

The

Valley Messenger

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

Prayerfully Walking

There is something about small towns and walking that is so satisfying. I remember on a Sunday morning taking a walk onto the college campus at UC Davis with dogs and preparing my heart and mind for worship. I often enjoyed praying for the community before worship each day including Sundays. A gentleman riding by in full biking gear unclipped, took off his helmet, and looked me in the eye.

"I think you're my new pastor. I haven't been to church for a long time."

I turned toward him and offered my hand in friendship and then took a deep breath. "Today we are looking at the Gospel of Mark. We are talking about one of the teachings of Jesus."

I went on to ask about his morning and his ride. Two hours later, he was sitting with his spouse in church. He would attend regularly from that time on. That morning walk and his momentary pause off his bike changed the course of both of our lives in important ways. This is the power of a prayer walk in our own communities. I'm not just talking about inviting people to church. I'm talking about the little ways that we notice when people might be hurting or delightfully ready for something deeper. Presence in our communities is so vital. More often than not, we are the ones who change.

This season of Epiphany, we are starting the practice of prayer walks to notice and love our neighbors, literally. We will have options to walk in church groups to neighborhoods around us (*See Page 5 for January dates*). In worship, we will explore stories in the Book of Exodus to learn from a people always on the move. Look for more information coming through our Friday Memo.

(contact Patsy at pkyles@srvumc.org if you don't already receive this weekly email). Just be ready

January 2022

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Next Issue: February 2022

Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik at media@srvumc.org by **January 15, 2022.**

Announcements

for the possibility that some small encounter may lead to a life changed.

Isn't that what Epiphany is all about? Someone was walking about in a foreign land and noticed a star rising in the East. Did they pack and leave or just start running like Forrest Gump? Who did the wise people meet on the way?

Take a prayer walk and perhaps a star will rise for you as well.

Shanti (meaning peace) always,

Pastor Mantu

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa and SRVUMC

Nurturing the Beloved Community

Sunday Afternoon Interfaith Retreat, February 6, 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.

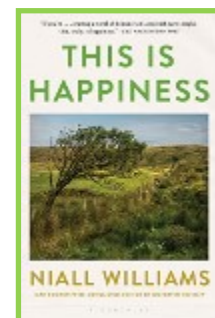
Readings will be shared before the retreat and are included in the fee. \$40 to \$60 fee (sliding scale) includes dinner. **All welcome! Contact Bill Rust, Chair of SRVUMC Faith Development Committee, at wrusjrarb@aol.com to register.**

Afternoon Book Group

January 24, 1 p.m.

Rm 202 Wesley Center

This is Happiness by Niall Williams, discussion led by Melinda Love.



Announcements

Hope Solutions' Annual Gala Ruby Slippers—There's No Place Like Home Saturday, March 5 Blackhawk Museum

Hope Solutions (formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing) will hold their annual gala, Ruby Slippers—There's No Place Like Home, benefitting local homeless and at-risk families and individuals. The evening includes an exciting silent, live auction and features entertainment by David Martin's House Party.

Please join our congregation in making a lasting difference for homeless and extremely low-income families and individuals in Contra Costa County. Hope Solutions provides permanent affordable housing with vital support services to more than 2,000 people in our community. Support Hope Solutions' Ruby Slippers gala:

- **Build a silent auction basket or donate wine.** Your generous contribution of a themed auction basket, unique experience, wine or gift certificate(s) will elevate the value of our auction and provide substantial opportunities to raise more funds in honor of this special evening. Consider making a basket with the help of friends or a group.
- **Attend Ruby Slippers!** Tickets are available at hopesolutions.org or by calling 925-542-5068.

Hope Solutions pairs permanent housing with on-site services such as after-school tutoring, case management, housing advocacy, eviction prevention, mental health counseling, and more. This innovative approach makes Hope Solutions a unique and permanent solution to ending poverty and homelessness in Contra Costa County.

For Ruby Slippers—There's No Place Like Home to be a great success, we need some courage, a lot of heart, and plenty of brains in selling tickets and securing auction items for this fun, over-the-rainbow type of night!

