



Valley Messenger

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

NOVEMBER 2020

Pastor's Pulse ~

The Mountain Beneath My Feet

I have realized that with all that has happened and all the hills and valleys we have traversed over the last few months as a church, nation and world, that I have not taken the time to share with you more about myself and my family's immigrant story. This is a portion of what my response might be when people ask, "Where are you from?"

My parents in the late 1960s decided to leave India and to immigrate to the United States for the American Dream. They lived in a friend's basement for six months in Canada and then moved to Tallahassee, Florida with my older sister in tow. My mother worked odd jobs and watched my sister in a trailer park while my father pursued a Ph.D. in quantum mechanics/chemistry at FSU. I was born in 1973 during that graduate school time period.

We moved to the Washington D.C. area and became Washington Redskin fans (God willing, the name will be refreshed soon), acculturating to American life. As a young boy, I wanted so much to "fit in" that for a time I simply tried to pretend I wasn't from an Indian family. This was hard to do when my mother showed up to the park with a sari, a traditional garment that is a single folded piece of cloth as long as 25 feet. This is a pretty typical immigrant dilemma. Parents bring their kids to another country for a better life only to find their children believe that the parents' culture is needless baggage. My parents decided it was time to teach us about our culture. By this time, I had another younger sister, too, and we took the trek on Air India. We skipped ourselves like rocks across the ocean, from Michigan (our new home when I was about eleven) to New York, to London, and to New Delhi. From there, we traveled by ground through the plains and into the hills of the Himalayan mountain range to a remote village called Almora. Each switchback around the mountain was like that feeling of having a semi-truck cut you off while on the highway. As we drove on threadbare tires along roads with no guard rails, we adjusted to the thinner air at that altitude, with ear-popping assurance that these hills were really mountains anywhere else in the world.

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Next Issue: December 2020

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

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In my mother's hometown that summer, and other summers growing up as well, I reconnected with my cultural roots while I entertained locals with my renditions of "We Are the World" and Michael Jackson hits. In those mountains, we lived in the Leprosy Compound, a Methodist mission where my grandfather had doctored and ministered for most of his adult life. Living at the hospital, I remember worshiping at the chapel, on the floor with tambourines, where people without teeth and a few without toes or noses, praised God. To understand me as your pastor is to understand that my picture of church is those people in the Methodist compound for people with Hansen's Disease (leprosy). For them, church was a reminder of a God who will touch them and be with them no matter what, even as others had shunned them away.

On the way out of the mountains one year, the hillside gave way, and we were trapped by a mudslide as the monsoon rains engorged a mountain stream. The stream became a river down the mountain, threatening our lives and those of about a hundred others. As I climbed over mud swells more than 40 feet high on the road and came to the edge of a cliff, a whisper away from death, my mortality came into focus. God would become more real after time in those mountains.

Since we have moved to Walnut Creek, I have thought sometimes of my childhood visits to India. Our daughters rode horses in the Mt. Diablo foothills as part of summer camp. I began a habit of hiking those hills, close to the stables. I still find separate peace there, but at times when I walk and pray, it is a different mountain beneath my feet.

Peace fellow travelers,

Pastor Mantu

Trunk-or-Treat Shout Out by the Conference

The Conference was so impressed by SRVUMC's Family Ministries efforts to reopen the playground and to host a drive-through Trunk-or-Treat event that they mentioned us on their website. Check it out:

<https://www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/trunk-or-treat-14331619>



Apportionments? What Are Those?

Every United Methodist Church pays apportionments. What exactly are those? Apportionments are a portion of what each United Methodist church contributes to the larger Methodist Church, covering cost of administration (at the district and Conference level) and communication (like the ads you see online or on TV inviting people to local churches). The basic idea behind apportionments is that local congregations pool a portion of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do as individual congregations (run a seminary, for example) or that can be done effectively or efficiently together (develop resources preventing harassment and abuse). Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all. Apportionments are our way of being connected to Methodist churches around the world.

