

The

# Valley Messenger

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

**Special**  
**20-page Busy Church**  
**Edition!**

## Introducing “The Trail”

### *A New Creative Image That Will Guide Our Process of Discipleship*

You’ve just won the Super Bowl. Where are you going to go next? I’m going to go to Disney World!

This is what the MVP of the game would often yell at the end of the game. What if they answered instead, I’m going to church! Or better yet, what if the church was more like Disney World?

I don’t mean that church would be simply for amusement or to make money. Disney is a multi-billion-dollar empire. I mean more the original dream of Disney. Where one person saw swampland and had a vision for taking that alligator paradise, filling it with ferry boats and theme-filled rides, even a monorail.

Well, over the last year of COVID, we took advantage of our forced hibernation as a church to find our own SRVUMC imagineers and see what dream we could build for the future of discipleship in the church. Much like Disney, we looked for a theme that would speak to our next years in a way that people could quickly understand. Of course, Pirates of the Caribbean would not work for us, but we went deep into Scripture and our Methodist roots. We tried to figure out which theme would come up.

After much prayer and months of deliberation, we had a meeting that we thought would take at least a couple of hours to come upon a theme. Instead, it took about fifteen minutes. The group quickly gained consensus that “The Trail”, based upon the Iron Horse Trail that runs through our San Ramon Valley Area and beyond, would be our theme.

We then set about setting up the various lands in our theme park. Remember Fantasy Land or

## September 2021

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### **Next Issue: October 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 **September 15, 2021.**



# Announcements

## THE TRAIL: Learning, living, and loving like Jesus.



### JOIN US AT THE TRAILHEAD

📍 *Feel a sense of  
belonging*



### TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP

📍 *Feel seen  
& heard*



### DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

📍 *Experience true  
community*



### BECOME A TRAIL- BLAZER

📍 *Grow beyond what  
you thought was possible*

*"The Trail", guiding our process  
of discipleship.*

Frontierland in Disney? Our lands would be four stages of growth, but to be clear, just like in an amusement park, one stage is not more important than another, and many people will visit these stages again and again in a lifetime.

Click [here](#) for a three-minute video describing "The Trail" for visitors, etc.

Click [here](#) for a longer twelve-minute version for people really wanting to understand the theological engineering behind it.

Of course, the church is not Disney World, but using our imaginations and metaphors can be powerful tools for understanding how we actually live out our mission to be on a journey with God, mind, body and soul. Jesus often used metaphors to describe "The Way." "The Trail" is a metaphor for understanding the way of following Jesus. Much like Disney, we will be building the rides little by little while keeping our eye on the larger vision. So please keep your expectations of us low as we build

# Announcements

God's dream for us, one ministry opportunity at a time.

God's Magic Kingdom is better than any ride you have ever been on. We invite you to "The Trail: Learning, Living and Loving Like Jesus."

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Mantu

**Editor's Note: Check out Pages 5 to 7 of this newsletter for Bill Rust's explanation of how fall classes and small group time will enrich your own journey on The Trail!**

**New to SRVUMC?**

## Online Discovery Class

**Saturday, September 11, Time TBA**

We want to welcome you and get to know you! Please join Pastor Mantu either in late afternoon or early evening. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, learn about the church, and consider how you might participate. Most of all, we want to say, welcome! Whether you worship with us in person, online, locally, or far away, you are invited to join this Discovery class. **Please register by calling the office at (925) 837-5243, or emailing our office administrator, Patsy Kyles, at [pkyles@srvumc.org](mailto:pkyles@srvumc.org).**



## Texting in Church? Yes, It's a Thing!

Help us stay in touch. Let us know you joining in worship by using your cell phone to text number 833-533-1594. Text "here" to that number. Just that one word, nothing else!



**Note that you only need to send once, or you will create duplicates for the attendance.**

You'll then receive a text with a link. Open the link to complete your check-in. There's an option to let us know how we can be in prayer for you. We want to hear from you!

You can opt out at any time by sending STOP or just let us know.

**Be sure to add that phone number to your contacts for quick reference in the future.**

# Announcements

## Welcome to New Director of Music Rosalind Neisinger!

Rosalind began her journey with us on August 16 this year. She has been the choir director for Monte Vista High School since 2019, and she continues to serve there. She holds a degree in Music Education from UCLA.

Thank you to the search team tasked with finding someone to fill the director of music post: Pastor Mantu, Winnie Stribling, Teri Hawk, Beth McClelland, Shannon Dever, Brad Stribling and Bill Fulcher.