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Victoria Hernandez, vhernandez@hopesolutions.org / 925-788-0600 or Carrie Veurink at cveurink@hopesolutions.org / (925) 542-5068.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our congregation's contribution to Hope Solutions' annual gala fundraiser, Ruby Slippers—There's No Place Like Home!





Announcements

We Help To Education Each Other!

Dialogue for Change

Sundays, January 9 Through March 6, 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Zoom

Dialogue for Change is an adult education series formatted as a discussion of a short video on current events. The intent focuses education and change regarding Black experience, unintentional bias, and racial equity. Dialogue for Change began in July 2020 when a few members of our church independently asked Pastor Kim what the church could do to respond to the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing protests and conversations about racial justice. At her

suggestion, the group came together to plan educational events for the church and participated in activities to support antiracism locally. One response has been the Dialogue for Change class as a way to become better educated about race and racism in our nation and our community. Each week, we watch and discuss Ted Talks about aspects of racial inequity, listen to personal stories about racism in our neighborhoods, and study books about how non-Blacks can be good allies.

And we are still learning! This winter's program schedule is being finalized, but it will include explorations of

- How we should engage with our nation's history (the Civil War, Confederate monuments and symbols, school curriculum)
- Christianity and racism (Christian nationalism, the church and white supremacy, repentance and reparation)
- Critical race theory and differing perspectives on racism and "wokeness"
- Continuing to learn about ourselves (the role of good intentions, how to talk across differences, what is "white affirmative action")

Please join us for these fascinating, surprising, and challenging Sunday morning sessions. It is important to include a variety of perspectives on each topic, so we want to emphasize that the class is not designed to present one side of these complex issues. We help to educate each other! We especially hope to enlarge our class with some first-time participants, so invite your friends! **Contact Patsy Kyles in the church office at pkyles@srvumc.org or by phone at 925-428-9873 for the Zoom link, or check the Friday Memo each week. Lucinda Huffaker would be delighted to answer questions or discuss details about the class via email at lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com.**



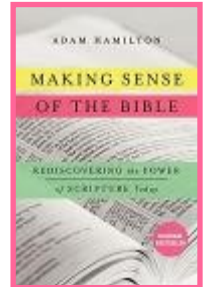
Spiritual Growth

New Adult Sunday School Class

Making Sense of the Bible

Sundays, January 16 Through March 6, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for seven sessions which may answer questions many of us have about Scripture today. Each session will build upon the last, so if you must miss a Sunday, you can catch up by reading the book. This class is for beginners and for people who wish to deepen their current understanding of the Bible. If you wish you knew a little more about the Bible, this is a great place to figure things out, ask questions, and gain some new perspectives.



We'll use a readable and engaging book by Adam Hamilton called ***Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today***. Hamilton is the pastor of the largest United Methodist congregation in the United States, and you might find his serious scholarship, clear explanations, and practical applications of Biblical wisdom part of the reason!

Our leader will be longtime church member Phyllis Meyer. Phyllis is an experienced small group facilitator, has served on our staff, and has her Masters of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. **Call the church office or contact Phyllis Meyer at pcmeyer1249@gmail.com for more information.**

Prayer Walks in 2022

Thank you to all who participated in a Prayer Walk in December! On each walk, we came up with key insights that will help us live into our purpose as a church: to be a blessing in the community around us. We need your observations and input as well.

Prayer walks offer us a chance to notice what is going on in our community. As we walk, we ask God to guide our eyes and hearts and minds to see what needs our attention. It's easier to experience one than to explain it, so please join in one of these January walks. You'll be outdoors with a great group of people, paying attention to how God is at work in our community. You'll leave feeling closer to your community and to God.

The person leading the walk provides a brief description of how to participate, we walk for about 20 minutes, and then we share our experiences. We meet at the Train Depot at the far end of the Lunardi's Market parking lot.

Upcoming Prayer Walks

- Wednesday, January 5 at 3 p.m.
- Sunday, January 9 at 11 a.m.
- Thursday, January 20 at 4 p.m.
- Saturday, January 29 at 11 a.m.

