

The

# Valley Messenger

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

## Discerning the Soul of the Church

Dear Church Community-

Over the past few months, I've asked many of you to describe a time when we were at our best as a faith community. I'm touched by the responses I've heard so far. Two themes have emerged. Many people remembered a time when we gathered on campus in order to do service work. Assembling hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness, Habitat Playhouse build, building a tool trailer for mission trips, and Rise Against Hunger were all mentioned. When we gather together to serve others with love, we are at our best.

Others remembered a time they were welcomed, seen and heard. One person described what it was like to be new to the community. On her second visit, a church member greeted her by name and was glad to see her. After a rough week, that kindness mattered.

During the first few months of 2021, we will be organizing Zoom meetings to hear your responses to this and other questions. Perhaps I'll be joining you for a portion of your small group time. We'll also be organizing separate Zoom gatherings just to hear from you. Stay tuned for details.

The goal is to listen and discern the soul of our church. As we plan for our future, we have an opportunity to emerge from the pandemic with a clear vision and renewed commitment to being a vibrant and growing church community.

Your input is needed, whether you are brand new to the community or a longtime participant. I look forward to meeting in Zoom gatherings, spending time with you, and exploring questions like:

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### **Next Issue: February 2021**

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: **Lisa Jancarik** at [news-letter@srvumc.org](mailto:news-letter@srvumc.org) by **January 15, 2021.**



# Announcements

- What are the most important contributions the church has made to your life? Tell us what happened. Who made a difference? How did it affect you?
  - Tell us about an important spiritual experience, growth in belief, or step of faith that has occurred for you in this community. Describe what, when, how and where this happened.
  - What are the central, essential characteristics or ways of life that make our church unique?
  - Make three wishes for the future of our congregation. Describe what the church would be like as these wishes come true.
- Your input is needed, whether you are brand new to the community or a long-time participant.**

We've experienced and learned a great deal during the pandemic. We've affirmed the importance of church, and the spiritual journey. We cherish community in new ways. We've missed being together. We have a future to look forward to as we gather what we've learned, clarify our purpose, and listen for God's guidance. I look forward to the journey ahead!

**—Pastor Kim**

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## Creativity! Authenticity!

...Just two of the ideas **District Superintendent Samuel Hong** presented at our annual Charge Conference on Sunday, December 13. Rev. Hong posed a few questions to attendees, inviting us all to consider our future and our unique qualities at SRVUMC.

For more information about what transpired, contact **Dave Pierce, Intrepid Recording Secretary**, at [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net) and request a copy of the minutes of the Conference!



## Add Your Voice for Hope

In worship in January, we'll explore what it means to live with hope. And when we want to include pictures, haikus, poems, stories from you.

Send in your favorite words or images of hope to [krisedorph@srvumc.org](mailto:krisedorph@srvumc.org). We welcome your original work, or send us (with artist identified) anything that speaks to you of hope. Hope to hear from you!

# Announcements

San Ramon Valley UMC supports Hope Solutions every way we can, and this year the church will provide an auction package for the annual fundraiser, Ruby Slippers (see below). Please help! We will put together a "Hiking in the Bay Area" package for the online auction. Let's make it irresistible! Here are some suggestions: a gift certificates to REI, hiking snacks, a backpack, a first aid kit, water bottle, hiking poles, hiking routes. What else could we add? **Contact Alice Anthony** at [aliceanthony92@gmail.com](mailto:aliceanthony92@gmail.com) or call her at 925-997-5223 to let her know what you will contribute. Alice will make sure we have a variety of items.

*Please deliver your items to Pastor Kim's home by January 24. Check your church directory or call the church office if you need her address.*



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](https://hopesolutions.ejoinme.org/RubySlippers2021)

## We're Not Ignoring You!

SRVUMC staff are reducing their hours to limit payroll expenses. COVID-19 has impacted the church's budget, and working fewer hours is a way we can all help. However, that means we might need a little longer to reply to your email or voicemail, so please be patient. We will get back to you!



