

The

# Valley Messenger

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

## Most Honest Service

We begin our Lenten Journey on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**, with a 7 p.m. online worship service (**watch for more information in the Friday Memo or the [church website](#).**) Ash Wednesday is the most honest worship service of the year in that we face our mortality and recommit to living a life that matters.

Ash Wednesday leads us into Lent, a season that is rich with possibility, challenge, and meaning. We commit ourselves to focusing more on God and less on self. This Lenten journey leads us to the joy of Easter. This year, our Lenten study book is ***The Walk* by Adam Hamilton**. I hope you will join a small group and participate in making your Lenten journey an intentional time of awareness, repentance, and renewal (***Please see Page 7 for some small groups welcoming newcomers or returning worshippers.***)

So, if Ash Wednesday is our “most honest” service of the year, what does that mean for each of us individually and as a community? While Lent invites us to deepen our awareness of God, it is more than a season of personal reflection. We are invited to intentional practices during Lent so that we strengthen the church, the body of Christ. Lent is not so much a personal journey as a willingness to be part of something bigger than ourselves—a faith community that follows the way of Jesus, sees the needs and pain in our world, and reaches out with love.

This year, I’m especially aware of our faith community and the wide range of responses to the social disease of racism and the renewed awareness of white privilege. We do not all see these issues the same way, and some or even many of you may be reacting already to the words I am using. How will we go forward?

## February 2021

- 1 Pastor’s Pulse: You Are Welcome Here!
- 2-5 Announcements
- 6 February Communion Offering: Food for Thought
- 7-8 Spiritual Growth
- 9 Out Into the World
- 10-11 Faces
- 12 Thank You

- 13 Family Ministries
- 14 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 15 Among Ourselves

### **Next Issue: March 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 **February 15, 2021**.

# Announcements

For many of you, the increased attention to racism and social justice are long overdue. You are listening, learning, and leading the way to a society where all thrive. Church has never felt more meaningful for you. I share this perspective and believe it is what we are called to do as a community.

At the same time, I fully acknowledge that many among us feel conversations about race are not appropriate in church. Valued members of our church are concerned. For some, the church community that you love doesn't feel like home anymore. You are not sure you have a place here. I never want anyone to feel that.

**While Lent invites us to deepen our awareness of God, it is more than a season of personal reflection.**

How will we go forward? I find guidance in a Bible story called "The Good Samaritan" (Luke 10: 25-37). This story offers us a way to approach the pain and suffering we see or feel. The story is about a wounded person on the side of the road. A priest and a Levite saw the man, but walked on by. Perhaps they were asking: *What will happen to me* if I stop and help this man? Will I be ritually unclean? Do I have the time to stop and help? A Samaritan also walked by, saw the wounds, and asked a different question: *What will happen to this man* who is suffering if I do not stop and help him? (This interpretation came from Emmanuel Acho.)

The invitation here is to notice the pain and suffering of others **and not walk by**. It doesn't matter if we know the person, agree with the person, or have a different worldview. We are here, together, in a church community. We are to notice each other and care for each other. I've watched this church community do just that again and again. Thanks be to God for this community of faith and each one of you.

That's the invitation of Lent, and our deepest need on the spiritual journey: to become aware of which question guides our decisions and actions and faith. With that awareness, may we find the strength and courage to address the suffering and pain, wherever we see it.

**—Pastor Kim**



## Ash Wednesday Is February 17, 2021.

Watch the Friday Memo for ways we will observe Ash Wednesday in consideration of the pandemic.

*Note that you should not make your own ashes. Never apply a mixture of water and ash to your skin to avoid a chemical burn.*



# Announcements

## Lights, Camera...Action!

By Beth McClelland



Although the halls of the preschool are quiet, there is a lot of action behind the scenes, and the lights of the school are starting to flicker on.

Your Preschool Commission has been busy focusing on what is needed to reopen the campus and determining the best steps for reopening our school this fall. We have hired a knowledgeable consultant to help us meet the upcoming deadlines, review our work, suggest changes needed as well as connect us with agencies to reopen. It has been busy, but know we are doing something especially important for our community.

We are sharing our vision and mission statements here so that you can see where we are headed before we bring in cameras to film and market our beautiful school for registration.

