

The

Valley Messenger

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

Connecting in Youth Ministry

"Do you wanna play inside or outside? Your choice." This was how each of my confirmation classes would end, right after some deep discussion on baptism or peace and justice issues. I always chose outside so that I could play nerf football with the other youth. Our pastor was almost always the quarterback and me a wide receiver. We often connected on long passes deep into the end zone, which were the trees at the back end of the parking lot. They also acted as extra defenders as the branches seemed to reach out and knock down most efforts.

I cannot say what was more important for me in those days, the learning about God, or the experience of connecting with the football thrown by my pastor. I suppose the line between the learning and the connecting was blurred. Youth ministry, when it is at its best, is about relationships as much as it is about learning about faith. Perhaps one cannot be understood without the other, especially at this stage of life. And when the whole congregation takes time to connect, that is when more and more youth make it to the end zone, that place where the grace of God in their lives gives them purpose and a deeper sense of belonging.

I have had the opportunity, along with **Steven Roath** and others, to listen to our families with youth and to dream about what would be lifegiving in the next chapter of youth ministry at SRVUMC. The sharing was heartfelt and sincere and still continues. Like me, some people shared their own experiences growing up and the deep love they had for the youth of this congregation. There were moments when our eyes were filled with tears as we learned how the current ministry was already absolutely vital to their child. Our thanks go to Rebecca Bernstein, our outgoing Director of Youth ministry for the ways she has connected with our youth over the last years. She will be missed.

July 2021

- 1 Pastor's Pulse
- 2-5 Announcements
- 6-7 Spiritual Growth
- 8 July Communion
- 9-11 Out Into the World
- 12-13 Family Ministries
- 14 Celebrations
- 15 Among Ourselves

Next Issue: August 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 **July 15, 2021**.



Announcements

This time in-between youth ministers is an opportunity if we choose to claim it. This is the halftime when the coach comes into the locker room and rallies the team toward victory. Youth ministry is not just a side thing the church does for a few families during a timeout, but it should be a part of the overall strategy on the mission field. How can each of us find a way to connect with the youth ministry? What if each small group committed to at least one concrete way to connect with the youth in the next year?

I still connect with that pastor who threw that football to me more than thirty years ago. We don't throw footballs anymore, but he and his spouse (also a dynamic pastor) have often given me feedback on sermons or on life in general. Please make the effort to connect with our children and youth. You have no idea how many yards into their life your point of connection will travel.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Mantu

“Youth ministry, when it is at its best, is about relationships as much as it is about learning about faith. Perhaps one cannot be understood without the other, especially at this stage of life.”

We Want To Hear From You!

As we continue to offer in-person and online worship at 9 a.m. on Sundays, we want to hear from you. Please take a few moments to send Pastor Kim (krisedorph@srvumc.org) your response to this query: What does an ideal worship experience look like to you?

Save the Date!

"Rest in the Storm"

SRVUMC Women's Retreat 2022

February 4 Through 6, 2022

Villa Maria Del Mar, Santa Cruz, CA

Led by our own Pastor Mantu Joshi!

Based on the book by Kirk Byron Jones and centered on the scene where Jesus calls for calm in the storm (**Mark 4:35-41**) with a focus on self-care and sabbath. Registration in November 2021.





Announcements

SRVUMC Property Tax Update

We recently received good news from the Contra Costa County Assessor's Office with regard to the ad valorem property tax obligations of the church (taxes based on property value).

Over the years, we have made a priority of community service and outreach by allowing certain groups and activities on our campus. To do so can have tax consequences, so it became necessary to obtain a "welfare exemption." After three years of working with the Assessor's Office, we have been granted both the renewal of our religious exemption *and* a welfare exemption. For the 2018 and 2019 tax years, these are only partial exemptions due to several noncomplying uses during those years. We will have to pay a total of \$43,973 which is about 23% of what could have been assessed with no exemptions. For 2020 and beyond, we have a 100% welfare exemption, i.e., *no ad valorem taxes at all.* (Note: regardless of exemptions, the church is still obligated to pay special assessments, bonds, etc.)

Thanks to financial commitments over the years and careful stewardship by our congregation, we have the resources in the Council Reserve Fund to pay this expense, and Church Council has voted to approve it. We will fulfill our tax obligation and move forward to discover new ways to welcome community groups to our campus in mindful and strategic ways. New guidelines for campus use by outside groups will soon be available through the church office. *In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Debra Carter at hermine2@icloud.com or Terry Sherman at dtsh@sbcglobal.net.*

Summer is in the Air!

