

The

Valley Messenger

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

Innovate During Hard Times

Pandemics have a reputation. They cause heart-wrenching grief and suffering. And they have a way of pushing us to make progress. The Black Plagues of the 14th through 16th centuries led to better working and living conditions for the very poor. Shakespeare did some of his best work when the theaters were closed. Isaac Newton fled to the countryside for safety and worked on his theories of optics, physics and gravity.

In 18th century Philadelphia, during the yellow fever epidemic, the founding fathers considered the idea that they had to bear responsibility for the health of citizenry. Public health in the US was born.

In the 1918 pandemic, the idea of childhood vaccines was born. Social distancing was needed in multi-family dwellings, and that led to three-foot-wide hallways, fire escapes, and private bathrooms for each family.

How will we look back at the COVID-19 pandemic we are emerging from? We are too close to the event to have much perspective. Yet, my guess is that we will cherish in-person gatherings with renewed appreciation. Imagine that first day when we gather in worship, able to sing, pray together, and then greet each other during the fellowship time. I get teary just envisioning that time! We are still a ways from that, and yet that day will come.

When we do gather again inside, we will continue to offer livestream worship via Facebook or downloadable from YouTube. The online worship will not just be a recording of the in-person worship. Rather, we will think of the online worship as a second campus, with a different audience. Our worship planning team (pastors, musicians and AV team) are learning how to create what we are calling "hybrid worship", or two different worship experiences: online and eventually also back in the sanctuary.

April 2021

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Next Issue: May 2021

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



Announcements

We realize that we are reaching new people as we offer online worship—people who may never set foot on campus. We are committed to continuing to serve those who worship with us online. The online worship service will be a focused opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal, including some music, Scripture, a concise message, as well as opportunities to give and serve. The total time will be 30 to 40 minutes. Once it is safe to do so, our in-person service will include other familiar elements, like a children's moment, passing of the peace, prayers of the people. For now, we'll continue to offer online worship and occasional outdoor services. As we emerge from the pandemic, may we be able to say that we learned how to be the church in new, vibrant and meaningful ways!

Imagine that first day when we gather in worship, able to sing, pray together, and then greet each other during the fellowship time.

—Pastor Kim

Easter Week Services

Online worship planned throughout Holy Week:

- **Palm Sunday, livestreamed on Facebook at 9 a.m.** and posted afterwards on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and our website, www.srvumc.org.
- **Holy Thursday Taize Service at 7 p.m. on April 1.** This service will include pastors and musicians from SRVUMC, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and Peace Lutheran.
- **Good Friday Worship livestreamed at 7 p.m.** This contemplative service will feature readings and music.

Easter Sunday Worship, In-person or Online!

Register in advance to join us in the courtyard at 6:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Those attending the outdoor worship services will need to register ahead of time by responding to an email that has been sent out, or calling the church office: 925-837-5243. Attendees will wear masks and social distance. There will be no congregational singing.

An online worship service will be available on Facebook, YouTube and our website by Easter morning.

Join in and celebrate! Christ is Risen!

Announcements

They're Back! Three Stephen Ministers Recommit



We are delighted to welcome three experienced Stephen Ministers back into the program: **Millie Sherman**, **Bill Fulcher** (*top photo*) and **Marilyn Clarke** (*bottom photo*) were active in the Stephen Ministry program some time ago. They took a three-month refresher course and now are serving as Stephen Ministers.



Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have participated in 60 hours of training. They offer confidential, one-on-one care to people who are hurting, in times of transition, or are feeling the cumulative effects of the pandemic.

If you are someone you care about would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Kim, krisedorph@srvumc.org. Having a safe place to explore what is happening in your life makes all the difference. Stephen Ministers are there to listen, pray and walk alongside you.



Playground Update

As things have opened up and playgrounds have become more accessible, the use of our preschool facility has dwindled. This is a good thing, as children are finding more places to play, and families are feeling more comfortable outdoors. We have found so much enjoyment in watching the children run, play and laugh in abundance!

We finished our open playground for the month of March. We are taking a break from opening our playground for a few weeks to reevaluate what is best for our community.

