

The

# Valley Messenger

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

## The Story of Ed the Head

***Originally presented at the July 14 Grill-and-Chill. Reprinted by request.***

About fifteen years ago, my folks drove up to the home John and I had bought that year in our Pittsburgh neighborhood. This fine October Saturday had the crispness and clarity of sky that invited even me outdoors. I detest yardwork, but how does one say no to brilliant fall weather and a day-long project with one's dad? Mom watched one-year-old Dana so Dad and I could plant some pachysandra.

As we were finishing up and admiring our work, our neighbor happened by on her afternoon constitutional. Peggy lived in the tidy black and white three-bedroom place across the street. She stopped and admired, too, and concluded that Dad's presence was the determining factor between a tidy lot and abandonment to nature. Before withdrawing to her own neat property, she said to him in a pointed stage whisper, "Come back."

Now, in my more mellow and mature years, I am better equipped to give Peggy some slack. Back then, I was underslept and crabby, so I didn't take it well. My mouth fell open. The nerve of her!

I have a quirky sense of humor, and Peggy was rather straitlaced, so when I found a two-foot-tall Rapa Nui ("Easter Island") head online, I knew how I'd have my revenge. Ed the Head arrived in the mail a short time later, and I carefully positioned his face to gaze right into Peggy's living room picture window. Take that, I thought to myself.

Alas for Peggy, I don't recall ever seeing her again. Shortly after that episode in our yard, she received a serious diagnosis and went to finish her time among distant family. The tidy black and white house sold. Now when I looked at Ed, I felt a twinge of guilt.

## August 2022

- 1-2 The Story of Ed the Head
- 2-5 Announcements
- 6 Spiritual Growth
- 7-10 Out Into the World
- 11 Communion Offering
- 12 Family Ministry
- 13 Celebrations
- 14 Among Ourselves

### ***Next Issue: September 2022***

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



# Announcements

And that could be the end of the story. I could just offer up a familiar moral about having to live with the consequences of momentary spite. Certainly, I absorbed that lesson, but why did I keep Ed all this time if he represented some poor behavior on my part?

A few years later, with my toddler now a kindergartner and a puppy to walk, I got out and met more of my neighbors. Oh, which house is yours, they would ask. Well, not everyone remembers every street name, and you can't always point directions and settle a puppy. In frustration, I started telling fellow dog-walkers that I lived in "the Easter Island head house." The first time I did it, the beaming smile that came in response surprised me. Unbeknownst to me, parents and grandparents had been making a point of coming past our house when they took the younger neighborhood kids for a walk.

In time, people said hello to me when I was doing working in the yard (I could do it more reliably by then) or getting the mail, finding Ed an easy conversation starter. When the new pizza guy got lost with our delivery, he called apologetically from his car. I told him we were the house with the Easter Island head and listened to his palpable relief as he said, "Oh! I'll be right there."

As we packed up to move to Danville a few years later, a couple of passersby saw the moving truck and offered to buy Ed to keep him in the neighborhood. In my moment of spite, I'd accidentally created a community touchstone. God had tweaked my nose and reminded me that He is still bigger than me in my ugliest moments. While I was focused on spite toward one person, He was using the resulting behavior to bring some chuckles and smiles to a couple dozen neighbors I wouldn't meet for years.



*Photo: Ed the Head celebrates Christmas in his present Danville home.*

## Social Media and Online Ministries Update

- Chat with us every Sunday during worship on Facebook Live!
- Participate in occasional "Would You Rather" posts on Facebook that invite you to choose between two options (e.g., praise songs or hymns? The Book of Jonah or the Book of Ruth?).
- Take part in weekly Movie Nites on Zoom in July and August. **See Page 5 for details.**
- Check out weekly two-minute teachings from Sunday's sermon on YouTube.
- Look out for an original, on-demand class about spiritual practices when the Online Church Campus launches in a few months.





# Announcements

## Youth Ministry Happenings

Hello Church and Friends!

It's hard to believe that I've already been here for a month and have hit the ground running! Thank you to everyone for the wonderful, warm welcome to SRVUMC, as Trevor and I have enjoyed getting to know many of you this last month. We look forward to deepening our relationships with our church family.

