestreamed service or catch it later on YouTube or our website. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee is also organizing small group meetings, many via Zoom, so that you can meet him. *(For Pastor Mantu's available times to meet with your small group, contact Larry Stone at llstone@comcast.net. The Among Ourselves section of Page 14 lists some times.)*

The Joshi family recently returned to the California-Nevada Annual Conference when Mantu's spouse, Heidi, took a position as a manager and faculty at the UCSF/John Muir Family Medi-cine Residency in Wand alnut Creek. Pastor Mantu last served as Pastor of Congregational Development and Innovation at First UMC in Kalamazoo, Michigan where he was also an in-structor at Western Michigan University. Pastor Mantu is a published author of many articles on parenting kids with spe-cial needs and the book ***The Resilient Parent***. He has ap-peared numerous times on NPR and in other media. He went to Garrett Seminary in the Chicago area, where he was award-ed the prestigious Jackson Scholarship for preaching. Heidi and Mantu have two girls, the 5th grader loves swimming and drama, and the 1st grader enjoys singing and playing on the monkey bars (often both at the same time). Heidi and Mantu are college sweethearts who met while sing-ing together.

(Mantu in pronounced like the first syllable of Monday fol-lowed by first syllable of Tuesday: MonTu)

Pagtor Kim

WELCOME

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Next Issue: August 2020

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

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Facilities & Purchasing Manager

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The Standard No Contact Policy of One Year

I'm sure many of you are aware of the no-contact-with-the-departing-pastor policy or you've heard others speak of it, perhaps in snarky tones. It is easily misunderstood, particularly if you happen to be grieving that pastor's departure.

Here's how I understand it. ***We are asked to avoid contact for one year.*** We call it a policy but it's rather more of a *norm*, a product of wisdom borne of a great deal of awkwardness and one observed by all churches I know of, not just United Methodists. It serves a couple purposes.

First, it's a professional courtesy between pastors. For ***Mantu's*** sake, I need to step aside so that the allegiance you've so generously shown me you can now transfer to him. Embrace him as warmly as you've embraced me, and you'll bring out his best (it's a best that's worth having, I promise). You can't do this if you haven't let go of me.

Second, for ***my*** sake, I need to face squarely in the new direction I've been given. My call demands it. If part of me is still turned toward you, then I can't give my new congregation what I've been so privileged to give to you. Please know I ache at the prospect of turning away from you. Here's what I tell myself instead: My heart isn't turning away from you, just my attention. It's like I'm putting my investment in you into a blind trust.

Look on this transition not in terms of a "no contact policy." See it instead as a ministry in which you have a vital role through which you grant a two-sided blessing. On the one side, you're giving me the room to set about the difficult work of a new ministry. On the other, you're giving Pastor Mantu the opening to enter into your lives as I have and to care for you as I always will, albeit now in a different mode.

Lastly, since my new church is in Rossmoor where many of you live, there's a fair chance we'll bump into one another. You don't need to duck behind a hedge or pass by without saying hello. We will simply need to acknowledge the new distance between us. One that will forever be holy ground.

Pastor Dan

(We are allowed to send Christmas cards. I asked.—Editor)

Racial Issues Confronting Us

Series of TED Talks and Discussion

Pastor Mantu Joshi

Beginning July 19, 11 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

We are a community on a journey with God, mind, body and soul: Christians listening, learning and hoping to gain new understandings and awareness. Please join us on this new part of our journey of "becoming"! **For Zoom meeting information, contact Lucinda Huffaker at Lucinda.Huffaker@gmail.com.**

Meeting This Pair of New Members

Being a “reconciling church” includes extra efforts in hospitality toward anyone who has a disability. Our new associate pastor’s spouse, Dr. Heidi Joshi, is a person who is blind. People who are blind/visually impaired are of course just like anyone else; they just have figured out different ways to be in the world. So, don’t be shy and feel free to engage in conversation and welcome. You might be interested to learn that Dr. Heidi Joshi, who works for John Muir/UCSF as a behavioral health manager and faculty, has been very active in her work with mental health and teaching new doctors all through this COVID-19 pandemic. She does all that important work and more with the help of her Seeing-Eye dog, “Lake.” Lake, through intensive breeding and training, is much more than a pet, keeping Heidi safe and deferring to Heidi’s handling, while taking the physical lead to keep her safe.

Keeping Lake’s training in good stead is paramount to Heidi’s safety, so please remember not to pet or call out to Lake (the dog guide). If other people forget, please gently remind them. If the harness is on, the dog is working. Just keep your focus on the human being in front of you!