Summer Preschool

Tuesday Through Friday, July 6 Through July 23

As the temperatures warm up, we are looking forward to welcoming our summer campers at pre-school. It will be so exciting to have the sound of laughter and learning move through our little school again! It has been much too quiet there.

We are learning all about the ocean and the beach. You can bet this means we will take every opportunity that we can to get outside and play in the water!

Our playground is really coming together just in time to be spending all this time outside. As you can imagine, after a year of having a much smaller amount of play time on it than it is used to, things certainly needed a little "sprucing up." We have added new bark and new swing hooks to keep our pre-school friends safe. We also did a little bit of rearranging to switch things up and prepare for our fresh start! We are incredibly thankful to the preschool commission and all that they have done to help get our playground play-ready!

Continued next page.



Announcements

Continued from previous page.

We are hoping to host a community “open house” sometime in July or early August to showcase all of the handiwork that has been done by our dedicated preschool commission. Be on the lookout for a date so that you can join us and see it all for yourselves. Next up for us after summer program will be our Fall Grand Reopening. All I want to know is: Is it August yet?! Bring on preschool! —*Katelyn Self, Preschool Director*

Bruce Koliha Retires in July

Our wonderful music director at San Ramon Valley UMC, Bruce Koliha, is retiring on July 4. One of the ways we will be thanking and celebrating him is to send him a kudoboard, and you are all invited to contribute. Just click on the link, and add your message, picture or video. It's easy and fun, and it will be so appreciated. Thank you! Click on this link or copy and paste this link in your browser: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/ONL5ofpv>



Assist With Life Milestones

The church is in immediate need of compassionate, organized individuals who can smooth the often stressful process of planning significant events: weddings and memorial services. Reliable, calm and resourceful personalities can help San Ramon Valley UMC with this vital work, allowing those who are undergoing deeply emotional times to focus on what matters most.

Memorial Coordinator. Assist those who have experienced the trauma of loss to honor their loved ones in a way that feels organized and tailored to their needs. Ease the minds of loved ones by shepherding them through the details of planning memorial services during a time when grief may make it difficult for them to focus. This paid position is paid per event. Church staff will train and offer guidance to navigate the planning process.

Wedding Coordinator. Work to facilitate a joyful celebration on a wedding day! The wedding coordinator interfaces with family, shepherding them through the details of planning ceremonies on site at the church. Your organization and resourcefulness can reduce some of the stress of an otherwise happy occasion. This paid position is paid per event. Church staff will train and offer guidance to navigate the planning process.

Join the cooperative San Ramon Valley UMC team! **Inquire with Marilyn Clarke at mclarke@srvumc.org or by calling (925) 984-3485.**



Announcements

Tips for SRVUMC Communications (Even for Experienced Leadership)

What To Say: Your Facts Are Gold

Your facts are gold! Typos and fonts change with a couple of mouse clicks, but people only know the details you provide. If you need some help deciding what to say, here's the template newsletter announcements follow to get you started:

Name of Your Event

Date, Time

Location (even if it's Zoom)

Add a sentence or two if you have some other important details to share, but don't agonize over brilliant marketing copy. Last sentence has contact information. ***Be deliberate about how much personal information you share here because the newsletter will be accessible via the website.***

How To Connect With the Most Readers: media@srvumc.org

Get your message out there to multiple sites most easily by sending your announcement to one email address, media@srvumc.org. Linda, Lisa, Shana and Patsy all access this account. Using one account lets us share clip art and other important details. Help us build the habit of using this account for better consistency in our messages.

How To Send Your Info: We're Flexible If You Are

Word documents are how Lisa edits and archives written content from newsletter contributors, so these are easiest for her. ***Important: Please don't struggle to add an image or photo to your Word document.*** Send images and photos as separate files and let us integrate them with software that is much easier to use for the task.

- You might also consider writing your announcement copy directly into your email.
- PDFs can be tricky. Please share a relevant PDF, but understand that it will not appear as-is in the newsletter or Friday Memo. Small fonts become hard to read, and images can become blurry. If the PDF is important for everyone to see, then please send it to media@srvumc.org with a request to have it posted to the church website.
- Remember that people get news from different sources. Facebook doesn't suit everyone. Maybe Friday Memo seems like a lot to absorb at the start of the weekend. ***Announce everywhere you can.***

Watch for more tips in coming editions of the newsletter, or email media@srvumc.org to ask for a PDF with all the communications tips in a single document!