Spiritual Growth

An Update on Social Media and SRVUMC

By Sarah Stribling

With God's help, our work continues to establish a second online church campus to extend the reach of our church and to transform the world. Pastor Mantu and I have mapped out a timeline that will help keep long-term goals on track. Our presence on Facebook grows stronger. According to recent analysis, Facebook estimates that 18,500 people saw our posts in their social media feed, an increase of 832% over the previous 28 days. In that same time period, page views have increased 38%, page Likes are up 300%, and we gained 25 new followers. The average number of posts in a given week has remained steady at about four posts per week—ideal, according to a recent UMC Communications webinar. Our content has blossomed from a mix of original and curated posts to almost entirely original material. These posts range from weekly worship services to brief sermon teasers (which incentivize watching the full worship service); Pastor Mantu's weekly video series on the book of Psalms; announcements about upcoming church events, and more. Facebook users are organically discovering our posts and engaging with them. This increased traffic to our Facebook page comes from deliberate and strategic use of hashtags along with intentionally using certain terms in video titles. These small yet significant additions have made our videos easier to find, thus facilitating engagement. Perhaps the most significant change has been the ability of Facebook worshippers to contribute to worship in real-time by answering questions posed by the pastor, and typing in prayer requests that are prayed over during worship. Our worship is now truly hybrid. Hybrid worship guru Jason Moore holds our well-executed hybrid worship up as an example for other churches to follow.

In addition to expanding our Facebook presence, a small group is constructing an online version of The Trail, a path to digital discipleship, consisting of half professional and half lay people. Together, Pastor Mantu, Devon Drake, Alex Maddux, and I are contemplating using Church Online Platform, a free streaming service specifically for churches. This web tool will potentially revolutionize our approach to online church, as it avoids many of the pitfalls of popular social media websites while allowing functionality that churches specifically want and need. In the near future, online participants will be able to live out their discipleship regardless of location. Small groups and classes can be held entirely online, and our social media presence will continue to expand, with God's grace. May God continue to bless our work.





Out Into the World

Reprinted from a CA-NV Conference newsletter sent to Pastor Kim December 7. Lightly edited.—Editor

NOMAD Mission

A longstanding ministry of the United Methodist Church, NOMADS (Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service) are individuals and couples with Recreational Vehicles (RVs) who travel to places that need volunteer maintenance, repairs and new construction—churches, homeless shelters, camps and disaster sites. Here is a link to more about this unique Christian mission and how to participate: <https://www.cnumc.org/vimprojectdetail/15789985>

The Mission Connection highlights mission opportunities in Guatemala and Livermore, California. This month's newsletter can be found at https://calnev-email.brtaapp.com/files/pdf_documents/umvim/the+mission+connection+december+2021.pdf

Now that we are past the difficult wildfire season of 2021, we reflect on the ways the California-Nevada Conference and our churches met the challenge in the this linked article: <https://www.cnumc.org/dr-details/wildfires-2021-we-met-the-challenge-15787501>

A special thank you to the following churches for recent donations to our Disaster Response Ministry:

- Asbury UMC, Livermore, CA
- Mount Tamalpais UMC, Mill Valley, CA
- Ely UMC, Ely, Nevada
- Pinole UMC, Pinole, CA
- El Dorado Federated, Placerville, CA
- Elk Grove UMC, Elk Grove, CA

And lastly, Campbell UMC is one of the hosts for the Silicon Valley Safe Parking Program. This program, for people who live in their car, provides a place to park overnight. Read about this remarkable outreach at <https://www.cnumc.org/vim-details/campbell-umc-joins-the-safe-parking-program-15791901>

We share Conference missions and outreach opportunities each month. *If you have a mission story you want to highlight, just send an article and photos to me, Justin at justincryu@gmail.com or to Shari Sandoval at sharis@calnevumc.org.*

Living in Hope,

Justin Ryu

On behalf of the California-Nevada Mission Service Committee

Out Into the World

Special Report: Warren McGuffin's Haiti Update

To My Colleagues and Church Friends,

Eleven years ago, you and I began a project in Haiti, *The Thomas Food Project*. It has been an honor to represent the churches in our conference as well as churches across the country in this ministry. What began as a simple idea to feed a school blossomed into a larger effort with the help, talent and assistance of many people. You are among them, and I cannot thank you enough.



