

The

Valley Messenger

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

The Gift of Christmas

'Tis the season to celebrate the gift of Christmas, the Christ Presence here with us. The gift of Christ Jesus is a gift of love, from God to all of creation.

At this season we seek to give gifts of love as well. This year, we offer an Alternative Gift Catalog. When you give a gift from this catalog, the gift benefits the organization you donate to and allows you to give in honor of others. Two gifts in one!

Each item in the catalog is a local nonprofit that we partner with during the year.

As we take in the Gift of Christmas, we learn that giving is not just about filling a box with more "stuff." The best gift is one that is treasured long after the occasion has passed. A gift to mission is a gift that lasts and makes a difference.

A gift from this catalog is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the season, bringing peace, hope, love and joy into the world. Our church office will supply a lovely gift card for you to fill out and give to loved ones you are honoring.

Here's how to get all your Christmas shopping done right now: Click [here](#) and you'll read an introduction to our Alternative Gift Catalog. The next page lists several nonprofits that we partner with as a way to be a blessing in the world. Select the organizations you will donate to, and fill out the form on the third page. Make your payment to SRVUMC. Please also note how many gift cards you will need.

'Tis the season when we enter into Holy Places, where we encounter Christ's Presence at work in our world. May it be so for us.

Journeying with you towards Bethlehem,

Pastor Kim

December 2021

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Next Issue: January 2022

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

Announcements

Give Two Gifts in One This Christmas!

Alternative Gift Catalog

This catalog offers ten ministries that are making a difference locally and globally. Fill out the form in the catalog, total your donation, and write one check payable to San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. Mail your form and your check or drop them off at the church office. SRVUMC will send your donations to the ministries of your choice. We will provide you with gift cards and envelopes that you may send to those whom you honor with your donations.

To have cards and envelopes mailed to you, please return your form by December 17. Forms received after December 17 can be delivered to the Church Office.

Click [here](#) to visit the catalog online through the www.srvumc.org website.



Worship Assistants Needed

Looking for a way to serve and make a difference at SRVUMC? Please consider training to be a worship assistant at our Sunday morning in-person worship. We'll provide a brief training. Worship assistants welcome all to worship, practice learning the names of visitors and regular participants, and help the pastors know who is new to our community. You will serve once or twice per month and will make a world of difference.

To go forward with any future worship options, we'll need more volunteers to help welcome and seat people. **Contact Pastor Kim to be trained as a worship assistant by emailing kris-edorph@srvumc.org.**

Announcements

Planning a Worship Schedule for 2022

Dear SRVUMC Community,

We continue to experiment with how to provide the worship experience that is best for our community. Here's an update.

Since May 2021, we've been worshipping together in person and online. Currently, we have 50 to 70 people who prefer to worship in person. At 9 a.m. on Sunday, about the same number of people join in the livestreamed version. Many more of you watch later on Sunday, during the week or weeks later. We will continue to offer online worship, as that seems to work best for the majority of people.

We've heard from people who would like a 10 a.m. in-person worship service. We've heard from families who would like a family-focused 10 a.m. worship service held in Wesley. We've heard from people who want to be sure they can easily attend one of the many adult education programs we offer after worship on Sunday morning. We are listening! We will look for ways to keep listening to all who worship at SRVUMC. We are aware that we have a variety of worship needs and preferences. We are asking: How do we listen to each other, and how do we listen to the Holy inspiration that will show us the way forward? We'll be looking for ways to listen as together we discern a worship schedule for 2022.

Worship During Advent

In Advent, we make room for the Holy. In addition to our Sunday morning 9 a.m. worship online and in person, we also offer:

Service of the Longest Night Tuesday, December 21, 7 p.m. in Sanctuary. On the longest night of the year, we offer this worship service that acknowledges the darkness. For those who have lost a loved one; for those who feel alone; for those who are tired of the cultural emphasis on buying gifts; for those who are not sure what they believe about Christmas and the birth of Jesus: We gather for a quiet service where we can acknowledge the darkness. There will be the option of prayer and anointing at this candlelight service.

