



Valley Messenger

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

DECEMBER 2020

Pastor's Pulse ~

A Reflection on the Meaning of Christmas and the Winter Solstice

Have you ever felt like *Peanuts'* Linus at Christmastime, wondering what it is really all about? This Christmas, many of us might feel off-balance with all that is happening in the nation and world. We might be clinging to our emotional blankets trying to make sense of a season that with all the changes to traditions from the pandemic might feel like it is falling away from us in 2020. This is OK, because Christmas is really supposed to catch the falling stars of disappointments, fears and uneasiness. Christmas is about a light that comes in our darkest moments.

Christmas shows up close to the winter solstice, which is not a coincidence. Almost all cultures have celebrations during the darkest times of the year when we are leaning away from the sun, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. Most of these celebrations are about the light coming back into our lives. For example, Diwali, well-known in Indian circles and in several faith traditions, is a celebration of light. Growing up, my dad would leave the Christmas lights up all year around in our windows

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Next Issue: January 2021

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: [Lisa Jancarik](mailto:Lisa.Jancarik@srvumc.org) [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:Lisa.Jancarik@srvumc.org) by **December 15, 2020**.

with the plug attached to a light switch. Every few weeks, he would flip the switch and say, "Merry Christmas!", or turn them on with a grin and say, "Happy Diwali!" If there was a Jewish friend, he would proclaim again "Happy Hanukkah!" for the Jewish festival that also revolves around this concept of light in the darkness.

Advent, the season before Christmas, was originally a preparation before the light would return during Epiphany, that time we often celebrate the Magi coming to meet and warn the Christ child. It was a time of discipleship and readying for baptism which would happen at Epiphany, much like Lent is a preparation for Easter.

What is the light that you need in your life right now? Do you feel like you have lost your way? Does it feel the aftermath of the elections and the unrest in our communities have you in a dark rabbit hole of endless despairing?

Take heart. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (**John 1:5**). This is the promise behind Christmas, the deep-down, from-your-mind-through-your-body-into-your-spine assurance that nothing can separate you from the light.

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Many of us have lived through a dark night of the soul experience. Losing someone close to us—so close that we feel they have been surgically removed from our own bodies. A breakage of trust. The death of a marriage. A loss of ourselves into the folds of depression. Take heart. The light shines more than over the hill in Bethlehem. It shines across the globe and, if necessary, even underground, with silent persistence through the dark holes of our numbed pain. The light exposes our faults and failures, and like the shepherds, we have reason to at first fear it. But in the end, the light holds over the place where we, too, must lay. We reckon, and after being exposed by the light, we cannot help but follow it. These are not fairytale promises, just the blessed assurance that the worst measures of our “Silent Night”-ness cannot block us from the light. It always comes back as we again lean into it, and the days finally stretch forward into hope. We may not be able to pass the light from candle to candle in the pews this year, but the light will still come to every silent night.

As Linus said in the beloved holiday special, “Lights please.” And he continued...

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, ‘Fear not:’”

Merry Christmas my friends,

Pastor Mantu



***Linus takes the stage in
“Charlie Brown Christmas.”***

Christmas Eve Services

5 p.m.—Virtual Christmas Pageant

8 p.m.—Traditional Services

Both services are live streamed via Facebook.

Christmas Eve Services: Candle Selfies!

We traditionally light candles at our Christmas Eve services, as we sing “Silent Night.” This year, our service will be live streamed, we’ll still sing “Silent Night”, and we still need candlelight!

Here’s how you can help: With your phone in landscape mode, please take pictures of family members holding a lit candle, and send your pictures to Linda Green at lgreen@srvumc.org by December 15. Send an image we can also share on the SRVUMC Facebook page!



Stewardship Update

Thank you for all who have turned in your pledges! Your financial commitment allows us to plan wisely as we continue to livestream services, serve the community around us, pay our staff and take care of our facilities. If you just remembered that you have not yet turned in your pledge, no worries! Please go to our website giving page (www.srvumc.org), click on our Giving link and that will lead you to Stewardship Campaign. *If you have questions, please contact Susan Dowling at sdowling@srvumc.org.*

Reminder About Gatherings

Our church is committed to keeping everyone safe and healthy especially as our county is now in the purple tier. We realize some small groups have been meeting outside, and ask that you do not hold meetings inside, per county guidelines. If you do plan to meet, draw strength and encouragement from one another, and please adhere to all public health protocols.