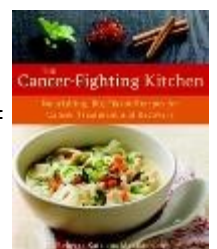
A huge shout out to our wonderful volunteers! We had fifteen amazing volunteers sign up for slots each week. Twelve families came to play. We were open over 320 hours. That's a lot of playtime!

Calling All Scripture Readers!

We are looking for children and families to read scripture as part of the Sunday morning worship. The readings are recorded in the safety of your home and then played as part of the live, online virtual church service. **Email Pastor Kim if you are interested at krisedorph@srvumc.org.**

Book Donations Continue During Pandemic

Book donations made during the pandemic will go to the church library when the campus reopens fully. In the meantime, **Judy Slinger** has generously donated a copy of author Rebecca Katz's cookbook, ***The Cancer-Fighting Kitchen***, to SRVUMC. Contact Patsy at the church office if you are interested in borrowing it.



Announcements

What To Do About Email Scams Using Pastor Kim's Name

"Spoofing" is a type of online scam using email to impersonate someone you already know as a way to get you to open junk email. A spoof can come from virtually any address or phone number, regardless of the mail accounts owned by the person whose identity has been stolen for the scam. Perhaps you have already received an email claiming to be "From: Pastor Kim Risedorph" at least once this year that didn't actually come from her. Pastor Kim has been very frustrated by these common scams that like to impersonate religious figures in the community.

Pastor Kim's email address is krisedorph@srvumc.org. She would only ever contact you from this address, and not a Yahoo!, Gmail or other type of email account. She is especially careful to use this email address to contact any of us since spoofing her name has become an issue, and she wants to be sure no one is confused by an address that doesn't seem familiar. ***Always look at the actual address before replying.***

Apparently, even bishops get "spoofed" Pretty nervy, huh?

"Ignore the declared sender's name," said Jeff Lang, referring to the "From" line of an email's heading. "This is really easy to spoof."

Jeff goes on to describe two cases that are reportable to the FBI.

- 1. If the sender email for a scam matches** the expected contact information, then please report it immediately. This case would mean the criminals are sophisticated.
- 2. If the scam resulted in a successful crime**, then please report it. For example, if you bought gift cards requested in the email and handed them off, then please don't wait to report it. Successful scams can be reported to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at <https://www.ic3.gov/>.



For the garden-variety scam with an **unfamiliar email address and no successful crime**, an Outlook user should select the email in the inbox and **right-click**. Right-clicking allows you to take action on an email without opening it. You can bring up a menu that lets you choose Junk Block Sender, which quarantines the email in the junk folder and permanently blocks the email address used against repeated attempts. The email itself will be purged automatically after seven days.

The specific story attached to a recent spoof that has been sent to the staff is supposedly Pastor Kim secretly emailing us from a meeting and asking us to buy gift cards "discretely." First of all, the email address is never the correct email address, and you should always check! Second, Pastor Kim doesn't email people during meetings. She's either running the meeting or participating so significantly that we'd all notice her messing with her cell phone or laptop. Finally, Pastor Kim would never ask you in an email to buy hundreds of dollars in gift cards "as a surprise"—for staff or for anyone else—let alone want you to email her photos of your gift cards or information from them.



April Communion

This year, the April Communion and Easter Offering will be combined in a single collection for these two familiar resources.



Monument Crisis Center (MCC) is a community-based nonprofit family resource center for Central and East Contra Costa County located in Concord. Although food distribution remains their primary objective (especially during COVID-19), they also have developed adult education, youth and senior programs to address the various needs of their clients. During the pandemic, their programs have included after school tutoring, health screening and wellness classes, computer and language classes and more. **For more information about MCC and how you can help with supporting this organization go to www.monumentcrisiscenter.org.**

Our church will be offering you an opportunity to volunteer at MCC on Monday, May 3, at their on-site food distribution warehouse. Our team will help prepare food items for distribution to food program beneficiaries. Tasks include packing food boxes, bagging produce or dry food, and cleaning.