Take a listen to the Monte Vista High School choirs she directed singing a moving and timely "Silent Night" video with [this link](#).



### Paid Positions: 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 immediately 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](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org) or (925)837-5243 ext. #106.*

I can't wait to hang out in Tot Spot!

You don't think anyone will notice the wings?



### Paid Position: Memorial Services Coordinator

Looking for a way to serve and make a difference? Your primary responsibility is to walk alongside families preparing services for loved ones. We have a detailed list of responsibilities, such as making recommendations for flowers, food, and setting up a memory table. We have the information you need to do the job well; you bring a caring, listening presence to the task. The job requires approximately two hours of preparation with family and being in attendance the day of the service. Pastors take care of the content of the service, and Memorial Service Coordinator helps set the scene. This is a paid position. Please consider serving in this way. **Contact Pastor Kim for more details at [kris-edorph@srvumc.org](mailto:kris-edorph@srvumc.org).**



# Spiritual Growth

## Join us on *The Trail*!

### Bill Rust, Faith Development Committee

Join us in learning, sharing, good conversation, and being “opened” in these popular, faith-growing, Sunday morning adult classes and small group communities that meet throughout the week. Their overriding goal is feeding your faith so you will act on it.

#### Overview, “*The Trail*” discipleship pathway Sunday classes for 2021-22

These classes are for busy people. Several are short—only four sessions—making participation easier. Longer classes are “drop-in.” You can mix and match them to fit your schedule.

Pay attention to *The Trail*, SRVUMC’s new pathway to becoming a disciple. Each class will have a Faith Tier designation to show its location on the trail, e.g., Trailhead (i.e., Looking). Look for banners and brochures around the church campus explaining *The Trail*. Our pastors will talk about *The Trail* in their fall sermons. Descriptions of individual classes follow on Page 6.



**Trailhead**

**Faith Tier: Trailhead**—Just looking around; before “Beginning”

Sept. 5-26—Meetup with Pastor Mantu: *What I have learned from COVID*.

Oct. 3-24—Curious Seeker: *Study the Bible? Why should I care?* Leader: Bill Rust.

Oct. 31-Nov. 21— *Bible Basics*. Leader: Phyllis Meyer.

**Faith Tier: First Step**—Beginning; an intentional start on The Trail

Nov. 28 to Dec. 19—Advent Study.

Jan. 2 to 23—*Finding Your Way: Making Sense of the Bible, Part 1 (The Nature of Scripture)*. Leaders: Terry Sherman and Larry Stone.

Jan. 30 to Feb. 27—*Finding Your Way: Making Sense of the Bible, Part 2 (The Bible’s Challenging Passages)*. Leaders: Terry Sherman and Larry Stone.

Mar. 6 to Apr. 10—Lent Study.



**First Step**

**Faith Tier: Discover**—Growing into the “Way” of living modeled by Jesus

Sept. 5 and ongoing—*Taking the Sermon into the World*. Leader: Laura Sanchez

Sept. 5 to April 10—*Old Testament* video series by Prof. Amy Jill Levine. Leader: Dave Coombs.

April 24 to June 13—*Great Decisions*. Leader: Lyn Arcscott.

Occasional dates—*Dialogue for Change*. Leader: Lucinda Huffaker.



**Discover**

#### Join a small group!

Classes and groups work together. Classes that feed both head and heart are vital, but they are not enough. You need to be a part of a faith-nurturing small group that surrounds you with loving and ac-



# Spiritual Growth

cepting community, a safe place for good conversation; growing; and finding new dimensions of your own faith as trusted friends share, listen, encourage and support each other on *The Trail* journey.

Contact Pastor Mantu or Larry Stone to find a small group that's right for where you are on your personal *Trail* journey. Some focus on fellowship, service or activities, others on growing faith. Three faith-focused groups to consider:

- *Women of Wisdom*, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Leader: Marilyn Milam.
- *LIFT* (Learning, Living, Loving in Faith Together), Thursday mornings, 9:30 a.m. Leader: Sandy Gsand; and Sunday evenings, 5 p.m. Leader: Debbie Kelly.
- Saturday Morning Men's Faith Sharing, Saturdays, 8 a.m. Leader: Terry Sherman.

## An invitation to you

Join in as many of the **classes** as you can to learn with mind and heart. Join a **group** for faith-growing community. See you on *The Trail*!