Spiritual Growth

Dialogue For Change

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Zoom

Dialogue for Change is an adult education forum that provides a space for learning about race, racism, and becoming antiracist. We are eager to welcome new attendees this summer with interesting programs that look at the relation of race to housing, economics, and the environment as well as learning more about Asian/North American Asian experience from some of our own church members and Pastor Mantu. *To participate, contact Patsy Kyles in the church office at pkyles@srvumc.org or by phone at 925-428-9873 for the Zoom link. For more information, contact [Lucinda Huffaker](#).*



For every church member and friend, we highly recommend an eleven-minute video, “[Racism and the Church: Where Do We Go from Here?](#)” It is the powerful testimony of five young Black adults speaking about their faith and experience. You won’t regret taking a few moments to view this poignant testimony.

From Pain to Purpose

As disciples of Christ, we seek to become aware of and educated about issues in our community so that we might provide support to causes that touch our hearts. Dialogue for Change is a forum for sharing information about justice issues. It occasionally focuses on a particular current event as an avenue for living our faith through advocacy or protest.

This month, we are celebrating the state Assembly’s unanimous passage of **The Miles Hall Lifeline Act: AB 988 Suicide and Mental Health Crisis**. God works to bring good out of tragedy, and that is what appears to have happened in the death of Miles Hall. Miles was a 23-year-old Black man with mental health issues who lived with his family in Walnut Creek. He was in the midst of a schizophrenic mental health crisis when his family reached for the only source of help available—calling 911. Despite having information about Miles’ condition, officers resorted to lethal force within a minute of their arrival.

In April of this year, Craig Stevens, San Ramon’s Chief of Police, reported at a Town Hall on Mental Health Awareness, “During 2020 our department experienced an **80%** increase in individual mental health crisis (911) calls. What is alarming is that **36%** of these individuals in crisis were juveniles.” This could be one of our families.

As a hopeful response to critical situations like these, **The Miles Hall Lifeline Act: AB 988 Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Hotline** calls for a new three-digit phone number, 9-8-8,

Continued next page.

Spiritual Growth

Continued from previous page.

for suicide prevention and immediate, localized emergency response for individuals in mental health crisis by trained mental health professionals. This bill will designate crisis hotline centers to provide intervention 24/7 through call, chat, and text. These call centers will be able to deploy crisis services like mobile crisis teams and crisis stabilization services as well as provide follow-up services.

You can learn more about the Miles Hall Foundation and AB 988 here: <https://www.justiceformileshall.org/>

San Ramon emergency services saw an 80% increase in mental health crisis calls, and 36% of individuals in crisis were juveniles.

Church Member Pickleball Resumes July 7 Wednesdays and Sundays

All church members and their guests (no more than two per member) are invited to play on Wednesday evenings, 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Sundays starting July 11, from 3 to 5 p.m. All levels of play are welcome. There are three pickleball courts available. Please avoid wearing black soled shoes or shoes that will scuff up the floors. Paddles and balls will be provided. ***Please call Debbie or Greg Koos if you have any questions at 925-786-5172.***



Between The Bookends

The library committee requests that no books be donated to the church for a while. Time must be spent on gathering books that had been checked out before the pandemic and processing new ones to add to the circulation of the library. Thank you for honoring this request.

The book cart will go out when social hour resumes.

Afternoon Book Group July 19, 1 p.m. 202 Wesley Center

The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. Discussion Leader TBD.



July Communion

Global Missions

Zimbabwe

Larry and Jane Kies continue their mission work in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Larry is a technical advisor to the Africa University Farm, while Jane teaches intensive English to students at Africa University. Jane was born in Zambia but received her certification to teach English as a second language (TESOL) in England. You can learn more about Jane and Larry at <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-1474-kies-jane.aspx>. You can also email her through that portal, if you like.

Nepal

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



Right: UM missionary to Nepal Katherine Parker presented Pastor Kim with a plaque depicting biblical stories during her May 2019 visit to SRVUMC.

Did You Know?

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

According to missionary Jane Kies:

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

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





Out Into the World

Offering a Christian Presence After a Wildfire

It is so devastating for survivors to return to a home lost in a wildfire. But there is always hope that a keepsake or family heirloom made it. Our United Methodist Early Responders offer a caring presence and the protective clothing and tools to safely access the toxic ash and help search the dangerous site.

Thanks to the generosity of our SRVUMC congregation, we assembled 30 wildfire buckets and the related tools a couple of weeks ago. Ten volunteers filled the buckets and staged everything for delivery to our assigned stocking location—the United Methodist Church in Ukiah, California.