Stewardship Season Update

Thank you for all the ways you support our church. While we are not meeting in person, the work of the church continues and you all make that possible. During our Stewardship Season, we've celebrated how we walk alongside those in need in Haiti, Guatemala, Puerto Rico and Nepal. We gave thanks for our youth and children ministries, and the creative ways they are continuing during the pandemic. We rejoiced and tapped our toes during Music Appreciation Sunday. We acknowledged with gratitude all the ways we are (safely) serving the community around us: Meals with Grace, being a polling place on November 3, a food drive for a local food bank, having our playground available for the community, expanding our worship outreach, Dialogue for Change, putting together hygiene kits for families without homes, putting together fire buckets for areas stricken by fires, volunteering at Medshare, being a part of Winter Nights 2020 at San Damiano, and a food drive for Monument Crises Center.

Your financial pledges make all this and more possible. Thank you! If you have not yet filled out your pledge of support for our church, you can still download the pledge form [here](#). Knowing what we can expect in income (pledges) for 2021 allows us to make a sustainable budget.



Small Groups Meeting Outside

(Adapted from the PowerPoint Presentation for Small Group Leaders)

The safest way to meet for the foreseeable future is online, but some groups are eager to meet in person. Because small groups are a church-related activity, we are asking everyone to observe some important guidelines.

First of all, meeting indoors is not advisable. These guidelines cover outdoor meetings. Secondly, meeting in person for groups of more than ten is inadvisable.

Participating in a Small Group

Each participant is expected to wear a mask at all times. Masks should always cover both nose and mouth. Wearing a mask and social distancing are the most effective ways of keeping everyone safe during in-person meetings.

When participants arrive at the meeting site, they should go directly to the outdoor meeting space rather than through the host's home. Elbow bumps are a safer way to say hello than hugging or shaking hands. Participants should bring their own water bottles if desired. When you participate in a small group meeting at someone's house, then plan to use the restroom before you arrive.

Hosting a Small Group

If you are hosting a small group meeting, then you should not serve refreshments during the current pandemic. If you host, then stock the bathroom a guest might use with paper towels instead of fabric towels, and plan to use a bleach wipe or bleach cleaning solution to disinfect surfaces like faucet, toilet, light switch, and door handle after each person uses the bathroom. Remember that soap and water alone do not disinfect a surface. After the meeting, the CDC has guidelines for cleaning soft surfaces, too. Wipe down chairs and other contact surfaces with bleach wipes or use a bleach cleaning solution.



Socially distanced and masked Stephen Ministers in a recent outdoor activity hosted off the church campus.



DENVER, Colo. (Oct. 7, 2020) – The Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is beginning preparations for the next General Conference by recommitting itself to be a faithful, inviting, open, safe and loving place for all people.

As The United Methodist Church awaits a delayed decision on the proposed Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, “Where Love Lives” is a nearly year-long campaign centering on the faith values that have undergirded the jurisdiction’s long-term commitment to a scripturally based fully inclusive ministry. It advocates approval of the Protocol by the General Conference.

“The Western Jurisdiction is committed to living out our belief that God’s church is open to all,” said Bishop Karen Oliveto, president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops. “The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation offers a way forward to begin easing the five decades of pain created by the wounds inflicted on LGBTQ persons by the church.”

“Your home—our home—remains open,” the Jurisdiction declares. “The United Methodist Church is and will be safe, secure, open, and built on faith in God, trust in one another, and with love for all in all we do.”

Bishop Oliveto said the idea for the campaign came from conversations within the Western Jurisdiction leadership focused on the great divisions the church and nations around the world are experiencing. “We wanted to make sure there is an alternative vision for people to embrace, a vision that comes out of love that informs our actions as Christians.” She said.

The campaign comes in the midst of global uncertainty—heightened by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic—over the future of the denomination. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 General Conference, where the Protocol had been scheduled to be considered, was postponed and rescheduled for Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 2021 in Minneapolis, Minn.