### Vision Statement

Our Christian preschool is a happy, safe, loving school where all are valued and respected, and where preschoolers' curiosity and learning grow and thrive.

### Mission Statement

- To provide a developmentally appropriate, play-based, child-centered program
- To offer a hands-on curriculum in an environment that promotes the growth of the whole child and nurtures their curiosity, exploration, and desire to learn
- To promote a positive self-concept that embraces the uniqueness of each child, helping them reach their full potential
- To model respect for all people and to encourage each child to become a positive, loving citizen in their growing world
- To support the understanding that the diversity of races, cultures and perspectives is a gift that enriches us all
- To keep learning fun
- To foster wonder and respect for nature and introduce our role as caretakers of our natural environment
- To grow in God's love

# Announcements

*Continued from Page 3* From these statements you can understand our commitment to having a preschool that embraces the mission of our church. We know there will be a lot of light shining in our little preschool corner with God's love at work!

We are so thankful for those who have offered to help with this reopening. There's a lot to do! It has given commission members a sense of purpose during this lockdown to be actively involved.

Here are a few projects that are coming up soon (dates to be determined):

- Spreading bark in playground
- Removing some large unsafe items from playground
- Painting rooms
- Planting one planter for filming purposes
- Helping set up kitchen area outside
- Putting COVID-19 requirements in place

***If you are interested in helping with reopening, please email Marilyn McCurdy, Preschool Commission Chairperson.***

The job description for the director has been posted. We are interviewing and will recommend to SPRC our best candidate in February. After SPRC and Church Council approve the hiring, the Preschool Commission will work with the new director to complete all that is needed to open.



***That Is When The Action Really Begins!***

***New to San Ramon Valley? Welcome!***

**Discovery Class**

**Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24**

We are so glad you have joined in worship, serving in the community, or supporting our church financially. We'd like to get to know you, hear your story, learn what brought you here, and answer any questions you have about SRVUMC. Pastor Kim will lead the Zoom class, and each week another staff member or church leader will join us. This introduction to our church is our way of welcoming you and can lead to church membership. Email Pastor Kim with questions or to sign up at [kris-edorph@srvumc.org](mailto:kris-edorph@srvumc.org)

# Announcements

## Parent Connection

**Thursday, February 4 through Thursday, February 18**

We will meet via Zoom from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., 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 details.**



## Hope Solutions Annual Gala

**Saturday, February 27**

**Virtual!**

Hope Solutions (formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing) will hold their annual gala, Ruby Slippers – There's No Place Like Home, benefitting local homeless and at-risk families and individuals. Hope Solutions provides permanent housing and vital support services to stabilize families in need. The virtual event includes a silent and live auction, an inspirational message from Hope Solutions' resident, a showcase of Community Art Program, the Children's Choice Award, and a Virtual Red Carpet. It's free, so everyone can attend! **Register for free tickets at <https://hopesolutions.ejoinme.org/RubySlippers2021> or call (925) 944-2244.**



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)



# February Communion

## Food for Thought

Trinity Center is a nonresidential program serving homeless and working poor young adult and adult men and women in Walnut Creek and Central Contra Costa County. The program helps with food and clothing, counseling, and showering and laundry facilities. When COVID conditions allow, Trinity Center and the Food for Thought program can provide our congregation with meaningful volunteer opportunities.

Several years ago, SRVUMC began the Food for Thought program at Trinity Center in Walnut Creek. The Food for Thought program was conceptualized by **Horace Crawford** and **Dick Lam**. Historically, the Food for Thought program has been self-funding and has run weekly throughout the year.

As part of the original program, SRVUMC members and friends gathered each Friday morning in the Wesley Kitchen (Rousch Kitchen) to prepare a home-cooked lunch. The lunch was then brought to the Trinity Center and served to the clients. A spiritual discussion led by a pastor or one of our Food for Thought team members followed the meal.

With current COVID-19 restrictions in place, the February Communion Offering will go to the Trinity Center general fund. Learn more about Trinity Center, including how their services have been reimagined in the face of COVID-19 at <https://trinitycenterwc.org/>.