Our California-Nevada Conference is stockpiling nearly 500 wildfire buckets, 125 ash sifters, dozens of cleaning buckets, crates of emergency hygiene kits and hundreds of rakes and shovels. These supplies will be in storage at United Methodist Churches in Pinole, Sacramento, Stockton and Ukiah, plus one planned Sierra location. Our donation will launch the Ukiah site. This connectional wildfire ministry will also support the needs of the other UMC Conferences in the Western United States.

What a blessing you are! While we pray that wildfires will not be bad this year, we are ready to respond if they are.

In Mission Together,

Steve Elliott



Above: The fire buckets team with their completed buckets, ready to send to Ukiah, CA. Standing: Patsy Kyles, Donna Lindquist, John Green, Paul Kuelz, Ann Kuelz, Pastor Kim Risedorph. Front Row: Bill Van Bezey, Floy Blair, Linda Green, Annette Whiting, Ann Radick.

Right: Donna and Annette sorting gloves for buckets.



Out Into the World



Left: Patsy Kyles, Paul Kuelz and Ann Radick have this bucket project in the bag! Right: Bill Van Bezey sorts masks for the wildfire buckets.

Partnering With Red Cross, Danville LDS

Successful June Blood Drive

SRVUMC volunteers recently cooperated with Danville Latter Day Saints for a blood drive hosted at the LDS site. This interfaith project allowed the local Red Cross to collect 35 units of blood from thirty-eight donors, including one walk-in. In addition to serving the community together, volunteers from both congregations learned about one another's mission events.





Out Into the World

Save the Date!

Winter Nights Returns to SRVUMC Campus!

Host Dates March 28 Through April 11

We are excited to be hosting Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter onsite again this winter. St. Isidore Catholic Church has graciously volunteered to provide care the second week, so we will be looking for volunteers from our own church family for the first week to help with meals, to coordinate activities, and to serve as over-night hosts. Watch for signups in a few months! If you have any questions, please contact **Kal Peters** at kaltpeters@gmail.com or **Nancy Garnick** at nancygar@sbcglobal.net.



You Can Still Donate a Backpack!

Monument Crisis Center's Annual Back-2-School Backpack Drive **Donations Accepted July 4 Through 10**

Backpacks should be new and should not be solid red or solid blue. Supplies for the backpacks will be purchased with mission funds, so you do not need to include them.

Drop off backpacks for at-risk middle- and high school-age students in the bins located in the church narthex. If you are unable to drop your backpack donation off at the church on July 4 or July 10, then contact **Greg and Debbie Koos**. Greg and Debbie will field your questions about any other details.

Monument Crisis Center is a family resource center located in Concord that provides food, education, and referrals to individuals, families, children, and seniors in need, no matter their legal status.

**Monument
CrisisCenter**



This year, Laura Roy delivered the goods for Father's Day fun in the form of materials to make a bookmark for Dad, cocoa and doughnuts.



Family Ministry

Parent Support Group – Commiserate, Cultivate and Connect!

Starting Sunday, June 13 at 10:15 a.m.

Parents of young children are invited to come together with Pastor Mantu Joshi to discuss the sermon topic and Bible verse based on the book *The Sermon on the Mount* by Amy-Jill Levine. No preparation—just drop in! “But what do I do with the kids you ask?” They can go onto Zoom Sunday school also at 10:15 a.m.! **Email Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org for the meeting ID and passcode to join the Zoom meeting.**

Children’s Ministry Volunteers Needed!

We have welcomed the children back on campus! 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 like greeters, teaching assistants, and more! **Sign up [here](#) or email Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org.**

Paid Position: Tot Spot Childcare Lead Teachers

As we begin to worship in person we would like to invite our families to worship. We would love a safe place for our very little ones (nursery through young fours) to play. We are looking for two adults as Tot Spot caregivers starting in June on Sundays from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Safe Gatherings background check and training required. Vaccination proof requested. ***If you, or someone you know, is interested, please contact Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org or (925)837-5243 ext. #106.***

VBS Help!

July 26 Through July 30, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Volunteer at VBS!

We need just a few more volunteers to welcome the 40 children coming to VBS! We need one pre-school station leader, six group guides (take kids from station to station), a “music moves” leader and tech leader. High schoolers, list volunteering at VBS on your college applications! **Email Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org today!**

Loan Your Pop-up Tents to VBS!

