

The

Valley Messenger

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

Exploring Liminal Times

This is, as many have said, a liminal time. So much of what we took for granted is now drenched in uncertainty, like clothes we forgot to take in from the clothesline—remember those?—outside in the rain. Efforts we make are often wasted efforts because the context has shifted, like the kid who wears their uniform on free-dress day at school. Are you feeling this uncertainty in your work? Your family life with small children? Your retirement plans?

Of course, there are surprises during these times where we find ourselves accidentally doing the right thing. Like the person who invested in Amazon right before the pandemic, or people who own quilting and craft stores. People were home more, sewing more, and it's been a time of abundance for some. Where are you in the midst of all of this? Most of you have shared that profound change is happening, while a few have said the needle has barely moved at all.

It is good to remember other liminal times in our history. Some of you remember the late 1960s. Many of us were not born yet! As I am told of that time, people often share how the world seemed to be rapidly changing, and people were unsure of how issues—of race, of war, of the way that the world operated—would settle.

One story that moved me was that of the early rocket scientists at NASA. To create an atmosphere of learning during their liminal time, rather than pointing fingers and grimacing with clenched teeth after a rocket (without people) exploded, they developed an intentional, but odd habit: They applauded.

They applauded the effort, the lessons learned, the opportunity to understand the limits of each design. They applauded the willingness to take risks and to accept defeat.

In many ways, we are in such a liminal time as a Church and as a faith. If we are to go to the

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Next Issue: December 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 **November 15, 2021.**



Announcements

moon again, to recapture what sent us into the orbit in the past, we must again be like the early Christians who constantly experimented and sought new ways to break past the gravity of the status quo.

One small effort we are doing in this liminal time is exploring technology and what it may do for the innovation of the Church. So many have turned to Zoom, streamed online, and found community beyond the bounds of geography. A concrete way we have done this is in hiring **Sarah Stribling, Director of Social Media**, to work with me and a team of innovators to see what an online campus at Church might do to help people grow to be like Jesus. This effort will necessarily mean many failures to launch. Will we have the courage to try anyway?

Another “scientist” in this work is **Shana Carroll**, who has designed our website and organized our social media. She will continue much of the day-to-day work of creating visuals and content to keep us connected on Facebook and other platforms. Together, their work will allow us to experiment with supporting people during this liminal time. A great way to get information out to both of them at the same time is to email your requests to media@srvumc.org.

See you in Church and cyberspace,
Pastor Mantu

November 7—All Saints Day

Take time to remember and give thanks for all those who have passed on this year. Of course, we will be remembering other loved ones whom we miss. As we plan our worship service for All Saints Day, please email Pastor Kim at krisedorph@srvumc.org with the names of family and friends who are no longer with us. We will gather and give thanks for their lives and for all they will forever mean to us.



November 7—Fall Back for Daylight Saving Time

Don't worry! If you mess up and miss livestreaming the sermon in real time through Facebook, you can still worship later through www.srvumc.org/sermons-2/, just like you can anytime.





Announcements

December 5—Fellowship and Annual Conference

Let's celebrate the ministries and opportunities we had to be the Presence of Christ. Come to the **Church campus** to look ahead to the 2022, and all that God is calling us to be and do. This part of our gathering includes some music, guessing games and prizes. You won't want to miss it!

At 11:30 a.m., we will have a brief Annual Church Conference, with Rev. Jenn Murdock presiding. At this meeting of the congregation, we will elect new church leaders for our ministries and committees, and approve pastor compensation packages for Pastor Mantu and Pastor Kim.

Alternative Gift Catalog

'Tis the season when we remember the gift of Christ's life among us. 'Tis the season when we want to find just the right gift for a loved one. The best gift is treasured long after the occasion has passed. This year, we will provide an Alternative Gift Giving Catalog, inviting you to support a local nonprofit. Make a donation in honor of a family member, work colleague, neighbor or friend.

A gift from this catalog shows your love for the recipient. At the same time, you will be making a difference in our community. We will provide you with gift cards and envelopes for you to send to those whom you honor with your donations.



