

The

Valley Messenger

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

Meet Pastor Andrew: We're Off and Running Together!

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So, let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. —Philippians 3: 12-16; The Message

Greetings San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church!

What a great joy it is to be writing you as your new associate pastor. I am excited to work with Pastor Kim, our staff and leaders. I especially look forward to being in ministry with our youth and volunteers who work in our youth ministry. Trevor and I are excited to be joining this community, and we both look forward to getting to know you in the days and months ahead. My prayers have been with Pastor Mantu, Heidi, and their family as we give thanks for Pastor Mantu's ministry among you, and I know that we all wish him well at Walnut Creek First UMC. I have really enjoyed getting to know both Pastor Kim and Pastor Mantu thus far. Our district superintendent, Rev. Samuel Hong, asked if I would serve here, and now I am looking forward to getting to know all of you.

As we begin our time together and get to know each other, I come to you after serving at Foothills UMC in Cameron Park, and Community UMC in Quincy before that. Before becoming a pastor, I served as music director at Rio Linda Community UMC. I served as music director and seminary intern at Hope Presbyterian Church in Mitchellville, MD while I was a stu-

July 2022

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Next Issue: August 2022

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

Milestones

dent at Wesley Theological Seminary. I have sung in church choirs since age eleven, played piano since age thirteen, and played organ since age twenty. I hope to share my music with you on occasion, especially as we restart our children and youth music ministry. Occasionally, I am also known to break out in song when preaching.

My journey of faith has been like the Apostle Paul describes in Philippians 3: 12-16, as I am still learning, yet still have my eye on the goal of having the mind and likeness of Jesus. Sometimes, we want to get to the goal quickly, but as one of my friends, Rev. Becky Goodwin once told me, the race is just as important as the goal. I, too, am still running the race and don't necessarily have it all together. I am on the journey with all of you and alongside you, whatever that journey looks like.

Along with music, I connect with God outdoors and plan to explore the outdoors in our area. I experience God in the wildlife, alongside water, the wind, and in silence. I see the trail as an effective metaphor for our journey of faith. Some of us might still be at the trailhead, some of us may be deep in our journey, and some may be near the summit or goal. Wherever you are on your faith journey, I want to hear your story. I would love to hear how you experience God and how we can journey together in being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. In addition to the outdoors, I enjoy discovering the art and cultural scenes in the community. If there are art galleries, museums, or concerts that you recommend, please let us know.

One way that I enjoy making connections is by creating spaces to connect within the greater community, which includes dining out or getting coffee. In Luke's gospel, Jesus is often engaged in table fellowship, and Trevor and I would love to connect with you over a meal. This is also a way to bring our presence as the church into the community. Likewise, Trevor and I hope to explore places to eat, so if you have local places that you enjoy, let us know. We would love to know of any locally-owned places, as we love supporting the local economy where we can.

Once again, Trevor and I really look forward to meeting you and being in ministry with this community. We are very much looking forward to getting to know you all both at the church and in the community. We eagerly anticipate seeing you in person or online on July 3, and I look forward to connecting with you as we begin our ministry together.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Andrew and Trevor



Trevor (left) and Pastor Andrew (right)



Milestones

Thank You

Dear Friends at SRVUMC—

As I retire from active ministry this month, I am full of reflection. And so many of the moments that I remember with gratitude have you in them.

This church not only called and supported me into ministry: You formed me into faith. When I came to SRVUMC as a restless young lawyer, I was searching for something. I didn't even know what it was. You welcomed my family, and not too long after that, you supported my daughter Stacey and me through grief. You held us with tenderness and hope when we needed it very much. And in all that, you showed me what church can be. Is supposed to be.

It was my honor to be with you twice more, as associate pastor and then co-senior pastor with Ron Dunn. That is extraordinarily unusual in our Methodist system. It was like God knew there was more life we needed to share with each other. One of my first sermons there was called "Wearing Ruby Slippers." Just like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, I found my way home to you again and again.

I have learned much from you. You shaped me for the all the ministry I have done in these twenty-five years. And I am deeply grateful for your friendship and kindness, and for the life of faith we have shared.

Be well, dear friends. May you know how deep and broad and always is God's love for you, and God's delight in you.

Much love to you—Kathi McShane

Hello Church!

I wanted to convey our sincere gratitude for all the generosity and sweet remembrances of our time together. Our whole family was so touched by your thoughtfulness.