While July and August are oftentimes known as "the dog days of summer," it has been anything but slow. I have had a chance to sit down with many of our youth families and do some strategic planning as we work towards relaunching the youth ministry here at SRVUMC. As we relaunch, we will be focusing on reconnecting and building community.

***We are planning a youth gathering for August 20 to launch the coming school year. Watch for details in the Friday Memo in a couple weeks.*** In addition to our initial gathering on August 20, watch the Friday Memo and September Valley Messenger for our regular youth fellowship times which we will be starting up soon.

I'm looking forward to working with our youth and families and look forward to seeing where God leads us, and if you know any youth in grades six through twelve, let me know. Better yet, extend the invitation to join us.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Andrew

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## Confirmation 2023

Are you beginning seventh or eighth grade this coming school year? Then let's talk confirmation! Pastor Andrew Davis will lead our confirmation class beginning in January 2023.

Confirmation class offers you a chance to explore your faith; to learn about United Methodist history and beliefs; and to hear what your fellow classmates believe. Confirmation is a time to ask questions (lots of questions!). The goal of this four-month class is to support you as you claim what you think about faith, following the way of Jesus, and being a part of a faith community. We cannot live our faith if we don't know what we believe!

**Pastor Andrew at [adavis@srvumc.org](mailto:adavis@srvumc.org); [krisedorph@srvumc.org](mailto:krisedorph@srvumc.org) and Pastor Kim at [krisedorph@srvumc.org](mailto:krisedorph@srvumc.org) welcome your questions as you and your family get ready to for confirmation class. This link provides additional information: [What do I need to know about confirmation in the UMC?](#)**

# Announcements

## Lunch With Friends Annual Summer BBQ! August 16, Noon Church Courtyard

Best \$5-10 lunch in  
the Valley!



Please join us for the Lunch with Friends Summer BBQ! Our very own Greg Lane, award-winning BBQer (really! He's won awards!), will be treating us to tri-tip steak with all the amazing sides and dessert! Rumors are circulating that Nancy may indulge diners with her homemade cherry pie. **Please RSVP to the [church office](#) or to Nancy Benvenuto at [Nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com](mailto:Nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com). It's tri-tip, so RSVP like you mean it!**

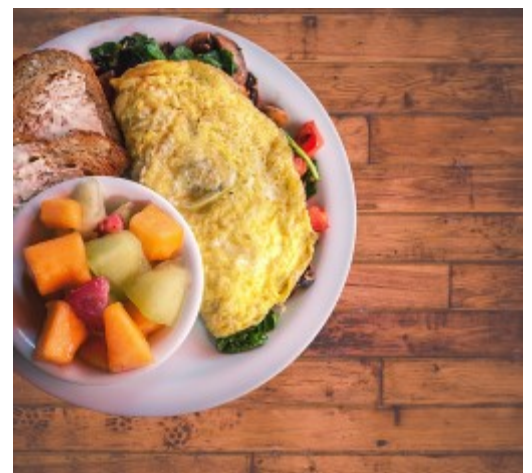
We have moved back to the third Tuesday of the month for our regular schedule. Watch for more information about the September 20 Lunch With Friends. The September menu will be salad, creamy tortellini soup, garlic bread and a sweet dessert.

### Just For Fun: Tri Tip Is a "Complex Area of the Cow"

In the 1950s, tri-tip would have been advertised as "the California cut" for its associated with northern California, where Safeway butcher Bob Schlutz thought it deserved better than grinding up for hamburger. Other butchers largely hadn't wanted to deal with the anatomy of making a neat triangular-shaped cut. **Source:** <https://www.mashed.com/289222/the-real-reason-tri-tip-steak-is-associated-with-california/>

## Breakfast with Pastor Andrew Davis Wednesday, August 17, 8 a.m. Black Bear Diner

Join Pastor Andrew for breakfast, conversation, and fellowship. He will be at Black Bear Diner at 807 Camino Ramon in Danville, just off of Sycamore Valley Rd. and Interstate 680. **Please RSVP to Pastor Andrew at [adavis@srvumc.org](mailto:adavis@srvumc.org) or at the church office .**



# Announcements

## Is The UMC Really...

### 1. Splitting at this time?

No. The term “split” applies when there is a negotiated agreement within the denomination to divide assets and resources. No such agreement has been made in The United Methodist Church. The earliest point at which such an agreement could be made would be at the next General Conference to be held in 2024.