Another great thing to remember is to use “phone etiquette” when talking with any congregant or visitor who is blind or visually impaired. Say, “Hi Heidi, this is John.” and speak in a normal voice.

Then, jump in and ask her about shared interests such as parenting, medical education in the twenty-first century, or the musical, “Hamilton” (Pastor Mantu and Heidi are big fans!). Avoid personal questions such as “How did you become blind?”

Stick to the same avenues of conversation you would enjoy with anyone else and err on the side of connecting, even if a guide dog team is new for you.



Heidi and her guide dog, Lake. Remember: When Lake is wearing a harness, the dog is working. The best thing to do if you see the harness is to pretend the dog isn’t there.

Meeting a Guide Dog

- **Dogs don’t understand physical distancing.** Please take responsibility for maintaining a distance of six feet.
- **Don’t pet, feed, talk or make eye contact with the dog when it’s working.** A working dog needs to avoid distraction.
- **If you happen to have your own animal with you, don’t let your pet “say hi.”** Momentary socializing can cause a guide dog to lose focus.

Also helpful to remember

- Don’t shout directions, take person who is blind by the arm or interrupt them. Always ask the person if he or she needs help first.
- It’s often helpful to let a blind person know that you are nearby. Practice “phone etiquette.”

More information

<https://www.seeingeye.org/assets/pdfs/etiquette-5-tips-for-when.pdf>

<https://www.guidedogs.com/explore-resources/general-information/blindness-and-guide-dog-etiquette>

Did You Know?

The term “The Seeing Eye” refers specifically to guide dogs bred and trained at facilities in Morristown, NJ and is a registered trademark of that particular program. The nonprofit organization was founded in 1929 to facilitate the independence and activity of blind people. The Seeing Eye trains dogs from puppies to build their special skills, and then teaches blind people how to partner with the dogs.



Church Campus Reopening Update

(There Are a Lot of Moving Parts!)

We continue to prepare to safely reopen our church campus. We are so looking forward to that gradual process!

We are tentatively looking at holding one outdoor service later in July. Those attending will be required to wear masks and to physically distance. We will continue to livestream services as well.

Children's Ministries will **not** open at this time. We are working with our Children's Committee to make a safe plan for resuming Children's classes.

The Task Force for Re-Opening meets weekly and is working hard between meetings to fill requirements set by the county, health officials and our Northern California-Nevada United Methodist Conference. Among the considerations:

- What process will we use to limit the number of folks who can attend a service?
- How will we set up one, and only one, entrance to the campus?
- Who will confirm all are wearing masks and practicing physical distancing?
- Which bathrooms will be available, and how will they be properly cleaned?
- Where will hand sanitizing stations be placed?
- How will we confirm that those joining in worship are healthy?
- What system will we have in place for knowing who attended in case contact tracing is needed?

Before we can open, we have to write down how we will address all these issues and get approval from our United Methodist Conference. In addition, we need to meet requirements set by our insurance company.

We are also paying attention to how many new cases of COVID-19 occur in our area. ***Our goals in all of this are: to do no harm; create and sustain authentic faith communities; serve the most vulnerable around us.***

Please be patient as we make sure all safety measures are in place. We will keep you updated. Feel free to contact Pastor Kim or the church office with your questions and input. Our main concern is offering a safe place for meaningful worship.

What Do We Know Already?

There are a few things we know about the first Sunday worship service open to members based on requirements of county, state, church conference and insurance. ***First of all, if you've already developed a fondness of watching from Facebook or YouTube, don't worry: services will always be livestreamed from now on.***

Worship will be outside, in the courtyard, on the first Sunday back. Also, we will need to have only one entrance and one exit from our worship area, so it will be important for you to follow instructions.

You will sign a waiver when you come to the church. The task force is still constructing a waiver that meets with the standards required. This document will want you to list everyone from your household who is present for worship, even your children, for contact tracing if necessary.

