

The

# Valley Messenger

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

## Filling a Need in the Tri-Valley Area

Dear San Ramon Valley UMC Community,

Looking for a way to make a difference in our community?

The California-Nevada United Methodist Conference has approached SRVUMC about the need for a Korean UMC in the Tri-Valley area and whether we would assist with the startup of this new church on our campus. On April 20, District Superintendent, Samuel Hong; District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet Staci Current; and Craig Brown, Executive Director of Congregational Development, spent two and a half hours with the Church Council. We learned of the need, and what it would mean to us. We asked all our questions. The Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of this project but agreed that the congregation deserves an opportunity to ask questions and offer input.

***Church Council members are looking for ways to meet with standing committees, small groups, and individuals to hear your input and questions by May 15. Please be in touch with Church Council Chair Debra Carter if you would like to arrange a meeting at [hermine2@icloud.com](mailto:hermine2@icloud.com).***

In addition, a Zoom Question and Answer Meeting will be held on two different occasions for anyone wishing to participate, ***Sunday, May 2, at 4 p.m. OR Wednesday, May 12, at 7 p.m.***

Hopefully, one of these times will work for you. The Zoom links will be on the church website.

To get this conversation started, here is what we learned:

- Asian Americans are the fastest growing group in the Tri-Valley area. There is a hunger for a Korean language church. We know how much church means to us, and we want others to have the opportunity to gather in community, grow in faith, and serve others with love.

## May 2021

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### **Next Issue: June 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 **May 15, 2021.**



# Announcements

- The church start would be funded by the California-Nevada United Methodist Conference. SRVUMC is not covering the pastor's salary.
- The ask of SRVUMC is initially for office space. As the pastor of this new church connects with the Korean families in the area, they will need a small room for meetings. There is no way to predict how fast it will grow. The goal is to grow and then have the resources to move into their own church. This could take three to five years.
- To foster good communication between both churches, the Conference recommends writing a covenant agreement that clarifies the rules of engagement. Our covenant would detail the needs of both churches; set up communication channels; and affirm our intention to work together to spread the Good News.
- Craig Brown, Executive Director of Congregational Development, will meet with both churches every quarter to assess how the relationship is going.

***Church Council members are looking for ways to meet with standing committees, small groups, and individuals to hear your input and questions by May 15.***

All of this information was helpful. However, our enthusiasm came from the opportunity to support a needed church start. This opportunity coincides with our mission to be a blessing in the community around us. We welcomed the idea of adding diversity to our campus. We wondered if the English-speaking children and youth connected to the new Korean church would be interested in our children, youth and music ministries. We recognize that this could ask something of us over the next several years, and we look forward to the opportunity to be a place of hospitality and encouragement with the support of the SRVUMC family, and that is why your input is so important.

—Pastor Kim

## 알고 계셨습니까? (Did You Know?)

- According to a 2018 article appearing in [Korea Daily](#), the US had 4454 Korean churches. At that time, California was home to 1375 of them, or more than 30%.
- The first Korean Church to locate outside Korea was Christ United Methodist Church in Hawaii, founded November 3, 1903.
- Approximately 90,000 Korean Americans live in the San Francisco Bay Area, according to the Korean American Community Foundation [website](#).



# Announcements

## Hooray for Third- and Fourth-Grade Bible Recipients!



Kyla



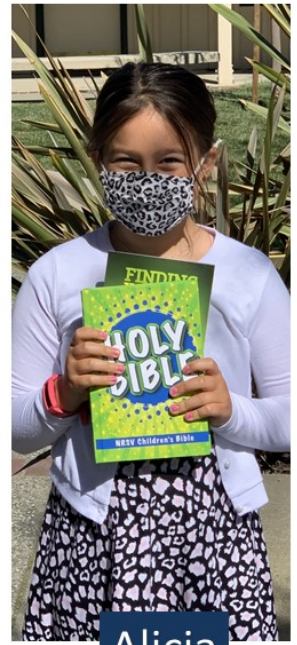
Jet



Grace



Audrey



Alicia

*Congratulations to our Bible recipients this spring! Reading, thinking about and discussing what the Bible has to say to us is a lifelong pursuit for Christians of all ages. May you find guidance and inspiration in its words. Not pictured are Sophia and Moxley. Below: Audrey receives her Bible from Laura Roy (back to camera) during the April 17 courtyard ceremony.*







