

The

Valley Messenger

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

A Local Journey of Gratitude

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever."—Psalm 136: 1*

This past month, I have been getting more intentional about walking every day. One of the things I love about walking is getting to see things I would not usually see while driving. When walking around downtown Walnut Creek recently, there were several small restaurants I had never seen while driving, and now Trevor and I look forward to trying them out soon on a given weekend. Along with finding various places to try near my apartment, I get to pay attention to all the acorns falling and watching the squirrels collecting them, seeing the trees changing color up close, the cooler breezes amidst the warm day, and I get to engage all the senses at once.

Each time November rolls around, it activates all my senses. Whenever we walk into the grocery store or big-box stores, we can see all the fall décor, along with Christmas popping up. Whenever I walk into Safeway in Alamo, the smell of the cinnamon pinecones greets us at door, along with seeing all the canned green beans, yams, and boxes of stuffing on the endcaps in preparation for Thanksgiving.

Important: November Church Calendar

Sunday November 6, All Saints Day: Join us in remembering our loved ones who have passed on during the last year. We will give thanks for their lives, and all that they will forever mean to us.

Sunday November 13: Holy Communion. Next month, the more familiar schedule of Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

November 2022

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Next Issue: December 2022

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

Announcements

As Thanksgiving is just around the corner, one practice I have noticed on social media in recent years is to write something you are thankful for each day. While I have not engaged on social media with this practice, I keep a mental note of what I am thankful for each day. For me, I am thankful to be here, for God's enduring love, for family, friends, and to be a part of SRVUMC. I'm thankful for all of our staff, our leaders, Pastor Kim, and each of you. What are you thankful for?

Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Andrew

We're Moving! Livestream Worship Becomes More Accessible Starting November 6, 10 a.m.

Starting November 6, 2022, we will begin livestreaming worship via Church Online Platform instead of Facebook Live. Using Facebook has been controversial, so we'll be switching to a streaming platform specifically built for churches. We want worship to be accessible to as many people as possible, so here's a step-by-step guide on how to access Church Online Platform.

- Click [here](#). You will be taken to <https://srvumc.online.church/>. You can also find the link on www.srvumc.org or in upcoming editions of the Friday Memo.
- You will see a countdown timer showing when the next worship service is.
- At 10 a.m. on Sunday November 6, you can participate in online worship in a way that feels comfortable for you. You can watch, chat, request prayer, give—all without having to create a Church Online Platform account.

Discover a more accessible online worship experience! See you online!



Watch for the Advent Devotional!



This year, we reflect together on personal stories shared by our church family. Each short reflection tells us something about one another and about the deep ways in which Christ has made Christmas an individually meaningful time of year.

There will also be recipes. Everyone loves recipes.

Announcements

New Members Join Us in November and December!

Watch for some names and maybe a tidbit or two about each person to start conversation when you introduce yourself. We'll run a list of names next month to remind you who's who.

Extra credit for current members who wear their name tags on a regular basis!

Laura Roy Serves as SRVUMC Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

(Can You Believe She's Doing Even More?)

You already know Laura from her key role in Family Ministry at SRVUMC, and you may know that she now edits the Friday Memo. Starting in November, Laura will also help SRVUMC interface with the surrounding community as volunteer engagement coordinator. Alert to the needs in the community, she will build an inventory of spiritual gifts among us to discern ideal opportunities to serve. She will meet with new members about skills and interests, and you will see her at Mission Team meetings. Take a moment to congratulate Laura on this new role, and make sure she knows how you feel called to serve.



Lunch with Friends

Tuesday, December 20, Noon

Watch for More Information

As is the Lunch with Friends tradition, we will combine the November and December lunches for one big holiday and Christmas Lunch. You'll be treated to traditional Christmas fare:

- Roasted turkey
- Homemade stuffing
- Mashed potatoes
- Glazed carrots
- Something fabulous for dessert

We'll set lovely tables and enjoy some brief entertainment. We'll also want to thank our wonderful crew who give so much to make this event happen!

Then, in January, we return to the third Tuesday of the month for 2023. Mark your calendars for the year! We sometimes have to juggle, but we really try not to mess with scheduling Lunch With Friends!





Spiritual Growth

Youth Ministry Happenings

by Pastor Andrew Davis

Our youth ministry has been off and running since September! While we are a small group, it is still a meaningful time for those who have been coming. We build community through playing games together—playing pickleball in the ARC, Sardines, or various games in the Wesley Center recreation room. On October 9, we went bowling at Danville Bowl and had a great time to build community among ourselves and plant seeds of faith through service and actions.

You Can Help!

Our youth council, made up of parents and youth, have been a big help in supporting the work of our youth ministry. Anyone can volunteer at our Sunday evening meetings: Donate snacks, cook a meal, or chaperone offsite events. Plus, we still want to offer Sunday school for our middle and high school students. If you want to make a difference in a young person's life for an hour on Sunday morning, the curriculum is very easy to lead, and volunteer teachers will have a co-teacher.