We will take good care of them! **Email Laura Roy lroy@srvumc.org to work out the details.**

Family Ministry

Calendar

Join us for VBS 2021! We have a few spots available. Invite your friends and neighbors entering TK through fifth grade! Discovery on Adventure Island invites children to arise and shine because the light of God's love has come and is shining on them. The children will be empowered by exploring ways God shines great light in the world and by learning how they can also shine God's light by reflecting what they've learned. Register here:

<https://www.myvbs.org/srvumc/>

When: July 26 through 30, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: San Ramon Valley UMC, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA 94507

Registration: \$50 per child. Discount to \$45 per child for family of three or more children.

"VBS2021" Music CD is available for \$5 per CD.

Contact Laura Roy, Director of Family Ministries at lroy@srvumc.org.



Join Us for In-person Sunday School! Sundays, 9 a.m. No need to register! TK through grade two will meet in the preschool breezeway. Third through fifth grades will meet outside of Wesley Hall. Tot Spot will depend on staffing availability.

Online Sunday School meets at 10:15 a.m. via zoom. **Contact Laura Roy, Director of Family Ministries at lroy@srvumc.org for meeting ID and passcode.**

Weekly Cues

Week One

Daniel 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
SAY THIS: Trust that God is always with you.

Week Two

Matthew 14:22-33: Peter Walks on Water
SAY THIS: Stay focused on Jesus.

Week Three

Ephesians 6:10-17: Armor of God
SAY THIS: Use what God has given you to stand strong.

Week Four

Romans 8:38-39: Nothing Can Separate Us From God
SAY THIS: God loves you no matter what.

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." —Philippians 1:6, NIV

Celebrations

Birthdays

1 Olivia Durrenberger
3 Greg Benvenuto
4 Don Field
6 Xan Alexander
Stephanie Ricker Schmalz
7 Brenda Domergue
Fred Toney
9 Graydon Bazell
10 Shannon Dever
Vin Hirsch **(93)**
Kathy Kennedy
11 Marti Starnes
Teri Voegtle
12 Linda Ashcraft
Amelie Sepull
Sherrie Weis
13 Devon Drake
14 Amy Riedel
Robert Winter

15 Gloria Holleman
Rebecca Mays
Briggs Wood
16 Melissa Stroin
17 Steve McAdams
Caroline Walsh
18 Megan Hagebush
19 Judy Baker
19 John Orr
Marilyn Scott
20 Esi Impraim
21 Carol Fhlug
Harry Hanover **(94)**
Ginger McGuffin
Bill Rust
22 Larry Stone
23 Mitch Nicco
Kathy Sheppard
24 Whitney Tiedemann-

McCollum
25 Willy Adam
Rich Lowther
26 Bill Sabin **(94)**
27 Malia Malin
Valerie Miller
Jerry Ricker
28 Janet Steffy
Brian Stocking
29 Joseph Saghafi
30 Jeff Schroeder
Randy Slinger



Anniversaries

2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts **(55)**
5 Carol & John Sayers **(58)**
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell
Judy & Randy Slinger
7 Teresa Fimby-Christensen & Randy Christensen
8 Pam & Alan Christian
Jane & John VanderWerf
9 Debbie & John Hammond
Linda & Curtis Jimerson
12 Heidi & Mantu Joshi
Helen & Bob Sinclair **(63)**
15 Kerry & Scott Davis
16 Rebecca & Roger Ten Elshof
17 Trudy & Larry Pasquale

19 Kim Maddux & Eric Perry
20 Katy & Gregg Mannell
21 Liz & David Bayat
Tim & Megan Buckley
Nancy & John Harrison
Alice Anthony & Alex Iantano
22 Jennifer & Don Andres
23 Marianne & Bruce Templeton
28 Beverly & Steve McAdams
31 Liz & Ron Cooper
Marci & Kelly Milligan



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns

Rebecca Bernstein
Bob Brown
Shana Carroll
Marilyn & Todd Christian

Donna Church
Charlotte Garner
Brigitte Green
Sandra Greenwood

Steve Osborn
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

Thank You

The cards you send to Eleanor Toney mean so much to her, she appreciates them again and again. Your kindness means so much to us. Gratefully, Fred Toney and Family

Eleanor's address: The Watermark Retirement Community at San Ramon, Suite 155, 12720 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon CA 94583

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

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

Soledad Cuenca (ext 104)

Accountant

Kim Anderson

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

Communications Manager

Shana Carroll

Director of Recreational Ministries

Joey Fuca (925) 837-2011