A more accurate term, as suggested by the Rev. William Lawrence, retired dean of Perkins School of Theology and former member of the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church, is “splintering.” Some traditionalist leaders have decided to create their own denomination (the Global Methodist Church). Leaders of that denomination and other unofficial advocacy groups, such as the Wesleyan Covenant Association, which created it, are encouraging like-minded United Methodist congregations and clergy to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and join their denomination instead.

### 2. Asking traditionalists to leave the denomination?

No. The requests for disaffiliations are coming largely from traditionalists. Keith Boyette, former president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and now leader of the Global Methodist Church, describes the reasons he and other leaders are asking traditionalists to leave [beginning at 13:32 in this video](#).

## Movie Night on Zoom! Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

Chill out this summer with a movie night! Join us every Wednesday during July and August for a fun summer flick on Zoom! Email [Sarah Stribling](#) to get your Zoom link! Here's the schedule:

**July 27: *The Secret Life of Pets* (2016)**—Find out what your pets do while you're gone.

**August 3: *Killers from Space* (1954)**—a Sci-Fi B-movie so bad it's good!

**August 10: *Hugo* (2011)** - a boy unravels a secret message from his late father.

**August 17: *Hidden Figures* (2016)**—the untold story of three Black women working at NASA who were the brains behind launching an astronaut into space.

**August 24: *The Greatest Showman* (2017)**—musical about P.T. Barnum.

**August 31: *Field of Dreams* (1989)**—“Build It and They Will Come.”

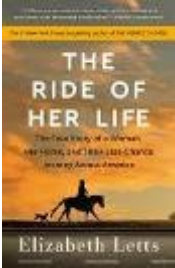
MOVIE NITE



# Spiritual Growth



## Between the Bookends



**Letts, Elizabeth, *The Ride of Her Life*.** The true story of Annie Libby's ride across America on her horse from Minot, Maine to Hollywood, California in 1954 through 1955 is an experience of a lifetime. Our 60ish heroine with horse, Tarzan, and faithful dog, Depeche Toi, set out for their historic trip in November! This story is a great adventure fraught with danger, fun and heartwarming help from ordinary Americans. Annie gains fame and fortune as the news media picks up her story. She eventually arrives in Hollywood and appears on Art Linkletter's "People are Funny" show. *The Ride of Her Life* is a nostalgic remembrance of a bygone America and one I remember well from my childhood. I didn't want the adventure to end.



**Segovia, Sofia. *The Murmur of Bees*.** Nana Reja hears a baby cry, gets up from her chair and discovers a baby boy abandoned under a bridge. This child has a disfiguring cleft palate and is covered in a blanket of bees. Nana Reja rescues the boy, names him Simonopia and adopts the child. He becomes a child of mystery and superstition, said to be "kissed by the devil." The entire Morales family takes Simonopia in and loves him. He has visions and second sight saving them from calamities. This mythical tale is beautifully expressed, carrying us through the Spanish flu epidemic, Mexican wars, and an evil man's murderous plans. *Murmur of Bees* is an exciting and beautifully written book.



**Grisham, John. *The Judge's List*.** This is a grim tale of a serial killer who for years has hidden his vengeful nature to become a well-respected and highly placed judge no one would ever suspect of grisly misdeeds. Of course, this is a Grisham offering, so we follow the evil mind in parallel with the minds of those seeking justice. Justice does win, of course, but not until mayhem has had its way for far too long. As usual, Grisham weaves the tale with expertise keeping us eager to turn the pages.



### How About Taking Another Look?

Upon closer inspection, has one of those literary treasures been on your shelf so long that you forgot it was a loaner from the book cart? We're still missing a few great reads. No judgment when you return something you've borrowed, even if it was for a R-E-A-L-L-Y long time!