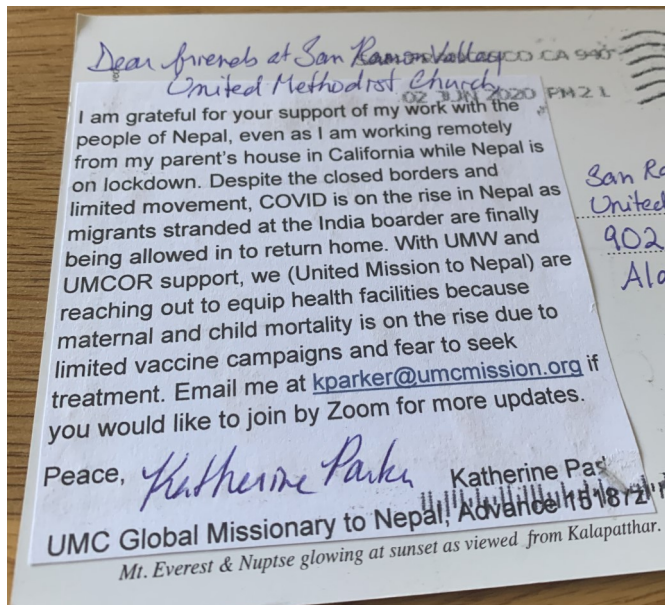
Everyone will wear a mask. We will be required to ensure that all of us wear masks for the 45 minutes to an hour of worship service. Apart from the rules, though, you might think of it as a gesture of fellowship with the more frail among us who will find our precautions reassuring. If you forget your mask, then one will be provided for you.

The congregation will not sing or speak in unison. Only Living Water will perform at these first several in-person services at the church. Feel free to clap along, though, if it seems appropriate.

Physical distancing will be observed. As exciting as it will be to see one another in person, we must resist the temptation to hug people from outside our household if we want to continue on-site worship services.

Offering plates will not be passed. It's better for everyone if we don't touch any more surfaces than necessary during worship. Please consider texting an offering, donating through the church website, or mailing a check to the church office instead.

Missionary Katherine Parker Update: COVID-19 in Nepal



San Ramon Valley UMC has an ongoing relationship with Katherine, who has served in Nepal for years. She visited SRVUMC in May 2016.

What Happens on Your First Stephen Ministry Visit?

By Sylvia Benzler

What is Stephen Ministry at SRVUMC?

Stephen Ministry is a group of SRVUMC members who have been trained as lay people to provide a listening ear, and a loving heart to people in our community who are going through challenging times in their lives. Most of the situations involve grief whether it be death, divorce, separation, job loss, diagnosis of a serious illness, issues around parenting, or other life issues and transitions. Our purpose is to confidentially be there for you as you share your story, share your feelings and as you process your grief. We are not professional counselors but instead we are caring Christians to be with, one on one, in troubling times.

The First Visit

The first visit is a time to get to know each other and for you to share what is happening in your life and what your needs or goals might be. Often the needs and goals in the beginning are simply to share with someone who cares. Over time, as you process your feelings this will help you gain insight. Your needs may change, and a Stephen minister is trained to help facilitate your processing of those needs as well.

Also, on the first visit, the Stephen Minister will talk with you about ongoing peer Stephen Ministers' training meetings and how confidentiality works. Your relationship with him or her is always confidential unless you choose for someone to know about it. You will be reminded that this is time just for you to share and be cared for instead of a two-way relationship.

If you are struggling with a difficult time in life and would like a Stephen Minister, then please let Pastor Kim know. You can also contact Al Banisch at albanisch@comcast.net or Lisa Jancarik at lisa-jancarik@gmail.com in confidence.



Giving by Text

To give by text,

1) type the text number **833-755-0229**.

2) type the amount (**number only, no decimals**) space followed by the ONE word for the fund you are choosing.

- **General** designates giving to General Fund.
- **Communion** designates giving to monthly communion Fund.
- **Meals** designates giving to Meals with Grace Fund.

You do still have alternatives to giving by text message. Donation through the church's [website](#) is gaining popularity, but you can also send a check by US Postal Service or arrange for automatic bill pay with your bank.



Our Community Says Thank You

Dear San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church members,

On behalf of Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers, I want to thank you for your generosity to our staff during the Covid-19 emergency.

Thanks to you, the meals you have so thoughtfully donated to our night-time shift have brought encouragement to our staff and as reminded us that our community is behind its front-line healthcare workers.

We hope that you will accept this certificate of appreciation as a token of our gratitude to you as a community partner.

Please stay safe, stay healthy, and thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Samir B. Shah, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Acting Chief Executive Officer

May 12, 2020

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

902 San Ramon Blvd

Alamo, CA 94507

Thank you for your FANTASTIC food drive donation of 468 pounds of food from the friends of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church! Your donations were received 01/01.2020 through 3/31/2020. Your donations equate to 390 meals which will brighten many faces. We are very appreciative of your continued support of the Food Bank and those in need in our community!

How does your donation help?

Together we feed Julie and her 12-year-old daughter. When Julie's job was outsourced, she turned to the Food Bank to supplement her family of five with fruits and vegetables.

Together we feed Doris, the Richmond senior citizen who lost everything in a fire, including her daughter and now cares for her seven grandchildren.

Together we feed Diana, the mother of two who takes care of her young children and ill mother while her husband works but still can't afford the food their family needs.