“As we await the... General Conference and Protocol vote, let us recommit ourselves to creating, protecting, and sustaining a United Methodist Church that welcomes all, in Christ,” The jurisdiction said. Since 1982, two years before the denomination officially barred the practice, the Western Jurisdiction has ordained and assigned LGBTQ persons to be pastors. In 2016, the jurisdiction elected the denomination’s first openly lesbian bishop. And in 2019, the Jurisdiction committed itself to be a safe harbor for LGBTQ+ clergy from across the denomination.

The Protocol awaiting action in the postponed General Conference offers a path forward through the nearly 50-year-old dispute over the role of LGBTQ+ people in The United Methodist Church. Simply put, it would create a reshaped United Methodist denomination where LGBTQ+ persons could be ordained as pastors and churches could hold same sex weddings, while simultaneously allowing opponents of LGBTQ+ inclusion to leave and form a new, more conservative denomination. Those persons would retain their former United Methodist pension benefits and congregations would be able to keep their buildings to be part of the new denomination.

In addition to promoting the Protocol, Bishop Oliveto said, the campaign will create opportunities for United Methodists across the Jurisdiction to engage in conversation about what its adoption could mean for local congregations and their pastors. These could be gatherings in homes, Sunday School classes, other small group settings, and all church meetings.

Monthly themes from October through the convening of the postponed General Conference in 2021, will *Cont’d Page 5*

“Where Love Lives”, From Page 4 focus conversation and discussion on topics related to the Jurisdiction’s commitment to inclusion, scriptural faithfulness, and the theological teachings of John Wesley, the denomination’s founder.

Here are the opening themes of the campaign:

Oct. 2020 – Strongly committed to radical inclusion of all people.

Nov. 2020 – We will always keep Scripture primary.

Dec. 2020 – Grounded in social action.

Jan. 2021 – We will ordain and consecrate LGBTQ+ people.

These themes, Western Jurisdiction leaders believe, build on the progress made across their jurisdiction over the past dozen years, and could provide a solid foundation for other conferences across the church after the completion of the postponed General Conference. It keeps the historic United Methodist name, and focuses on its commitment to Wesley’s teachings on piety and social holiness.

This is planned as a multi-faceted campaign. It can be adapted for use in annual (regional) conferences and local congregations. The range of tools that can be created for the campaign include blogs, e-mail posts, Zoom calls, congregation-wide events, locally-generated articles on the importance of being an inclusive church, newsletter posts, prayers, short videos, calls to action, and the utilization of social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

To see this article and other news from the CA-NV Conference, visit <https://www.cnumc.org/>.

Seeing Invisible Things

Poem by Katy Mannell

When I am full of your fullness, Oh God, I can see invisible things.

When I’m full of you, I can see what you see,

When you see things that I cannot

When I’m full of myself.

When I’m full of you,

I see beauty and grace,

fullness and needfulness,

and the hope for joy around me.

...in the chatty cashier, talking while I wait my turn to pay.

...in the crying dog tied to a post, wagging her tail and waiting.

...in the too-busy waitress who forgot about me.

...in loved ones who need my attention.

Full of myself, I can only see myself.

And I am annoyed!

Prideful, dismissive,

I blind myself to their possible need, beauty, grace,
or any potential joy to share in passing,

Gouging out my would-be eyes till I hollow out my heart.

And in my own fullness, I become needfully empty.

But, when I’m full of you, and see these invisible things,

I find myself full of gratitude, affection, and love.

And with your patience and your kindness,

I discover countless bits of beauty, grace, and that hoped-for joy,

Refilling me again with such overflowing love that won't be quiet!

Is this why John said that You are Love?

Oh God,

I am often needful of your fullness.

Always, really.

Always really needful.

Please empty me of me,

and fill me up with You,

so I can see what you can see,

and do what you can do.

Amen.