Continued Support

The Thomas Food Project (TFP) is coming to an end once the bakery is open and operational. I will, however, continue my work in faith in Haiti with James Lazarre. The project completes with its bakery, water well, shower, toilets and lighting for the orphanage.



[New Vision for a Better Life \(NeViBL\)](#) will continue the work we have seeded. Out of the eleven years of the project, I have spent four years in the country. I call many in Haiti my friends. I have attended weddings, funerals and birthday celebrations, soccer games, and school visits all over the Island. I even attended a voodoo ceremony—memories I hold dear.

New Vision for a Better Life

Our project has partners in Haiti and within the Methodist Church, together with other NGOs throughout the U.S. We have churches from Texas, Pennsylvania, and Virginia as well as multiple churches in our conference that have participated in this ministry.

The project has hosted mission teams from across our country. We have hosted over twenty teams and hundreds of volunteers in those ten years. They each brought love along with their learned and God-given talents and skills to serve those in need. I love every single one of them.

The Project has:

- Served over a million meals
- Built a guest house at the Thomas campus
- Installed water purifiers at seventeen schools
- Installed solar power at six schools and the guest house at Thomas to supply computers and water purifiers
- Installed computers and audiovisual equipment supporting the curriculum at six schools for hundreds of students
- Distributed thousands of dresses and clothing for the community and schools
- Built eight new toilets at two schools
- Built and installed hundreds of bio-sand water filters in homes

Continued Pages 9 and 10

Out Into the World

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- Provided medical checkups for schools and community
- Funded surgeries and medicine for multiple children
- Offered eye exams and glasses to schools and surrounding villages

We have also partnered with other UMC churches to sponsor two schools. They have built a new school building at LeFabre School and installed playground equipment and a basketball court.

Current Activity

Our largest endeavor has been building and furnishing a bakery. Civil unrest and COVID have sometimes slowed progress, but we are well underway to make it a reality. The facility is finished and ready for equipment. The bakery will also have wholesale and retail business. Two young ladies, sponsored for training at a culinary academy, have graduated, and they will operate the bakery (Cook Staff Manager Ginette is one of the two). The bakery is the final part of our ministry to create jobs and income through our Christian giving.

Life in Haiti today is not only hard, but it has become more dangerous because of civil unrest and government failure. Owing to these factors, TFP has lost momentum, and the original bakery idea did not open as soon as planned. The bakery is funded but will require some start-up costs. These funds will be sought on an individual basis.

Finishing out our Thomas Food Project, we are planning on installing a community water system in 2022. Watch for a special fundraising endeavor.

I received a God gift in James Lazarre. This smart young man I met eleven years ago has been an exceptional project manager and friend. He is a strong businessman and Christian, and I cherish the times we have spent together. I speak with him almost daily in some form. As his mentor, I am excited for his future as I am for Ginette's and the others that this project has empowered to make a better life. I wish you could meet them all. I will concentrate on supporting James and others until our funds are depleted.



The bakery, during construction.



Some normal moments in a time of strife.

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Out Into the World

From Page 9

It has become impossible to continue our work with mission teams. James currently has over ten children at the orphanage. He has done a brilliant job of attracting and obtaining funds for it through mission teams we have hosted. James explains below how New Vision for a Better Life picks up and expands upon the good work of the Thomas Food Project.

May God bless you and those that you serve in His name,
Warren McGuffin

New Vision for a Better Life (NeViBL)

By James Lazarre : NeViBL, President, National and official Representative

Children's Education Plan

Education is a key to a better future. NeViBL, a program of education and social work, understands that key, and we know kids especially need education during this period in their lives. The program seeks to create a future for these children through professional development and to foster the attitudes and skills necessary for success. Raising some unfortunate children differently from the lives they have known will make their success stories a template for others.