# Announcements

## Preschool “Facelift”

The Preschool Commission is working on plans to safely reopen our school! Many steps are involved in this reopening. One of those steps is to give the school a much-needed facelift. To that end, the Preschool Commission has been working diligently during the COVID downtime to improve the indoor space.

Small teams from the commission have spent over 50 hours cleaning and organizing rooms in preparation for painting. Our Sodbusters graciously helped us with some heavy lifting. The preschool has four classrooms, an entryway and small office that are in need of a paint makeover. Paint has been purchased, and we hope to have the job done in time for video tours this spring.



This next effort is a lot of work for our small commission and we reached out for help. Our church’s LIFT group volunteered to help us paint two of the rooms. This process will start as soon as health restrictions are lifted. Besides helping with painting, LIFT also chose as their Christmas mission project to support the preschool by donating money for classroom equipment and to make much needed curtains.

### Please Help the Preschool Paint!

We still need help with painting prep as well as painting the remaining rooms to finish the updating process. **If you or your small group have the skill set to assist with this project and want to help, please contact Marilyn McCurdy, Preschool Commission Chairman or call the church office (837-5243).** We appreciate any help you can give our team. Our Commission hopes to have staff and children enjoying our beautiful campus next school year.

## Parent Connection

**Thursdays, January 14 through February 18**

**8:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

Our next six-week virtual gathering will meet hopefully after all our littles are in bed! We will dive a bit into finding faith with some Rob Bell videos to spark conversation.

Contact Laura Roy for Zoom link at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).



# Spiritual Growth

*Celebrate Dr. King's Life and Message*

**Keynote Speaker Rev. Julius Van Hook**

**“As Light Breaks Forth, Live as Children of the Light.”**

**Monday, January 18, 2021 at Noon**

**Online**

Register for this event at <https://tinyurl.com/I4CMLKDay> to hear Rev. Van Hook, Interfaith Juvenile Chaplain of the ICHANGE Program of 14C, with the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, St. Benedict's Gospel Choir (Oakland) and Choirs from Black Churches around the County, including Easter Hill United Methodist Church and Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church. Conversation following.

*Sponsored by The Social Justice Alliance of The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, and the Mount Diablo Peace and Justice Center.*



## **The SRVUMC Women's Retreat Rescheduled for April 2021**

***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***

## **Afternoon Book Group**

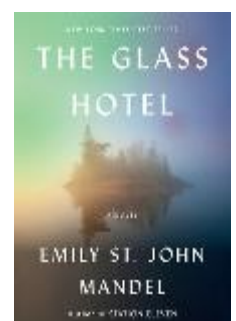
**Monday, January 18, 1 p.m.**

**Zoom**

*The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John

Discussion Leader: Marilyn Scott

Contact Debbie Koos at [gkoos@comcast.net](mailto:gkoos@comcast.net) for more information.



# Out Into the World

## Volunteer Safely at The Thrift Station in Danville

Looking for a safe and meaningful way to volunteer? The Thrift Station in Danville is training volunteers. The personal safety and well-being of volunteers and customers is paramount. Health and safety devices and procedures have been set up for everyone's protection. Are you interested? Find an application form at [www.discoveryctr.net/the-thrift-station](http://www.discoveryctr.net/the-thrift-station).

You can also stop by during normal business hours and submit an application in person. The Thrift Station is located at 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Crossroad Center, Danville. The shop is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds from sales go to the Discovery Center. Our church supports The Discovery Counseling Center with a Communion Offering during the year. Discovery Counseling provides professional, low-cost, broad-reaching mental health services in our area. Their main source of financial support comes from The Thrift Station, a shop that sells new and gently used donations. As you can imagine, the request for mental health services has increased greatly during the pandemic. This is one way we can help: Consider volunteering at The Thrift Station.