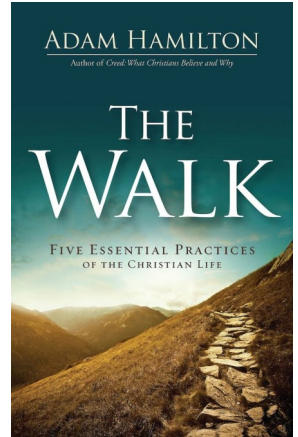
*During previous years, some of us have assembled the lunch in the Rousch Kitchen for Food for Thought. For now, Trinity Center can best use our monetary donations to keep up its vital work in the area.*

# Spiritual Growth

## Lenten Reading Begins February 21

**This Lent you are invited to walk with Jesus through a lifegiving series of small groups focused on the basics of Christian Life.**

This Lent our church will be following the Adam Hamilton book *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. There are a number of regular groups that will be using this resource as well as several new groups that will continue for about five to six weeks to lead us into Easter. Some groups may choose to use the DVD format that is also available. If you are unable to find a group that works for you, please let us know. Contact **Larry Stone** or email **Pastor Mantu** at [mjoshi@srvumc.org](mailto:mjoshi@srvumc.org), and we will do our best to help you connect.

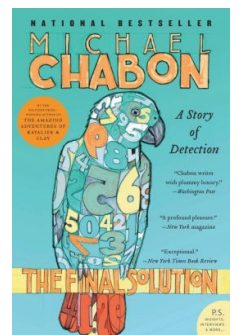


- **Pastor Mantu** will be leading a virtual Zoom group discussion on Sundays at 11 a.m. and will closely parallel the teachings with the sermons of each week.
- **Bill Rust** will be leading a new Zoom group on Tuesdays at 7 to 8 p.m. that follows the same book but is designed for working professionals trying to maintain life balance/well-being.
- **Larry and Linda** will be arranging a group that has a heart for people who may feel they would like to reconnect to church life (*meeting information will be provided soon*).
- Our women's **LIFT** groups will also welcome new participants during Lent and offer meetings on
  - Sundays, 5 to 6:30 p.m. (**Sandy Gsand**)
  - Thursdays, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. (**Debbie Kelly**).
- **Women of Wisdom** meet on Wednesdays from 10:30 to noon. Contact **Marilyn Milam** if you are interested in joining this group for this Lenten reading discussion.

## Afternoon Book Group February 22, 1 p.m. Meeting TBD

*The Final Solution* by Michael Chabon with discussion led by Teresa Stroin.

Contact [Debbie Koos](#) for more information about the meeting.



# Spiritual Growth

## 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).

In January, our sessions included discussions about racism and the police, racism and the church, and the effects of white silence. On **February 7**, we have a presentation on implicit bias, and then the winter class ends **February 14** with a final video discussion.

Please join us for these last two interesting, 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 ([lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com)).



## Action Matters

**Tuesday, February 9, 3:30 to 5 p.m.**

### Zoom

Now there is a place—a monthly meeting—for people seeking a way to act for racial equity in our community. Action Matters is what we call the meeting on the second Tuesday of each month where people share information about organizations 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.

It's a time and place for information and mutual support in Christian community. Contact **Lucinda Huffaker** ([lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com)) for more information.

## Community Art Project for Racial Equity

Dialogue for Change is a stakeholder for the Community Art Project for Racial Equity! Along with a variety of community groups who are also stakeholders, we are helping the [San Ramon Social Justice Collective](#) advertise the art show that will be held this spring. All members of the San Ramon Valley community are invited to submit art in the spirit of this project's theme, "Breathing Free Together." The theme is meant to encompass racial equity, harmony, healing, and justice. We are excited about the possibility of SRVUMC members (including our youth!) submitting art for the event in February. To learn more, please watch the Friday Memo for a link to the call for art.



# Out Into the World

## Putnam House Deliveries To Restart

COVID-19 has put food deliveries to Putnam Clubhouse members on hold for a time. Putnam has had staff working from home. Unfortunately, this means that they can't stock and use their food pantry, and our church volunteers can't deliver food care packages. In the interim, some of their members go hungry when a vital support check is delayed.



SRVUMC is going to start an interim program until Putnam can get back into its Clubhouse. We are going to use the money from the Putnam Christmas Offering to pay for groceries. Putnam has created a delivery list for us (*see below*). Our church members will shop for food on this approved list and will deliver the food to the Putnam members. It's the same as before, but we will shop for the food rather than picking it up from Putnam.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, email **Bob Baker** at [rbaker350@gmail.com](mailto:rbaker350@gmail.com).