Creation and Experimentation Area

Our big goal is to open a vocational school into and for the community. Another goal of New Vision is to open a workshop for each option and practice area. The project will develop a path for the students to create, innovate and generate funds via microenterprise ideas.

The objective is to create a path and provide the children with a tool to a better future. We can open their eyes and envision to a path to succeed.

NeVibl Kids Center is on the path to become the most welcoming and safe place for orphans and abandoned and impoverished children. In a safe place with loving mentors, these children can create their future in the community.

Programs include but are not limited to:

Bible study	Plumbing	Air conditioning	Medical (dental, hearing and vision)
Music	Tile installation	Bio Compost	
Computer	Electric	Farming/Agriculture	
Carpentry	Mechanic		

Thank You

Thank You for Disaster Response in 2021! By Steve Elliott

As the year draws to a close, it is an opportunity to acknowledge the response of our California-Nevada Conference to addressing a very difficult wildfire season. We met the challenge by offering a caring ministry of presence to several thousand evacuees and survivors. Time and time again, we engaged people impacted by the fires, listening to their trauma, offering immediate assistance and providing hope for the future.

Supported by the donation of funds and supplies from a host of congregations, we responded to five major fires. This effort included staffing eight local assistance centers and direct survivor follow up. UMCOR also provided grants to help with the two largest fires—Dixie and Caldor.

By the numbers:

- **Local Assistance Centers:** We served over 700 households (about 2000 people). We gave away \$32,000 in gift cards and about \$27,000 in supplies for immediate needs.
- **Short-term Evacuee and Survivor Assistance:** Churches in the wildfire areas provided around \$43,000 in direct help (gift cards, food, household goods, temporary housing and more).
- **Wildfire Grants:** UMCOR and our Conference Disaster Response Fund provided \$50,000 in grants for continuing assistance to survivors of the River, Dixie and Caldor fires.

As we transition to long-term recovery, we have added the 2021 fires to the list of prior years' fires in which we will offer financial aid, recovery services and rebuilding assistance. This will likely continue for the next four or five years.

Moving into 2022, we are blessed with a strong Disaster Response Fund and an abundant inventory of wildfire supplies. Thanks to the outstanding support of our Conference congregations, we are in an excellent position to help if the need arises. You are a blessing! Let's pray the 2022 season will be modest.



Thank You

Thank You, SRVUMC Angels!

You, our church community, have helped brighten Christmas for many and our hearts are filled with gratitude. As we send this to print, the last carloads of gifts are being delivered by “Angels” to agencies who are immensely thankful for our assistance, and we, in turn, are grateful to you all.

The Angel Tree program begins in late August with the committee vetting different agencies and determining how we might help. Here is a little more detail about each agency and what our Angel Tree was able to do for them this Christmas.



[Hope Solutions](#), located in Pleasant Hill, is dedicated to helping heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families. They sent us a wish list from eight families in Contra Costa County. Case workers screened every family and submitted requests to Hope Solutions. Ages of clients varied from infancy to 70 years, with backgrounds just as varied. Clients we have helped include: a single mother with three young children; a single woman who recently fled an abusive relationship which left her homeless for a year; a disabled adult; and a large family struggling to make ends meet in a COVID-impacted economy. The list goes on, but certainly one understands what an impact meeting their wish list could have. We provided every individual with two gifts and a gift card to Safeway. These are the only gifts many will receive.

[Fred Finch Youth Center](#) is a home in Oakland for children, youth and young adults. Fred Finch provides effective and innovative services helping them heal from trauma, mental health issues, cognitive disabilities, and loss. We provided two gifts to each resident—gifts they specifically requested. The director, Grace Helton, is most appreciative that we remember them every year. It makes their Christmas!

[Tri-Valley Haven](#) is located in Livermore and serves adults and children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or homelessness. This year, our preschool families gifted their favorite board game. It was wonderful to have our preschool involved in this mission!

[Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services](#) serves teenage girls who have been removed from abusive or neglectful homes. We provided two gifts cards, cozy blankets as well as bath and lotion sets to each of the twelve young girls. They love to go on shopping outings and use the gift cards to pick exactly what they want!