Christmas Eve Services

5 p.m. Children's Pageant; online

8 p.m. Candlelight Service; in sanctuary and livestreamed



Announcements

Christmas With the Chorale

San Ramon Valley Chorale

Sunday, December 5, 4 p.m. or Saturday, December 11, 4 p.m.

San Ramon Valley UMC

Directed by Bruce Koliha and accompanied by Nadia Blank-Koliha, this brilliant holiday show will have limited seating, so advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. ***Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test (within 72 hours) required for attendees ages 12 and over.*** Buy tickets at

www.srvchorale.brownpapertickets.com or use the QR code in this announcement. Adults \$25, students and kids, \$10.



Open to All!

Advent Small Group Offerings

The Weeks of November 28 Through December 19

Please contact pkyles@srvumc.org or the group leader directly to RSVP.

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Drop-in, Zoom with the group Taking the Sermon into the World led by Laura Sanchez.

11:00 a.m. Drop-in, in-person at Peet's Coffee in Alamo. Grab your coffee and relax with leader Pastor Mantu Joshi. Invite your friends!

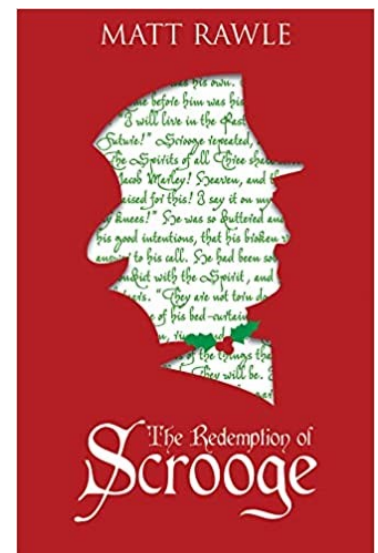
Tuesdays

7 to 8 p.m. Zoom session, Drop-ins welcome, but registration appreciated! Register for this session with leader Bill Rust.

7 to 8 p.m. In-person, church library. Big Boys Small Group led by Bill Van Bezey.

Wednesdays

10 a.m. on Zoom, One in-person meeting, Christ Care Visitors led by Suzanne Stephens.



Small groups will read and consider The Redemption of Scrooge by Matt Rawle.

Spiritual Growth

Stephen Ministers Help Bring St. Teresa's Prayer To Life

By Marla Nakaso

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." —St. Teresa of Avila

I love this prayer from St. Teresa. As I heard these words from Pastor Kim's benediction one Sunday, it helped nudge me to bring this prayer to life as a Stephen Minister—to share God's love and compassion with one-on-one care for those experiencing a difficult time. It called me to a ministry that has filled me with more blessings and "God-moments" than I ever imagined. I'm glad I listened to my inner voice. Perhaps it was the Holy Spirit moving within me?

We are blessed to have compassionate Stephen Ministers at SRVUMC who are trained to help us when we are faced with loss, grief, or any challenges that disrupt our lives.

Perhaps you or a loved one or friend would benefit from this kind of care and support?

This is how Stephen Ministers bring St. Teresa's prayer to life.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion.

Stephen Ministers don't "fix it" or provide advice or answers. Rather, they are the eyes that provide confidential care, love, and compassion when one needs it the most, without judgment.

Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.

Stephen Ministers walk along the journey with their care receivers. They are fully present. They show up, provide a listening ear, support, hope and help navigate a difficult situation.

Yours are the hands through which Christ blesses all the world.



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Spiritual Growth

From Page 5

Our Stephen Ministers receive practical, hands-on training to provide this Christ-centered care. What a blessing to learn skills that can truly help others!

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are Christ's body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

I believe that learning to live St. Teresa's prayer is being open to God's calling to serve and love others. For those of you who want to be the hands, feet, eyes and body of Christ here in our church community, I invite you to prayerfully consider being a Stephen Minister—you'll be glad you did.

To learn how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know—or how you can become a Stephen Minister, contact Al Banisch. And check out Stephen Ministry on our website <https://srvumc.org/stephen-ministries/>. Alternatively, consider joining us at one of our information sessions:

- Sunday, December 5 at 1 p.m.
- Monday, December 6 at 7 p.m.