# Announcements

## Help Out at the ARC!

The ARC is looking for volunteers to work as front desk attendants. Light duties include monitoring ARC users to ensure compliance with church policies. Times can be adjusted for volunteer availability. Volunteers will need to complete Safe Sanctuary and start **May 3**. Absent volunteers, ARC leadership will seek paid assistants. **Contact Joey Fuca at [jfuca@srvumc.org](mailto:jfuca@srvumc.org) or the church office.**



## Let's Welcome Our Children Back on Campus!

We are planning to welcome children back on Sunday, May 16 at 10:15 a.m. We need volunteers to make everyone safe and comfortable. If you would like to help serve the church in this way, we'd love to add you to our Children's Ministry team. We have opportunities for greeters, teaching assistants, Tot Spot assistants and more! **If you are interested, fill out [this form](#) or email Laura Roy at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).**



## Welcome Newcomers (and People Wanting To Reconnect)!

If you are new to the San Ramon Valley UMC, and you would like to connect and learn more, please be sure to fill out our Google [contact form](#). You can also use the form as a new or regular participant to let us know if you are interested in a particular activity/ministry or if you have a prayer request. It's a great way to get your connection started or restarted anytime.



## SRVUMC Needs You on Sundays!

Worship assistants are needed for services this spring and summer. Please consider serving in this role! You'll get to set up the worship area for a safe worship experience and welcome people. Training is a short PowerPoint slide show. Volunteers are encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Everyone attending will wear masks and practice social distancing. **Contact Patsy at the church office or Pastor Kim at [krisedorph@srvumc.org](mailto:krisedorph@srvumc.org).**

# Announcements

## In Gratitude & Celebration

We are surrounded by remarkable, loving people—within this church and in the wider world—who improve our lives daily. SRVUMC recently launched its Gratitude & Celebration program as a way one can recognize someone with a donation to the church. When a donation is made in a person's name, that individual receives a card from the church letting them know that they have touched your life with their efforts. You can choose to remain anonymous when you make the donation.

The [online](#) form under the Give tab of the SRVUMC.org website walks you through simple steps:



- *Complete a short online form right from the church website.* Check the box under your name if you wish to remain anonymous. Next, you'll list up to five recipients for recognition, along with the mailing addresses for each. Make sure you finish this part of the process by clicking the button that reads "Complete FIRST step!"
- *Make your donation.* Clicking on the hypertext in the sentence "Proceed securely making your financial contribution **here**." The link takes you to the website many of you already know from tithing or making other financial contributions online.
- *Watch for two auto replies.* The first acknowledges the receipt of your information from Step 1. The second acknowledges receipt of your financial contribution. If you didn't get both, then contact our office manager.

If you have more than five people in your life you wish to honor with a gift to the church, that's wonderful! You will need to repeat the above three steps to give them a nice surprise, too.

## Mother's Day Is May 9!

Which woman in your life is doing a fabulous parenting job? Your mom? Wife? Sister? An In **Gratitude & Celebration** gift to the church in her name is both practical and touching, so it might even be better than whatever you gave her last year! ***Follow the instructions above to honor her with this display of appreciation.***



# Spiritual Growth

## “Breathing Free Together” Community Art Project for Racial Equity

Public art is an expression of our shared humanity and a form of discourse for the community. The SRVUMC Dialogue for Change committee is a stakeholder in the Community Art Project for Racial Equity, scheduled to open in San Ramon on **Juneteenth (June 19)**. We are partnering with the [San Ramon Social Justice Collective](#), a volunteer group that aims to continue the momentum for education and community action related to racial issues.