Together we feed Eli whose hours were cut and Venji who could no longer work. The food they got from the Food Bank supplemented from the little they could afford at the grocery store.

Together we serve 178,000 people each month and distribute over 70,000 pounds of food every working day. Those that receive your food donations, whether they are children, seniors, low-income or just hungry, gratefully appreciate your kindness in thinking of them. THANK YOU for providing food to feed Charles and his family. We hope you will continue to support the Food Bank and the new families that come to us for assistance. Together we are ending hunger!

Sincerely,

Neil Zarchin

Food Drive Administrator

925-771-1315

nzarchin@foodbankccs.org

Fed Tax ID 94-2418054



Meals With Grace feeds ICU and ER workers at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek with about 50 meals, including drinks and desserts.

Winter Nights Says Thank You

Dear San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church,

May 7, 2020

We prepared for a normal year with helping families become self-sustaining, but this year, with the corona virus pandemic that has hit our nation and the world, it has been anything but normal. Winter Nights Family Shelter is following the Governor's orders to Shelter In Place, and we are adjusting to the that. For as long as the shelter open moms, dads and children will be in one place full time. They will be like the rest of us and will stay "home" except for certain designated reasons.

We asked for donations to help with the purchase of food from restaurants for dinners and for emergency offsite quarantine. Dinner arrangements have been made, and we are working on the next weeks for all food needs. We have not yet had to quarantine any family with a sick member. Thank you for answering the call.

Managing 15 children in one area was a challenge. We had quiet/study times twice a day where school age children worked on assignments given by their teachers. In addition, our Traveling Tutors are planned to visit them by video conferencing if they need help or motivation. We continue our reading program where those who read or are read to are awarded a gift card for 10 hours of reading. Your donations will support our children in this way.

Our plan is to continue to house families until they move into housing. Of the six remaining families, two have moved into housing, one left the program, and the rest are talking with housing agencies. We now have 3 families in the shelter. We want you to know that because of your generous contribution, we are able to help families with their expenses when they move into their own homes. For this we are very grateful.

We will not miss having over 100+ volunteers per week to serve food and provide activities for children and adults as well. Our staff will be doing extra duty because of the absence of volunteers. We appreciate their willingness to serve in this very difficult and challenging time.

Our Parking Lot Program is still open and we are considering extending it past April to help those living in their cars. They have access to the Oasis three days a week for showers, and we have been able to help them with food.

Thank you very much for your contribution of \$7000 on 5/4/2020. It will help meet the needs of the Winter Nights' families and help them move forward for a better future.

Sincerely,

Judy Stillman

Executive Director



Stay Organized!

Contact Marilyn Clarke at mclarke@srvumc.org to put your Zoom meeting on the church calendar and avoid doubling up on the Zoom account.

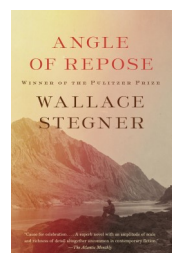
Afternoon Book Group

Monday, July 20, 1 p.m.
Zoom meeting!

Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner

Discussion leader Jenny Swanson

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



Our Staff Are Superheroes!

On behalf of the whole congregation of SRVUMC the Staff Parish Relations Committee wishes to thank our amazing, hardworking staff for all they have done, and are still doing, to keep the church operating in this unbelievably challenging time.

Imagine...

You are the pastor, and all of a sudden you have to shut down the church—no one is in the pews in the Sanctuary when you are preaching, everyone on the staff is now working from home, members cannot come to the church for meetings or activities, and you are in charge! Pastor Kim may be small, but she is mighty! She and Pastor Dan are leading us through this pandemic with faith, creativity, strong management skills and an outstanding staff who make it all happen. Here are just a few of the things the staff has been doing:

- **Establishing home offices.** This involved moving boxes of files from church to home and making necessary changes in computer technology.
- **Checking in with church members by phone.** Maintaining our church community means checking on member safety, taking calls and questions, arranging for deliveries as necessary, continuing *Messenger* and *Friday Memo* communications to keep the congregation informed and connected.
- **Zoom Connections.** Our staff helps members learn how to connect via Zoom and set up small group meetings as well as a multitude of committee meetings.
- **Worship.** Learning how to conduct online worship services has provided a real learning curve for our wonderful audiovisual manager and our pastors as they bring us inspiring weekly messages to keep us fed. Our musicians lift our spirits with their beautiful music.
- **Office Management.** Our incredible office manager has worked hard to figure out how to shut down the office and keep business flowing by assigning responsibilities to staff, handling a multitude of HR and personnel related requirements, answering hundreds of questions from volunteers, and working with the accounting staff. Now she is working on managing the reopening of the campus. Our accountant team has worked under a stressful



time crunch in providing information required for the church to apply for, and secure, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) grant in addition to their other duties.