Both of these sessions will be held via Zoom. Patsy can give you the ID and passcode to join us.



You Can Still Register!

"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 until **December 15**.

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.



Spiritual Growth

Prayer Walks

We're looking ahead to 2022 as we live into our purpose as a church: We are here to be a blessing to the community, no strings attached. Your input and participation are needed as we, together, decide how to be a blessing. We'll start by paying attention to the people and activities around us. To do this, we are offering a series of Prayer Walks in January, inviting each of you to join one. We'll have a variety of options for folks. Stay tuned for details!

A prayer walk is different from a walk to get exercise or a walk to connect with friends. On a prayer walk we move at the pace of awareness. We walk around a location and pray for each person, each house, each need your heart hears. Some people walk and just notice what they see. Some people on a prayer walk carry a Scripture or a hymn. For example, a line from Hymn #454 would be a great companion: "Open my eyes that I might see, glimpses of truth Thou hast for me..."

At the end of a prayer walk, we spend time sharing what we experienced and noticed. All this input will give us guidance as we decide on a focus for 2022, a way to be a blessing in the community around us.

Please consider leading a prayer walk. We'll provide guidelines and a practice walk so that you can experience one. Pastor Kim will lead practice prayer walks on

- Saturday, December 11, at 11 a.m.
- Sunday, December 12, at 10: 15 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 13, at 3 p.m.

For each of these, we'll meet in downtown Danville in the parking lot by Lundardi's Market. We'll gather for an hour, including a 20- to 30-minute walk. These December walks are especially for those willing to try leading one in January, although all are invited. **Contact Pastor Kim with your questions or to let her know which walk you'll be attending by emailing krisedorph@srvumc.org.**

A different sort of spiritual journey: Pastor Mantu and Laura Roy led some of our youth on a hike November 21 around the reservoir in Lafayette. Photo by Pastor Mantu.



Communion Offering

December Offering

White Pony Express



Our December Communion Offering will support this organization based out of Pleasant Hill, CA. The nonprofit group was founded by Dr. Carol Weyland Conner in 2013 to address the terrible disconnect between food waste in the United States and hunger and poor nutrition.

Dr. Conner began a “Food Rescue” program, delivering surplus high-quality food to local organizations serving those in need. White Pony Express grew as volunteers offered time and equipment, a local faith group provided space and utilities, and other organizations and individuals raised money for equipment like refrigerated trucks or internet access. Annually, the food rescue program now rescues an average of 15,000 pounds of high-quality and largely perishable food from grocers, retailers, restaurants and wholesalers. Volunteers and staff operate 364 days per year to sort and deliver nutritious foodstuffs to receiving organizations in refrigerated vehicles the same day. Recipients of the deliveries are never charged a fee for these deliveries. Now, a new program has been launched in the vein of delivery services like Uber Eats. Using an innovative app, food donors can signal when they have excess food, and a “food runner” will pick up the donations and deliver it directly to recipient organizations.

In 2021, White Pony Express reached a milestone of 17 million pounds of food delivered. In the past eight years, this organization has served 180,000 people in the region. Their operation has expanded to include a “general store” for donated new and like-new clothing, shoes, toys and books. The store also collects donated diapers.

SRVUMC volunteers joined with the Danville Latter-Day Saints and San Ramon Hindu Temple in an interfaith volunteer day on October 2. Together, we packaged food and life necessities for Contra Costa families in need, enriching our relationship with White Pony Express, local families, and our neighbors from other faith traditions.



What a difference our Communion offerings can make to fight hunger! Our November Communion offering sponsored our Rise Against Hunger event last month. Thanks to Pastor Mantu for the photo.

Communion Offering

Christmas Eve Offering Winter Nights

Many SRVUMC members are already very familiar with this project. Organized by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Winter Nights supports the local homeless population. Guests are screened and have dependent children. Each participating congregation hosts for two weeks, providing bedding, meals and other services. Two thirds of this project's budget comes from the contributions of individuals and congregations in Contra Costa County.