Our goal is to do no harm. For now, these restrictions from the state's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) will be our guide.

- Public health guidance for this tier permits gatherings of three or fewer households and a maximum of 25 people, preferably for less than two hours.
- Our worship services are permitted outdoors only under these rules.

Psst...

Watch for the monthly newsletter to get a new look in January 2021. We wanted The Valley Messenger to be easier to read online because more of us get our news from our devices than ever before.

You guys are all ready for a larger font size, right?

HOPE SOLUTIONS* PRESENTS

Ruby Slippers



Celebrating Together at Home

There's No Place Like Home

2021 Virtual Gala

Benefitting local homeless families and individuals

*formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

Saturday
February
27th

Complimentary Ticket Registration and Information: hopesolutions.ejoinme.org/RubySlippers2021

The California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and GLIDE Joint Statement on Reaching Successful Agreement

The following is issued on behalf of Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, California-Nevada Conference of The United Methodist Church and Karen Hanrahan, President and CEO of GLIDE.

The California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (CNAC) and Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation (GLIDE) have reached an agreement that provides for each entity to pursue different aspects of Lizzie Glide's Trust as wholly separate and autonomous organizations.

San Francisco philanthropist Lizzie Glide established the Trust in 1929 in memory of her late husband, J.H. Glide, to advance Christian Protestant religion, education and charity in San Francisco. To fulfill her wishes, she installed GLIDE as trustee of property located at 330 Ellis Street, which she wanted used to benefit all the people of San Francisco, and to support the creation of an evangelistic training center for preaching and teaching in conformity with the doctrines of the Methodist Church.

Over time, as San Francisco changed, so too did the relationship between GLIDE and CNAC, along with their respective understanding of their roles on how best to bring Lizzie Glide's wishes to life. GLIDE and CNAC entered into discussions in 2018 to determine a new path forward. The agreement reached embodies their efforts to realize the goals of the Trust in the 21st Century and beyond.

Pursuant to the parties' agreement, GLIDE has filed paperwork with the probate court requesting approval for modifications to the Trust which will further Lizzie Glide's desires, while also providing both GLIDE and CNAC with full financial and legal autonomy.

GLIDE will transfer Trustee responsibility to CNAC for the Trust and will also transfer responsibility for a restricted fund that was established last century in large part to advance Methodist teachings. Combined, these accounts now contain \$4.5 million in invested restricted funds that grew out of Lizzie Glide's original contributions. The Trust will be renamed the "J.H. Glide United Methodist Trust" and used to carry out the mission of The United Methodist Church—making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, sending persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger and freeing the oppressed. In addition, CNAC, if it chooses to do so, may incorporate a church in San Francisco under the name "J.H. Glide Memorial United Methodist Church" to advance United Methodist teachings.

In recognition of the long-term and unique relationship between GLIDE and The United Methodist Church, GLIDE will also provide \$1.5 million to CNAC, drawing from a separate account for investment returns. No donor funds given to GLIDE will be used for any payment under this agreement.



The agreement further provides that GLIDE will retain title to the facility at 330 Ellis Street so it may be used, as it has been for decades, to benefit all San Franciscans through GLIDE's expansive, transformative programs and community of unconditional love, hope and inclusion. GLIDE will also maintain its church and spiritual community at 330 Ellis Street, welcome to all people and unaffiliated with The United Methodist Church.



Both CNAC and GLIDE are hopeful for a timely and successful approval by the Court followed by a new chapter in fulfilling Lizzie Glide's wishes for future generations.

December Communion Offering

Putnam Clubhouse

Have you heard the term “Serious Mental Illness?” (SMI) It’s a term of the art. It refers to people with illnesses like bipolar disorder, schizophrenia-spectrum disorders, and severe major depression. Did you know that one out of 25 people in Contra Costa County have diagnosed SMI? This is a huge public health issue that doesn’t get talked about very much.

[Putnam Clubhouse](#) is a nonprofit located in Concord that is doing something to help people with SMI. People with SMI tend to live lonely lives in inexpensive housing units around the county. Putnam Clubhouse is there to be a friend. Putnam helps folks with classes, resumés, job interviews, art projects, get-togethers, celebratory meals and much, much more.