The Monday, May 3, SRVUMC team will consist of two shifts:

- 8 to 10 a.m.—ten volunteers
- 9:45 a.m. to noon—ten volunteers

The fifteen-minute overlap is meant for the first shift to train the second shift on their tasks.

Look for this link to [SignUpGenius](#) in the Friday Memo and/or church website or contact Debbie and Greg Koos at glkoos@comcast.net.

Hope Solutions



Hope Solutions was formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH). By whatever name you have known this local organization addressing the need for stable housing in Contra Costa County since 1991. Hope Solutions maintains service sites in three Contra Costa locations; offers scattered site supportive housing for individuals living with disabilities and a Families in Supportive Housing (FISH) program; and provides housing advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS.

During 2020, Hope Solutions has found new ways to meet their clients' needs. Their Youth Enrichment Program (YEP), which supports families housed through Hope Solutions programs, has adapted to ensure that children have the technology and access needed for remote learning. An online tutoring replaces the homework club, and YEP has launched a private YouTube channel to host recorded stories and art projects. If access has been unavailable, the Youth Enrichment staff has created homework packets and delivered them. Learn more about ways Hope Solutions has adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with a visit to their [website](#) to view their range of programs.

Spiritual Growth

Great Decisions

Sundays Beginning April 11, 10 a.m.

Zoom

What are the great global policy decisions facing the US and how should Christians respond? Our church will hold a series of eight weekly discussions on critical global issues on ZOOM using a guide prepared by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). This program is part of an annual, nationwide program, whereby groups of concerned citizens throughout the US will discuss why the issues are important and why we should be concerned.

The series will be facilitated by Lyn Arscott. A twenty-minute video prepared by the FPA, will be shown on each topic followed by a facilitated discussion. The discussion series guidebooks are available from the FPA website https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials for \$32 plus postage.

If you are a regular member of the Dave Coomb's Sunday school class, Lyn has your email and will send the link and briefing notes every week. If you are not on that list, send an email to lynarscott@comcast.net to be placed on the list.

The April topics are:

- **April 11 Global Supply Chains and US National Security**—What are some of the lasting effects that the pandemic could have on global supply chains and trade? How would this affect national security?
- **April 18 The Future of Persian Gulf Security**—What are the historical influences that have led to these tensions? What role, if any, should the United States play? Is using military force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond?
- **April 25 Brexit: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead**—What does the future of Europe and the UK look like after BREXIT?



Afternoon Book Group

April 19, 1 p.m.

Zoom

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich with discussion led by Dan O'Conner.

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





Out Into the World

Action Matters!

Action Matters is the clever name for a group of SRVUMC folks that stay connected and occasionally meet to network about opportunities to put our Christian beliefs into action—specifically action for equity and inclusion for disadvantaged people in our community. There are many ways to actively serve, but one way some of our members are active in advocacy to affect more systemic change is through the [Multifaith Action Coalition](#). Their website describes their organization as “a coalition of Contra Costa County residents representing some 50 faith communities across the county. Members work together to address the root causes of poverty through advocacy and public policy change.”

The Coalition carries out its work through six task forces: [Racial Justice](#), [Housing and Shelter](#), [Food Security](#), [Jobs](#), [Education](#), and [Health Care](#). SRVUMC members **Laura Sanchez** and **Bob Orr** are active in the group, Laura in Racial Justice and Bob Orr in Health Care. Laura has also been active on the Housing and Shelter Task Force. We may be overlooking some other SRVUMC members serving as well! The task forces have open meetings—anyone can attend, and they meet to educate themselves about current issues, policies, and proposed legislation that impact underserved residents. They sponsor opportunities for faith communities and the larger community to learn about specific issues and raise awareness about intersecting aspects of poverty. Activism for the Coalition takes the form of email-writing, phone calls, showing up at public meetings, etc.

Maybe participating in a Multifaith Action Coalition Task Force is a way you want to serve those in need. As the website states, “The values we hold in common and the experiences of people in our congregations providing food, shelter and other services make us strong voices for those in need.”

For information about attending one of the zoom meetings, go to their [web page](#), or contact lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com.