I will miss you as I start at the Walnut Creek UMC, but I ask for your prayers as I begin ministry in that community. Please pray that I will be able to listen well in my first months as I learn a new church's mission and culture.

Peace always,
Pastor Mantu



Walnut Creek UMC.

Milestones

Congratulations to Daniel Jong Sik Kim!

On June 12, our partners in faith celebrated the great joy of Pastor Jong Sik Kim's ordination. The Korean United Methodist Church worships out of the San Ramon Valley UMC campus and serves a dedicated community. The Kim family rejoiced in a twofold blessing that busy weekend, as Pastor Jong's son, John Kim, graduated from UC San Diego on June 12 with a degree in public health. John will begin at Duke Seminary School in the fall.



Left: Gloria Kim (Pastor Jong's wife), Pastor Kim Risedorph and Pastor Jong Kim. Above: Pastor Kim center.

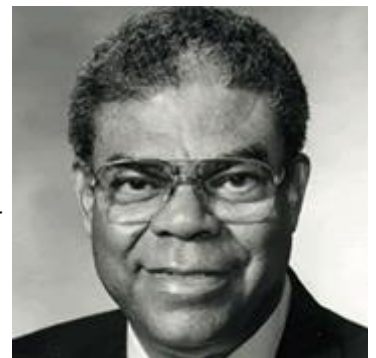
Dr. Lonnie Bristow Honored With Excellence in Medicine Award

An excerpt from the award letter to Dr. Bristow from the AMA;

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation Board of Directors, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you on being named a recipient of the 2022 Excellence in Medicine Awards.

*You are the 2022 recipient of the **Pride in the Profession Award** as nominated by **Dr. Patricia Austin**.*

This annual awards program honors physicians who represent the highest values of altruism, compassion and dedication to patient care. The caliber of our nominees was awe-inspiring, and your selection from such an impressive group speaks volumes in recognizing your dedication to the profession of medicine.



Dr. Lonnie Bristow, MD.

The AMA describes Dr. Bristow as “[a] pioneer in health care equity and policy reform.” His career advanced thinking on mistreatment of sickle cell anemia, impact of the tobacco industry, the death penalty and HIV/AIDS.

Announcements

Korean BBQ Lunch July 17, 11 a.m. Church Courtyard

Our sister congregation invites the whole of SRVUMC to a special Korean BBQ lunch to share our fellowship and some good food!



Vacation Bible School Needs You!

**July 25 to 29, 9 to 11:30 a.m.
SRVUMC Campus**

You can invest in the life of a child! Join our team. We need

- guides
- craft station leaders
- recreation leaders
- storytellers
- science station leaders
- registration leaders

We have a place for everyone to serve! *Give me a call!*

Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org.



**WE NEED YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN**

Stephen Ministry Information Sessions

Learn how Stephen ministers provide Christ-centered, one-on-one care to people who are hurting. No commitments are required at these sessions. Drop in, listen, learn about training, and ask questions if you like.

- **Sunday, July 17, 11 a.m.—in person.** Watch for information about location.
- **Tuesday, July 19, 7 p.m.—Zoom.** Watch for the link.



Announcements

The Stories That Shape Us: Open-mic Events

Stories have the power to deepen our connection to one another. Stories invite us to see things from a different perspective. Stories can transform our lives (see the Bible for some of those stories).

This July, we will practice telling our stories and listening to one another's stories. In worship, Pastor Kim and Pastor Andrew will choose Bible stories that have shaped them or you. ***It's not too late: Send a memorable Bible story to Pastor Kim at krisedorph@srvumc.org.***

We'll also host some open-mic events so that we can hear each other's stories. Tell us of a time you were filled with gratitude or awe. Five minutes per story will keep our momentum going.

- **"Dinner and Stories"**—an in-person event! Thursday, July 14, at 6 p.m. in the church courtyard. (*Psst! This is Grill and Chill, see below.*)
- **Zoom Story**—Sunday, July 17, 5 to 6 p.m.; Zoom Link and on our website, www.srvumc.org



Come and listen, or come to tell a story. Either way, it'll be a meaningful time together.

If you have a story to tell, but these times don't work, we still want to hear your story. Let Pastor Kim know, and we'll schedule a more gatherings.

We're Back! **Grill and Chill** **Thursday, July 14, 6 p.m.** **Church Courtyard**

Summer is finally here because Grill and Chill is back! Take a night off from cooking and relax.