### Grocery Guidelines for Putnam House Members

Here is a proposed guideline of food items that our members will most likely prepare and eat:

- Cereal (healthy version) OR oatmeal instant packets—Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Rice Chex, etc.
- Bananas, Cuties, grapes—no hard fruit because many of members have dental issues.
- Prepackaged salad kits with dressing
- Yogurt—berry flavors are the most popular
- Soup/chili—canned with popup lids, low sodium if possible
- Sandwich ingredients—whole-wheat bread, lunchmeat
- Milk (quart of cow's milk)

Other options could be:

- Eggs
- Cheese for sandwiches
- Peanut butter and jam



# Faces

## Dust Mites, Emails and Updates to Our Church Records

By Susan Dowling

“Ponder what we currently do to live our faith, then consider almost 5,000 others did the same in the name of our Lord.” John Green set forth this statement at the end of producing a document that looks at our church community from 1957 to 2020. He found that 4,960 people have worshipped with the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church since 1957. They built and added to our campus, worshipped together, and served others.



*Don't let the mischievous smile fool you—John can do the hard work, too! Photo by LifeTouch.*

### John Takes a Deep Dive

You ask, how does John know exactly how many people have worshipped at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church? Early in 2020, John saw an opportunity to leverage his years of organizing baseball cards (*See, Linda? He was building a skill with all of those...*). With the help of many friendly dust mites, he created a separate register document, listing all of the people who were part of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church from 1957 through the end of 2020. He looked through old, dusty cards to ensure that he knew who joined and when, and who was related to whom. Then, he documented all of this in a printed document for the church's records.

Why did he create this project for himself? Well, he was curious and probably a bit frustrated with the antiquated recordkeeping documents at the church—no actual clay tablets in the church archives, but the Excel spreadsheets definitely represented a big advance. That said, John felt that we “have forgotten many of our congregational ancestors”, and he wanted to ensure that there was an easy way to reference who has been part of this church. There were thirty-four original founding members, and their legacy continues to live on. John's registry list is his effort “to place all those who preceded us back in the light.”

### The Larger Team

Other team members working to update the membership records included **Anne Burk, Lisa Jancarik** and myself. **Shannon Dever, Carole Johnson, Nancy Benvenuto, Linda Green, and Suzanne Stephens Ricker** also proved invaluable sources of information. During the past year and a half, we have taken steps to assess and clean up our membership database.

Over time, many of us have moved away or stopped attending, but they did not tell us. We knew our membership lists were outdated with names of folks who had moved on. To get a good picture of our current church community, the team wrote letters and made phone calls to track down dozens of

# Faces

people to determine who were still interested in being members of our church. In contacting so many people, we received new addresses, learned about new jobs, and more.

With John's printed database project, we now have a written record of everyone who was officially part of our community from 1957 to 2020 in one place. This document matches the current membership roster listed in our current church electronic database software.

And now I don't need to disturb the dust mites by digging through the old cards to find historical data on past members. Thank you John!

*Managing and updating the membership roster is an ongoing activity, and the church office appreciates when others let us know if someone has moved, returned, passed on, is visiting, or if someone from the community is participating in the church in some way. If you have an update on anyone, please contact the church office to share your information.*

**There were thirty-four original founding members, and their legacy continues to live on.**

## We're in the News!

Our volunteers who recently participated in the interfaith event to assemble hygiene kits made *The Patch*. Check it out [here](#)!



*Interfaith community Project Hygiene earns coverage by the local media. Thanks for bringing Good News when you make the news!*





# Thank You

## From the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano

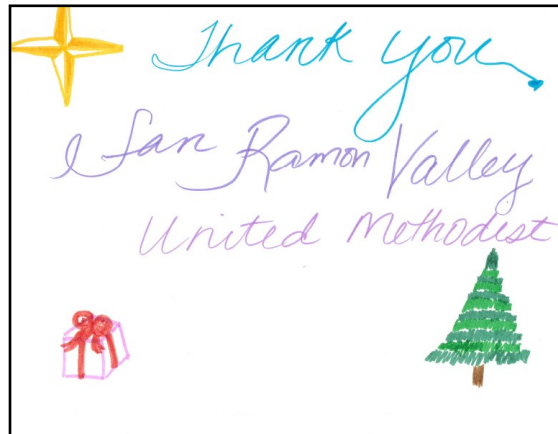
Food Drive Administrator Neil Zarchin wrote to thank our congregation for the food donations between October and the end of 2020. SRVUMC donated 393 pounds of food for an equivalent of 328 meals.