# Out Into the World

## Camp Fire Mission Trip: Making a Difference

Rewarding work, Christian comradery, and making a difference—the perfect formula for a successful mission trip. During the last week in June, a team from three East Bay churches (Asbury UMC in Livermore, Lynnewood UMC in Pleasanton, and San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo) traveled to Paradise, California to help with rebuilding from the Camp Fire.

The Camp Fire of 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.

The team worked on three new homes being built by our trusted partner, Hope Crisis Response Network. Mostly a week of interior and exterior painting, it was fun to be a part of the progress towards completion of these homes.

We especially enjoyed meeting two of the homeowners, Deb and Annette. Their stories of escaping the fire, the subsequent struggle for stability and the prospect of a new home were so compelling. Now, three and a half years later, they are approaching a new normal. It was fun to hear of their plans for decorating the homes and for the special touches they envision adding.



*Top: Many happy hands make lighter work.*

*Bottom: Area residents plan for a bright decorative touch to make a new residence a home.*

*Continued Page 8*

### Join Our Next Mission Trip to Paradise! September 18 to 23

We will be working in Paradise teamed with Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN). HCRN accommodations put two people per bedroom with a shared bath, plus gathering room and dining area.

Our work assignment comes about a week beforehand. HCRN provides tools. \$175 per person includes the cost of carpooling, food and accommodations.

**For questions or to register, contact Steve Elliott at [stephen.elliott1951@outlook.com](mailto:stephen.elliott1951@outlook.com) or 925-362-8697. Registration is due no later than September 2, 2022.**

# Out Into the World

## *From Page 7*

Great food and reflection time round out each of our workdays. We share new bits about our lives and retell the familiar ones with equal gusto, laughing again at moments we have shared together over the years. Our reflection time was a chance to consider the meaning of our work and to reaffirm our Christian values.

The rebuilding in Paradise will continue for several more years, and we will be back again. The survivors need us.

In Mission Together,

***Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Bob Hoffman, Coleman Johnson, Scott Smith, Doug Huey, Mary Ellen Huey, Raeanne Passantino, Roger Grimm, Cynthia DeLand, Ron Logan, Bob Johnson, Dick Crawford and Don Faul.***

## **SRVUMC and Asbury UMC Work With Habitat for Humanity at Esperanza Place**

***Excerpted from an email shared by Pastor Kim from Kal Peters:***

It was a hot one out there today, but we survived! Paul Kuelz, Kevin and I participated from our church and Bob and Bob from Asbury... Paul and I were on the rebar team, wiring together rebar to be used for the concrete foundation. Kevin worked on the concrete forms for the stem walls. It definitely took teamwork and we got better at our jobs as the day wore on.

***Right: The rebar team works to prepare the material for concrete foundation. Volunteers for any Habitat building project must be at least age 16. Wear closed-toe shoes and consider sunscreen.***





# Out Into the World

## St. Paul's UMC Needs Your Support by Helen Kung

Thank you to our sibling UMC churches for reaching out, for your prayers, and for your solidarity with St. Paul's United Methodist Church in downtown San Jose. We feel strong and resolute in making an impact despite this time of crisis, building community while we rebuild our church home, and putting justice and mercy ahead of our inconvenience.

St. Paul's Sanctuary was severely damaged by the fire on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. The whole building has tested positive for asbestos and lead. The usable space (the office, the fellowship hall, the classrooms, and kitchen space) will take about three to six months for toxic clean-up and for restoration of power. Current positive estimates for the whole building is 18 to 24 months, God willing.

St. Paul's congregation has worshipped outdoors for the past three weeks. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we happened to have arranged some ministries projects prior to the fire. On Sunday, June 19, the community came together to start a vegetable garden in our play yard. We built four raised beds and planted pre-started seedlings. We are inspired to do three more beds soon, some outside the fence so the harvest can directly be available to all our neighbors.