Watch for the Alternative Gift Giving Catalog in late November.

Dialogue for Change Invites You To Become an Organ Donor



In Danville, Tyrell Wilson was shot and killed by a policeman on March 11, 2021. You can read about the event [here](#). Tyrell was an organ donor, and his death resulted in the gift of life for four organ recipients. What a beautiful example of the passage in Isaiah where God promises to beat our "swords into plowshares"!

Dialogue for Change members encourage all those who are motivated to act for justice to consider helping Tyrell Wilson's family celebrate his life by becoming an organ donor yourself. The family is partnering with [Donor Network West](#), whose headquarters are in San Ramon. Organ donation serves as one way we can attend to injustices of many types in addition to racism. Are you registered as an organ donor? A pink dot showing on your driver's license indicates that you are. If not, or you don't know, you can sign up on the Donor Network West website, or simply use this QR code to access the application.





Announcements

"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 of the same name 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. Feel free to bring your adult daughters or other young women.

Note: *There will be NO in-person registration this year.* Instead, registration and payment can be handled through www.srvumc.org or by mail using a form available on the church website or in the Narthex beginning **Sunday, November 7**.

For more information, contact Priscilla Wolfram, 858-3983, pwolfra@hotmail.com; Nancy Garnick, 324-1517, nancygar@sbcglobal.net; Linda Albertoni Engman, 330-7099, albo3fam@gmail.com; or Linda Jimerson, 984-4611, lindajimerson@comcast.net.

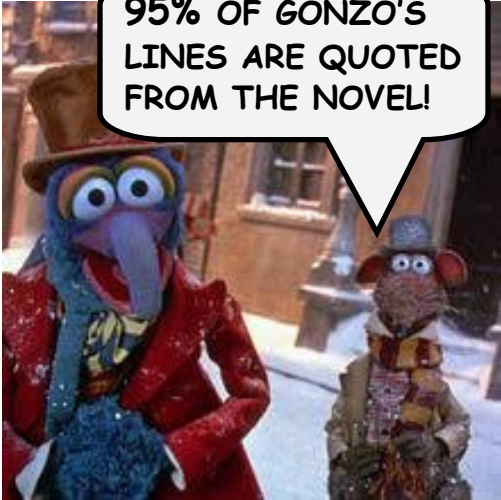


Pre-Advent Movie Night! Everyone Invited!

Muppet Christmas Carol

Wesley Center AND Zoom

Sunday, November 21, 5 to 7 p.m.



**95% OF GONZO'S
LINES ARE QUOTED
FROM THE NOVEL!**

As we prepare for the Advent season study *The Redemption of Scrooge: Connecting Christ and Culture* by Matt Rawle, let's gather for some fun. Pizza and Popcorn for those in person! All COVID safety precautions will be followed. Email **Laura Roy** lroy@srvumc.org to RSVP. Donations accepted at event.

Did You Know? You Can Scrooge Locally!

If you prefer a more traditional approach to Scrooge, consider joining your small group for a private showing or creating a church group together to go and see A [Christmas Carol at the Leshar Arts Center](#) locally.



Announcements

Harvest Festival Craft Fair and Boutique

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church



Quilts and hand-stitched items, fisherman afghans, fused glass jewelry and décor, ornaments, mosaic fabric items, handmade caramels, and much more! *Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.*

Want to Exhibit?