The Winter Nights mission is to keep families together when they might otherwise be split up by other shelters or, fearing that division, couch-surf with relatives. Many parents fear that their children will be taken from them if a child's school discovers that they have no income.

According to the organization's [website](#), some sixty faith organizations throughout the area have co-operated to shelter 1,263 people—758 children—over the past fifteen years. More numbers tell more of the story: Participating organizations have collectively offered over 4,000 nights of shelter, served over 100,000 meals and donated over 100,000 hours of volunteer time to offer families safe, dignified shelter during the winter. According to Winter Nights, 88% of families served by the organization have gone on to sustainable housing.



Winter Nights, 2017. SRVUMC volunteers worked to make Wesley Center a comfortable space for our guests. Photos by George Clarke.

Out Into the World

Our Time in Paradise: Rebuilding From the Camp Fire

By Steve Elliott

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.

After a massive two-year cleanup and debris removal, rebuilding began in earnest in early 2021. Volunteer organizations were permitted to scale up efforts to assist low-income survivors with construction of new homes. One such organization is Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN).

HCRN came to California a few years ago to help survivors of the Valley Fire in Lake County and have been rebuilding for wildfire survivors of modest means ever since. At present, HCRN has nine homes in progress in the town of Paradise, with another seven in the pipeline.

Our October mission team was the first of many to come from the United Methodist Church. There are two more UMC teams in October and November. This first team included members of Asbury UMC in Livermore, California and San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo, California. We tackled siding and trim installation and painting for Alvaro. Alvaro, a longtime resident of Paradise, qualified for an HCRN build.

Each day was collectively rewarding work. We enjoyed the shared comradery and sense of purpose in helping Alvaro. We also enjoyed evenings back at the dorm. We reflected on each day, shared devotional moments and laughed at stories told. A particularly humorous moment was when we set off the fire alarm cooking lasagna one evening.

Mission trips like this one are a unique blend of Christian love in action and a week-long small group experience. Tired by the end of the trip, we nonetheless came back savoring what it means to live a ministry of presence in helping a survivor of a horrific wildfire.

In Mission Together,

Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Dick Crawford, Roger Grimm, Bob Johnson, Bob Hoffman, Don Faul, Larry Suter, Coleman Johnson, Ron Logan and Steve Wilson



Out Into the World

The Camp Fire: Three Years Later

By Steve Elliott

(Editor's Note: The original story can be read in full at the [California-Nevada Conference website](#). This version has been amended for length and minor format considerations.)

So, what is it like today? Thousands of vacant lots. Several hundred thousand tons of debris cleared. Ninety-eight thousand hazardous trees removed. Only a small fraction of the former residents have returned, but it is encouraging that things are slowly recovering! A modest number of businesses have reopened. About 2,000 residential building permits have been issued (about 14% of the 14,000 homes lost). Both contractor and volunteer rebuilds are picking up.

Our Conference Participation

I am pleased to report your California-Nevada Conference and UMCOR are quite active in this recovery. We are members of the Camp Fire Collaborative (CFC). The CFC is the coordinating group of governmental agencies and nonprofit groups overseeing much of the recovery activities. CFC initiatives include spiritual and emotional care, survivor case management and helping to fund volunteer rebuilds for those who are economically challenged to do so.

In particular, we are involved in funding "complex unmet needs." These are primarily housing grants. The needs range from \$15,000 to \$120,000 for survivor assistance to build a home, purchase a mobile home or help with covering other related expenses. We serve as one of the dozen or so funders who pool our resources to cover vetted and approved requests. Our funding supplements what a survivor might have received from FEMA, PG&E, insurance or personal savings. All are low-income survivors who need help getting a new life going. Our participation is anchored by a very generous \$50,000 donation by Los Altos UMC. That donation was matched by the California-Nevada Conference Disaster Response Fund. These funds combined \$100,000 which was in turn matched by UMCOR for a total of \$200,000. What a remarkable compounding to make a difference in survivor's lives!