If you are inspired to help St. Paul's UMC overcome our current challenges, we need of worship books—either new or used:

New Revised Standard Bible

*United Methodist Hymnal*

*The Faith We Sing*

*Worship & Song*



***Above: From the June 8, 2022 fire.***

***Continued Page 10***

# Out Into the World

*From Page 9*

We have put together a Google sheet (below) through the El Camino Real district office for the list of items needed.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10X76JW13PIE\\_W4ceHCDaGNZf0sPmi0lyGO55lxa4ses/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10X76JW13PIE_W4ceHCDaGNZf0sPmi0lyGO55lxa4ses/edit?usp=sharing)

*Please label any resource "Gift to St. Paul's UMC after 2022 fire, from xxx." To avoid porch pirate issues, please send these books to El Camino Real District, c/o Robyn Peterson 200 East San Martin Avenue, Unit 171, San Martin, CA 95046, or drop them off next door to St. Paul's UMC at the "Stevens House", 435 S. 10th Street, San Jose, CA 95112.*

We have also created a GoFundMe online platform to help us do ministry: 1) building up the vegetable garden to provide fresh veggies in our downtown food desert. 2) helping "Front Door Communities" (our tenant partner) pivot and continue to serve the most vulnerable people with food and self-care items five days a week. ([www.fdcjsj.org](http://www.fdcjsj.org)), and 3) helping our congregation be mobile, creating worship at other spaces while we wait for our least damaged interior spaces to be cleared for use.

**GoFundMe Link**

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/serving-community-while-we-rebuild?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/serving-community-while-we-rebuild?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

*For questions or more information, please contact Pastor Helen Kung at (408) 910-2157 or [helen.kung@cnumc.org](mailto:helen.kung@cnumc.org) or [PastorHelen103@gmail.com](mailto:PastorHelen103@gmail.com)*



*Right: On Friday, June 24, we partnered with 'Our City Forest of San Jose' to plant thirteen trees on campus as part of our effort to combat climate change.*



# Communion

## Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Started in 1975 as an emergency food service, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano provides ongoing nutritional support throughout the region together with partner agencies and programs like [Feeding America](#) and [California Association of Food Banks](#). Not only do they favor wholesome items like whole-grain, high-protein or low-sodium alternatives, but they also offer budget-friendly recipes as suggestions for using the available ingredients in nutritious and tasty ways.

A Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano [press release](#) dated March 17, 2021, reviewed the organization's swift response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its clients served figure ballooned from 176,000 per month to 260,000 per month. To accommodate this enormous spike in clients, the organization reimaged its model to include drive-through and even home delivery. It quadrupled its food purchasing, logged volunteer hours equivalent to 52 full-time staff and, in the early days of sheltering in place, brought in the National Guard to pack and sort boxes of produce and other foodstuffs.

According to its website, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano feeds one in six area residents. In its inaugural year of 1975, the food bank was a network of fifteen local food pantries. Together, they distributed 36,000 pounds of food. Today, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano distributes more than that in a single day of operation.

Ninety-seven cents of every dollar donated to the food bank directly supports food programs. Through Feeding America, the organization conducts grocery recovery programs with over one hundred retailers, including Target, Costco and Safeway. The remarkable sourcing ability means that the food bank is able to provide two meals for \$1. Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano is rated as a four-star charity for its transparency and accountability by [charitynavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org).



### Did You Know?

According to their website, the Food Bank assists **1 in 6** people in the region.



*Left: Joanne Van Bezey and Lisa Jancarik sort food at a 2016 event. SRVUMC has had a longstanding volunteer relationship with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.*

# Family Ministry

## Calendar

**Acolytes are back in September! Training will be Sunday, August 28 at 11 a.m.** Some changes will include children lighting the candle and then going to Sunday School instead of sitting through service.

**Family Swim Party!** End of August, watch for details.

**Save the Date: Children's Ministry and UM Preschool family picnic.** Sunday, October 2, 3 to 4 p.m. at Hap Magee Park. More details to follow.



## Sunday School

10 a.m. on Sundays: Nursery through age four have care in Tot Spot. TK through grade five meet upstairs for Sunday school, above the preschool in Otterbein.