To Register for the Harvest Festival Craft Fair and Boutique

- *We request a booth registration fee of \$35.00 per crafter to accompany the registration form (inserted this edition of the newsletter), and a 10% donation of your final total sales amount.* These funds will benefit San Ramon Valley UMC towards selected mission programs of the Church. Checks should be made out to SRVUMC with “Craft Fair” noted in the memo section.
- Previous years have brought merchandise of excellent quality for this non-juried event, and every effort will be made to ensure that offerings are suitable.
- You may accept any form of payment you choose, but you need to have your own Square or other credit card payment app. There will be no central credit card station. Ample electrical outlets are available as well as the church Wi-Fi. Each crafter will keep track of payments received in order to calculate the 10% owed to the Church at the conclusion of the craft fair.
- Your registration fee entitles you to one eight-foot table, which you will break down and return to the table rack at the conclusion of the fair. If additional tables remain after each crafter is in place, then they will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please consider bringing your own help with tables and merchandise, as the help we have depended upon in years past may not be available this year.
- You may set up in advance on Friday, November 5, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The Church will be locked and the alarm set at 5 p.m. You may also access the space between 7:30 and 9 a.m. on fair day, but you should be set up when the doors open at 9 a.m.

See this newsletter’s Page 6 for the registration form, and save or print this page for reference. In the meantime, remember that a personal invitation to browse is our best publicity.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2021
NOVEMBER 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

CELL PHONE _____

HOME PHONE _____

CRAFTS TO BE OFFERED

Questions? Shannon Dever, shannondever62@gmail.com or 925-683-5484.

(If you have friends who would like to participate this year, please let Shannon know and she'll send them a registration form.)

RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH \$35.00 CHECK MADE OUT TO SRVUMC
(note "Harvest Festival" in the memo section) to Shannon Dever.

Announcements

Calling All Christmas Angels! **Angel Tree 2021**

Thanksgiving season is a time we are especially grateful for our many blessings. With Christmas just around the corner, we think of those who are less fortunate and look to make their holiday a brighter one through donations to the Angel Tree. As the pandemic continues to impact our lives, we have come up with creative ways for everyone to be involved with our Angel Tree Program! There will be an Angel Tree in our Narthex with some gift tags as well as a Sign-Up Genius posted online with many requests. ***Watch for instructions in Friday Memo).*** ***Remember, the earlier you sign up, the more choice in gifts you will have as well as options for ordering online.***



Agencies our angel tree supports include:

- **Fred Finch Youth Center**—children in long-term care with developmental or mental illness ages three to eighteen
- **Bay Area Rescue Mission**—disadvantaged teens
- **Trinity Center**—serving homeless adults
- **Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services** —teenage girls removed from home due to neglect/abuse
- **Hope Solutions**—highly vulnerable families through the agency formally known as Interfaith Housing. This organization helps heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services
- **Tri-Valley Haven**—needy children in Livermore Valley

Please contact any of the committee members below with questions/concerns via the church directory. We hope you will join us as a Christmas Angel and thank you in advance for making this Christmas a brighter holiday for all.

Peace and Joy to you and yours,

Beth McClelland, Linda Green, Roni Item, and Nancy Garnick

See the next page for some key dates and how to donate money to the Angel Tree instead of buying a gift yourself. All gifts and monetary donations are due by December 5.

Announcements

Key Angel Tree Dates

- November 14 until December 3—shopping list released
- Sundays, November 21 and 28, or December 5—gift drop-off. Gifts can be dropped off in the Narthex at the 9 a.m. worship service OR at the Church from 11 a.m. to noon the same dates.

You Can Donate Money To the Angel Tree Instead!

Monetary donations for the Angel Tree are always welcome if you would like us to do the shopping. *Make your check payable to SRVUMC, memo line "Angel Tree Donation."*

Mail to the Church at 902 Danville Boulevard, Alamo, Ca. 94507, ATTN: Linda Green or ATTN: Angel Tree on the envelope.

All gifts or monetary donations are due by December 5.



Interfaith Council of Contra Costa and SRVUMC

Nurturing the Beloved Community

Sunday Afternoon Interfaith Retreat, November 7, 3 to 6 p.m.