Coming Up in November

In November, we will have a Friendsgiving Dinner on November 20 in the fellowship area in Wesley Center from 6 to 8 p.m. We also invite current fifth graders to come and get to know other youth as they prepare for sixth grade next year.

We will not be meeting on November 27, after the Thanksgiving holiday.

If you know any youth in sixth through twelfth grade, spread the word about both Sunday school and youth group. *I invite you to connect with me at adavis@srvumc.org if you would like to donate snacks, chaperone, or help in any way.*

Shout Out for SRVUMC

The California-Nevada Conference has gratefully [posted a list](#) of donations and service provided by area United Methodist churches over the past several months.

“Our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and congregations that so generously participate in the Conference Disaster Response Ministry. We can not serve survivors without you,” said Steve Elliott, Disaster Response Coordinator, Cal-Nev Conference.

Read more about the California-Nevada Disaster Response Fund as the November Communion offering on page 11. There, you will also see an announcement about upcoming online training for serving on the Early Response Team.

Spiritual Growth

Annual Charge Conference Sunday, December 11, Following Worship Fireside Room

District Superintendent Samuel Hong will join us to celebrate the year just passed, receive reports, vote on a roster of church leaders for the year ahead, vote on pastor compensation packages, and adopt objectives and goals. All church members are eligible to vote. This annual gathering reminds us that we are a church community making a difference, and that we can do even more in the year ahead.

2023 SRVUMC Women's Retreat "Extraordinary Faith in Ordinary Places" Led by Pastor Jennifer Goto February 17 to 19, 2023 Registration Begins November 6 Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz

We will offer both online and in-person registration.

- Register online starting November 6, and with both registration and payment handled through the Women's Retreat page on www.srvumc.org.
- In-person registration will be available on November 6 and 13 following the 10 a.m. worship service.

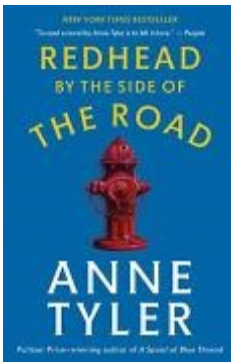
Theme: A life of faith is lived out in our daily lives, right where we are in our neighborhoods. We'll explore what it means to be a good neighbor and the small acts that can build relationships. What does it look like to love our neighbors as Jesus commands? And how do we find the strength and grace to act on that love when it is difficult?

Pastor Goto is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church currently serving as the Center Director at Bread of Life in Sacramento. Bread of Life offers retreats, workshops and spiritual direction for those desiring a deeper life with the Holy. She has served as a pastor of congregations in downtown San Jose, Atwater and Walnut Creek. She has also served in campus ministry at UC-Merced and San Jose State. Currently, she is participating in the Spiritual Director Formation program through Mercy Center in Burlingame. Come to the retreat to learn more about Pastor Goto and find out why she is highly recommended by our pastors!



Pastor Jennifer Goto

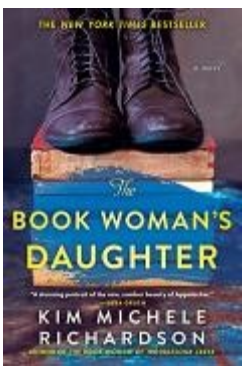
Spiritual Growth



Anne Tyler, *Redhead by the Side of the Road*. Micah Mortimer joins Tyler's list of memorable characters. He seems content with the quiet and highly regimented life he chooses to live, but he is suddenly faced with startling change when his longtime "woman friend" suddenly leaves him. Just as suddenly, he is thrown into the unsettled life of a college student. We meet his large, extroverted family (no wonder he enjoys the quiet time!) and appreciate his client interactions as The Tech Hermit, who solves their computer problems. Along the way, we laugh out loud at numerous turns of phrase, smile quietly as we recognize universality in scenes, and are grateful for Tyler's ability to conjure up yet another character in her beloved Baltimore.



Bowen, Rhys, *Above the Bay of Angels*. Set in the age of Queen Victoria and taking place in London and Nice, France, this is both a mystery and a historical novel. Isabella Waverly is born into the aristocratic class, but due to the failures of her father, she ends up as a servant, first in the household of a mean-spirited woman and then, by taking advantage of a chance happening, a cook in the kitchen of Queen Victoria. Here she develops her bent for cooking, and in traveling with the Queen's household to Nice, she has a chance to expand her cooking skills and develop an appreciation for the French culture. But her experience is not without dangers from some unsavory characters. Read this fast-moving tale for a satisfying adventure.