[Trinity Center](#) located in Walnut Creek serves homeless and working poor adults. This year, they asked us to give sleeping bags, underwear and gift cards to local restaurants so warm meals were attainable.

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Thank You

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Why we start revving up the Angel Tree process mid-November? The process of getting the lists out to everyone, collecting, sorting, and making sure every request is honored, then delivering them to the agencies by “their due date” takes time.

Why so many requests for gift cards? Why not more toys? Despite the fun we all have buying toys, gift cards were asked for by families so they could purchase exactly what was needed or what would fit. The Safeway gift cards provided holiday meals. Trinity Center asked for gift cards for food places close to their center so clients could get warm meals. Thank you for being so generous purchasing the gift cards.

What do we do with donations? We have angel shoppers who make sure every last gift is bought and wrapped. If there is extra money, then we check with agencies to see if there are last-minute needs. For instance, a few years ago, we gave money to Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank in support of many families displaced by fires. Last year, we gave extra money to Hope Solutions so they could give gift baskets filled with essentials to families who were identified in late December. Thank you for the donations! So, with Christmas right around the corner, close to 150 gifts are on their way to brighten many lives. We feel blessed to have had your help!

With gratitude,

Beth McClelland, Roni Item, Linda Green, Nancy Garnick

Thank You to Departing Staff



Joey Fuca wrapped up several successful seasons as ARC director at the end of 2021. He will be focusing on his coaching career. We know anyone he touches in this capacity will have the benefit of his personal warmth and athletic skills.



Marilyn Clarke took her final bow with SRVUMC as Facilities Manager with the end of 2021. Since starting in 2002, she has assisted in three major building projects and several upgrades without running away screaming.



Linda Green concluded a central role as Director of AV Services at the end of 2021. We have been calling for Linda to fix the hardware, software, slides, microphones and pretty much anything else since 2015. Don't worry, Linda...we'll figure it eventually.

Communion

Human Relations Day is one of the six Special Sundays celebrated within the United Methodist Church. The Sunday we observe Human Relations Day each year on the Sunday closest to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. This year, the date is January 16. On this day, Methodists are called upon to consider all God's children as human beings in relationship with one another. ***The offering for Human Relations Day will be collected on January 2, Communion Sunday.***



"The basics of the UMC Human Relations Day focus is to strengthen the Church's outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and worth with at-risk youth," former Missions Chair **Paul Kuelz** told the newsletter in an email from 2021.

According to [UMCgiving.org](https://umcgiving.org), the special offering collected nationwide will support neighborhood ministries (called "Community Developers" in this program), community advocacy through the United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The United Methodist Church distributes the collected offering in the following way: 57% to Community Developers, 33% to United Methodist Voluntary Services, and 10% to Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Grant applicants seeking funding from the Youth Offender Program monies collected by the United Methodist Church in observance of Human Relations Day are building outreach and assistance to nonviolent youth through education, advocacy or leadership training. Applicants are either United Methodist churches or organizations themselves or are ecumenical groups whose program impacts at least one local United Methodist church.

Not everyone impacted by the Human Relations Day outreach is a youth, however. Recovery programs for adults on the margins benefit from the Human Relations funding, too. Other organizations relying on this funding assist poor students or families with basic needs, like money for bills and groceries.

Did You Know?

You can look up and view any of our livestreamed services on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)! Even the ones from weeks or months ago are available anytime. You can click the link above or go to www.youtube.com and search for "SRVUMC." All kinds of video content from our church can be found!