## Description of Fall Classes

1. ***Taking the Sermon into the World.*** Sundays, 10 to 11 a.m., Zoom. Inquiring conversation on the morning worship message on how each of us will live out the message in the community. Leader Laura Sanchez. (Faith Tier: Trail Blazer/Maturing)
2. ***Old Testament Video Commentaries by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine.*** See more about this class on Page 5 of this newsletter.
3. ***Meetup With Pastor Mantu: "What I Learned From COVID."*** Four Sunday sessions, September 5 to 26, 11a.m. to noon. This meetup will gather at Peet's Coffee in Alamo to help people seek their own personal lessons learned from experiencing the pandemic. Each person will come to their own conclusions but will be inspired through conversation, meaningful connection, and a little wisdom through the Christian faith tradition. Each gathering will center around a key theme (e.g., slowing down, relationships that matter, my future). Members of the community are welcome and open conversations will be led by facilitator and author Pastor Mantu. Register at Signup Genius. (Faith Tier: Trailhead/Exploring)
4. ***Curious Seeker: "Study the Bible? Why Should I Care?"*** Four Sunday sessions, October 3 to 24, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Zoom. A short-term class for casual lookers: "I'm looking for something. Where do I begin?" Resource: Excerpts from Rob Bell's bestselling, highly entertaining book, *What is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything* (2017). Leader: Bill Rust. (Faith Tier: Trailhead/Exploring)
5. ***Finding Your Way: "Bible Basics."*** Short-term class for absolute beginners: what the Bible is and why it's important to you. Four Sunday sessions, October 31 to November 21, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Zoom.

# Spiritual Growth

Resource: Leader's notes; for independent self-study: *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible With Both Our Hearts and Our Minds* (2019), written by Jen Wilken for women in Bible study groups (and men, too). Leader: Phyllis Meyer. (Faith Tier: Trailhead/Exploring)

**6. Advent Study.** Four Sunday sessions, coordinated with sermons. November 28 to December 19, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Congregation-wide conversation and sharing in classes and small groups on this season's Advent theme selected by the pastors. (Faith Tier: Trailhead/First Step; Discover/Growing)

## New Adult Old Testament Sunday Class

**Begins September 5 at 10:30 a.m.**

### Zoom

**David Coombs** will lead a class featuring Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's 24 lectures on the Old Testament. Each video will last approximately 30 minutes followed by discussion. Because we are in a fourth wave of COVID-19, we will meet on Zoom. If you are not on the email list to receive the Zoom link and the background material, please email Dave at [dfcassoc@comcast.net](mailto:dfcassoc@comcast.net).

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor at Vanderbilt University, will take us through the Old Testament in a way we have not experienced. Dr. Levine states that she thinks religion is the best undergraduate major in college, at least in terms of the humanities and the social sciences, because you have to have knowledge of a diversity of subjects: literary criticism, anthropology, economics, political science, history, art, mythology and cross-cultural studies. This will be an academic approach to the Old Testament, but as Dr. Levine writes, "The academic approach should give believers, agnostics, atheists, and those whose religions fall outside the biblical purview all a deeper understanding of the text."

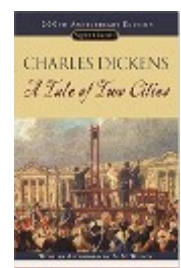


**Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University. Photo is property of Vanderbilt University.**

**Watch for Dave to send out the Zoom link to interested participants.**

## Afternoon Book Group Mondays, 1 p.m. Room 202 Wesley Center

***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens**, discussion leader TBD.







# Spiritual Growth

*Interfaith Council of Contra Costa and SRVUMC*

## ***Nurturing the Beloved Community***

**Sunday Afternoon Interfaith Retreat, September 19, 3 to 8 p.m.**

**San Damiano Retreat Center [planned]**

**Dr. Ejaz Naqvi, Leader of Islamic Center of Zahra, Pleasanton CA**



Dr. Naqvi will explore Islamic ideas of the *Beloved Community* and the relationship of Malcolm X with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Spend an afternoon learning, sharing and in great conversation. The retreat is for everyone: students, seniors, people of any particular faith or life philosophy, and those with an Interfaith spirituality. Readings will be shared before the retreat and are included in the fee. \$40 to \$60 fee (sliding scale) includes dinner. **All welcome! Contact Bill Rust, Chair of SRVUMC Faith Development Committee, at [wrusjrarb@aol.com](mailto:wrusjrarb@aol.com) to register.**

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***Save the Date!***

## **"Rest in the Storm"**

**SRVUMC Women's Retreat 2022**

**February 4 Through 6**

**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.**



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## **The Harvest Festival Craft Fair Is ON for 2021!**

The SRVUMC Administrative Board has approved our Harvest Festival for **November 6, 2021**, so it's time for all crafters to get their creative juices flowing! If you have a stockpile of goodies created during the pandemic, then we could make this year's event the best ever! We will need to adhere to all pandemic protocols in place at the time, so we'll remain hopeful that we will also be able to offer lunch at our Harvest Café.