- **Family Ministries.** Our Family and Youth ministers have worked hard and creatively to find ways to stay connected to our families...even to include virtual Sunday school and camps!
- **Facilities.** This has been an opportunity for deep cleaning and maintenance that cannot be done when the church is in full operation. Staff and volunteers have been working hard on maintenance, cleaning and security. Now, in order to meet the State and County requirements for reopening, many materials used for cleaning and sanitizing need to be ordered.
- **The Preschool and ARC.** Shutting down these facilities due to COVID-19 has presented enormous challenges and difficult decisions.

So, we can say without doubt that “Our Staff Are Superheroes!” We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for keeping the church vibrant and alive, even when shut down.

There are more volunteers than can be named who have also kept the church alive. While we cannot name them all, we want to highlight just a few: **Jeff Stroin** who just stepped into the Chair of the Finance Committee job and immediately had to deal with applying for the PPP grant; **Gary Swanson and the Sodbuster team** who keep the grounds beautifully maintained; and **Boyd Hasik, Brian Roberts, and Jeff Lang** who provide every kind of maintenance, security, and technology support possible.

With deepest appreciation to all who help make SRVUMC the loving, giving church family that it is.

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee

July Communion Offering

Monument Crisis Center

Based in Concord, [Monument Crisis Center](#) offers nutritious food and other resources to families in Central and Eastern Contra Costa County. Last year, Monument provided about one million meals to its clients.

Monument began in 2003 with a small group of concerned citizens. Startup funding came from Safeway Foundation, the Salvation Army, Soroptimist International of Pleasant Hill and independent donors, while enthusiasm came from area high school students. On their first day of operation, they distributed food to 84 families. Today, Monument distributes food to more than 15,000 households per year, and each distribution serves between 80 and 120 families. The group purchases food from the food bank, but it also receives private food donations, taking in 12,000 lbs. of food in donations every month.

Monument's core effort is food distribution, but it is not its only program. For example, its Youth Enrichment Program offers after-school tutoring, a teen center and summer camp for school-age kids. Monument also hosts a resource fair annually, acquainting visitors with employment, health and wellness, and English language classes available to them. Finally, Senior Moments provides lunch and bingo, as well as health screenings and some groceries with this opportunity to socialize.



Did You Know?

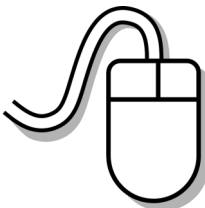
In April, California's food banks were hit with a double whammy. Demand for food distribution spiked with unemployment. However, donations fell off around the time that these organizations found themselves having to purchase for more food, which they bought in bulk. Read more about how California's food distribution programs have struggled during the pandemic in this article by [The Guardian](#).

Pandemic Activity at Monument Crisis Center

According to the organization's website, all regular programming has been suspended until further evaluation in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. In June, Monument Crisis Center offered emergency food distribution on Mondays and Tuesdays, and this program is expected to continue through July. They also made referrals for certain services, but no other on-site activity.

This means their annual backpack drive is not currently set up to happen again this summer. However, Hope Solutions is offering a backpack drive this year, and details about it appear on Page 10 of the newsletter.

Exciting Times!
Our new website
goes *LIVE* on
July 3



Check it out at www.srvumc.org!

Bored?

As long as you're fussing with your cell phone anyway, why not give your church a review on Yelp! or Google?

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

The **Sodbusters** are looking for volunteers to share in the upkeep of our church campus. Work with the group or fit some yardwork into your own schedule. Please contact **Gary Swanson** at garyswanson811@gmail.com or 925-437-2887.



Hope Solutions Opportunities

Pick up and deliver beds. Transporting beds to new residents throughout Contra Costa County is a great challenge during these times. Volunteers pick up mattresses and platforms (both boxed) from the Hope Solutions office in Pleasant Hill and deliver them. ***Deliveries will be porch deliveries only, no need to set up the beds.*** Contact Sandibel at sarnold@hopesolutions.org.



Sew masks. If you sew, then Hope Solutions wants your help to sew face masks for their residents. If movement restrictions might prevent you from volunteering, Hope Solutions can arrange to drop off materials and pick up masks. If you would like to sew some face masks, we encourage you to use patterns at <https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/#face-mask-pattern>. Please contact Sandibel at sarnold@hopesolutions.org to arrange for materials.