Dialogue for Change White Fragility Series

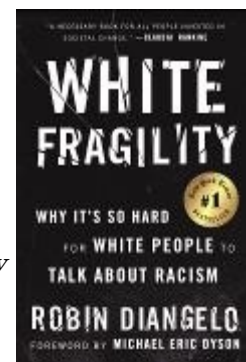
Sundays Through November 22, 11 a.m.

Zoom

Bill Rust, Chair of our SRVUMC Faith Development Committee, facilitates a continuing discussion series based on the popular, widely-discussed book by Robin DiAngelo, ***WHITE FRAGILITY: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism***.

Our discussions will guide us into difficult conversations about “white privilege,” the resistance of white people to seeing their privilege (“fragility”), and how that fragility shapes their attitudes and actions toward others. It is about the privileges of being white, privileges not enjoyed by others.

Contact Lucinda Huffaker at lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com for meeting ID and password. All are welcome.



SRVUMC Speaking Out

By Lucinda Huffaker

In the past several months, many of us have learned a lot through Dialogue for Change and other sources about some of the circumstances, history, and injustices experienced by people of color. We are eager to act because of what we've learned to increase justice in our community and beyond. As a natural follow up to our Dialogues, we'd like to start immediately by gathering some individuals to brainstorm possible outreach options for the church, collect information about them, analyze, and prioritize them. *If you are interested in being a part of this endeavor, please contact Lucinda Huffaker, lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com, 765-225-8836.* Just to be clear, this commitment is to the “think tank” part rather than the immediate outreach, but we want to get started!

As you know, there are many ways to act on things we learn. There are things we can do immediately as individuals and with groups outside of church that are already involved in our community and beyond. That's one reason that the church's Speaking Out committee has put together a Take Action sheet on the church website. It lists a variety of options with links to websites with descriptions, information, and examples. (If you do not find what you need there, contact Lucinda Huffaker for additional resources.) Remember, too, that educating ourselves and changing our beliefs is an important action itself, and prayer is arguably the most powerful action of all!

In addition to Dialogue for Change on Sunday mornings, one can also learn more about racial issues by participating in the **Speaking Out Study Group that meets Tuesdays from 1 to 2:15 p.m.** Finally, remember you need only contact [Pastor Mantu](#) to explore starting a small group to study a book or look deeper into a topic of interest to you. However you choose to act for racial justice, please join us in discerning how to move forward together!

Did You Know?

Western Christian denominations observe **All Saints Day** on November 1, but in Eastern Orthodox Christianity, the holiday is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

Pope Boniface IV formalized All Saints Day in the Roman Catholic calendar on May 13, 609 A.D., when he dedicated the Pantheon in Rome as a church in honor of the Virgin Mary and all martyrs.



Afternoon Book Group

Monday, November 16, 1 p.m.

Zoom

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

Discussion Leader Jenny Swanson

Contact **Debbie Koos** at

gkoos@comcast.net for more information.



Calling All Christmas Angels!

This Thanksgiving finds us filled with gratitude for so many blessings. With Christmas just around the corner, we think of those who are less fortunate and look to make their holiday a brighter one through donations to the Angel Tree. The pandemic has forced a change, not a cancelation, into our practice of giving. Although the Angel Trees will not be set up as in years past, needs are ever present, so we have come up with a creative way to meet those needs!

On **November 15** we will post a list of gifts needed by the agencies we have supported these past few years. These include:

- [Fred Finch Youth Center](#) (children in long-term care with developmental or mental illness ages 3 to 18)
- [Bay Area Rescue Mission](#) (our Target gifts are for disadvantaged teens)
- [Trinity Center](#) (homeless adults)
- [Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services](#) (teenage girls removed from home due to neglect/abuse)
- [Hope Solutions](#) (formerly known as Interfaith Housing who help heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families).

This year we will use Sign-up Genius to list gifts needed. This site is easy to use, but we will post more “how-to details” in upcoming Friday Memos. **The shopping list will be available from November 15 to December 4.**

Remember the earlier you sign up, the more choice in gifts as well as options for ordering online you will have.