The project’s theme, “Breathing Free Together”, is meant to encompass racial equity, harmony, healing, and justice in the San Ramon Valley through engagement by all members of the SRV Community with the artwork. Breathing is something that unites us. Every being on earth is connected by the single act of breathing, the most basic act of life. The current pandemic helped further “unmask” the systemic racial inequities in our systems, tying our basic survival to individual abilities to access resources—for “breath” and safety.

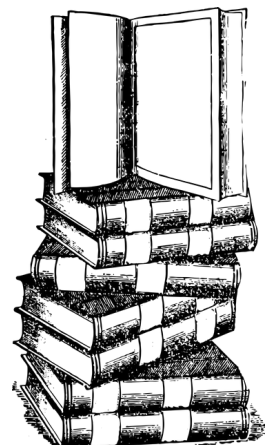
The public art exhibit will consist of vinyl banners made from art submitted by children, youth, and adults. Some pieces will be accompanied by quick response (QR) codes with prompts for community engagement via social media. The exhibit banners will travel to locations in the San Ramon Valley, including selected sites in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. Watch for more information about the exhibit as the Art Selection Committee, which includes our own Deborah Robinson, announces its decisions. Hopefully, the exhibit will include art by our SRVUMC youth and friends!

*For additional information, email Sylvia Benzler at [skbenz@mac.com](mailto:skbenz@mac.com) or Deborah Robinson at [debltr92@gmail.com](mailto:debltr92@gmail.com).*

## Literary Avalanche?

If you’ve been doing a great deal of reading during the pandemic, then you aren’t alone. Our Library Committee reports that they may not be able to process everyone’s donated books into our own church library.

Instead, Caroline Walsh reminds us that nursing homes and facilities like Monument Crisis Center often welcome your gently used books. Don’t forget to reach out to those facilities in advance to see if they are accepting new reading materials before you pack up your loads of literature.





# Spiritual Growth

## Great Decisions

Sundays, 10 a.m.

### Zoom

What are the great global policy decisions facing the US and how should Christians respond? On Sunday April 11, our church began 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 is facilitated by Lyn Arscott. A twenty-minute video prepared by the FPA is shown on each topic followed by a facilitated discussion. The discussion series guidebooks are available from the FPA website for \$32 plus postage. [https://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/?act=gd\\_materials](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials)



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](mailto:lynarscott@comcast.net) to be placed on the list.

The May topics are:

- **May 2 The Coldest War: Toward a Return to Great Power Competition in the Arctic?** What is the changing opinion within the US government toward engagement with the Arctic region. Because of climate change, large sheets of arctic ice are melting, exposing vast stores of natural gas and oil. With Russia and China already miles ahead with their Arctic strategies, can the US catch up?
- **May 9 China and Africa.** As Chinese President Xi Jinping's centerpiece "Belt and Road initiative" continues to expand Chinese power, the response to the spread of COVID-19, as well as the African government's growing debt to China, has seen pushback. What are some of the growing economic and political issues between China and Africa?
- **May 16 The Two Koreas.** As the rift between the US and China grows further, South Korea may end up in the middle of the two superpowers. What does the future hold for the US relationship with the ROK?
- **May 23 The World Health Organization's Response to COVID-19.** What is the WHO's role in responding to international pandemics? What can be done to improve the WHO's response to future global health crises?
- **May 30 The End of Globalization?** What is globalization and how will it be affected by protectionist trade policies? How will the United States and the world be affected by such policies?





# Spiritual Growth

## 2021 New Camping NOW

### CA-NV Conference Camping Ministry

#### ***New Normal • New Opportunities • New Witness***

We have heard, dealt with, confronted and maneuvered around the new normal during the pandemic. The new normal has opened and is still opening new opportunities to keep connection in our faith and people communities. The pandemic has not weakened us nor made us less empowered, but we have become more vigilant, bold, courageous and we are stepping up to new witness in life in Jesus who took the side of the poor the marginalized, the victims of discrimination, the oppressed. We rise with our prophetic voices to dismantle racism and all forms of discrimination.