**Contact Shannon Dever, [shannondever62@gmail.com](mailto:shannondever62@gmail.com), if you are interested in participating.** It's a fun social event and a good opportunity for outreach to the community, as well as an important fundraiser for the church.





# Spiritual Growth

## 5 Tips for Better Listening From Stephen Ministry

By Lisa Jancarik

Think about the last time you were really struggling. The people who made you feel most empowered were the ones who listened carefully to what you had to say about your circumstances, even if (maybe especially if!) they didn't try to fix it for you.

Stephen Ministry trains its lay ministers to listen to people who are struggling in a caring, nonjudgmental way. It doesn't take long for us to start finding these good practices useful in our own daily lives, though, which is why we are sharing these five tips with you.

Here are a few nuggets that are especially helpful:

- **Get ready to listen.** Put away your phone. Don't look at your watch. No multitasking while the other person is talking. You can sit still for a few minutes, and five minutes of genuine interest in someone else makes a huge difference to them. In my family of scientific eggheads, we like data. That means someone might be using the phone to check facts on the internet relevant to our lunchtime discussion, but it still makes the fact checker *seem* less interested in what other people at the table are saying.
- **Open-ended questions are more revealing.** You only *think* you know what's going on with someone. Before you ask, consider whether you've phrased a yes-or-no question. When I have rephrased questions to my teenager, I've learned all kinds of stuff I wouldn't have thought to ask about directly. For example, watch out for "Did you...?" as a way to start a question because a person could simply say yes or no without offering detail. Make "Did you feel angry when that happened?" into "How do you feel about what happened?"
- **"Tell me more" is never the wrong thing to say.** An important corollary to the open-ended questions point is that not steering the conversation at all can sometimes yield a lot of surprising information.
- **Silence really is golden.** Get comfortable with not saying anything for a few beats, letting your partner in conversation fill the void. Maybe there is some natural little activity you can do for a moment, like prepare another cup of coffee, while they think of something to say. Just don't use the quiet as time to check those devices, or you'll imply that you've lost interest in talking.
- **Watch body language.** Does what a person says match with posture and facial expression? If not, then you might consider probing more gently. Also pay attention to your own body language. Leaning forward and making eye contact are commonly suggested ways to improve your connection.



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY



**Tip One: Leave the gizmos and distractions alone while you listen.**

# Spiritual Growth

tion in the conversation, and you should do those things *if they feel natural*. The key is not to force them: sometimes people will lean back if you lean forward because they want more personal space. Sometimes prolonged eye contact can be interpreted as a stare. For example, I have my best conversations with my teenager in the car, when I *can't* look her in the eye, because it feels less intimidating for her. If you're unsure about eye contact in a given situation, then glance over at someone and notice if they are looking back.

The confidential conversations between a Stephen minister and his or her care receiver let the person in pain explore feelings and contemplate choices available independently. Listening is foundational to practicing Stephen Ministry because it builds trust and fosters warm relationships. The hidden benefit to all that training is that we use those listening skills in all other parts of our lives, and you can, too.

## DIALOGUE FOR CHANGE

More Than a Conversation—An **Opportunity** To Learn & Act

*A community on a journey with God, mind, body & soul.*

Watch for more opportunities to explore race, racism and antiracism in this adult education forum. This committed group began plumbing the depths of this topic in 2020 with videos, reading of the book ***White Fragility***, and self-reflection in the context of what participants have learned. Join with an open heart and open mind, ready to explore and, maybe, be surprised!

Fall 2021 activities are coming soon, so watch for ways to work into your calendar this opportunity to expand your understanding of race and racism!



***Trunk or Treat 2020, modified as a drive-through experience. This year, October 30, 3 to 5 p.m.!***



# Out Into the World

## Mission Trip to Assist With Recovery From the Camp Fire

The Camp Fire, November, 2018 was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history. Tragically, 85 people died. The fire burned over 150,000 acres and more than 18,000 structures. The towns of Paradise, Concow, Magalia and Butte Creek were largely destroyed.