## Thank You Angels Of SRVUMC!

We are pleased to share with you that the virtual Angel Tree was a big success! Thank you one and all! This year our congregation really stepped up, and we were able to grant Christmas wishes for 125 individuals from various agencies in our county with over 175 gifts. We added Hope Solutions (formerly known as Contra Costa Interfaith Housing) to our Angel Tree, and through generous donations, we were able to provide gifts for four families.

The need was great this year, and it was all different due to COVID, but that did not deter our congregation from giving and making this a brighter and happier Christmas for many. The following agencies send their deepest gratitude to all the Angels of SRVUMC: Trinity Center, Fred Finch, Bay Area Alliance For Youth and Family Service, Foster Services of Contra Costa County, Hope Solutions, Bay Area Rescue Mission and Winter Nights.

Your Angel Tree Team is most grateful to you all for participating and supporting this mission project. We wish you a healthy and happy 2021!

***Nancy Garnick, Linda Green, Roni Item and Beth McClelland***



# Out Into the World

## Dialogue for Change

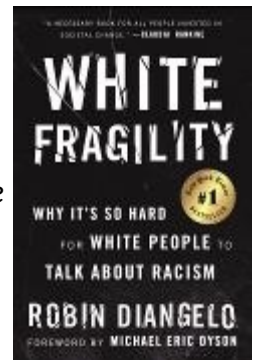
**Sundays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Zoom**

Dialogue for Change is an adult education series that started up again on January 3, aptly named for the format (discussion of a short video in large and small groups) and the intent (education and change regarding unintentional bias, Black experience, and racial equity).

Dialogue for Change began last July amidst protests and a national conversation about race and justice. After the death of George Floyd and others, the SRVUMC Speaking Out committee planned the class as one way for our church to respond to the crisis by becoming better educated about race and racism in our nation and our community. Led by Pastor Mantu and, later, Speaking Out committee members and Bill Rust, each week through November we watched and discussed TedTalks about aspects of racial inequity, listened to personal stories about racism in our community, and studied a book—*White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo—on what it's like as a white person grappling with our own racism.

And we are still learning! This winter, in addition to dialogue based on TedTalks, we will also have special speakers and a presentation on implicit bias. Please join us for these fascinating, surprising, and challenging Sunday morning sessions! **Contact Patsy Kyles in the church office at [pkyles@srvumc.org](mailto:pkyles@srvumc.org) or by phone at 925-428-9873 for the Zoom link. Lucinda Huffaker can answer questions about the class at [lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com).**



## Action Matters!

**January 12, 3:30 to 5 p.m.**

**Zoom**

For many who have been attending the Dialogue for Change class or other study groups that are wrestling with the hard questions around racism, it's become really difficult to separate our newly gained awareness from actively doing something to change things. After all, the class is titled Dialogue for Change! Yet it can be challenging to find our place, get connected, or "plug in."

Now there is a monthly meeting intended to help with exactly that. Action Matters is what we call the meeting on the second Tuesday of each month where people share information about organiza-



# Out Into the World

tions we know about or are participating in; meetings or workshops to try out; upcoming speakers, and who from our church is already connected with them. You can share, join, give, volunteer, or listen and observe! It's a time and place for information and mutual support in Christian community. Action that emerges from our faith does matter, and when you need help discerning where and how (and how much!), join the folks at the next Action Matters meeting.

Contact Lucinda Huffaker at [lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com) for more information.

## Winter Nights Goodie Basket

On December 12, **Susan Dowling** and **Theresa Omar** delivered meals to the Winter Nights families staying at San Damiano on behalf of the church staff. They assembled gift baskets for centerpieces, each including a sweet handcrafted card made by **Patsy Kyles**. Baskets included some practical items, like wipes, and some other things just for fun, including a few things for preschoolers.



## Linger at the Manger on December 21 Acknowledges Burdens at Christmastime

In advance of the Longest Night worship service, SRVUMC offered this opportunity for a quiet moment of personal reflection and prayer. Visitors chose a stone, prayed for a moment about particular grief or fear, and then case the stone into the manger. Stephen Ministers kept vigil nearby in case anyone needed to talk during this outdoor event.