Once you have the gift, simply wrap it and deliver it on one of the many drop-off days at our church, or we can even pick the wrapped gift up from you. Drop-off days will be **November 22, 29, and December 6 at the church between 11 a.m. and noon.** We hope you will join us as a “virtual Christmas Angel” and thank you in advance for making this Christmas a brighter holiday for all.

Please contact any of the committee members below with questions/concerns. Our contact info is listed in the church directory.

Peace and joy to you and yours,

Beth McClelland, Linda Green, Roni Item, Nancy Garnick



How to Write a Check for Angel Tree

Monetary donations for the Angel Tree are always welcome if you would like us to do the shopping. Mail the check payable to SRVUMC to the church office:

Attn: Linda Green - Angel Tree Program
902 Danville Boulevard
Alamo, Ca. 94507

Please write ***Angel Tree donation on the check and attn. Angel Tree on the envelope.***

All gifts or monetary donations are due by ***December 6.***

The SRVUMC Women's Retreat Rescheduled for April 2021 Now a San Damiano Event!

Watch for Information!

Our annual retreat, usually held at Villa Maria Del Mar and scheduled for February 2021 is canceled due to **COVID-19**. Instead, we are planning a one-day, weekday retreat locally at San Damiano at the end of April 2021. This will be along the lines of the Wise Women's retreat which has been held there in the past. **Pastor Mantu** has agreed to lead the day! Look for more details after the first of the year. Thank you, Your SRVUMC Women's Retreat planning team.

Wildfires...A Sad Reality

Is this the new normal? A seemingly endless wildfire season? We hope not.

Two days after finishing our wildfire recovery work near Santa Cruz, the Early Response Team of the California Nevada Conference redeployed to Oroville in Butte County. The so-called North Complex Fire consumed 320,000 acres and destroyed 1500 homes. Tragically, fifteen people died.

This is our second United Methodist response to Butte County fires. We served during the devastating Camp Fire in 2018 that destroyed the Town of Paradise and other nearby communities. And now this fire in the Lake Oroville area.

We set up operations in the Local Assistance Center. Over two weeks, we assisted 360 households. We offered hygiene kits and grocery gift cards. We gave away protective clothing and tools to search the ashes of homes. We offered cleaning supplies to the lucky ones that had a smoky/sooty home.

The impacted communities, like Berry Creek and Feather Falls, are relatively low-income areas. Many people had no home insurance, or even insurance for their possessions, if renting. Starting over will be a burden beyond imagination. The Red Cross offered temporary hotel accommodations. Other groups and FEMA provide nominal financial assistance. But this short-term aid runs out quickly. Then what?

The stories are heartbreaking. We helped sift ashes for one lady, Lori. Her husband had died seven years ago. She had survived breast cancer. Now, she has lost her home that she had just moved into a few months ago, after four years of construction. One deaf lady, who lives by herself, had neighbors come get her as the fire approached. She had not heard the warnings.

Clyde was alerted by his dog jumping on to his bed in the middle of the night. He made it out, but his friend up the road, did not. Two married firefighters lost their home while on duty at another fire. One man was now living in his car. Other victims were now “fire nomads” in RVs they drove out. Many people lost their beloved pets. And there was the mother whose daughter had lost her home in the Camp Fire, and now her son has lost his home in this fire.

We will likely be back in coming years with United Methodist sponsored rebuilding teams. In the meantime, we prepare to deploy to the next fire.

Pray for these traumatized victims. They will need great courage and perseverance to carry on. Pray for the many first responders who save lives. And pray for the volunteers like us. We try our best to provide relief, but are helpless to make it all better.

Steve was quoted in an [article on the Conference website](#). You'll also find a link if you want to get involved yourself.



The UMCOR table in Oroville, CA. UMCOR returns to the region after serving in 2018 following the Camp Fire.