Signup is now available for a mission trip, **October 10 through 15, 2021**, to help rebuild. We will be working in Paradise, teamed with Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN). We will drive up on October 10, work the week of October 11, and return Friday afternoon, October 15.

We will be staying at housing provided by HCRN. Two people share a bedroom with a shared bath between rooms, plus gathering room and dining area. The limit on this trip is twelve people.

We will receive our work assignment about a week beforehand. HCRN is providing the tools.

The cost will be \$175. This includes the cost of carpooling, food and accommodations. **For questions or to register, contact Steve Elliott at [sae612@msn.com](mailto:sae612@msn.com) or 925-362-8697.**

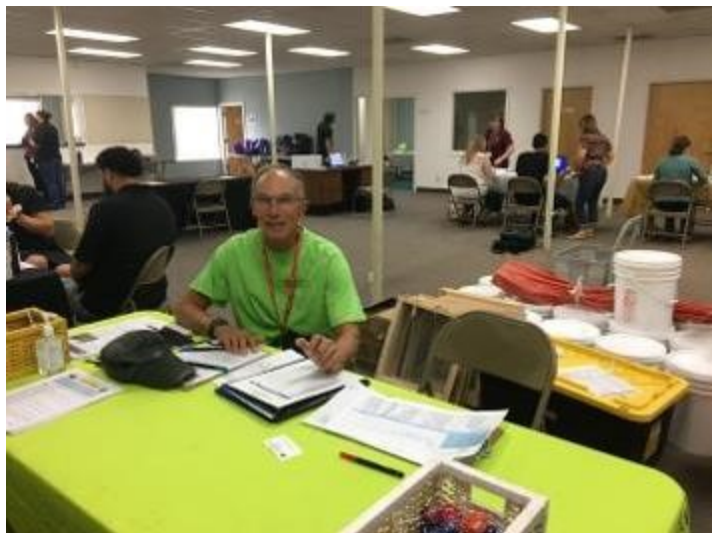


## Responding to the Dixie Fire

Now the largest such fire in California history, the Dixie Fire is a devastating moment in time. Small towns, like Greenville, Crescent Mills, Canyon Dam and others have been virtually wiped off the map. No lives lost yet, but many lives changed.

The California Nevada Conference is responding. The UMC churches in Quincy, Portola, Greenville and Susanville are assisting evacuees. The Conference Early Response Team served for three days at the Local Assistance Center in Quincy this past weekend. We expect to return as the next assistance locations open. We will be responding over the coming weeks as survivors need help with housing, food, clothing and living expenses.

The most important part of our services is to be a ministry of presence—listening to survivors as they



***Our own Steve Elliott on task with the conference's Dixie Fire response.***

# Out Into the World

grieve their loss, express their fears and ponder an uncertain future. The local pastors and the Early Response Team have a willing ear and open heart.

Most of the survivors are long-term hill country residents living a modest lifestyle in close-knit communities. They know and care for each other over generations. We are struck by how these proud people are reluctant to ask for the help they now need from the “outside” world.

In addition, our immediate support has included over \$10,000 worth of gift cards, emergency hygiene kits, wildfire buckets, cleaning supplies and local church assistance. We envision this support repeating, plus addressing other needs, as the next few weeks unfold. Even now, we anticipate the long-term recovery.

The most immediately useful way to help is to donate financially. You can donate to a fund we have set up here at SRVUMC. Steve Elliott, from our church, is directly involved in helping to lead the Conference Dixie Fire Response and will make sure our donations are used well. ***Just note Dixie Fire on your donation in some fashion.*** We are determined to see this tragic event through. Our prayers and support will help many survivors.

## **Sock It to Me Saturday and Undie Sunday Are Coming!** **September 12 Through September 24**

The women of LiFT ChristCare Group are hosting Sock It to Me Saturday and Undie Sunday in support of First UMC Salinas’ homeless mission program. You are invited to bring a package of new men’s underwear, any size, and/or a package of new men’s socks to church on Sunday, September 12. Place them in the barrels available in the narthex for collection. We are also collecting men’s clothing, used and in good condition, especially men’s jeans, any size, t-shirts and other casual shirts, casual jackets and sports shoes. ***Note the emphasis on the word “casual.” They do not need suits, dress shirts or other dressy or business attire.***

You may bring any of your donations to church on September 12. You may also drop off donations in barrels in the narthex or in the ARC during the weeks of September 12 and 19 until Friday, September 24.