Rev. Kamal Hassan, Pastor, Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church

Zoom

Rev. Hassan will explore Black Church conceptions of the Beloved Community. 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. Sliding scale \$20 to \$40 fee includes handouts. **No dinner. All welcome! Contact Bill Rust, Chair of SRVUMC Faith Development Committee, at wrusjrarb@aol.com to register and for Zoom information.**



Rev. Kamal Hassan, Pastor



Gratitude

San Ramon Valley Chorale Board Thanks SRVUMC

Dear Pastor Kim, Board of Trustees, and SRVUMC Community,

As President of the San Ramon Valley Chorale Board and a founding member of the group, I would like to take a moment to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for your continued support and partnership. As a fledging arts organization, the Chorale's very existence is reliant on affordable access to space to both rehearse and share our music with the community through concerts. From the very beginning, SRVUMC has generously partnered with us in the use of the Wesley Center and the sanctuary at rates that have allowed us to blossom without creating an undue financial burden on our small group. Without your generosity and partnership, the San Ramon Valley Chorale would likely have never had the opportunity to form in the first place.

What I would like for you to know is why this matters. Your support for the Chorale has allowed the group to take shape and flourish, but so what? What difference has the Chorale made in the five years since its formation, and why does its existence even matter at all? When you make the decision to allow a group to utilize not only your gathering spaces, but your sanctuary, asking these questions and determining whether the group you are supporting aligns with your mission is prudent due diligence. The arrangement should be more than a financial transaction.

Even in a community choir, music can be a ministry. Choral music can bring beauty to life through song for our audience. At the same time, making music together can nourish the souls of the musicians as we explore and express our God-given talents in pursuit of a common goal. While the Chorale is a secular community choir, I believe our existence gives glory to God through both our music and the shared choral experience of our members. I believe this is why the Chorale matters.

As the Chorale looks forward to sharing our music once again, please know how deeply grateful we all are for the support of the SRVUMC community and church leadership. We couldn't do what we do without your partnership and are blessed to share the gift of our music in the beauty of your sanctuary. We look forward to our continued partnership, and to making music that matters to our community in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Justin Gagnon

Board President

San Ramon Valley Chorale

“Even in a community choir, music can be a ministry.”

Editor's Note: See the next page for Justin's personal story of how he came to the San Ramon Valley Chorale and the spiritual significance it has had in his life. Video clips of the Chorale in action can be viewed at <https://www.srvchorale.com/>



Gratitude

How Justin Came to the Chorale

(Justin's Gagnon's own account, lightly edited for length.—Editor)

Unlike many in the Chorale, I did not come to the group as either a former student of our director, Bruce Koliha, or as a member of a musical ensemble Bruce was involved with at the time. I grew up in Danville, and while Bruce was directing Monte Vista's choral program during my high school years, I was singing at Monte Vista's crosstown rival, San Ramon Valley. Prior to my Chorale audition, I had never even met Bruce, and I only came to learn of the audition from Facebook, where one of my best friends and fellow Notre Dame Glee Club alum had RSVP'd to an audition post.

First Impressions

I don't even remember what seemed so intriguing about the group at the time. Maybe it was the professionalism of the well-lit choral photo used in the social media post; maybe it was Bruce's bio; or maybe it was the aspirational description of the choir that had yet to form. Or maybe I just assumed that if the group was good enough for my buddy Zach to be interested, then yeah, I'm interested too. From the very beginning, it was clear to me that the Chorale was special. The musicality was the initial draw, with Bruce and Nadia at the core. The SRVUMC community is well-acquainted with how special these two are as musicians and as people, and perhaps it's no surprise to you that their involvement in the Chorale naturally attracts talent from the community. The Chorale is challenged both by the music we perform, and more importantly, by an unwavering desire to match the standard of professionalism and musicianship set by our Director and world-class accompanist.

"The Choir You Never Knew Was Missing in Your Life"

As a community choir, the music we make is a tangible element that everyone can experience and appreciate. Bringing wonderful music to the local community is certainly a worthy charter, and yet when I think about why the Chorale matters, the music is only the beginning.

The Chorale describes itself internally as "the choir you never knew was missing in your life." It's not exactly a well-articulated identity, but so many of our members have stumbled upon our group just like I did. Our members are all at various stages of life, and most of us quite busy with seemingly little time to add an extracurricular to our plate. Yet something has called each of us to the group, and the common sentiment after joining is almost always "I never knew how much I needed this in my life."