Preschool

Enrichment in 2022

Happy New Year from all of us at UMP to you! We have the first week of January off, and then we are excited see all of our preschool friends on January 10, when school resumes. When we return, we will dive into a new enrichment program for our Pre-K students on Mondays! Since our Pre-K program currently runs four days a week, this enrichment program is offered on the fifth day—Monday—by one of the Pre-K teachers, Ms. Denise! We are excited to run three different sessions throughout the spring semester. Our students who are enrolled in the enrichment program will get to participate in fun science experiments. Then, they will move into learning about and doing some gardening in our brand-new garden beds. They will finish off the year by learning about famous artists! Speaking of new programs, even though we wrapped up our busy holiday season, we are moving into another busy time of year with registration for the 2022-2023 school year upon us. **Registration opens for families that currently attend our preschool on January 18. Following this period, on February 14, registration opens for any family that is interested in joining our preschool in the fall.**

We are incredibly thankful to Mason Glines and all who were involved in the big task of bringing our new outdoor space to life for his Eagle Scout project! The project was completed over Thanksgiving break. The before and after pictures are incredible but truly don't do it justice. Our teachers enjoy letting their children park their bikes all by themselves! We really look forward to using the area as an extension of our outdoor learning space now that it is safe for our students.

We hope you are as excited as we are about the new possibilities and bright future the New Year holds!



Mason Glines' Eagle Scout project created a clean, organized outdoor space for the preschool. Thanks to Mason and everyone who helped!



Family Ministry

Calendar

Family Connection and Movie Night, Saturday, January 22, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wesley Hall

Seating in family pods. Masks and county public health guidelines will keep this event safe for everyone!

Watch for details! February brings a parent workshop on helping our kids handle stress. Date TBT.

Sunday School Your Way

Join us for in-person Sunday school! Sundays, 9 a.m. No need to register! TK through fifth grade will meet in 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.

Learning to Manage Our Feelings

Self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

Week One

Jesus is Tempted in the Desert; Luke 4:1-13

Be ready to do the right thing.

Week Two

Broken-Down Walls; Proverbs 25:28

When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

Week Three

David Spares Saul's Life; 1 Samuel 24

Don't be controlled by your anger.

Week Four

Choose Your Words Carefully; Proverbs 12:18

Think before you speak.

Week Five

Too Much of a Good Thing; Proverbs 25:16

Know when to stop.

**"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
—2 Peter 1:3a, NIV**



Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Marilyn Clarke
Maha Toma, youth | 19 Elizabeth De Chene
Cosima Sepull |
| 2 Steve Marohn
Adena Verdi
Ethan Helms
Brian Roberts | 20 Nancy Garnick
21 Kim Risedorph
22 Bob Leyman
23 Jan Foulds |
| 4 Rebecca Ten Elshof | 24 Barb McWilliams |
| 9 Terry Bailey
Andrew Kocins
Conner Merchant
Betty Skeoch | 25 Teri Armanini
Grace Benzler
Roger Ehlers
Cora Knese
Taylor Smallwood |
| 10 Chris Hoff | 26 Nick Toma |
| 11 Ann Schroeder | 27 Doug Barton |
| 12 Scott Davis
Berry Scott | 28 Bill Dever
Nancy Harrison
Karen Stepper |
| 17 Gerry Carothers
Jean Desmond | 30 Alicia Rossini
Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei |
| 18 Elaine Halliday
Mike Kelly
Evan Schroeder
Gail Smith | 31 Lisa Chapman |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Melissa & Robert Ward | 11 Nadia & Bruce Koliha |
| 3 Andrea & John Siebert | 21 Wendi & Michael Cerda |
| 5 Judy & Bob Baker | 29 Danni & Dan Sherman |
| 7 Jo Ann & Vin Hirsch (61) | |
| 9 Linda & Alex Farhang | |

Did We Miss You?

This page is for all of us, regardless of age or location! Email Lisa Jancarik at newsletter@srvumc.org for acknowledgement of your birthday or anniversary in the Celebrations page. Let us recognize and congratulate you!



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, Bob De Chene, Connie Erickson, Felicia Hillard, Kay Jones, Joan Lee, Ann Schroeder.

Our Christian Sympathy

To **Ted Nguyen** following the death of his mother.

Thank You

Dear San Ramon Valley UMC Community,

Thank you for your care as Steve recovered from a broken rib and collar bone. Your meals, prayers, and cards kept us nourished in so many ways.—Gratefully, **Steve Elliott and Kim Risedorph**

SRVUMC

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Laura Roy (ext. 106)

Preschool Director

Katelyn Self (ext. 113)

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