For example, we recently put \$6,000 towards building a tiny home for a single mother and her daughter. In another case, we provided money to



Steve Elliott shares in the work of rebuilding from the Camp Fire.

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Out Into the World

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help Lou and his wife build a small home. They had invested their entire savings and cashed out a pension to buy building materials before the fire. Their uninsured materials, on site, burned up. To date, we have participated in funding nine cases with more on the horizon.

Other UMC Involvement

In addition to the Complex Unmet Needs Roundtable, I represent the Conference on the CFC Construction Working Group and the Volunteer Housing Task Force.

Our newest Cal-Nev Conference priority is to assist with actual construction. Our first couple of teams have worked in the Town of Paradise. Hosted by Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN), a longtime and trusted partner, we are excited to encourage additional rebuild teams from the Cal-Nev Conference in the spring of 2022. Here is a link to the opportunity: [California-Nevada Conference of The UMC | California - Rebuilding Homes in Paradise and Butte County](https://cnumc.org/california-nevada-conference-of-the-umc-california-rebuilding-homes-in-paradise-and-butte-county) (cnumc.org).

Contact me if you have questions. Consider donating to the Conference Disaster Response Fund or UMCOR. Here is the link: [California-Nevada Conference of The UMC | Donate](https://cnumc.org/california-nevada-conference-of-the-umc-donate) (cnumc.org). And, think about volunteering to help rebuild. Putting our faith into action!

Celebrating a Successful Harvest Festival

The rebirth of the SRVUMC Harvest Festival was a rousing success, both financially and socially. Though we had only half the usual number of participants, and no Harvest Cafe or youth bake sale, we raised \$2,065 for church mission outreach efforts: \$1,445 for First UMC Salinas for their neighborhood homeless program, and Carole and Don Johnson raised \$620 for our Haiti mission program. Everyone agreed that seeing many of our dear church friends after two years was the greatest gift of all. The pandemic has been hard on us and on our church, but bringing back one of our favorite traditions with the Twelfth Annual Harvest Festival is a big step toward normalcy.



Carole Johnson surveys a range of handcrafted items prepared by church friends.

Out Into the World

Socking It to Them in Salinas

By Shannon Dever

On October 14, a group of thirteen ladies from our LiFT (Living, Loving and Learning in Faith Together) ChristCare group drove to Salinas. They delivered the bounty collected at SRVUMC during our recent men's clothing drive, including Sock It To Me Saturday and Undie Sunday. We had four SUVs chock full of donations and women.

Pastor Steve Lundin of First UMC Salinas was on hand to greet us, along with their lay leader and key volunteers. They proudly showed us their extensive Neighborhood Services Center, including a food bank, clothing closet and art room (with computer services and a library), as well as their beautiful old sanctuary and fellowship hall. Salinas UMC allows their homeless clients to use the church address to receive mail. The church office stocks toiletries, hygiene items, Band-Aids, and blankets to distribute as needed. They serve a hot breakfast and lunch six days a week. The church invites their guests to socialize, play games, and watch the television news in their fellowship hall. They also provide twelve-step programs for people battling alcohol and drug addiction. In exchange for four days' volunteer work, homeless persons are allowed to wash and dry their clothes at the church facility. A community health mobile comes weekly with either dental or medical professionals, and, prior to the pandemic, social workers or counselors were also available.

Their outdated and inadequate kitchen has been demolished since 2017 in preparation for a complete overhaul, but neighborhood concerns and political pushback have prevented the project from starting. Nonetheless, they continue to provide meals in a makeshift kitchen in their fellowship hall, feeding at least 50 people per day. The government granted them \$450,000 for their kitchen remodel in 2017, but the cost of renovations today is about twice that much. Los Altos UMC has pledged to match donations up to \$150,000 for the completion of the kitchen, for which they have finally received approval.

It was a humbling experience but so meaningful to know that one of our United Methodist churches is providing so much needed help and hope to some of our state's most vulnerable citizens.



LiFT of SRVUMC delivers clothing to First UMC Salinas in support of that church's extensive homeless outreach.