People have a tendency to take blessings for granted in our day-to-day life, and just how much these blessings matter to us is often made most clear only when they're gone. For the Chorale, the



The San Ramon Valley Chorale in action.



Gratitude

COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark reminder of this life lesson. You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.

In my five years in the Chorale, I've both made new friends and had the privilege of singing alongside some of my best friends and family. In addition to three of my best friends from our college singing with us, I had the pleasure of my dad joining us for a year. He sang in vocal music groups early in life and was the one who inspired me to pursue my own vocal music journey, and the Chorale was the first time the two of us had ever formally sung together. Even more recently, my Aunt Robin joined the Chorale in 2019, with my uncle joining her not long after. A fan of the Chorale since the beginning and a mainstay at our concerts, Robin took the opportunity following her retirement to join the group as a member. Every time I walked into rehearsal, I'd smile looking at the familiar faces of friends and family from so many different facets of my life in the chairs in front of me.

Then in March 2020, the music stopped.

Amazing Grace

Seemingly overnight, vocal music had gone from an artistic expression to be enjoyed to a potential super-spreader event to be feared. The Chorale went into indefinite hibernation, unsure of when or what circumstances would allow us to reemerge. The pandemic required everyone to adapt to so many changes in life that suspending the Chorale seemed like a minor sacrifice. I'm fairly certain that all of us looked at the hiatus as temporary as we waited patiently in the wings for the opportunity to get back to singing with the group we love.

For some of us though, that normalcy will never return. Over the summer, my Aunt Robin was diagnosed with glioblastoma. The diagnosis was sudden and severe, and in a matter of a few months, her condition had deteriorated so significantly that she transitioned to hospice. At the time of this writing, she has mere days left.

Last week, my cousin shared with me that Robin's one request of me is that I get a group together to sing her favorite song, Pentatonix's "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" for her memorial service. She said I'd get bonus points if she got to hear it in person first. I leaned on four of my closest friends, all but one of them members of the Chorale, to fulfill her request. In under a week, we were at her bedside, honoring the wish of my aunt to comfort her in song.

The power of that moment is honestly too much for me to properly articulate, but I can tell you that I had never fully appreciated how music can become the embodiment of God's love and mercy. I held Aunt Robin's hand afterward, and we talked for a bit. She brought up the Chorale, and shared with me that as much as she loved singing when she was younger, she never thought she'd take the stage again as an adult. She was so grateful to have had the opportunity to join the Chorale and share that experience later in life.



Spiritual Growth

Taking the Sermon (Within You) Into the World!

Sundays, 10 to 11 a.m.

Zoom

Pastor Kim often ends our Sunday worship with the benediction of Saint Teresa of Avila, saying “God has no hands but our hands; God has no feet but our feet...to do God's work on Earth.” *Have you thought about how **you** are using your hands and feet—your unique self—to help bring God's kingdom and will on Earth in yourself and your surroundings?*

Each Sunday, we focus on how we, personally, plan to incorporate into our own lives during the coming days, what we have been moved by in the morning's worship service. During Advent and Lent, we include the material that has been chosen for those weeks by our congregation's pastors.

Members of the group may volunteer to develop the two or three statements or questions to start and to focus our discussion each Sunday. The “caretaker” of this group, Laura Sanchez, sends these discussion starters on Saturday afternoon/evening, along with the Scripture reference, comments about the worship theme, and the Zoom link, which is also available in the announcement of the group in each week's Friday Memo.

If you don't already receive the Friday Memo, then email Linda Green at lgreen@srvumc.org.

Come and see how these discussions help you grow in your spirit! Please email Laura Sanchez at laura3627@gmail.com to receive the Saturday preview and Zoom link for Sunday's meeting, and just join us on Zoom when you want to “dive” deeper!

How We've Adapted...

Now pandemic precautions seem pretty second-nature, but this time last year, we were figuring out a lot of ways to keep our Church community COVID-safe and accessible! Congratulations to everyone for not letting all the activity that makes SRVUMC special grind to a halt in the face of adversity.