This month, after sharing a meal, we'll have an open microphone to hear from you all (*see above*). Take up to five minutes to tell a story as a way to introduce yourself to our new pastor. Consider telling about a time when you were filled with gratitude or awe.

Photo: A blast from the past with a Grill-and-Chill from Summer 2017! What was the story here? Photo by George Clarke.



Spiritual Growth



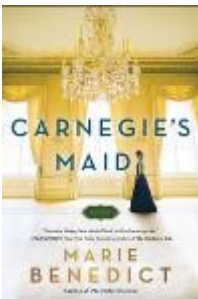
Between the Bookends



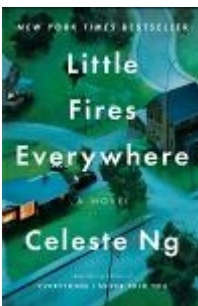
July offers another month of encores from 2020, when the church library's book cart felt a long way from your armchair or bedside table. These days, the book cart is back in action, and you may be able to find these great selections waiting for you...if you're quick!



Towles, Amor, *A Gentleman in Moscow*. The gentleman is Count Alexander Rostov, and the Bolshevik government in 1922 Moscow doesn't know quite what to do with him. They acknowledge he was an early supporter of Revolution, but now they're not so sure. The man is an intellectual, which is always dangerous. So they banish him to the hotel where he'd been living in luxury, but now he has been moved to a tiny attic room. He is safe there, but if he leaves the hotel for any reason, he'll be shot. The Count forges a new life as he freely roams the hotel, getting to know those who work there, and guests as they come and go. Full of wise and witty repartee and sparkling humor, this is also on every bestseller list. Stylish and memorable.



Benedict, Marie, *Carnegie's Maid*. During the time of the Irish famine, a family in Ireland decides to send their middle daughter to America to obtain work and, hopefully, be able to send money to them. As she leaves the overly crowded ship, she hears a man calling her name, Miss Clara Kelley. Could anyone know her name, she wonders. She answers the man who is calling out her name and begins her journey to Pittsburgh. It is there she learns that the other Miss Kelley, who unfortunately died while on board ship, has the position of being lady's maid to Mrs. Margaret Carnegie, Andrew Carnegie's mother. Throughout her days of being with her mistress, she begins to learn of Andrew's aspirations. As she becomes more at ease conversing with Andrew, she reveals to him some of her thoughts for the industry he is building. He ponders her ideas, and thereby the story evolves. This novel suggests a possible reason for Carnegie's philanthropic ways.



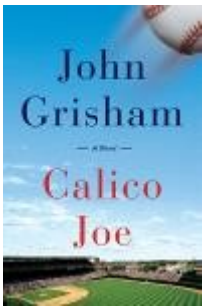
Ng, Celeste, *Little Fires Everywhere*. In her novel, Ng takes us through Shaker Heights, Ohio, a quiet, well-planned community with winding streets and pristine lawns surrounding elegant homes. It is there the reader encounters the Richardsons, a well-thought-of family in the Shaker community. Elena Richardson, the mother of four, is a journalist for the local newspaper. Her innate inquisitiveness leads to the first little fire to start. She pries into the background of her housekeeper, Mia Warren, the single mother of a teenage daughter. The daughter, Pearl, has become

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Spiritual Growth

From Page 7

fast friends with the Richardson clan. Suspicious of this small family new to the Heights, Elena Richardson begins to uncover Mia's past only to learn that her prying will reveal unexpected disasters. The reader will enjoy comparing the book to the Hulu miniseries.



Grisham, John, *Calico Joe*. Once in a while, the master of legal fiction surprises us when he does something entirely different (remember *Skipping Christmas*)? He's done it again in this memorable novel about baseball. Baseball is John Grisham's passion, and while this is a work of fiction, he has written about the game circa 1979, when Juan Marichal, Tony Kubek and Willie Mays were giants in the sport. He places Calico Joe Castle in the middle of the story, and Joe becomes so real that one has to check Google to learn he really wasn't.



Thank You for Sharing All Those Great Books!

Prowl around our book cart for very long, and you'll realize that donations make it more interesting than a ball of yarn or a mouse squeaky! Please be a cool cat: Help the librarians out with a note identifying a book as a donation when you give it to the church library's collection.