Donate to the online backpack drive. Hope Solutions is partnering with the [Sydney Paige Foundation](https://www.sydney Paige Foundation) to supply backpacks through donations or purchases of complete kits through the website, <https://give.sydney Paige.org/hope2020>. Hope Solutions has a goal of supporting over 400 backpacks loaded with appropriate and much-needed supplies.

Trinity Center Comes Home

Recently, Trinity Center, the Walnut Creek homeless respite center, moved from its temporary quarters in Walnut Creek to its permanent location on Trinity Avenue. The new facility is known as “Trinity Commons,” offering 30 studios and fourteen one-bedroom apartments on the grounds of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church at 1888 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek CA 94596. We are delighted to learn that a number of the Trinity Center participants have qualified for this housing and have moved in. The first floor is dedicated to Trinity Center services and facility management.

Trinity Center is a program serving homeless and working poor adult men and women in Walnut Creek and Central Contra Costa County. Trinity Center offers a safety net of basic human services, including:

- breakfast and hot lunch
- mail and telephone access
- showers
- laundry
- clothing
- case management and referral services
- substance use
- mental health
- support groups

SRVUMC has been supporting Trinity Center for many years through church member volunteering, donations, and Friday Food for Thought meals for the past seven years.

For more information and pictures of the facility, please go to the Trinity Center web site: trinitycenterwc.org.



St. Paul's Commons, now home of Trinity Center.



We have all missed the love and fellowship (and great food!) that was the first and third Tuesday of the month. We'll be together again someday. Until then, stay safe and sane, and please reach out to me or others in the church if you need anything!

—Nancy Benvenuto

Church Council

Notes From the June 16, 2020 Meeting

Compensation. Charge Council (the first part of this June Church Council session) reviewed the proposed salaries for **Senior Pastor Kim Risedorph** and **Associate Pastor Mantu Joshi**. Discussion was led by **Pastor Kathy La Pointe-Collup**. Motions for each salary **PASSED**.

Reopening Task Force, Update. The task force needs guidance from the conference, which is in its own formative process. For now, the task force moves forward in drafting our own details to serve the larger conference. Among significant tasks is developing a suitable waiver for entry into the church campus for insurance and contact tracing purposes that is also not off-putting. The conference also requires the presence of monitors at church gatherings watching for signs of illness in the group. Protocols for on-campus services are under development. Opening the ARC and the children's programs may be in a different stage. The current messaging is to stay home if you are at all ill or concerned that you might be ill. The Task Force is planning on an outdoor service, an early service in the courtyard, maximum 100 participants, in demarcated, social distanced spaces. The second service will be live streamed in the Sanctuary, per usual. No services are permitted by the conference before the end of June. Written protocols must be approved by the conference before SRVUMC can proceed with its own programs and worship. The first Sunday back on campus will not be a Communion Sunday. *(See Page 4 for more about reopening plans.)*

AV Equipment for Wesley Center. For livestreaming services into Wesley Center from within the Sanctuary for a total of \$12,734.76. During the pandemic, this AV equipment will allow more social distancing for on-campus worship, possibly separating more vulnerable members from the general population. This expenditure will upgrade outdated existing equipment no longer supported by the manufacturer. In a post-

pandemic scenario, Wesley Center may allow livestreaming of the service regularly for families. If Church Council approves the measure, the Council Reserve Fund will have remaining in it \$116,329.43. Motion is **PASSED**.

Preschool. The Preschool Commission has decided to remain closed until the fall, pending progress on coronavirus vaccine or treatment development, and prevalence in the local population. The intention is to open in fall of 2020 if it is possible to do so, and the Preschool Commission has voted unanimously to do so. Church Council **APPROVES** their plan.

ARC. Coached youth leagues are expected to open in July, pending 1) detailed protocols are entirely in place and approved, 2) waiver language is finalized, and 3) methods are in place for paperwork. Informal use of the ARC for pickleball, et cetera, is not yet ready for reopening and will be addressed later. **Lyn Arscott** and **Joey Fuca** are developing protocols and techniques for paperwork. Protocols include taking temperatures, checking for masks and preparing screening questions for incoming participants. **Terry Sherman** is developing the waiver for the coached youth leagues. Discussion centered on finding models within or outside our own conference for developing our own plans. Church Council anticipates calling a special meeting to consider this particular issue before the regularly scheduled July meeting. The Re-Opening Task Force has not yet reviewed ARC protocols, waivers and paperwork methods.

Lyn Arscott proposed as Manager of Treasury Direct Accounts for the ARC. Motion **PASSES**.