Steve Elliott sifts at a home destroyed in the Oroville Fire.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

MedShare Event, January 16, 2021 With Pandemic Safety Precautions in Place. New COVID-19 safety measures are in place so groups of up to ten people can sort medical supplies for those in need. Volunteers must preregister, wear mask and gloves (provided) at all times, and socially distance. Anyone who is feeling unwell will be asked to leave. Anyone who has been hospitalized or in a medical facility recently should wait fourteen days before volunteering. Watch for more opportunities throughout 2021! **Contact HollyAnn Melton at lyannmelton22@yahoo.com for information or to sign up.**



Winter Nights Shelter is Back On in December!

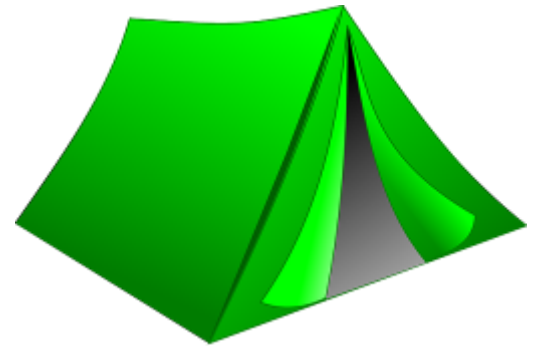
SRVUMC is going to participate in Winter Nights after all this year. Bob and Judy Baker are organizing the shelter for the church. The Winter Nights organization has rented a wing at San Damiano for the month of December. We will be hosting on the following dates:

- Monday, November 30, and Tuesday, December 1
- Monday, December 7, Tuesday, December 8, and Wednesday, December 9
- Saturday December 12, and Sunday, December 13

Our main activity will be a "COVID-safe" dinner delivery. We will deliver restaurant or commercially prepared food to a safe drop-off spot at San Damiano. We need seven teams to purchase, pick up, and deliver the food at 5:30 p.m. A meal team will assemble dinner items from a local restaurant or from a commercial source like Safeway or Costco. There won't be an oven at San Damiano, so hot items need to be freshly delivered. We will provide guidance on where to shop and what to get. The teams should be two to five people.

Plus, there will be an Angel Tree—stay tuned on that!

Please email Bob Baker at rbaker350@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out on food delivery for the shelter.



Interfaith Hygiene Kit Project

The Contra Costa County Health, Housing and Homeless services (H3) urgently requires 500 personal Hygiene kits per month for their homeless clients. SRVUMC is teaming with The Church of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and Temple Isaiah to create the process for providing these kits. LDS has taken the lead and purchased all the necessary items for the first 1000 kits. We will be responsible for packing 250 kits and writing a short personal note to insert into each kit to convey our love, care and support.

We will need volunteers to

- Pick up the bulk items from Walnut Creek, preferably with a pickup truck.
- Write the personal notes.
- Pick up the items in Wesley Hall and pack them at home by **November 14.**

Look for more information on the church website and the Signup Genius link to volunteer. **Contact Paul Kuelz at paulkuelz@sbcglobal.net with additional questions.**



Endowment Committee 2020 Update

“The Gift that Keeps on Giving”

Although our annual traditional “Endowment Sunday” service has been sidelined this year by COVID-19, we are still very pleased to announce that we are able to distribute \$75,000 in 2020 to our many worthy church interests. The table below lists the meaningful endowment categories supported.

This nice distribution for 2020 can be attributed to favorable 2019 investment results, plus additional contributions from generous donors. As is always the case, donor wishes are always honored when they have a preference for a particular project, or endowment category that they would like to support. Please keep this in mind as church activities move toward normalcy over the course of the coming year. We’d like to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued interest, and please let any one of our members know if there are questions that we can answer, or if you have new ideas that we can discuss.

Your Endowment Committee,

Mike Prenger

Judy Baker

Gerry Carothers

Bob Sada

Bob Dominici (Chairman)

Fund Name	Endowment Category	Distribution
Church Council Reserve	Unrestricted	50,954
Missions Council	Missions	1,886
Music	Music	2,243
Children's Ministry	Sunday School	1,351
Children's Ministry	Children's Ministry	326
Youth Ministry	Youth	1,959
Seniors Program	Seniors	623
Library	Library	149
Capital Repl & Maint	Capital Maintenance	14,114
Capital Repl & Maint	Wesley Hall Maintenance	1,395
Endowment Fund		75,000

Mission Memories...