SRVUMC has been helping out Putnam for several months. **Currently, we are fielding ten drivers a week to deliver food and information to Putnam “members.”** We are participating in big deliveries of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. This has been pretty much different from anything any of us has ever done before.

Putnam is a terrific nonprofit. They really care and have a wonderful synergy going with their members. I highly recommend them for your support.

—*Bob Baker*

Christmas Offering

Winter Nights • Habitat for Humanity • Global Missions

This year’s Christmas offering supports three familiar missions in their ongoing work.

Winter Nights—In the face of the pandemic, the Winter Nights program has rented a wing at San Damiano during the month of December for residents. SRVUMC will participate in the program with commercially prepared or restaurant meal delivery, organized by Bob and Judy Baker. Our scheduled “COVID-safe” dinner delivery dates are

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

Contact Bob Baker at rbaker350@gmail.com for more information. Don’t forget that this year’s Angel Tree also offers a chance to serve the families we support through Winter Nights.

Habitat for Humanity—The portion of this year’s Christmas offering designated for Habitat for Humanity specifically supports new housing locally. SRVUMC joins with other Habitat partners in funding Unity House at Esperanza Place in Walnut Creek. Together, volunteers from all faiths and nonreligious worldviews are uniting to support a shared goal of raising \$75,000 to dedicate this 42-home development. This complex specifically houses very low-, low-, and middle-income families. For more information on the Unity House at Esperanza Place, please visit <https://www.habitatetsv.org/support-us/faith-partnerships#sponsorships>.



Global Missions (Zimbabwe and Nepal)—Larry and Jane Kies continue their mission work in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Larry is a technical advisor to the Africa University Farm, while Jane teaches intensive English to students at Africa University. Jane was born in Zambia but received her certification to teach English as a second language (TESOL) in England. You

can learn more about Jane and Larry at <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-1474-kies-jane.aspx>. You can also email her through that portal, if you like.



A Mill Valley local, **Katherine Parker** serves as a missionary in **Nepal**, focusing on health, hygiene and sanitation. SRVUMC's partnership with Katherine is much more than a financial commitment. It is a dynamic relationship in which the church and missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. When a church covenants with one missionary, it is supporting the entire United Methodist missionary community on their behalf. You can follow Katherine's work in Nepal in her blog at <https://bokashi.blogspot.com/>. She describes all her ongoing projects there in fuller detail.

Did You Know?

Africa University is a United Methodist Church-related institution supported by church members worldwide. Its founding in 1992 made it the first private, international university in Zimbabwe.

According to missionary Jane Kies:

Working with young people who come to Africa University with a passion to learn English is a rewarding experience. Fluency in English equips them to study for a degree that will enable them to carry out their particular ministries and use their gifts. I am thankful for the opportunity my students give me to learn about the diversity of cultures and peoples on the African continent. I also value the opportunities there are to study and discuss the Bible together, and help the students apply its teachings to their lives and experiences at Africa University.

(quote from www.advance.umncmission.org.)

Christmas Angels

A quick reminder to all our Angels that all gifts are due **December 6** for our Virtual Angel Tree Drive! By now you have probably selected a gift, shopped and labeled the gift. Thank you to all who have already dropped off gifts. We are still accepting and needing monetary donations to help purchase gifts that have not been selected from our SignUp Genius Angel Tree.

Linda Green and Roni Item will be out front of the church to accept monetary donations and any remaining gifts on December 6 between 11 a.m. and noon.

You can also mail a check to:

SRVUMC

ATTN: Linda Green - Angel Tree Program

902 Danville Blvd.

Alamo, Ca. 94507

Please write Angel Tree donation on the memo line of the check.

If you need one of us to pick up your gift and deliver it to the church, please email or call one of us (personal information is in the directory).

This year our community has come together to brighten the Christmas of many! We are providing gifts to ten young ladies from Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services, 18 children from Fred Finch Youth Center, 50 children from Bay Area Rescue Mission, Trinity Center homeless as well as families being helped by our Winter Nights Program. Our team is so grateful for your support, contributions and kindness.

Wishing you all good health, peace, love and happiness during this Christmas Season.