Kim Michelle Richardson, *The Book Woman's Daughter*. Although the author did not intend *Book Woman's Daughter* to be a sequel to *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, it turned out to be just that. The story begins with the life of Honey, Cussy Mary's daughter, as she is fighting to stay free or face prison until the age of twenty-one for being a blue-skinned person. Her birth parents and her present parents had the gene disorder that caused the skin on parts of the body to turn blue. Honey experienced this phenomenon if she became scared or anxious. When that happened, she would wear gloves that her mother made for her. She is saved from prison temporarily by going to live with Retta, her grandmother, who was granted guardianship.

However, her desire to be independent never wavered, and she applied for the outreach librarian position that her mother had held. When she did face a judge who would determine her life of inde-

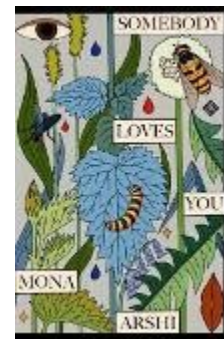
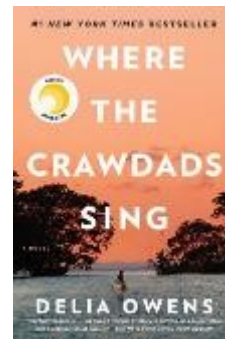
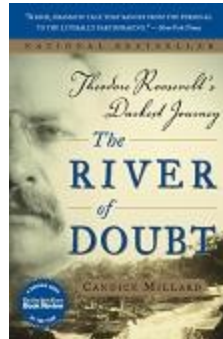
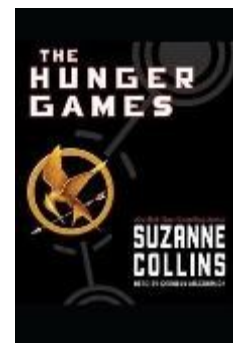
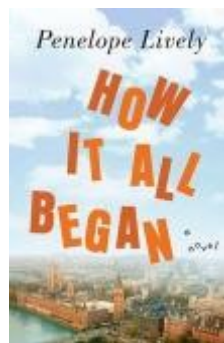
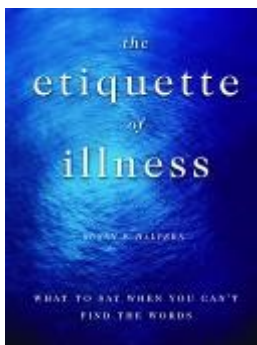
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Spiritual Growth

From Page 6

pendence or prison, how fortunate it was for Honey that he had encountered her mother in his youth when she had brought him books to read. When you read this book of brave packhorse librarians in the Appalachia hills of Kentucky, you truly understand what a difference can be made in the lives of folks who live in such remote areas and the impact books have on readers.

*Might you have a library book **Where the Crawdads Sing**? The church librarians wish to thank everyone who has returned missing books. The titles below are still missing, so if there is a **River of Doubt** about whether you might have borrowed a copy from the book cart, please check for the library stamp.*



Did You Know?

The church librarians have a tip: Don't forget the local public library if you want to donate your gently used books! [Friends of the Danville Library](#) operates a library bookstore with proceeds supporting the library's adult and children's programs. The church librarians suggest this outlet as a good landing for incomplete book series, as another donors' gifts may complete it.

The bookstore in Danville's public library is just inside the front door to the right, and it can accept up to four bags of books in good condition per day, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (**Note: your editor reports this process is easy, and the Friends are able to provide receipts if you need them.**)

Out Into the World

Christmas Angel Help Needed Shopping List Available November 13 Through December 4 Gifts and Monetary Donations Due December 6

During Thanksgiving season, we are especially grateful for our many blessings. With Christmas just around the corner, we have the opportunity to make the holiday brighter for those who are less fortunate. We hope you will choose to be a Christmas Angel and donate to the Angel Tree Program.

Our committee has come up with creative ways for everyone to be involved! There will be Angel Trees in our Narthex with gift tags as well as a Sign-Up Genius posted online with a variety of requests. The Sign-Up Genius proved fairly easy to use for the past few last years, but we will post "how-to" details in upcoming Friday Memos. ***Remember, the earlier you sign up, the more choice in gifts you will have as well as options for ordering online.***

Agencies and the populations they serve benefiting from this year's Angel Tree:

- **Fred Finch Youth Center**—children in long-term care with developmental or mental illness, ages 3 to 18
- **Bay Area Rescue Mission**—disadvantaged teens
- **Trinity Center**—serving homeless adults
- **Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services**—teen girls removed from neglect/abuse at home
- **Hope Solutions**—formerly homeless families/individuals who have been very recently placed into a home
- **Tri -Valley Haven**—needy children in Livermore Valley
- **STAND!**—families and the shelter that supports victims of family violence for a safer, happier, more peaceful life

Deliver your unwrapped gift to the church, either putting it under the Angel Tree during regular Sunday church service (11/20, 11/27, 12/4), **or** deliver to the church office no later than December 6. We will even pick up gifts if that works best for you!