Send an email to Shannon Dever, [shannondever62@gmail.com](mailto:shannondever62@gmail.com), if you have questions. Thank you for supporting this important United Methodist mission!





# Out Into the World

## Hope Solutions Thanks You!

Dear Reverend Kim,

On behalf of Hope Solutions (formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing), thank you for your recent gift of \$1,698.



As we stepped into the first anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, we took time to reflect on our successes and the hurdles we have overcome. Quickly following the global pandemic shutdown, our team leaped into action, knowing that our frontline work helping people find and maintain safe, permanent housing was more essential than ever.

Because of your support, we were able to swiftly and nearly seamlessly pivot to a virtual workforce. We created innovative ways to provide our unique brand of exceptional support and services to our residents and clients. We ensured our at-risk families and single adult clients had food in their homes and the technology they needed to continue their education, stay connected to our virtual programs, and access online resources.

As we continue to follow the trajectory of our county cases closely, we are thrilled to share that 70% of our staff is fully vaccinated, and several more are in line to get their second dose administered. The COVID-19 vaccination brings us relief knowing that we can begin to take steps toward normalcy. Although this will take months, we look forward to the future ahead.

Thanks to gifts like yours, we managed to make it through the storm. We are truly inspired by your continuous support and humbled by your compassion during such difficult times. Thank you for being the backbone of our agency and for making a difference in our community.

Most Sincerely,

**Suzanne Martin,**

**Development Director**

## Thank You To Our Vacation Bible School Volunteers!

Discovery on Adventure Island VBS was a huge success. Thanks to our many hardworking and dedicated volunteers, we had 40 children laughing, singing, playing and have so much fun! Adventure Island invited children to arise and shine because the light of God's love has come and is shining on them. The children explored ways God shines great light in the world, and by learning how they can also shine God's light and reflect what they have learned throughout the week.





# Out Into the World

## Going Out Into the World in October...

The Mission & Outreach Committee also invites you to participate in these upcoming service opportunities:

**October 2**—To celebrate the one-year anniversary of ICARE (Interfaith Council of Contra Costa), ICARE has arranged for service days helping White Pony Express with their food services for families and individuals in need. Volunteer to organize, distribute, load vehicles, and clean up. SRVUMC and the Danville Latter-Day Saints will partner for this day of service with two shifts of food sorting/distribution. One shift will operate from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., and the other from 1 to 3 p.m. SRVUMC should provide six volunteers for each shift, for twelve total. This is a great opportunity to bring hands-on help to those in need, and in a way that celebrates our interfaith community. Both congregations strongly encourage youth and families to join us and meet others in our community while serving others. **Contact Catharine Baker, Mission & Outreach Committee Chair, to volunteer or learn more at [catharine.baker@hogefenton.com](mailto:catharine.baker@hogefenton.com).**

**October 3**—Pastor Daniel Kim and the Korean Church will be selling individual packets of Korean food, part of an annual tradition in the Korean church as a fundraiser for the church. This is a great our chance to try/buy some authentic Korean food!

**October 9**—Habitat Playhouse Build. Watch for more information about a great way for volunteers of all ages to join in mission work.

**October 26**—Red Cross Blood Drive at SRVUMC, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Blood donors are greatly needed to save lives in our community, and SRVUMC will provide volunteers to welcome and check in donors throughout the day. **Sign-up links are coming soon, or contact Catharine Baker, Mission & Outreach Committee Chair, at [catharine.baker@hogefenton.com](mailto:catharine.baker@hogefenton.com), for more information.**



*Playhouse Build, 2019. The annual Playhouse Build benefits Habitat for Humanity in its local mission. This fun afternoon helps meet a need for affordable housing in the region and gives us all a chance to create and socialize.*



# Communion

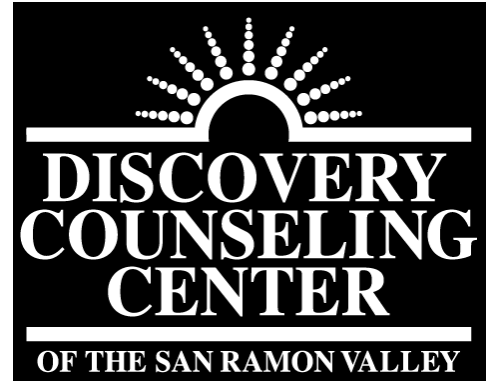
## Discovery Counseling Center

Our September Communion offering is focused on supporting the Discovery Counseling Center's efforts to help members of our community through those mental health challenges.