Nancy Garnick, Linda Green, Roni Item, Beth McClelland

Angel Tree 2020



Mission Memories...

Project Hygiene, November 2020



Above: This cooperative project with other local faith communities was a great chance for SRVUMC families to volunteer. Top right: Our parking lot was the COVID-safe work space. The campus itself remains closed. Lower left: A volunteer assembles a male hygiene kit, including deodorant, toothpaste and shaving essentials. Lower right: Our own volunteers assemble materials from the area Church of Jesus Christ of of Latter Day Saints.

Our Community Thanks You...

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Food Drive Administrator Neil Zarchin wrote recently to thank SRVUMC for its October 17 food drive. That effort raised 393 pounds of food, an equivalent to 328 meals, according to his letter.

He goes on to say:

Together, during the pandemic, we serve 270,000 people each month and distribute approximately 100,000 pounds of food every 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.





Trinity Center Named Nonprofit of the Year by Senator Steve Glazer

Senator Steve Glazer (D-Contra Costa) recently recognized Walnut Creek's Trinity Center, where SRVUMC volunteers have a longstanding partnership, as Nonprofit of the Year for his district. He presented the organization with this honor in a livestream presentation on November 18.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Trinity Center has offered 56,000 services to 970 homeless or low-income individuals according to *The Patch*. *The Patch's* online article also provides a quote from Senator Glazer:

"I am proud to honor Trinity Center for its vital work in keeping people safe and providing them with much needed services during this trying time of the coronavirus pandemic," said Senator Glazer. "Trinity Center's work is a lifeline for people who otherwise might not make it. Nonprofit organizations like Trinity are doing heroic work that cannot be undervalued."

As "Nonprofit of the Year", Trinity Center gains recognition for its support of struggling individuals in its community. The center is one in a diverse constellation of nonprofits recognized by state senators across California for a range of services.

"Silent Night" Candle Photos

Send your photos of yourself and your household holding candles to **Linda Green** at lgreen@srvumc.org by **December 15** so we can all enjoy them for the singing of "Silent Night" during Christmas Eve's live streamed Facebook service. Electric tea lights are safer alternatives to burning candles. The church can provide electric tea lights if you want them.

Need help getting that photo? Need an electric tea light? Or willing to help someone else take theirs? Email news-letter@srvumc.org or call the church office, and we'll try to help coordinate.

Dialogue for Change

Returns Sunday, January 3, 2021, 11 a.m.

Dialogue for Change discussion sessions will not meet during Advent but will return with more evocative TedTalks and videos on current racial issues in our community and nation. Our Sunday morning sessions will continue for seven Sundays in January and February until Lent begins. During Lent, we hope members will be participating in one of the church's Lenten studies. If you have any questions about Dialogue for Change programs, contact **Lucinda Huffaker** at lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com.



Speaking Out Study Group

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join this small group to learn, reflect, and act against racial insensitivity and injustice in our community. Because so many church members have been eager to act against racism, we want everyone to know about a special monthly meeting held for the purpose of informing people about, or making plans for, actions in our community to advance racial justice. At our first meeting on November 24, we heard from Doug Leich, Chair of the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition of Contra Costa County, about how we might work alongside their Racial Justice Working Group on their projects. The date of December's meeting will be announced in the Friday Memo, or contact **Lucinda Huffaker** at lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com for this or any information about Speaking Out.

The Speaking Out Committee is eager to hear from the congregation about any programs pertaining to racial equity and anti-racism—either educational or outreach—that you would like for us to explore or start. We welcome your input and participation!



Laura Roy assembled and delivered Advent bags to SRVUMC kids to allow for at-home activities on Zoom during the 2020 season. See Page 13 for details.



Thanks to Susan Dowling for snapping this brilliant foliage on the church campus in mid-November. The campus is closed, but God is still here.

Zoom Christmas Carols

Hosted by Greg Zema and Teri Hawk

Saturday, December 19, 7 to 9 p.m.

“Doors” open at 6:30 p.m. for social time and close 9:30. Music includes carols with Greg as well as guest appearances by several congregation members, like John Green singing “Blue Christmas.” Watch for the Zoom link on the church website and Facebook page.