New Camping in New Normal, New Opportunities and New Witness is inviting us all to look at the future of camping. The future of camping is also here in the present and now. We, on the conference camping staff and the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries, headed by Patricia Parfett, could not do the vision and plan of the future of camping only by ourselves. But we need you. New Camping NOW is about community, connection, collective way of making disciples of Jesus Christ. New Camping NOW is inviting us to embrace that there is hope in camping ministry that is rooted in anti-racism and decolonization of the church.

New Camping NOW is opening this summer. But all our plans are subject to follow all guidelines and protocols from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, counties, states of California and Nevada and our California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Thanks to Jenna Stark, Camp Director of Toyon Camp with her creative plan for children's camp this summer. She is in constant communication with Mickey Petrov, Site Manager at Monte Toyon Camp in planning for a safe and healthy camp for children and youth. And thanks to Mickey as well with his remarkable management of our Monte Toyon Camp especially during this time of the pandemic. This Toyon Camp plan would also serve as a model for Camp Lodestar. Thanks to James Box and his family, who are taking care of Camp Lodestar up to this point that it may open for camping events.

- [Camping & Retreat Ministries website](#)
- Camps, Registration and Forms for [Monte Toyon](#) or [Camp Lodestar](#)
- [Camp Volunteer Registration and Forms](#)

*Fel Cao, Director, Camping & Retreat Ministries and Young People's Ministries*

*Shari Sandoval, Camp Registrar*

*(Editor's Note: NOW at Monte Toyon July 11 through 16. NOW at Camp Lodestar July 18 through 23, 2021. Some light edits for style were made to the original content.)*





# Out Into the World

## Hope Solutions Appreciates an SRVUMC Member!

*Editor's Note: This story is borrowed with minor edits from the Hope Solutions website.*

"This is why I love my job!" exclaimed Sandibel, [the] Volunteer/Donations Coordinator after hanging up the phone last month. She had just been contacted by Maggie, who called to say that she wanted to donate her stimulus check to someone in need.



When Maggie's check arrived, she felt compelled to pay it forward and make a difference. She had just seen Hope Solutions' March Furnishings List in her church's bulletin at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. In doing her research, she saw Hope Solutions' commitment to "End Homelessness One Family at a Time" and instantly knew this was where she wanted her funds to go. "I realize I can't help every homeless family but thought maybe I could help out one homeless family. And it seems to have worked out just that way."

Hope Solutions was seeking furniture for an entire apartment for a small family, comprised of a mom and a 1.5-year-old who were ready to move in. The needs included living room furniture, beds and bedding, household, kitchen and bathroom supplies.

*We had about a week to get everything in place. And that is where the adventure began! I connected with Sandibel, and she gently guided me. We then began exchanging phone calls, photos, and texts as I visited consignment and thrift stores for furniture, shopped for household items and tracked incoming orders from Amazon. I did not meet the new tenants, but I did get to visit the apartment with Sandibel a couple of times to deliver and set up furniture. We got to turn an empty apartment into someone's new home. It was my pleasure working with Sandibel and Hope Solutions.*

[Hope Solutions is] so grateful for Maggie's generosity and inspiration. She is an angel to that young family!

***Watch for this parking lot mission opportunity!***

## **Wildfire Bucket Assembly**

**Early or Mid-June**

Ten or fifteen volunteers are asked to assist with organizing supplies purchased with May Communion Offering monies into buckets for this year's wildfire relief efforts. Here's a way to work together for other Californians! More information to come, so watch the Friday Memo or your email for details.



# May Communion

## San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church Wildfire Bucket Campaign

Sadly, devastating wildfires have become the new reality in California. Each occurrence seems more destructive. The Conference is trying to stockpile enough buckets and response supplies at strategic locations to be ready for the next major wildfire, and this May Communion Offering is an opportunity for SRVUMC to help. In the last two years, Conference volunteers have run out of supplies in our response. We aim to fund 25 wildfire buckets for the California-Nevada Annual Conference. Each bucket costs \$110.