Food Bank Drive-by Event Held October 17

Twenty families, including donors from the larger community, filled three and a half barrels with food for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solana. SRVUMC raised more money for the food bank than competing teams, with a total of \$3034 for the food bank.

You can still donate at this link:

<https://give.foodbankcccs.org/fundraiser/2941310>

Photos courtesy of Beth McClelland. Left, Anne Kuelz, Right, Beth McClelland.



November Communion Offering

Trinity Center

Back in May, 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



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

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.

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.

Trinity Center also has an online forum on homelessness scheduled:

November 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.—Trinity Center’s Virtual Forum on Homelessness in Walnut Creek. Presented by the Walnut Creek Homelss Task Force. Event is free, but registration is required to receive the Zoom link. More about this event at <https://trinitycenterwc.org/night-of-hope-gala/>

Advent Study Book Selections

Pastor Kim has selected this year's Advent Study for small groups and for the sermon series during the Advent Season. We have two selections to choose from, and both are designed for small groups in an one-hour format. Available groups will be announced later so you can buy the book and find a time to tune in on Zoom!

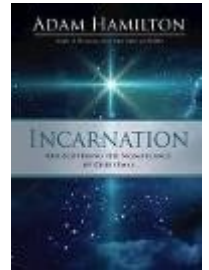
***Let Us Now Go to Bethlehem: Daily Devotionals for Advent and Christmas* by Todd Outcalt.** (\$13.99 on Amazon)

This small book has a short, meaningful meditation for each day that can be read in ten minutes (less than two pages). This book is recommended because cultivating the habit of having a daily devotional time is vital for spiritual well-being, and you can start this practice with this book.

***Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton.** (\$19.99 on Amazon)

This five-chapter book dives into historic and biblical texts, especially Matthew, associated with Advent and Christmas. Published this year, it references current events, including divisiveness in our nation, and then explores all the royal titles for Jesus, and their origins. This book is for you if you want to relate your faith to current events and explore current topics that different people will understand differently.

Contact Larry Stone at (310) 961-6963 with questions.



Playground Is Open Into November (Weather Permitting!)

We have opened the playground for families to come for an hour to play! We have volunteers to welcome and sanitize between groups. Everyone must wear masks while outside the playground, sign a COVID-19 waiver, and socially distance as needed. Make a reservation on [Sign-up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BACA822A5F85-playground1) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BACA822A5F85-playground1>

Session 1: Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m. or 11-12 p.m.

Session 2: Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. or 3-4 p.m.

Session 3: Saturdays, 9-10 a.m., 11-12 p.m.

Session 4: Saturdays, 2-3 p.m. or 4-5 p.m.

Session 5: Sundays, 2-3 p.m. or 4-5 p.m.



Parenting in COVID Times Thursdays through November 19 7:30 to 8:30 pm via Zoom



Parenting during these COVID-19 times is a juggle, a stressor, or a seemingly endless horizon of Zooms and complexity. One saving grace is that we are all going through this together, and we have a faith that holds us. This group will include videos and discussions, as well as general check-ins and will be a chance to let your hair down. It is on Zoom, but some people will be listening in as they tuck kiddos into bed. However you are able to connect, you are welcome.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89012837319?pwd=K0ttS0J2TEd6QytDNcM0a0ZpM0ZDdz09>



Calendar

November 28, 2020 — Advent Festival! Watch for innovative updates!

December 24, 2020 — Christmas Pageant in COVID times? We will celebrate in unexpected and miraculous ways... Stay tuned!

Bugs of the Bible (Thru Grade 5 Only!)