# Communion Offerings

**Human Relations Day** is one of the six Special Sundays celebrated within the United Methodist Church. The Sunday we observe Human Relations Day each year on the Sunday closest to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. This year, the date is January 19. On this day, Methodists are called upon to consider all God's children as human beings in relationship with one another. ***The offering for Human Relations Day will be collected on January 3, Communion Sunday.***



"The basics of the UMC Human Relations Day focus is to strengthen the Church's outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and worth with at-risk youth," **Paul Kuelz** told the newsletter in an email.

According to [UMCgiving.org](https://umcgiving.org), the special offering collected nationwide will support neighborhood ministries (called "Community Developers" in this program), community advocacy through the United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The United Methodist Church distributes the collected offering in the following way: 57% to Community Developers, 33% to United Methodist Voluntary Services, and 10% to Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Grant applicants seeking funding from the Youth Offender Program monies collected by the United Methodist Church in observance of Human Relations Day are building outreach and assistance to nonviolent youth through education, advocacy or leadership training. Applicants are either United Methodist churches or organizations themselves or are ecumenical groups whose program impacts at least one local United Methodist church.

Not everyone impacted by the Human Relations Day outreach is a youth, however. Recovery programs for adults on the margins benefit from the Human Relations funding, too. Other organizations relying on this funding assist poor students or families with basic needs, like money for bills and groceries.

## Did You Know?

According to [www.resourceumc.org](https://www.resourceumc.org), the United Methodist Church raised \$471,659 toward Human Relations Day ministries in 2019.

# Faces

## Meet Kim Anderson, Accountant

Kim was born in Duluth, MN, and her parents moved to a suburb of Saint Paul, Cottage Grove, when she was little. Her mom still lives in the house she grew up in. Growing up, she and her younger brothers were very active, including going for dune buggy rides in the purple metallic dune buggy her dad made. In the winter, they did a host of winter sports. For fun now, she enjoys hiking, biking, water sports, and camping in an RV to enjoy the beauty of the earth.

Her spouse, Gina Bloomfield, lives with her now. She is a CPA and a CFO at a local credit union. Kim also has three grown children and seven grandchildren. She and Gina have three canine fur babies:

- Niko, a rescue trained to do nose work
- Chloe who is a rescue (chihuahua and whippet?)
- Cassie, a 1.5-year-old purebred Havanese

Kim says that how you handle people's money is very important and not to be taken lightly. She also thinks it is easier to do something correctly rather than incorrectly. Kim feels that God led her to this opportunity. She was raised in the Catholic church but doesn't get concerned about details as long as the church that she is attending believes in God and Jesus and acts consistently. When visiting her mother, she goes with her to the same church she grew up in. Kim maintains that she has hit the jackpot and is so grateful to be working with San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church!



***Kim cuddles one of her three fur babies, Cassie.***

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## Boyd Hasik Finally Takes a Break



Boyd is hanging up his tool belt after years of up-keep work on the church facilities, and SRVUMC staff wishes to thank him for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

You'll still get to see Boyd in his usher role once we are worshipping in-person again.

***Boyd Hasik (left) and Brian Roberts (right) pause in some maintenance work for a photo opportunity. Thank you to George Clarke for this shot.***

# Family Ministry

## Calendar

**Beep Beep Bingo!** — Saturday, January 30, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. — Play in your car from the ARC parking lot! An FM radio frequency will let you listen to the caller from your car! Sound your car horn or air horn when you **win!** Questions or prizes to donate? Email [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).



**Car Scavenger Hunt!** — Sunday, February 28, 3:30 p.m. — We give the clues...you take the picture and meet back at the ARC parking lot for in the car celebrations!



## Sunday School Topics

### Week One

Matthew 22:36-40 - Greatest Commandment

SAY THIS: Love God. Love others.