Discovery Counseling Center offers affordable, high-quality, accessible and culturally appropriate counseling services to the San Ramon Valley. For fifty years, this nonprofit organization has been a leader in the community for mental wellness. It embraces goals of building mental health awareness in the community at large and underscoring the importance of mental wellness treatment, as well as training future mental health professionals.

Discovery Counseling Center has a range of tools to address all manner of mental wellness concerns, from play therapy and anti-bullying programs to stress management counseling for teens and programs geared to seniors. The center also supports the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT), which focuses on prevention of substance abuse among minors.

The last eighteen months have presented mental health challenges for many youth and families. The start of the school year will present new challenges.



Dear Pastor Kim, Linda and wonderful faith community of SRVUMC,

The entire team here at the Monument Crisis Center is truly appreciative for your terrific continued support. We were so grateful to receive your donations of \$703.18...as part of your April/Easter Communion Offering. Your generosity makes possible our mission to serve families and individuals in crisis and provide them a path toward independence. Our low-income and underserved community members struggle daily with hunger, malnutrition, shelter and the immense challenges that accompany poverty, and as you can imagine, their precarious situations have been further devastated by the health and economic effects of our ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.

This past year has seen rising health concerns, stay-at-home directives and skyrocketing unemployment, resulting in dire situations for many, some who never faced these challenges previously. Many people are dealing with significant stress and uncertainty, especially about how to feed their family, pay their bills, and keep a roof over their heads. To compound the issue, they are joining thousands already struggling. During the months of April, May and June, with the support of community members, we were able to distribute nutritious, life-sustaining food to over 5,259 households, comprising more than 18,011 individuals. With your help, we will be able to continue to provide critical support



# Communion

in these uncertain times and continue to help build a stronger tomorrow.

We thank all of you for your great generosity and your heartfelt compassion. During these challenging times, we also realize and recognize that so many in our greater community have been impacted. We send you and your families our best wishes for wellness and safety.

Sincerely,

*Sandra Scherer, Executive Director*

*Monument Crisis Center*

[sscherer@monumentcrisiscenter.org](mailto:sscherer@monumentcrisiscenter.org)

## Thank You...!

...for your generosity in 2020. United Methodists gave **\$400,254** towards the ministries funded by the **World Communion Sunday** offering, according to [www.resourceumc.org](http://www.resourceumc.org). This offering supports a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training. These funds are administered by the General Boards' of [Higher Education and Ministry](#) and [Global Ministries](#).



**Editor's Note: World Communion Sunday 2021 is next month's offering, giving us a new opportunity to support training and scholarship geared to making a global impact for Christ.**



# Preschool

## Meet the Preschool Team!

Our school year is in full swing! Our teachers worked hard to get the classrooms ready for all of our preschool friends to join us and then to build classroom routines with their students! We are fortunate to have one of the best teaching teams around. After spending time together and getting to know each other before the children joined us, I could already sense the beginning of a great year. Reopening a preschool is certainly no easy feat, but with community support and this dream team in action, we have made it, and it is a fantastic feeling.

So, just who are these people that I'm raving about who make up our team?

- Manelle is our office administrator, but truly she should be referred to as the glue that holds us all together. Her constant support both in and out of the classroom is unmatched.
- We have two classrooms of two-year-old children on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and two classrooms of three-year-old children on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The teaching teams in these classrooms are Ms. Meg and Ms. Adriana, and Ms. Denise and Ms. Kate. Each of these teachers is magical in a way I have never before seen. The love and patience they exude with each of our young children in the two- and three-year programs is something I feel lucky to witness.
- Finally, on Tuesday through Friday we have our oldest children, the Pre- Ks, who are four and five years old. The teachers in this classroom are Ms. Sue and Ms. Jennifer. The effort and thought they put into preparing their students for kindergarten is truly a work of art. We are lucky to have them as the last stop at United Methodist Preschool before the students move on in their lifelong journey of learning.

The foundation our teachers help build for our students at United Methodist Preschool is so special. There are many wonderful preschools around us, and what really sets programs apart comes down to the teachers. I feel blessed to support this team in all that they do to touch the lives of our students and their families daily. If you are ever on campus and see one of our teachers, please help me in thanking them for all that they do!