This area food bank serves 178,000 local people each month and distributes over 70,000 pounds of food each working day.



---

## Card From Winter Nights 2020 Family



*Inside: "Thank you for giving your blessings to us. May you be blessed in return."*

---

## From Our Own

Dear church family,

My heartfelt Thank You for your outpouring of support following the passing of my mother. Your cards, flowers, dinners, prayers and words of comfort helped me tremendously during this most difficult time of my life.

With deepest gratitude,

**Nadia Blank-Koliha**

**Catherine Godbey's** daughter, Cathy, gratefully thanks each of you for your sympathy cards. Your caring has made a difference. Once the campus reopens, the family wishes to celebrate Catherine's life with a potluck dinner.

# Family Ministry

## Calendar

**Kid's Kindness Klub—Sundays, Feb 21 through March 28 (except Feb. 28), 4 to 5 p.m.** We usually give up something for Lent. What if we give up some time to give back instead? Each week we will have a project that will focus on giving back to our community. Project kits will be dropped off around February 18/19. **Contact Laura Roy for Zoom details.**

**All Church Scavenger Hunt! (Drive around)—Sunday, February 28, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.** Find your crew and have some fun! Meet at church for list of things/places to find locally in Alamo and Danville. Take a picture with a member of your crew and mark it off. Meet back at church for prizes! Make sure to follow all traffic laws and be safe!

*Watch for surprise details: At-Home Easter Extravaganza...TBD!*

## Sunday School Topics

### Week One

Ephesians 4:32: God Was Kind to Us

SAY THIS: Be kind to others because God is kind to you.

### Week Two

The Book of Ruth: Ruth and Boaz

SAY THIS: Be kind to your family and friends.

### Week Three

Matthew 5:41: Go the Extra Mile

SAY THIS: Be kinder than you have to be.

### Week Four

Luke 10:25-37: Good Samaritan

SAY THIS: Be kind to people who are different from you.

**“You are God’s chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don’t be proud. Be gentle and patient.”**

**—Colossians 3:12, NIrV**

***Super Fan: Cheer Each Other On!***

***Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.***

## 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

# February Celebrations

## Birthdays

1 Renée Beck Amy Sidhom John Siebert	11 Bob Dominici Beverly McAdams	22 Lindsay Koos Hannah Niederauer David Shin
2 Bob De Chene (97) Harry Knapp Ted Nguyen Dawn Smallwood	12 Rebecca Byrom Joanne Knapp Millie Loper	23 Christopher Niederauer Kal Peters
3 Le Anne Jacobi Linda Jimerson Kim Wolfram	13 Lisa Jancarik Maggie Stienstra	24 Elisa Ericson
4 Joanne Durrenberger	14 Chuck Lindquist Charles Stephenson Eleanor Toney Katie Ward	25 Andrea McWilliams Joan Pierce
5 Kendall Andres Doug Beck Melanie Hasik	15 Debbie Hammond Teri Hawk Jim Ludlam	26 Suzanne Stephens
6 Jackie Ceragioli	16 Anne Burk Carol Sayers Linnea Winter	28 Maggie Rossini Laura Sanchez (92)
7 Debbie Kelly Katy Mannell	17 Lauren Longstreet	
8 Marge Brower (97) Marilyn Hansen	18 Nick Item	
9 Laurie Stocking	19 John Pavel	
10 Dean McWilliams Dave Pierce	20 Laura Altamirano Damian Lindquist	



## Anniversaries

3 Anne & Jim Burk (58)	6 Donna & Chuck Lindquist (50)
4 Nancy & Cliff Campbell Candice & Steve Newburn Betty & Irv Skeoch (54)	16 Kal & Kevin Peters



# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns

Beverly McAdams

Margo Cefalo

Joann Hirsch

Jane Knox

## Our Christian Sympathy

**Deanna Clark**, following the death of her son, Mark.

## 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

## 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