- **Trunk-or-Treat** went drive-through, and families scheduled visits to the preschool playground. The Conference recognized our Family Ministry's adaptations in [this online article](#).
- Many **small groups** figured out Zoom calls or began meeting outdoors.
- Mission opportunities like **MedShare** and **Winter Nights** reorganized to factor in pandemic precautions. **Trinity Center** remained open through shelter-in-place because it is considered an essential service.
- And, of course, now every Sunday you can livestream church services with your coffee OR attend in-person with your mask!



Communion

Rise Against Hunger

Sunday, November 14, 10:15 to 12:15 p.m.

Wesley Center

[Rise Against Hunger](#) began in 1998 as **Stop Hunger Now!** and is based in Raleigh, N.C. Since its original initiatives in distributing nutritious meals to the starving, this organization has broadened its efforts to improve food security for people worldwide. Rise Against Hunger trains farmers and families in agricultural methods and business skills. Many of these small-scale, local farmers provide the vegetables that are dehydrated for the Rise Against Hunger meals. Furthermore, the organization also works with in-country partners in the wake of disaster to provide crisis relief. Since 2005, volunteers have packaged over 540 million meals.

The Rise Against Hunger [website](#) reports distributing over 47.4 million meals in 2020 throughout 41 countries, including the United States. In the U.S., 14.6 million meals were provided to 703, 015 individuals. Seventy percent of the Americans served were children. The organization also provides millions of dollars of in-kind gifts. Much of the food included in the meals was raised in the U.S.

At San Ramon Valley UMC, we have sponsored meal-packing events, short mission opportunities great for entire families to do together. Our November communion offering funds dehydrated rice or soy meal, dehydrated vegetables, and spices along with 23 essential vitamins and minerals. As our volunteers know, a group of 40 to 50 volunteers can pack 10,000 meals in about two hours! This year's goal is to pack 20,088 and collect funds of \$6,830.

Registration is open until November 11 and can be done online [here](#). Contact HollyAnn Melton at holly-annmelton22@yahoo.com if you have questions about this exciting way for the whole family to serve together!



Rise Against Hunger, 2019. This year, social distancing and masks will belong in the photo.

Out Into the World

Wildfires 2021—SRVUMC Makes a Difference!

The churches of the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church have stepped up to respond to the worst wildfire season on record. I am pleased to report that SRVUMC has led the way. We have donated over \$15,000 in cash and other resources towards relief and recovery!

This includes:

- Nearly \$8,000 in personal donations towards rebuilding from the 2018 Camp Fire. That work started this year, and we have teams from our Conference assisting.
- A donation of over \$1,600 from church members towards survivor relief for this year's massive Dixie Fire.
- Gift cards donated by church members and friends to Dixie Fire relief.
- A \$1,000 in personal donations to relief for this year's Caldor Fire.
- Wildfire buckets and wildfire cleaning kits funded and assembled by SRVUMC were given to survivors of the Hopkins and Fawn Fires.
- And most recently, a \$1,000 donation by the Missions Committee to help restock the Conference tool trailer that will be used next year in rebuilding work.

What wonderful generosity! You have made a difference in the lives of many people as they try to navigate recovery.

In Mission Together,

Steve Elliott



Top Left: The fire bucket team pauses for a photo. Right: Steve Elliott with a load of materials for assembly into kits. Bottom: A finished cleaning kit. Cleaning kits and fire buckets are not the same things.



Family Ministry

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. **No Sunday School on November 21 for the family hike (see below).**

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

Upcycle: Roll With What You've Got!

Contentment is learning to be okay with what you have.

Week One

Be Content: Philippians 4:11b-13

God can help you be content.

Week Two

King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard: 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27

Wanting what others have can make you miserable.

Week Three

Israelites Long for Egypt: Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

Don't miss out on what you have now.

Week Four

Give Freely to the Lord's People: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

You can always use what you have to help someone else.

"Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has.'" —Luke 12:15, NIV

Upcoming Events

Great serving opportunity: Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Packing is **Sunday, November 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** *See Page 14 for full details.*

Sunday, November 21, 9:30 a.m., Family Hike, Lafayette Reservoir. Meet in the parking lot (paid meters). We will hike the paved Lakeside Nature Trail (2.7 miles). There is a playground at the end! Hike begins at 3849 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. **No Sunday school the day of the hike.**

Sundays, November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 4-5pm —Advent Festival! Watch for innovative updates!

December 24, 2021 — Christmas Pageant Still in "COVID Times"? We will celebrate in unexpected and miraculous ways. Stay tuned!



Preschool

Thankfulness for Opportunity

November is always a great reminder of all of the blessings in our lives, and this year we are extra thankful for the successful reopening and fall semester for our preschool. For so long, those of us who were working hard to get the preschool reopened dreamed of the day we would hear learning and laughter on campus again. I am reminded, more often than not these days, to soak it in and enjoy every moment with our teachers, students and families on campus. We are incredibly lucky to be here, in person, with real smiles and hands-on exploration.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: We never would have gotten to where we are today without the hard work of our dedicated Preschool Commission or the unwavering support of the staff, Church members and families who make up our community. As we move into this holiday season, please know how thankful we are for every donation of time, money, mental space and prayer you have given us. While we are not able to host the much-loved community events such as Apple Pie Night and community Halloween parades, we think about you in all that we do!

This month, our preschool will be on Thanksgiving break for the week of Thanksgiving. Leading up to that, our students will talk about all that they are thankful for in their classrooms. Our threes and our pre-K classrooms are really enjoying their weekly chapel time with Ms. Laura and their music program with Ms. Beth. These various elements of our preschool program add a unique character that families seek out and love to be a part of. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Katelyn Self

Director, United Methodist Preschool





Celebrations

Birthdays

1 Rob Rudow Connie Winter	15 Barbara Valdriz 16 Lael Takiguchi	30 John Evans Daniel Glover
2 Kate Kocins	18 John Coombs John Green	Stephanie Glover
3 Jo Ann Hirsch Myla Niederauer LaVena White (87)	Thelma Orr	Linda Farhang Elke Torgersen
4 Marnie Desmond	19 Gerard Takiguchi	
5 Gemma Heddle Sepull	21 Steve Hawk	
9 Charliene Tallett (97) Lara Mays	22 Mary Nygreen (99)	
10 Gay Scott	23 George Clarke Adam Kennedy	
11 Mary Nelson Bob Sinclair	John Sayers	
12 Julie Dastic Melissa Lotz	24 Pat Patteson (100)	
13 Sandy Greenwood Dick Lam	26 Monica Albertoni Jessica Merchant	
14 Felicia Hillard (90) Suzan Rowland	Fred Schreiber Annemarie Warwick	
	27 Margo Cefalo	
	29 Paul Kuelz Spencer Lang	

Happy 100th Birthday to Pat Patteson on November 24!

COVID-19 makes it impossible to celebrate with a suitably large party, but good wishes are undeterred by pandemic restrictions.

Anniversaries

1 Val & Duncan Miller	21 Dory & Tom Schramm
1 LaVena & Ron White	27 Lynne & Larry Henderson (56)
6 Le Anne & Bart Jacobi (61)	27 Priscilla & Ted Wolfram
8 Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei & Gary Krumrei	30 Ann & Jeff Schroeder
11 Catharine & Dan Baker	
13 Saba & Shadaab Kanwal	
13 Tamra & Kevin Keen	
17 Shannon & Bill Dever	
18 Teri & Scott Armanini	



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns

Bob Brown
Mary Ellen Brown

Shana Carroll
Linda Green

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, Ann Schroeder

Our Christian Sympathy

Extended to **Heather Morgan**, following the unexpected death of her husband, John.
To the family of **Dean McWilliams**, who passed on October 25.

Joy

Barb and Tom Valdriz celebrate the birth of their first grandchild, **Cyrus**, on October 13, 2021.

SRVUMC

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