Meals With Grace Delivers Irish Cheer to Putnam Clubhouse Residents



Left: Nancy Benvenuto receives her instructions while loading up with meals for Putnam Clubhouse members who live locally. Right: Jerry and Suzanne have their routing list and are ready to go! Eight volunteers partnered with Putnam Clubhouse to deliver corned beef, colcannon and carrots to seventy-five people.

Out Into the World

Thank You From Trinity Center



**Cover of the
Trinity Center
thank-you card.**

Your gift has already made an impact!

On behalf of Trinity Center Walnut Creek, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$890.00, with no goods or services in return. Your partnership is critical to our effort to support the needs of people who are homeless and those that are at risk of homelessness.

Each year, Trinity Center advances its mission of opening doors to opportunity for homeless and working poor people. We give care and hope to each one through supported access to services and resources. Through our program we have seen many lives changed for the better. In particular, our program has enjoyed great success in the past year with helping people obtain employment and housing.

The goal of Trinity Center is to make a difference toward ending homelessness.

With the help of investment from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements in the availability of basic human services such as food, clothing, and health services for the underserved adult homeless community as well as greater access to housing and employment.

Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts to create a community that cares for homeless and working poor people with compassion and provides a place of safety, friendship and dignity.

Best wishes,

Leslie Gleason,

Executive Director, Trinity Center

Conference Recognizes SRVUMC for Supporting Missionary Work



The 2019 Missionary Supporting Church certificate of recognition for SRVUMC from the CA-NV Conference. Thanks to all of SRVUMC for supporting missionary work. Special recognition appears on this certificate for the efforts of Don and Carole Johnson for mission outreach.



Faces

Introducing New Preschool Director Kaitlyn Self

Hello, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church members,

It is my pleasure to be writing this introduction as the new preschool director at United Methodist Church Preschool. I come to you with an extensive background and, most importantly, a passion for early childhood education. I have been a teacher in pre-K and kindergarten/first-grade classrooms, and an early childhood coach and assessor. Most closely related to this role, I was a site director at one of the largest childcare centers in the Vail Valley, CO. However, what I feel gives me the best experience in the world is having my own young children—Griffin, who is five, and Makenna, who just turned two. One of the things I love most about early childhood is the amazing transformation that children go through during this time. They are exploring and engaging in the world around them and constantly learning. I am honored to be a part of the team that provides them with a safe and comfortable environment to foster this growth and independence.

I graduated from Arizona State University with my degree in Early Childhood Education and have a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Early Childhood Education. Given this background, planning a fun and academically appropriate curriculum for young children is one of my favorite things to do. Providing them with hands-on experiences that encourage new skills in a fun way is critical in order to start their educational careers off on a good note. Seeing the transformation take place, as they get ready to take on kindergarten, is one of the most magical times in a child's life.

I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, but we have moved quite often. My husband works for a hotel company, so we have had the opportunity to live in some beautiful places! We have lived in Maui, Hawaii, by the beach, and in the mountains of Vail, Colorado. We are so excited to have landed in the picturesque town of Danville. We hope to grow some roots here as we send our own children off to preschool and kindergarten.

I love to cook, mostly because I love to eat, but you will probably see us around town a lot as soon as



The Self family.

Kaitlyn's Favorites:
Food: Chips'n'Salsa
Book: *The Kissing Hand*
Color: Mint Green
Season: Spring
Treat: Sour Patch Kids