Parents of Young Children (birth through fifth grade) meet for fellowship, food and fun. Sometimes monthly for meals, occasional game nights and weekly support meetings.

Everything on Zoom for now. Interested? **Contact Laura Roy** at lroy@srvumc.org.

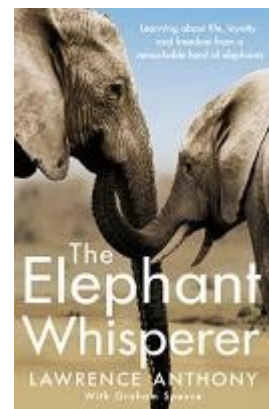
Afternoon Book Group

Monday, December 14 , 1 p.m.

Zoom

The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony

Discussion leader Debbie Koos



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

Small Groups in 2020

Our small groups have always been vital in the life of SRVUMC, but this year in particular, they have allowed us to cling together during the coronavirus pandemic.

If you are a small group leader, then please make sure Pastor Mantu knows about you and your group. He is compiling a Google spreadsheet of active small groups and wants to make sure yours is included. Also, watch for more small group leader meetings hosted by Pastor Mantu. These are opportunities to build your own leadership skills through discussion. When you email him at mjoshi@srvumc.org, please remember that he works Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the week.

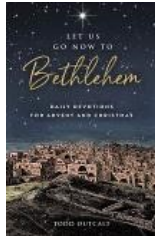
Christcare Visitors

Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16

10 a.m.

Zoom

We will be using *Let Us Go Now to Bethlehem* by Todd Outcalt. Contact Suzanne Stephens at suzzst@aol.com.



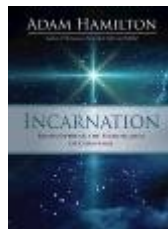
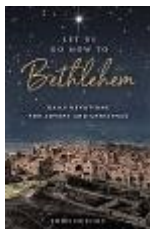
Taking the Sermon Into the World

Sundays Through December 20, 10 a.m.

Zoom

We focus on discussing the sermon of the day and the study book reference used for that sermon: *Let Us Now Go to Bethlehem* by Todd Outcalt, and *Incarnation* by Adam Hamilton. So we will use both Advent study books. All are welcome to join us.

Please email Laura Sanchez at laura3627@zoho.com to be included in the Saturday email that gives the worship topic and some discussion questions for the next day's group meeting. She can also provide the link.



Study With Pastor Kim

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23

Noon, Zoom

Advent invites us to prepare for Christmas, the arrival of Christ in our lives. We'll prepare our hearts and spirits for the coming of the Christ Child. Please purchase the daily devotional, *Let Us Go Now to Bethlehem* by Todd Outcalt, and enjoy the short daily readings that will be the basis for our time together. I look forward to this time with you! —Pastor Kim



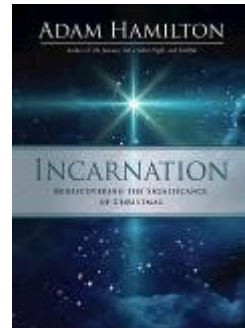
LIFT

Thursday Mornings or Sunday Evenings

Zoom

Considering Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation* for our Advent study.

New people are welcome! Contact Sandy Gsand (Sunday LIFT) at sangsan@aol.com or Debbie Kelly (Thursday LIFT) at gsanddeb@sbcglobal.net for more information.



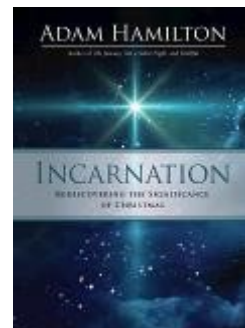
Women of Wisdom

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Zoom

Focusing on Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation* for our Advent study.

Contact Merilyn Milam at m_k_milam@earthlink.net to join and for more details.



Church Council Takeaways

November 17, 2020 Meeting

ARC Status During Pandemic • Stewardship Update • Healthy Church Initiative

Monthly Church Council meetings are conducted via Zoom during the pandemic, but any church member or constituent is welcome to attend. If you wish to join a church council meeting, then please contact **Church Council Chair Debra Carter** at hermine2@icloud.com for the Zoom meeting ID and password. If you ever wonder how decisions get made at SRVUMC, these monthly meetings are your chance to learn! Unfortunately, you will have to provide your own snacks while meetings are conducted virtually, but you can do it from your favorite chair at home. Here are a few takeaways from the November meeting.