### What Is a Wildfire Bucket?

A wildfire bucket contains the safety equipment, supplies and tools needed for a wildfire victim to access the remains of their home, most often to look for personal possessions that may have survived. It includes the hazmat suit, masks, gloves and goggles to safely access the hazardous ash and other toxic content of a burned-out home. It also includes the trowel, rake, shovel and other supplies for searching a site. We have sifters available to help go through the ash that we can either give the homeowner or loan them while we are helping.

During a wildfire response, our Church Conference Early Response Team provides these buckets to families at the Local Assistance Center or when we assist the family at the site of their burned-out home. The buckets represent a caring Christian presence on behalf of our congregations, conference and denomination.

***Page 9 announces the volunteer opportunity in early or mid-June for ten to fifteen people to assemble buckets in our church parking lot using supplies purchased with this month's offering.***

***Our church partnered with the conference during the 2020 wildfire season. Left: Dory Schramm (left) and Cathy Coleman (right) with wildfire buckets and supplies. Right: Steve Elliott loads up.***







# Faces

## Welcome to Sol Cuenco, New Office Manager

Sol is the eldest of eight children. She was born and raised in southern Philippines. She migrated to the US in 1979 and has since lived in Concord. She and her husband, Ramon, are blessed with four children, all adults now.

Their eldest daughter, Yvette, is now a school counselor based in Abu Dhabi, but will be returning to the US in June this year. Yvette's constant companion in her international travels is her dog, Milo. Yvette's had Milo before she and her husband, were married. Joan Claire, their second daughter, is a program director and tutor for a tutoring service company based here in Alamo. Ramon Paul (RP),



***New office manager Soledad Cuenco.***

their only son, is an IT engineer for a start-up company in San Francisco. RP and his fiancée have a three-month old puppy named Goose. Isabella Marie, the youngest, is a registered nurse and works at a hospital in Fremont.

Prior to coming to the US, Sol worked as executive secretary at the Folk Arts Theater (FAT) of the Philippines, which was one of the projects of the then first lady of the Philippines. While at FAT, Sol worked closely with the artistic directors in various theater productions, state visits and other projects.

Sol has worked in both private and nonprofit sectors. She was parish secretary and office manager for eight years at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Concord. Prior to coming to San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Sol was office manager for the Clarion Hotel in Concord. While at the Clarion, Sol established and managed both payroll and HR departments and worked with four department heads in managing 90 employees.

Sol finds fulfillment in various community outreach projects. Her most recent project is building a community center which will house a library and a health center in her mom's hometown in rural Philippines.

Sol loves to sing and play a little bit of guitar (she says she needs practice). Sol first experienced the beauty of music through her mom who comes from a family of musicians and singers. Her mother, Siony, sang beautifully. Siony's six brothers all played instruments, while she and her four sisters sang harmony. All were self-taught. Sol's son RP, is a self-trained musician as well.

So, how did Sol land at SRVUMC in Alamo? Divine Intervention!





# Family Ministry

## Calendar

**Mother's Day, May 9!** Watch for a special delivery!

**Onsite and in person Sunday school! Sunday, May 16 at 10:15 a.m.** In conjunction with in-person worship, we are excited to begin Sunday school! Families will need to register in advance. TK through Grade 2 will meet in the ARC. Grades 3 to 5 will meet in Wesley Hall. Tot Spot will depend on staffing availability. ***Watch for registration link soon.***

**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. Click [here](#) for registration and details!

## Weekly Cues

### Week One

1 Corinthians 9:24-25: Training to Win the Prize

SAY THIS: Keep practicing what matters most.

### Week Two

Matthew 7:24-29: The Wise and Foolish Builders

SAY THIS: Practice hearing from God.

### Week Three

Luke 11:1-4: Model Prayer

SAY THIS: Practice praying to God.

### Week Four

Matthew 16:13-20: Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah

SAY THIS: Practice talking about God.

### Week Five

Mark 12:41-44: Widow's Mite

SAY THIS: Practice living for God.

***Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.***

**"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come."  
—1 Timothy 4:8, NIV**

## 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



# May Celebrations

## Birthdays

1 Catharine Baker Barbara Nicco Bethany Pavel	11 Kathleen Wood 13 Carole Johnson Jim McKnight	25 Clara Malin Thomas Mannell
2 Will Davis Cheryl Morones	14 Saba Kanwal	26 Norma Jean Bunker Skip George
3 Bruce Templeton	15 Greg Longstreet Scott Ryan	27 Justin Farhang Hannah Stephenson
4 Sylvia Benzler Floy Blair Mike Prenger Jim Warnock	16 Lorry Dahl 17 Rick Doran 18 Sanjiv More	Thomas Valdriz 28 Kay Jones (95) Tom Schramm
5 Hannah Sidhom Scott Smallwood	19 Alice Impraim Marla Nakaso	28 Anna Templeton 29 Jan Geahry
6 Susan Doran	21 Gerry Aude Bob Baker	31 JT Kennedy
8 Jason Doyle Abby Ten Elshof	Rich Braden Brian Dandridge	
9 Winnie Stribling	Robby Kelly	
10 Barbara Carlson Jim Kretsch	22 Ruth Pavlik 23 Gary Krumrei	

## Anniversaries

4 Linda Albertoni Engman & Dave Engman	24 Susan Pickering-Gest & Steve Gest Connie & Ray Winter
5 Floy & Jerry Blair (58)	26 Anita Weir & Jim Ball
6 Kathleen & Briggs Wood	28 Barbara & Mike Nicco
8 Marty & Jerry Osborn	30 Christy & Bruce Campbell Anne & Paul Kuelz
10 Nancy & Steve Garnick	Marilyn & Thomas Mathis
14 Angela & Tom Norton (55)	Susan & Dale Stevenson (58)
18 Donna & Dave Bain	
21 Debra & Richard Carter	
22 Lisa & John Jancarik	

### Did We Miss Your Special Day?

If you are relatively new to the church or share in church life from out of town, then we want to make sure we include you, too! Please help editor **Lisa Jancarik** keep the Celebrations records for the newsletter upated by emailing her at [newsletter@srvumc.org](mailto:newsletter@srvumc.org).

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns

Marilyn Clarke

Joey Fuca

Steve Osborn

Shana Carroll

Charlotte Garner

Laura Roy

Marilyn & Todd Christian

Brigitte Green

Laura Sanchez

## 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

## Rebecca's Saga Continues

Rebecca will be leaving her current position as youth director at SRVUMC for the exciting challenge of graduate studies in Medieval and Nordic Studies in Iceland in August. Prayers of blessing and appreciation for her and guidance for us as we seek a new youth director. We know all that energy Rebecca brings with her will serve her well in her future studies!

*Rebecca Bernstein. Hat styling/  
photo editing by Dana Jancarik.*



July 4, 2017

## Summers From the Church Family Album



June 2018

July 2016





# Among Ourselves

## From Within Our Church Family

**Thank You, SRVUMC.** Marilyn Clarke extends her gratitude to everyone who has reached out with cards and phone calls to check on her after her fall last week. Marilyn is recuperating well and is learning to appreciate a good step stool.

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**Thank You, SRVUMC.** My great thanks for your overwhelming prayers, cards and thoughts of support and encouragement as I recover from a fall that broke my left femur (again). All your good wishes for me are surely the reason I have had the miracle of NO PAIN! Really, NONE! I am so grateful! – **Laura Sanchez**

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**Letter to Seniors from Sandy Greenwood:** As you know I have for years been sending cards to you to celebrate your birthdays and anniversaries. Because I have developed an essential tremor, my hand-writing has deteriorated. I have decided reluctantly to give up this mission of love. I will still follow your special days and celebrate in prayer for you. Please know that the caring continues and I cannot wait to see you when we can finally be together in person. Love to all!

## SRVUMC

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Kaitlyn Self

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### Facilities & Purchasing

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