Proverbs 6:6 _ _ _

Psalms 78:45 _ _ _ _ _

Matt. 23:24 _ _ _ _

Judges 14:8 _ _ _ _

Acts 12:23 _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _

Deuteronomy 7:20 _ _ _ _ _

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

The playground is open in November, weather permitting! See Page 12 for information on how to reserve some time for your family!

Exodus 16:20 _ _ _ _ _

1 Sam. 24:14 _ _ _ _

Isaiah 50:9 _ _ _ _ _

Isaiah 59:5 _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _

Email Laura Roy a photo of your finished puzzle, and she'll mail you a sticker prize!

M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

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.

Sunday School Topics

Week One

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks no matter what happens

SAY THIS: You always have something to be grateful for.

Week Two

2 Samuel 6:12b-22a David Dances

SAY THIS: Celebrate what God has done.

Week Three

Luke 17:11-19 Jesus Heals 10 Men

SAY THIS: Say thank you.

Week Four

Matthew 20:1-15 The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard

SAY THIS: Adjust your attitude.

Week Five

1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Exodus 12 - Lord's Supper/Last Supper

SAY THIS: Get in the habit of being grateful.

Gratitude is letting others know you see how they've helped you.

REMEMBER THIS: "Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever."
— Psalms 136:1, NIrV



See Page 12 for November connections!

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Priscilla Wolfram

Continued Prayers For...

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families, Alina Begley (Kraus), Shana Carroll, Bob De Chene, Connie Erickson, Leslie Gross, Felicia Hillard, Joan Lee, Dean McWilliams, Ann Schroeder

Our Christian Sympathy To...

David Bain and his family on the death of his mother, Barbara.

JoAnn Hirsch on the death of her brother, Richard.

Jerry Slater and his family on the death of **Shirley Slater**.

Name Tags

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

November Celebrations

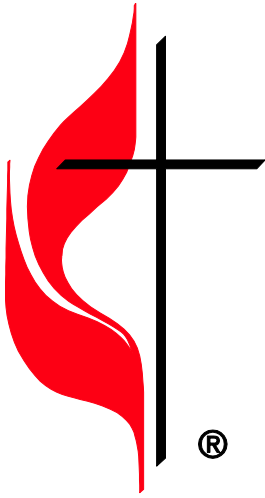


Birthdays

1 Rob Rudow	Melissa Lotz	John Sayers
Connie Winter	13 Sandy Greenwood	24 Pat Patteson (99)
2 Kate Kocins	Dick Lam	26 Monica Albertoni
Jewel Morgin	14 Felicia Hillard	Jessica Merchant
Kristin Schleicher	Suzan Rowland	Fred Schreiber
Marge Wood	15 Barbara Valdriz	Annemarie Warwick
3 Joey Gallo	16 Donna Bain	27 Margo Cefalo
Jo Ann Hirsch	Lael Takiguchi	Steve Koepp
Myla Niederauer	18 John Coombs	29 Paul Kuelz
LaVena White	Kelly Finney	30 Jefferson Armanini
5 Gemma Heddle Sepull	John Green	John Evans
7 Susan Thomas	Thelma Orr	Daniel Glover
9 Charlene Tallett (96)	Charlotte Speck	Linda Farhang
Lara Mays	19 Gerard Takiguchi	Elke Torgersen
10 Natty Oberhauser-Lim	21 Steve Hawk	
Gay Scott	22 Mary Nygreen (98)	
11 Mary Nelson	23 George Clarke	
12 Julie Dastic	Adam Kennedy	

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Val & Duncan Miller	Tamra & Kevin Keen
LaVena & Ron White	17 Shannon & Bill Dever
2 Susan & Patrick Dowling	18 Teri & Scott Armanini
6 Le Anne & Bart Jacobi (60)	21 Dory & Tom Schramm
8 Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei & Gary Krumrei	27 Lynne & Larry Henderson (55)
11 Catharine & Dan Baker	Priscilla & Ted Wolfram
13 Saba & Shadaab Kanwal	30 Ann & Jeff Schroeder



NOVEMBER 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

November 2020

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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