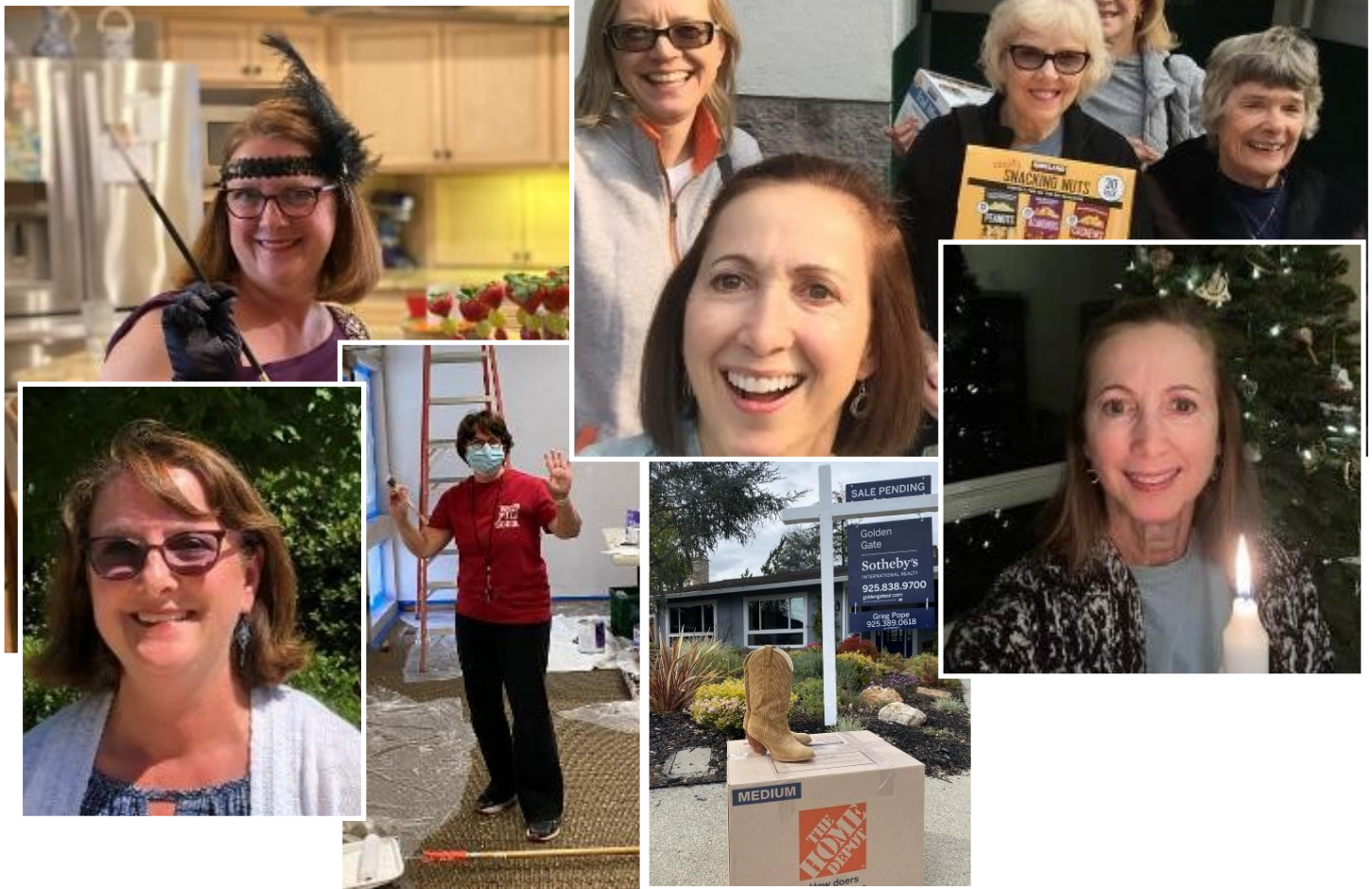


we are able to be out more. We love to be outside, enjoying the amazing weather and exploring new restaurants. I also love to read, which must be why, as a teacher, reading is my favorite thing to teach. I can't wait to build relationships with church members, our preschool families, and our preschoolers. Please know that my door is always open—or in most cases, my phone is always on. No problem is too big, and no question is too silly when it comes to our preschool children. I am here to make this their first stop on an educational career built on a solid foundation of a love of learning. Please feel free to reach out any time with improvements, comments, questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Self

UMP Director



Thanks to Susan Dowling (left images) and Theresa Omar (right images) for all they have done for us. Susan will still be with us as a member, but she leaves her post as office manager. Theresa returns to Texas to be with family. Top left: Halloween 2019. Top right: Theresa and LIFT members. Bottom left-middle: Susan painting the office with Patsy (not shown)...no one promised the office manager gig was glamorous! Bottom right-middle: The Omars get out of town before sundown! They'll be missed!