### Week Two

Luke 12:13-21 - Bigger Barns

SAY THIS: Share what you have.

### Week Three

Proverbs 6:6-8 - Ant and Sluggard

SAY THIS: Work hard.

### Week Four

Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Bags of Gold

SAY THIS: Make the most of what you've been given.

### Week Five

Ephesians 4:29 - Use Words Wisely

SAY THIS: Use your words wisely.

**"Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large."**

**—Luke 16:10a, NIV**

*Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.*

## Contact Us!

Laura Roy

Children's and Family Ministries (Children through Grade 5)

[lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org)

(925)837-5243 ext 106

Rebecca Bernstein

Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

[rbernstein@srvumc.org](mailto:rbernstein@srvumc.org)

(925)837-5243 ext.109



# January Celebrations!

## Birthdays

1 Marilyn Clarke	Juliette Gest	25 Teri Armanini
2 Steve Marohn	Kanwal	Grace Benzler
Adena Verdi	Dory Schramm	Roger Ehlers
3 Ethan Helms	16 Sam Sidhom	Cora Knese
Brian Roberts	17 Gerry Carothers	Taylor Smallwood
4 Rebecca Ten Elshof	Jean Desmond	26 Katie Presnell
8 Jill Barry	Larry Sherman	Jack Presnell
9 Terry Bailey	18 Elaine Halliday (90)	Nick Toma
Andrew Kocins	Mike Kelly	27 Doug Barton
Conner Merchant	Jeff Kuemmeler	28 Bill Dever
Betty Skeoch	Stephen Lee	Nancy Harrison
10 Chris Hoff	Evan Schroeder	Karen Stepper
11 Ann Schroeder	Gail Smith	30 Alicia Rossini
12 Scott Davis	19 Elizabeth De Chene (94)	Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei
Belle Peters (94)	Cosima Sepull	31 Lisa Chapman
Berry Scott	20 Nancy Garnick	
13 Bill Nelson	21 Kim Risedorph	
14 Nancy Tiedemann	22 Bob Leyman	
15 Julian Bybel	23 Jan Foulds	
Liz George	24 Barb McWilliams	



## Anniversaries

2	Melissa & Robert Ward	11	Nadia & Bruce Koliha
3	Andrea & John Siebert	21	Wendi & Michael Cerda
5	Judy & Bob Baker	27	Shirley & Charles Stephenson
7	Jo Ann & Vin Hirsch (60)	29	Danni & Dan Sherman
9	Linda & Alex Farhang		

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns

Beverly McAdams

Margo Cefalo

Joann Hirsch

Jane Knox

## Our Christian Sympathy

**Patsy Kyles**, on the death of her brother, Oscar on December 15.

**Susan Dowling** and her family on the death of her father, Don, on December 22.

The family and friends of **Catherine Godbey** on her Christmas Day passing.

## 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

## Careful Communication

**Carole and Don Johnson** have asked us to alert their church friends to be aware that their email account has been hacked. Please consider contacting them by phone if you need to reach them.

## SRVUMC

902 Danville Blvd • Alamo, CA 94507

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

Phone (925) 837-5243 • Fax (925) 837-7263 • [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org)

Ministers EVERYONE • Lead Pastor Kim Risedorph (ext. 107) • Associate Pastor Mantu Joshi (ext. 108)

### Director of Family Ministries

Laura Roy (ext. 106)

### Youth Director

Rebecca Bernstein (ext. 109)

### Office/HR Manager

Susan Dowling (ext 104)

### Accountant

Kim Anderson

### Accounting Assistant

Theresa Omar

### Office Assistant

Patsy Kyles

### Facilities & Purchasing

### Manager

Marilyn Clarke (ext 102)

### Music Director

Bruce Koliha

### Organist

Nadia Blank-Koliha

### AV Director

Linda Green

### Messenger Editor

Lisa Jancarik

[newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org)

### Communications Manager

Shana Carroll

### Director of Recreational Ministries

Joey Fuca (925) 837-2011