Lunch With Friends

July 5, Noon

Wesley Center

Attend this fun fellowship the first Tuesday of each month! In July, Dick Lam's Trinity group will be cooking. Since the pandemic, they have not been cooking for Trinity Center, so we're excited to have them come back to the Roush Kitchen to make a meal for our Lunch with Friends crowd! Dick was tight-lipped about what his menu is going to be, but check the Friday Memo as we get closer—it will be something yummy for sure!

Please RSVP to Nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com, 925-784-1955 or the Church Office. This will be the last time we'll be asking for RSVPs, and we'll then have an idea on the number of regular attendees to feed. Thank you all for your participation! We've had **great** turnout for the first two Lunch with Friends—we're back!

Best \$5-10 lunch in the Valley!



Out Into the World

Celebrating Our Participation in Danville's July Fourth Parade

Such fun! For the past seventeen years, our church has been a part of the Danville July Fourth parade. The music, the dancing, the fun of being part of the community kept us showing up year after year. This year, we will take a one-year hiatus as key leaders are not available. This one-year hiatus gives us a chance to step back and consider why we participate and how to go forward as a church with a float in the parade. We need your input! Tell us what you have loved most about being in the parade. How might we connect our participation with our church's mission? *Send your thoughts to Pastor Kim at krisedorph@srvumc.org.*

A huge shout-out to **Bill and Joanne Van Bezey**, who are key leaders in this event and are looking forward to being involved again next year. Each year, Bill and Joanne have chosen music, developed costumes and designed choreography. Special thanks to **Jeff Lang** who made the magic happen by installing sound equipment on our float each year. And kudos galore to **John Evans** whose superpower is coming up with creative ways to put everything together.

And many, many thanks to all who held banners, learned the routines, and had fun together.

Our Church Mission

We exist to be a blessing in the community.



Above: Coasting down San Ramon Blvd. in 2017. Left: "Donut" be alarmed by the size of these bugs! Bottom Left: The ants are in charge, so what can a picnicker do but just enjoy the show? Bottom: Superheroes make for a "Marvel"-ous parade theme.



Out Into the World

Update on the ARC

It is summer, and attendees of the church campus will notice daytime activity in the ARC from summer sports clinics. The ARC is available twelve hours a day, Monday to Saturday, and Sunday afternoons. During school terms, numerous youth leagues rent the ARC after school hours, but the youth activity is extended to more hours when schools are on vacation.

When the youth are not using the ARC, pickleball sessions are organized for the public three mornings per week and supervised by church volunteers. Times are reserved for church youth and adults on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

This past spring, we were privileged to host a Special Olympics group for some of their programs. The ARC is part of our church's recreation ministry which has the objective of providing recreational services to church members and the community. The ARC operates on a sound, sustainable financial basis. Any group renting the ARC must be a registered charitable organization (501c3), must carry adequate insurance, and must sign a waiver of liability to protect the church from claims or damage.

For more information contact Lyn Arscott at lynarscott@comcast.net.



Left: Boys' basketball clinic. Right: Girls' volleyball clinic. You can feel the energy of these exciting contributions to the community!

Pick Up Pickleball!

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost is \$5 for entire morning. All levels of skills are welcome. Games with four people are arranged by the players after arrival. Typically, twenty people attend and we have three courts. Just drop in during these hours!



Communion

July Communion Offering

Our July Communion offering will be donated to the Monument Crisis Center (MCC), a community-based, nonprofit family resource center for Central and East Contra Costa County. Located in nearby Concord, SRVUMC has had a tradition of support in the form of efforts or funding for Monument. Most recently, five SRVUMC volunteers (**Greg and Debbie Koos, Brian Uitti, Katy Mannell and Boyd Hasik**) assembled food packages for 120 of MCC's clients, illustrating the remarkable impact a few can have upon the health and well-being of many.

Monument began in 2003 with a small group of concerned citizens. Startup funding came from Safeway Foundation, the Salvation Army, Soroptimist International of Pleasant Hill and independent donors, while enthusiasm came from area high school students. On their first day of operation, they distributed food to 84 families.

Although food distribution remains their primary objective—especially during COVID—they also have developed adult education, youth and senior programs to address the various needs of their clients. During pre-pandemic times, these programs have included after-school tutoring, health screening and wellness classes, computer and language classes, and more.