Family Matters

Calendar

Easter: Family Resurrection Egg Hunt! Easter surprises will be delivered the week before Easter

3rd (and 4th) Grade Bible Celebration. It is tradition at SRVUMC to present Bibles to our third grade students as gifts from the congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be the starting point for a deeper relationship with God as they are on their journey of faith. We will continue this tradition Saturday, April 17 at 10 a.m. in the SRVUMC courtyard. Pictures will be share in the worship service, Sunday, April 18.

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School – Discovery on Adventure Island, June 26 to 30. Ages 3 (potty trained) to grade 5, 9 to 11:30 a.m. *We will wait a while longer to see if we will be on campus or virtual!*

Weekly Cues

Week One

Colossians 1:20 and John 20:1-18: Easter/God's Big Story

SAY THIS: God made peace with us.

Week Two

Colossians 3:15: Live in Peace with Others

SAY THIS: We can make peace with others.

Week Three

Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31: Isaac's Wells

SAY THIS: You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.

Week Four

1 Samuel 25:1-35: Abigail Intervenes

SAY THIS: You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

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



April Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Steve Brown
Julien Hansen
Jim Hardy | 12 Alice Anthony
Charlotte Garner (96)
Joe Voelker | 22 Randy Christensen
Jill Shibuya |
| 2 Annette Warwick
Dave Webb | 13 Ed Davidson
Bee Gee Millinich | 23 Boyd Hasik |
| 4 Linda Green
Joanne Van Bezey | Rosanne Ogles | 24 Larry Henderson
Debbie Koos |
| 5 Jayne Schnittker | 14 Christy Campbell
Cliff Campbell | Rosemarie Place (91) |
| 6 Lonnie Bristow (91)
Sarah Stribling | Bruce Koliha | 25 Jessica Kuelz
Donna Lindquist |
| 7 Martha Kitajima
Jan Knadle
Paulette Ove
Johnathan Robinson | 15 Alexis Bybel
Ruth Riffin | 26 Karen Brown
Steve Garnick |
| 8 Nancy Benvenuto
Jeryn Blair
Trudy Pasquale | 17 Randy Durrenberger | 27 Lynne Henderson |
| 9 Randy Helms | 18 Shelley Lettis
Matthew Longstreet | 28 Nancy Reynolds
Dan Whiting |
| 10 Dave McWilliams | 19 Jennifer Andres
Max Niederauer | 29 Shirley Stephenson
Vera Robinson |
| 11 Jim Ball
Craig Schleicher | Nancy Vazquez | 30 Brent Willman |
| | 20 Bill Dastic
Eric Johnson | |
| | 21 John Evans
Bonnie Roberts | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 Ginger & Warren McGuffin | 12 Debbie & Greg Koos
Deborah & Johnathan Robinson |
| 7 Jean & Chuck Desmond
Kathy & Adam Kennedy | 20 Laurie & Terry Stocking |
| 8 Linda & John Green
Teri & Steve Hawk
Sara & Jim Rossini
Jayne & John Schnittker (65) | 24 Lael & Gerard Takiguchi |
| 11 Marilyn & George Clarke
Winnie & Brad Stribling | 25 Joanne & Randy Durrenberger
Kirsten & Scott Ericson |
| | 26 Melanie & Boyd Hasik (52) |

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns

Shana Carroll

Brigitte Green

Laura Roy

Marilyn & Todd Christian

Marsha Perkins

Laura Sanchez

Our Christian Sympathy...

To the **Schleicher** family on the death of Vera Schleicher.

To **Ida Dandridge** and her family on the death of her mother.

Continued Prayers For

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

Vera is smiling, sending love to all!

"Thank you, dear friends, for your cards, prayers and good wishes!"—Vera Robinson



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Laura Roy (ext. 106)

Youth Director

Rebecca Bernstein (ext. 109)

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Susan Dowling (ext 104)

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Kim Anderson

Accounting Assistant

Theresa Omar

Office Assistant

Patsy Kyles

Facilities & Purchasing

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