Idea Discussion (Pastor Kim): This opening period of the church council meeting addresses ongoing concerns that don't neatly fit into a category like "Finance" or "Board of Trustees." In November, the headlines from this discussion time included:

- 1. Re-Opening Task Force:** While the county remains in the purple tier ("Widespread", the worst category) for COVID-19 incidence, the church will conduct no indoor services. Consequently, Christmas Eve services will be live streamed via Facebook. Pastor Kim observed that some small groups have been meeting outside, but she emphasized that groups should not meet indoors.
- 2. ARC (Lyn Arscott):** in accordance with the county, the facility is currently shut down and will likely remain so through year-end. Expenses for ARC exceed income for the year, but these will be paid from reserves.
- 3. Healthy Church Initiative:** See Pastor Mantu's remarks in the Pastors' Reports below.

Finance (Jeff Stroin): A portion of the church's PPP loan is not eligible for forgiveness, so it will either be repaid or kept as a loan for up to five years at 1% interest. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation as to how to use these funds.

SPRC (Steve Roath): The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has conducted its evaluation of pastors' compensation. For the first six months of 2021, Pastor Kim has offered to take a \$1500/month pay cut to ease the financial burden on the church. Steve emphasized that Pastor Kim's generous offer in no way reflects her performance. Pastor Mantu, holding a three quarters-time position, maintains his current salary. SPRC is planning no raises for other church staff in 2021.

Stewardship (Pastor Kim): Pastor Kim observed that this will be a tough year for churches. Methodist churches across the nation anticipate about a 10% reduction in income for 2021. So far, we have pledges totaling \$485,000 from 82 pledge units, fewer than half our usual pledge units, but this level of response is similar to what we typically experience at about this time of year. Pastor Kim has begun contacting people. Some forgot; some have hardship issues.

Trustees (Steve Garnick): Trustees are working on an office rehab project to address pandemic safety for staff to work there, e.g., Plexiglass barriers. Currently, staff mainly works from home, as the campus remains closed. Trustees plan to share the plan with Church Council at the December meeting and have invited Office Manager Susan Dowling to present it.

Pastors' Reports: Pastor Mantu is working on the pathway to discipleship part of the Healthy Church Initiative. His team is wrestling with questions such as: What does discipleship look like? Once people are connected, how do we help them grow in their discipleship? Should small groups be open or closed to new membership, and why? His team is coached by Phil Maynard, who wrote the book on Healthy Church Initiatives.

Pastor Kim is working with SPRC to right-size our staff. Some employees will move from salaried to hourly, and some may see a reduction in hours, and pay. Nobody will lose his or her healthcare, and no changes will be made during the holidays.

- **Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 via Zoom.**
- **Pastor Kim reminds us that we have an upcoming Church Conference at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 13 via Zoom.**

Thanks to Dave Pierce, Secretary for the Church Council, for his complete minutes of the November meeting.

Holiday Memories From Family Ministries: **Trunk or Treat Goes Drive-Thru in 2020!**



Laura Roy extends her special thanks to each of the volunteers who made this year's drive-through event especially fun for a COVID-fatigued community! According to Laura, Trunk-or-Treat attracted 144 kids and 65 cars this year.



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



Christmas Advent Fair

Week 1, Sunday, November 29 – Build a manger, kit and instructions provided. You provide the hammer. The manger is the reminder throughout the season that Jesus came as a baby. (\$25 cost for one family kit)

Week 2, Sunday, December 6 – Make gingerbread houses, kits provided. Fun way for each child to help prepare for Christmas. Focus on the importance of family and traditions. (\$5 per child)

Week 3, Sunday December 13 – Make a Christmas ornament. Kit provided. Focus on the nativity story. (\$3 per child)

Week 4, Sunday, December 20 – Before the Zoom gathering make a birthday cake for Jesus. Cake mix and icing provided. Celebrate the most important Birthday! (\$4 per family)

We would also provide some daily and weekly devotional options to help your family celebrate the season.