For more information about MCC and how you can help with supporting this organization, go to www.monumentcrisiscenter.org. See below for information about our participation in Monument Crisis Center's annual backpack drive.



Boyd Hasik, among the SRVUMC volunteers ready for action in the April 2022 food distribution event.

Monument Crisis Center Back-2-School Backpack Drive

July 3, July 10, 9 to 11 a.m.

Bins in the Narthex or Courtyard

Our church will assist the Monument Crisis Center (MCC) with collecting backpacks for middle- and high-school students from families that receive services from their programs. The backpack should not be solid red or blue, and it must be new and sturdy. No need to buy school supplies; we will be buying the supplies with our mission monies to add to the backpacks at a later date. **Contact Greg and Debbie Koos at glkoos@comcast.net with questions or for alternative drop-off sites.**



Family Ministry

Calendar

Join Us for Vacation Bible School—Food Truck Party: On a Roll With God!

Ready to cook up some fun? Food Truck Party VBS invites children ages three years (potty trained) to fifth grade to get on a roll with God as a parade of food trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! \$50 per child, \$45 per child for a family of three or more. Student take-home music download card \$5. Register [here](#) for July 25 through July 29 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at our own church campus! Contact Laura Roy, Director of Family Ministry at lroy@srvumc.org.



Sunday School

10 a.m. on Sundays. Nursery to age four have care in Tot Spot. TK-fifth grade meet upstairs, above the preschool in Otterbein Hall for their Sunday School.

What You Can Do Today to Change the World Around You

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

Week One

The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

Show kindness to everyone.

Week Two

City on a Hill: Matthew 5:14-16

Show God's goodness to others.

Week Three

David and Jonathan: 1 Samuel 18-20, 2 Samuel 9

Be faithful so others can count on you.

Week Four

Jesus and the Little Children: Mark 10:13-16

God can give you the strength to be gentle.

Week Five

Taming of the Tongue: James 3:1-6

God gives you the power to have self-control.

"God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns."

—Philippians 1:6, NIV



Celebrations

Birthdays

3 Greg Benvenuto	13 Devon Drake	Emily Corey
4 Don Field	Christopher LeGuluche	Bill Rust
6 Xan Alexander	14 Amy Riedel	23 Mitch Nicco
Stephanie Ricker Schmalz	15 Gloria Holleman	24 Whitney Tiedemann-McCollum
7 Brenda Domergue	Rebecca Mays	25 Rich Lowther
Fred Toney	Briggs Wood	Jon Pajand
9 Graydon Bazell	17 Steve McAdams	26 Bill Sabin (95)
10 Shannon Dever	Caroline Walsh	Corinne Warnock
Vin Hirsch (94)	18 Rayan Keller	27 Valerie Miller
Kathy Kennedy	19 Judy Baker	Jerry Ricker
11 Marti Starnes	John Orr, Jr.	29 Joseph Saghafi
12 Linda Ashcraft	21 Carol Fhlug	30 Randy Slinger
Amelie Sepull	Harry Hanover (95)	31 Gail Soldavini
Sherrie Weis	Ginger McGuffin	

Anniversaries

2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts (56)	18 Elke & Walt Torgersen (63)
5 Carol & John Sayers (59)	20 Katy & Gregg Mannell
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell	21 Liz & David Bayat
Judy & Randy Slinger	Tim & Megan Buckley
7 Teresa Fimby-Christensen & Randy Christensen	Nancy & John Harrison
Suzanne & Jerry Ricker	Alice Anthony & Alex Iantuano
8 Pam & Alan Christian	22 Jennifer & Don Andres
Jane & John VanderWerf	23 Marianne & Bruce Templeton
9 Linda & Curtis Jimerson	28 Beverly & Steve McAdams
12 Helen & Bob Sinclair	31 Marci & Kelly Milligan
15 Kerry & Scott Davis	
16 Rebecca & Roger Ten Elshof	
17 Trudy & Larry Pasquale	



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns

Sharon (Susan Dowling's mother)

Bob Brown

Ginger (Sandy Greenwood Davidson's sister)

Victor Hymes

Bob Bailey

Alex Maddux

Alex Baker

Barb McWilliams

Continued Prayers For

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families, Bob De Chene, Connie Erickson, Kay Jones, Joan Lee, Ann Schroeder.

Reach Out

Joyce Kaiser now receives mail at Carefield, 4115 Mohr Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566, and will enjoy hearing from you.

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