**EPIC: Love is showing others how much they matter to you.**

### Week One

Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:34-40

*Love God by loving others.*

### Week Two

Creation: Genesis 1-2

*God made us to take care of each other.*

### Week Three

The Fall: Genesis 3

*God loves us no matter what.*

### Week Four

God Chooses Abram: Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

*God has a plan to show love to the world.*

**"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins." —1 John 4:10, NIV**





# Celebrations

## Birthdays

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Don Carlson<br>Michael Cerda<br>Chuck Clark<br>Chris Hagebush<br>Marti Sketchley | Gary Swanson<br>Sarah Warnock  | Chris Kelly   |
| 2 Susie McKnight<br>Evelyn Rossini   | 12 Julie Klug  | 24 Mandy Bain<br>Megan Bain<br>Armen Boyd<br>Malone Carroll<br>Alyssa Guan<br>Ron White |
| 3 Tammy Webb   | 13 Kimberly Cattarusa  | 25 Tyler Herting<br>Shirley Wible (93)  |
| 4 Sott Arminini<br>Alina Begley<br>Teresa Merchant<br>Christian Smario             | 14 David Bain<br>Moxley Carroll<br>Bette Smith<br>Andrew Tullis          | 26 Emily Kaye<br>Justin Kaye<br>Melinda Love<br>Duncan Miller<br>Anna Ten Elshof        |
| 6 Michael Dandridge<br>Emma Sandoval   | 16 Joyce Kayser (94)<br>Holly Mariella<br>Andy Mathis<br>Jenny Swanson   | 27 Carole Lynne Keller<br>Marilyn Mathis  |
| 8 Jean Crane<br>Kelli George Sagar<br>Max Kennedy<br>Jerry Osborn                  | 17 Dominic Albertoni<br>Thomas Mathis                                    | 28 Sharon Brockman  |
| 10 Jim Bunker<br>Cadi Stephenson<br>Carol Warnock                                  | 18 Bryce Knese   | 29 Tom Roy  |
| 11 Brian Beck  | 19 Jennifer Ludlam<br>Sophie Ludlam<br>Marilyn Milam<br>Marla Schleicher | 31 Sheila McClelland (95)<br>Cale Porteous  |
|  | 20 Robin Hammond   |   |
|  | 21 Pam Dominici  |   |
|  | 23 Kristina Toma   |   |

## Anniversaries

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4 Norma Jean & Jim Bunker (56)                                  | 15 Linda Ashcraft & Richard Hudak (54)<br>Marilyn & Julien Hansen (65) |
| 5 Deb & Phil Bandy (51)<br>Ellen & James Kocins                 | 16 Teresa & Steve Marohn   |
| 6 Carrie & Jeff Doyle<br>Cindy & Rob Rudow                      | 17 Karen & Tony Stepper (55)   |
| 9 Victoria & Greg Longstreet                                    | 18 Elke and Walt Torgersen (63)  |
| 10 Kim Risedorph & Steve Elliott<br>Marti & Robert Starnes (50) | 19 Linn & Dave Coombs (55)   |
| 11 Lori & Dave Ratto  | 24 Mary Ellen & Robert Brown (60)<br>Marla & Bob Schleicher            |
| 12 Sandy & Bill Gsand (57)<br>Joanne & Harry Knapp              | 26 Rosanne & Michael Ogles (57)<br>Jane & Steve Roath (57)             |
| Linda & Larry Stone (57)  | 27 Liz & Don Field (52)<br>Joan & David Pierce (52)                    |
| 14 Debbie & Mike Kelly  | 30 Annemarie & Greg Warwick  |

# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns

Sharon (Susan Dowling's mother)

Victor Hymes

Ginger (Sandy Greenwood Davidson's sister)

Alex Maddux

Bob Bailey

Barb McWilliams

Bob Brown

## Continued Prayers For

All those who live with long-term illness, those recovering from COVID-19, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families, Connie Erickson, Kay Jones, Joan Lee, Ann Schroeder.

## Our Christian Sympathy

For the loved ones of Bob DeChene, who passed out of this life on July 17.

## Shared Joy

Congratulations to parents Erica and David on the birth of Kira Rose Grant. Kira Rose is blessed with a big sister, Brenna, to love/pick on her.

## Thank You!

Each month for years, **Jerry Ricker**, **Carole Johnson** and **John Greene** have caught errors and oversights in the Celebrations page each month. Without these three, who seem to know each of us, birthday and anniversary wishes would be overlooked or offered in the wrong month.

## SRVUMC

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