*Katelyn Self*

*Director, United Methodist Preschool*





# Family Ministry

## Calendar

**Picnic in the Park! For Families of Children Birth Through Grade 5**

**Sunday, September 26, 3 to 5 p.m., Hap Magee Park**

Join us to kick off the new school year. Hap Magee has everything—a great play and water feature area with lots of room for fun! We have secured some picnic tables. You bring your picnic, and we will provide the shaved ice snow cones. **RSVP to [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).**

**Save the date:** Trunk or Treat, Saturday, October 30, 3 to 5 p.m.

## Sunday School Your Way

Join us for in-person Sunday school! **Sundays, 9 a.m.** No need to register! TK through second grade will meet in small Wesley Hall. Third through fifth grades will meet in large Wesley Hall. Tot Spot will depend on staffing availability.

Online Sunday School meets at 10:15 a.m. via zoom. **Email Laura at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org) for Zoom meeting ID and passcode.**

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## Ready to Launch! Boldly Do What Needs To Be Done!

*Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.*

### Week One

Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall, Nehemiah 1:1-2:18

*Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.*

### Week Two

Nehemiah Helps the Poor, Nehemiah 5:1-12

*Look for ways to make things right.*

### Week Three

Nehemiah and Sanballat, Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

*Stay focused on what needs to be done.*

### Week Four

The Wall is Rebuilt, Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17

*Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.*

**"Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord." —Colossians 3:23a, NIV**





# Celebrations

## Birthdays

- |                                     |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Dianne Ehlers<br>Meaghan Krakoff  | Linda Stone                         | 21 Sam Stephenson<br>Brad Stribling         |
| 2 Brian Stephenson                  | 12 Brigitte Greene                  | 23 Holland Ericson<br>Irv Skeoch            |
| 3 Lucille Eichelberger (97)         | 13 Sandi Cook                       | 24 Alonzo Altamirano<br>Tim Buckley         |
| 4 Austin Maddux<br>Ellie Maddux     | 14 Bill Fulcher<br>Nathan Morones   | Kerry Davis<br>Jane Lang                    |
| 5 Jillian Ericson                   | 16 Gary Osterhout                   | 25 Peggy Crawford<br>Linda Albertoni Engman |
| 6 Nicholas Stocking<br>Ray Winter   | 17 Connor Choy<br>Kelly Nakaso      | Don Johnson<br>Alex Maddux                  |
| 7 James Smith                       | 18 Ela Altamirano<br>David Coombs   | 26 Pat Ryan (94)                            |
| 8 Ekua Impraim<br>Corey Merchant    | John Harrison<br>Charlie Rigolfi    | 27 Scott Ericson                            |
| Carrie Metcalf<br>Brad Soderlund    | 19 Lyn Arscott<br>Kirsten Ericson   | 28 Adrianna Skeoch                          |
| 9 Sienna Isbell<br>Sheryl Kerr      | Gregg Mannell<br>Ted Wolfram        | 29 James Kocins                             |
| 10 Alan Christian<br>Jeff Stroin    | 20 Marci Milligan<br>Larry Pasquale | 30 Nell Ryan                                |
| Ray Tombaugh                        | Lydia Sidhom                        |   |
| 11 Jackson Ludlam<br>Terry Stocking | Judy Takeda                         |   |

## Anniversaries

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Carole Lynne & Ed Keller (58)<br>Patricia Ludwig and Mike Prenger | Joanne & Bill Van Bezey                   |
| 2 Brenda & Doug Domergue  | 12 Jan & Bill Foulds                      |
| 3 Susie & Jim McKnight (61)   | 16 Lee & Bill Rust                        |
| 4 Nicky & Mark Jewett   | 19 Teresa & Jeff Stroin                   |
| 6 Rebecca & Tom Byrom<br>Judy & Brad Kobsar                         | 20 Jana & Ali Vojdani<br>Amy & Sam Sidhom |
| 11 Jamie & Rich Braden<br>Elizabeth & Robert De Chene (73)          | 23 Annette & Dan Whiting                  |
|   | 24 Jeryn & Steven Smario                  |
|   | 26 Karen & Brian Steffy                   |



# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns

Bob Brown  
Shana Carroll  
Marilyn & Todd Christian

Sandra Greenwood  
Laura Sanchez  
Karen Scalzi

## 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

## Our Christian Sympathy

To Mike Thompson following the death of his father.

## SRVUMC

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### Preschool Director

Katelyn Self (ext. 113)

### Office/HR Manager

Soledad Cuenca (ext 104)

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