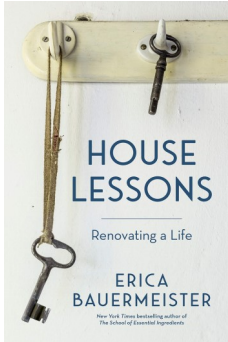
The July meeting will discuss the forgiveness application for the PPP loan.



Between the Bookends



By The Library Committee



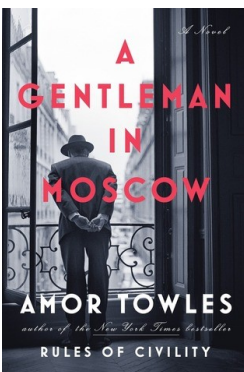
Bauermeister, Erica, *House Lessons: Renovating a Life*. Bauermeister and her husband buy a rundown Victorian house in Port Townsend Washington because they feel magically drawn to it. Although the book has a lot of construction details, it also has gems about architecture and family life. The vivid writing gives one a feeling of being in the town

of Port Townsend and experiencing the views and the charm as well as the muscle-wrenching work that the family does together. This biographical book is an interesting read that deals with the human feelings and transitions that we all face as we grapple with the practicalities that life imposes upon us.

Bohnet, Jennifer, *A Riviera Retreat*. This engaging book has a plot inspired by the movie *Enchanted April*. In an effort to give back for her good fortune, the owner of an auberge near Cannes runs a contest to pick three women to enjoy a free ten-day vacation. The women chosen are of varied ages and backgrounds, but all are at crossroads in their lives. Their time at this auberge helps them come to terms with what they want to do in the years ahead.

The lovely setting and the warm personalities of the various characters make this bit of comfort reading a good escape.

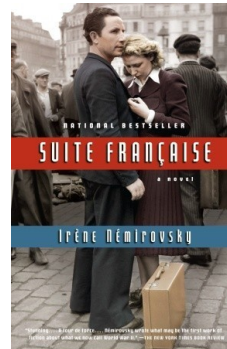
Here are two former favorites that you might want to revisit:



Towles, Amor, *A Gentleman in Moscow*. The gentleman is Count Alexander Rostov, and the Bolshevik government in 1922 Moscow doesn't know quite what to do with him. They acknowledge he was an early supporter of Revolution, but now they're not so sure. The man is an intellectual, which is always dangerous. So they banish him to the hotel where he'd been living in luxury,

but now he has been moved to a tiny attic room. He is

safe there, but if he leaves the hotel for any reason, he'll be shot. The Count forges a new life as he freely roams the hotel, getting to know those who work there, and guests as they come and go. Full of wise and witty repartee and sparkling humor, this is also on every bestseller list. Stylish and memorable.



Nemirovsky, Irene. *Suite Française; a Novel*. This is actually two novellas, written by a Russian Jew who had lived most of her life in Paris and converted to Catholicism. She was a marked woman in Petain's Vichy France and was sent to and died in Auschwitz. However, friends hid her two little girls, and they survived the war, and with them, their mother's notes for this book. It is interesting because it describes what was happening in Nazi-run France, but it is truly a novel and much more than a journal. Her daughter, Denise, did not read and appreciate the fragile pages until fifty years later, and this book is the result.



"Many people, other than the authors, contribute to the making of a book, from the first person who had the bright idea of alphabetic writing through the inventor of movable type to the lumberjacks who felled the trees that were pulped for its printing. It is not customary to acknowledge the trees themselves, though their commitment is total."

—Forsyth and Rada, Machine Learning



Announcements

Parent Connection Virtual Bingo.

July 12 at 5:30 p.m. I will send Bingo cards by email and we will have a family friendly game. So pop some popcorn and pull up a chair! Email Laura Roy for bingo cards and Zoom invite!



Knights of North Castle Virtual VBS!

We have a few virtual spots available...go to www.srvumc.org

to register today.

Important update regarding this year's Knights of North Castle VBS!

We will have everything online. Music, crafts, science, story time etc. We will create VBS home kits that we will drop off in early July.

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 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

Sunday School Topics

WEEK ONE

EPHESIANS 2:8-9, Grace is a Gift

SAY THIS: Jesus is a gift for everyone.

WEEK TWO

ACTS 17:16-34, Paul in Athens/
Unknown God

SAY THIS: You can help others know Jesus.

WEEK THREE

ACTS 27-28, Paul Shipwrecked

SAY THIS: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.

WEEK FOUR

REVELATION 21:3-5A, Heaven

SAY THIS: Following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.

REMEMBER THIS: "God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift." EPHESIANS 2:8, NIV

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.

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.