More information and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BACA822A5F85-virtual>

Sunday School Topics

Simply Christmas: No Assembly Required Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Week One

Isaiah 9:6 Jesus Is Promised

SAY THIS: We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

Week Two

Luke 1:26-56 Gabriel Appears to Mary

SAY THIS: You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

Week Three

Luke 2:1-7 Jesus Is Born

SAY THIS: God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.

Week Four

Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds Visit

SAY THIS: God's peace is for everyone.

REMEMBER THIS "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." — *Luke 2:11, NIV*

Virtual Children's Christmas Pageant!

December 24, 5 p.m.

We will go virtual and record our pageant on Zoom! It will be a simple retelling of the Christmas Story, and we'd love your family to be involved. We will have costumes available for pick-up (borrow) and scripts mailed out ahead of time. This should be fun!

Email Laura Roy lroy@srvumc.org to join in!

Every Sunday

Join **Laura Roy** for Zoom Sunday School each week. Contact her for access information to enter Zoom meetings.



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Margo Cefalo
Jane Knox

Our Christian Sympathy To...

Michael Gross and his family for the death of his wife, **Leslie Gross**, on November 15.
Ruth Riggins on the death of her son, Nathan, on November 24.

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, Felicia Hillard, Joan Lee, Dean McWilliams, Ann Schroeder

Name Tags

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

Psst...

Did anyone else notice **John Green** earning a shout out from the ***East Bay Times*** for his trash cleanup efforts on Iron Horse Trail? You can read about his service efforts [here](#). *Thanks to Jerry Ricker for calling spotting this article.*

December Celebrations



Birthdays

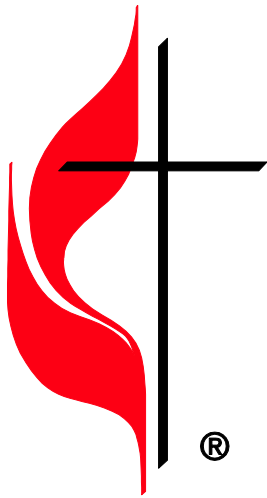
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Chuck Desmond
David Hagebush
Liz Hirsch
Victoria Longstreet | 12 Laura Brown
Dewey Reikofoki
13 Olivia Bybel
Amanda Lang
Harrison Pavel
Robbie Rigolfi, Jr.
Deborah Robinson | 25 Quentin Alexander
26 Sherry More'
27 Evelyn Evans
28 Jane Knox (94)
29 George Hawk
Kevin Keen
30 Phyllis Meyer
Elise Doyle
31 Warren McGuffin |
| 2 Madison More'
Anita Weir-Ball | 14 Ivan Kerr
Annette Whiting | |
| 3 Greg Koos
Jane Roath | 15 Jim Braden
Horace Crawford | |
| 4 Lois Hammond | 17 Patrick Dowling
Teresa Fimby- Christensen
Helen Sinclair | |
| 5 Aly Kelly
5 Emma Willman | 18 Anne Kuelz | |
| 6 Kathleen Saghafl
7 Niles Bybel
Connie Erickson
Sketch Sketchley
Bailee Smallwood
Don Weis | 19 Teresa Stroin
20 Kathleen Isbell | |
| 8 Emily Baker | 21 Susan Pickering-Gest
Kate Steffy
Kerri Wakefield | |
| 9 Kirsten Choy
Sandy Clark
Ali Kuelz
Epi Vazquez | 22 Kevin Isbell
HollyAnn Melton
Flo Spanier (99) | |
| 10 Wendi Cerda
Karen Steffy | 23 Gayle Jackson
Angela Norton | |
| 11 Gabi Kirby | | |

Did We Miss Your Day in 2020?

Your birthday or anniversary belongs in the newsletter, too! Please email your correct information so we can recognize your important milestones!

Wedding Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Pam & Bob Dominici (54) | 28 Sheryl & Ivan Kerr (58) |
| 3 Paula & Hal Lyons | 28 Laurel & Geoff Portman |
| 9 Renée & Doug Beck | 29 Eleanor & Fred Toney (59) |
| 15 Rosemarie & John Place (58) | |
| 21 Shelley & Bill Lettis | |
| 22 Gerry & Jim Aude | |
| 27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz | |



DECEMBER 2020

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. livestream via Facebook

Watch your email or social media for scheduled outdoor worship opportunities!

December 2020

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

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