Out Into the World

Food Drive Through First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Pittsburg

This year, SRVUMC will again assist with holiday meal and gift donations serving families through the First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Pittsburg, whose mission is to provide emergency housing, food, and clothing to families within First Baptist Church and its surrounding communities. As a congregation, we hope to assemble 40+ family meal kits this year with your help! No contribution is too small, and all is very appreciated!

We will be assembling family meal ingredients and gifts for children and teens. In preparation for the assembly and delivery of the bundles, we are looking for donations of any or all items listed below:

Items Needed No Later Than Monday, December 13

- Fresh cooked 1/2 ham
- Oranges and apples
- Canned green beans and corn
- Corn bread mix
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Spice cake or gingerbread or sugar cookie mix
- Roll of paper towels
- Grocery gift cards (Safeway, Target, Walmart or Smart-and-Final are all in Pittsburg)
- Toys/gifts for children through age 18

How To Drop Off Items

We will be accepting donations at our church on **Sundays, December 5 and December 12**, both before and after worship in the courtyard. Items may also can be dropped off at the Kocins' home (*address listed in the current church directory*). Or, we will gladly pick up from your home. **Please call, text or email Ellen Kocins at ellengk@comcast.net or 925-858-1831 to arrange.**

Delivery

We will deliver everything to the Family Life Center in Pittsburg on Tuesday, December 14. If you are able to help with transport, then please let us know, as we can always use the help.

Gratitude

American Red Cross Thanks You for Donating

Hello Catharine [Baker],

I hope that you are doing well today! I wanted to thank you so much for hosting the blood drive on 10/26/21! We registered 39 donors, collected 37 units, and had 5 first-time donors. Those 37 donations can potentially help save up to 111 lives amazing job! I am also happy to report that you exceeded your goal 37/32 wonderful job!

I'm truly thankful for you and your communities' support of lifesaving blood donations you all are truly the real live savers. Is there any feedback you would like to provide regarding the blood drive? I believe that everything went smoothly and the staff were also very happy with the turnout.

I truly enjoyed working with you, and again from my heart thank you for holding your blood drive during this scary time in our nation. We can't help those in the hospitals without caring people like you. Please take care and reach out to me if you need anything!

If you would like to hold another drive please let me know Catharine!

Janaye Silva

Account Manager/Donor Recruitment

American Red Cross



UMC Portola Thanks You for Your Dixie Fire Assistance!

Dear friends of San Ramon Valley,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to help all those affected by the Dixie Fire. We continue to help many who are still in hotels and even cars, as they lost their homes, jobs, and are so unclear of their next stops. This will be so helpful!