Donuts With Dad

In June we dropped off "Donuts with Dad" bags to help the kids celebrate their amazing fathers! Bags included donuts, hot chocolate and a card craft kit. More drop offs planned for the future to stay connected!



Zoom Into Sunday School!

Join us for Zoom Sunday school. New! The 3's to 2nd grade meet at 10 a.m. with teacher Laura and the 3rd to 5th graders meet with teacher Tom at 10:45 a.m. Email Laura at lroy@srvumc.org for the Zoom code. We play games, have a story, and check in with each other.

Reopening Sunday school: We are working with the task force and the UMC to find the safest way to begin holding classes in person. Watch for further details soon. Questions? **Email Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org.**

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Nancy Alexander	JoAnn Hirsch
Nancy Benvenuto	Susie McKnight
Shana Carroll	Marsha Perkins
Skip George	
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 Hil-	lard, Joan Lee, Lea Patteson, Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder, Shirley Slater, Joan Webb, Jeannine Woolery
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Name Tags

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

Schedule Your Small Group To Meet With Pastor Mantu!

The times below are available for your small group to meet with Pastor Mantu. Please contact **Larry Stone** at llstone@comcast.net to schedule your own group.

Monday, July 6—9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tuesday, July 7—2 p.m.

Thursday, July 9—10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. *The Friday Men's Group is already slated to meet with Pastor Mantu at 9:30 a.m. Easter People is already scheduled to meet with him at 8 p.m.*

Saturday, July 11—10:30 a.m. *Men's Faith Sharing is already scheduled to meet with Pastor Mantu at 9:30 a.m.*

Monday, July 13—9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14—2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 16—9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 8 p.m. *LiFT is already scheduled to meet with Pastor Mantu at 10:30 a.m.*

Saturday, July 18—9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

July Celebrations

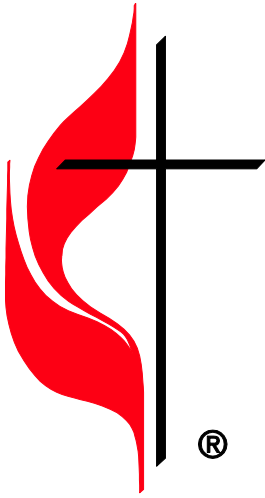
Birthdays



1 Olivia Durrenberger	Robert Winter	Mitch Nicco
3 Greg Benvenuto	15 Gloria Holleman	Kathy Sheppard
4 Don Field	Rebecca Mays	24 Whitney Tiedemann-McCollum
6 Xan Alexander	Briggs Wood	25 Willy Adam
Stephanie Ricker Schmalz	16 Melissa Stroin	Rich Lowther
7 Brenda Domergue	17 Nancy Alexander	26 Ryan Leontini
Fred Toney	Steve McAdams	Bill Sabin (93)
9 Graydon Bazell	Caroline Walsh	27 Malia Malin
10 Shannon Dever	18 Meghan Hagebush	Valerie Miller
Vin Hirsch	19 Judy Baker	Jerry Ricker
Kathy Kennedy	John Orr	28 Janet Steffy
11 Marti Starnes	Marilyn Scott	Brian Stocking
Teri Voegtler	20 Esi Impraim	29 Joseph Saghafi
12 Linda Ashcraft	21 Carol Fhlug	30 Jeff Schroeder
Amelie Sepull	Harry Hanover (93)	Randy Slinger
Sherrie Weis	Ginger McGuffin	
Katie Wolfram	Bill Rust	
13 Devon Drake	22 Shirley Slater	
14 Amy Riedel	Larry Stone	
Kim Soderlund	23 Pam Lewey	

Wedding Anniversaries

2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts (54)	15 Kerry & Scott Davis	Alice Anthony & Alex Iantuano
5 Carol & John Sayers (57)	16 Rebecca & Roger Ten Elshof	22 Jennifer & Don Andres
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell	17 Trudy & Larry Pasquale	23 Marianne & Bruce Templeton
Judy & Randy Slinger	19 Kim Maddux & Eric Perry	28 Beverly & Steve McAdams
8 Pam & Alan Christian	20 Katy & Gregg Mannell	31 Marci & Kelly Milligan
Jane & John VanderWerf	21 Liz & David Bayat	
9 Debbie & John Hammond	Tim & Megan Buckley	
Linda & Curtis Jimerson	Nancy & John Harrison	



JULY 2020

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. livestream on Facebook!

Watch your email for information about when on-campus services will resume.

Child Care for birth-kindergarten is not currently available during the morning services in Tot Spot. Watch for updates about when this service will resume.

July 2020

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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