Gentle winds,

Rev. Becky Stockdale

Preschool

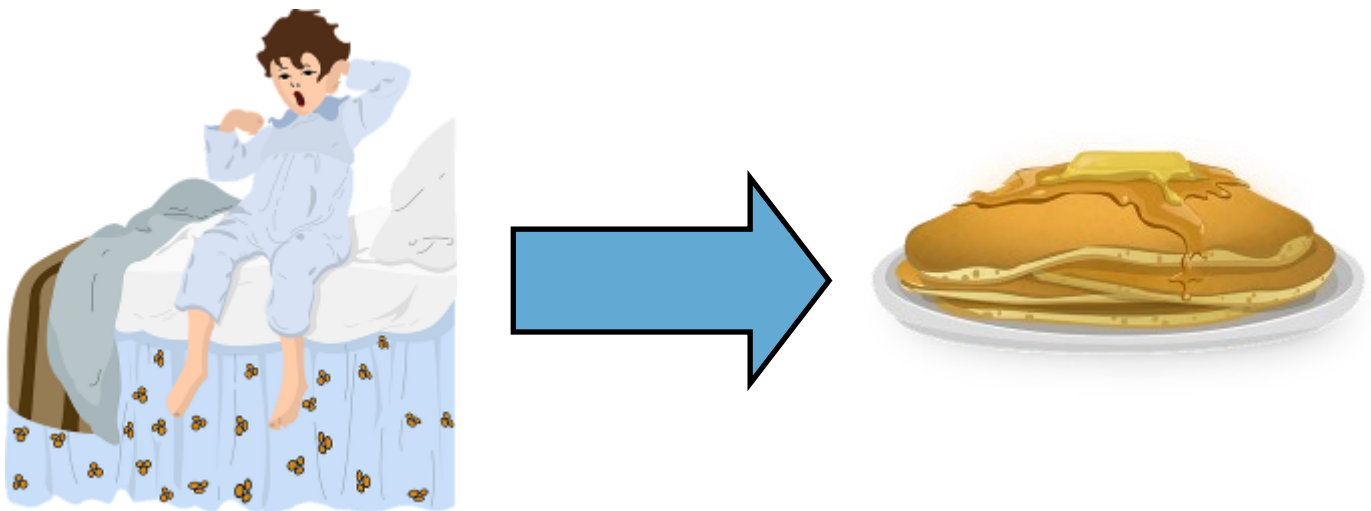
Pancakes and Pajamas Plans

Happy holidays from all of us at preschool! I can hardly believe that we are already at the end of 2021. We are excited and hopeful for an even better 2022!

November was a great month for us! We had picture day (the pictures turned out **adorable**) and we celebrated all that we are thankful for. Our teachers and families enjoyed a much-needed and well-deserved week off for Thanksgiving. Now, we are back for the home stretch to finish off the calendar year.

In December, we are hosting one of our first school events that families are able to attend, called Pancakes and Pajamas, to celebrate a very successful first half of the school year. During the last three mornings before the beginning of our winter break, families will join us for pancakes in their pajamas. Each age group – the twos, the threes and the Pre-K – will have their own morning to limit the number of families on campus at once while still having a great time. These events will take place in Wesley Hall and in the courtyard on December 20, 21 and 22. I know that our parents are extremely excited to be able to participate in this event with their children. My hope is that soon enough we can extend the invitation to our wonderful church community. Following this excitement, we will be off for two weeks from December 23 until January 7.

We hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones. We look forward to an amazing second half of the school year when we return to campus on January 9!



Going straight from pajamas to pancakes sounds pretty good, right?

Family Ministry

Christmas Advent Adventure

Two weeks, in person (Zoom optional)/two weeks Zoom. Materials provided along with a short weekly devotional.

Week 1, In Person, Sunday, November 28, 4 to 5 p.m. – Advent Calendar, kits provided. Using a macramé ring and yarn, we will create a daily opportunity to observe the Advent season with simple daily devotionals.

Week 2, Zoom, Sunday, December 5, 4 to 5 p.m. – Stencil Paint an Angel Ornament, kits provided. The angels in the Christmas story brought Good News. We, too, can share the Good News of Christmas.

Week 3, Zoom, Sunday December 12, 4 to 5 p.m. – Graham Cracker Nativity, kits provided. The Nativity is the central story of Christmas. Focusing on who gathered will help us understand Christmas.

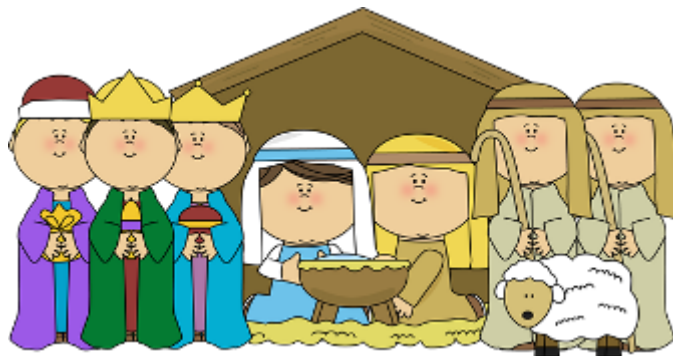
Week 4, In Person, Sunday, December 19, 4 to 5 p.m. – Birthday party for Jesus. Come to decorate cookies and play some games. Let's celebrate Christmas!

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24, 5 p.m.

Virtual With an In-person Twist!

Our Christmas Eve Family Service will still be virtual this year. We will record parts in person outdoors, safely distanced and masked. ***We will record on Sunday, December 12 at 10 a.m. in the courtyard.*** Watch for an email to sign up. Do you have video skills and a camera? Help out! ***Email Laura Roy with questions or to join in at lroy@srvumc.org!***



Family Ministry

Sunday School

Join us for in-person Sunday school! Sundays, 9 a.m. 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 for Zoom meeting ID and passcode.

Let the Celebration Begin!

Engage in Everyday Moments Together

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Week One

Elizabeth and Zechariah: Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

Celebrate because God can do anything.

Week Two

Gabriel Appears to Mary: Luke 1:26-56

Celebrate because God has a plan.

Week Three

Jesus is Born/Shepherds Visit: Luke 2:1-20

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

Week Four

Wise Men: Matthew 2:1-12

Never stop celebrating Jesus.

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." — John 3:16, NIV





Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Chuck Desmond
David Hagebush
Liz Hirsch
Victoria Longstreet | Epi Vazquez
10 Wendi Cerda
Karen Steffy
11 Gabi Kirby
12 Laura Brown
Dewey Reikofoki
13 Olivia Bybel
Amanda Lang
Harrison Pavel
Robbie Rigolfi, Jr.
Deborah Robinson | 21 Melissa LeGuluche
Susan Pickering-Gest
Kate Steffy
Kerri Wakefield
22 Kevin Isbell
HollyAnn Melton
Flo Spanier (99)
23 Gayle Jackson
Angela Norton
24 Gordon Pierce
Suzanne Shea
25 Quentin Alexander
26 Sherry More'
29 George Hawk
Kevin Keen
30 Phyllis Meyer
Elise Doyle
Susan Rideout
31 Warren McGuffin |
| 2 Aimee Knese
Madison More'
Anita Weir-Ball
3 Greg Koos
Jane Roath
4 Ray Shea
5 Aly Kelly
Emma Willman
6 Kathleen Saghafl
7 Niles Bybel
Connie Erickson
Sketch Sketchley
Bailee Smallwood
Don Weis
8 Emily Baker
9 Kirsten Choy
Sandy Clark
Ali Kuelz
Marlys Siegel | 14 Ivan Kerr
Annette Whiting
15 Jim Braden
Horace Crawford
17 Patrick Dowling
Teresa Fimby- Christensen
Rhett Porteous
Helen Sinclair
18 Carol Arabian
Anne Kuelz
19 Teresa Stroin
20 Kathleen Isbell | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Pam & Bob Dominici (55)
3 Sharon & Bob Leyman
9 Renée & Doug Beck
21 Shelley & Bill Lettis
22 Gerry & Jim Aude | 27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz
28 Sheryl & Ivan Kerr (59)
Laurel & Geoff Portman
29 Eleanor & Fred Toney (61) |
|--|--|

Overlooked?

Please help update the Celebrations page records with your own information. We won't know if you don't tell us! Contact Lisa Jancarik at newsletter@srvumc.org with your correct birthday information so we can all wish you a happy birthday next year!



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns

Bob Brown
Shana Carroll

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, Ann Schroeder

Our Christian Sympathy

To **Linda Albertoni Engman** following the death of her father.

To **Dave Engman** following the recent death of his mother.

To the family of **Charles Stephenson** on his recent death.

To the family of **Dave Holleman** on his recent death.

Stay in Touch

Having been members of SRVUMC for many decades, Berry and I would like to express our thanks and love to this church for the community that it has provided for us. The church has played a major role in our family life, and we will miss it. Our new address is 754 Spyglass Dr., Bandon, OR 97411, and we would be happy to hear from any of our church friends. My email address is merebruin@att.net. - Marilyn Scott

SRVUMC

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Director of Family Ministries

Laura Roy (ext. 106)

Office/HR Manager

Soledad Cuenco (ext 104)

Accountant

Kim Anderson

Office Administrator

Patsy Kyles

Facilities & Purchasing

Manager

Marilyn Clarke (ext 102)

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Rosalind Niesinger

Organist

Nadia Blank-Koliha

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