Key Dates

Unwrapped Gifts

Drop off at Worship

- November 20 and 27, December 4

Drop off at Church Office

- December 6

Monetary Donations

Deliver to Church Office

- December 6

Continued Page 9

Out Into the World

From Page 8, Angel Tree

Monetary donations for the Angel Tree are always welcome if you would like us to do the shopping. There will be Angel helpers at each service to collect the donations. Alternatively, give your check to the church office by December 6.

Mail a check payable to:

SRVUMC

Attn: Angel Tree (be sure to put this on the envelope)

902 Danville Boulevard

Alamo, Ca. 94507

Memo line: Angel Tree donation

We hope you will join us as a Christmas Angel, and thank you in advance for making this Christmas a brighter holiday for many.

Peace and Joy to you and yours,

Beth McClelland, Linda Green, Roni Item, Nancy Banish, Hollyann Melton, Peggy Crawford

Please contact any of the committee members below with questions/concerns. Our contact info is listed in the church directory.

Winter Nights Is Back, and You Can Help! Volunteer December 12 Through 19

St. Isidore's church is providing meals and help the first week; however, we are responsible for meals December 12 through 19. Our biggest needs are for meal volunteers to provide, prepare, serve, and clean up a dinner or a weekend lunch or breakfast. This project is ideal for a small group of four to six people. Alternatively, you might assist as an overnight host. Overnight hosts sleep overnight in a private room on a comfy airbed and serve as backup in case the onsite staff person needs you. In the morning, overnight hosts prepare coffee and set out breakfast supplies. Covid restrictions have been relaxed, so we might have up to seven families, or 18 to 24 guests. All volunteers must be vaccinated, and masks are recommended but not required. This is a really fun hands-on opportunity to serve your community! ***Please contact Nancy Garnic (nancygar@sbcglobal.net, 925-324-1517 or Kal Peters (kalteters@gmail.com or 925-519-4341) if interested or to answer any questions.***



Out Into the World

Our Time in Paradise: Rebuilding From the Camp Fire

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 15,000 homes. The towns of Paradise, Concow and Magalia were largely destroyed. After a massive two-year cleanup and debris removal, rebuilding began in earnest in early 2021. Volunteer organizations began 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 fourteen homes under construction or in the pipeline.

Our September 2022 Mission Team was our second one this year. We were also there in June. There are four more UMC teams in October: The Retired Pastors Group, Eureka UMC, Santa Rosa UMC and Glendale UMC.

Our team included members of Asbury UMC in Livermore, San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo, Berkeley UMC, and El Dorado County Federated Church in Placerville. We painted the interior, and we installed flooring, baseboards, trim, and doors in two homes. One of our clients was Deb. We got to know her in June and hear about her challenges recovering from the fire. She was so appreciative of our help.

Each day brought collectively rewarding work. We enjoyed the shared comradery and sense of purpose in helping two wildfire survivors. 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 dinner 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 survivors of a horrific wildfire.

In Mission Together,

Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Bob Johnson, Laura Barnes, Jim Hughes, Mary Morisset, Coleman Johnson, Scott Smith, Steve Wilson, Gordon Prow, Adam Kennedy, Bob Hoffman, Pam Kartz and Mike Williams





Communion

Steve Elliott's original article appears on the [CA-NV Conference website](#). This month's Communion offering supports this mission. Please note that Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN) described on the previous page is a separate organization providing its own valuable mission work following wildfires.

Wildfire Season—We Can Use Your Help

Thankfully, this year's wildfire season has not been as bad as last year. Nonetheless, over 365,000 acres have burned with almost 900 structures damaged or destroyed. Many hundreds of other homes impacted by smoke or power shutoff. Sadly, nine people have died.

Your Cal-Nev Conference has responded to five of the most significant fires. Our principal goal is to provide a "ministry of presence"—thoughtfully listening to survivor trauma, loss, and fears. Imagine the loss of everything you own—possessions yes, but loss of photos, family keepsakes and even pets bring the tears.

As one of our loyal volunteers, Mary Ellen Huey, said, "Our modest heartfelt survivor support is so gratefully appreciated."

Mark Buenafe, Pastor of Mariposa UMC, serves on the Oak Fire Long Term Recovery Group. Pastor Mark notes "the number of unmet needs is overwhelming."

At the six local assistance centers we have staffed; we have served over 750 households with about \$70,000 in immediate aid. Our year-to-date 2022 investment in seven long-term recoveries is approaching \$215,000. Before the year is out, our total disaster response expense will be \$375,000 to \$400,000.

We would appreciate your help in replenishing our Disaster Response Fund with our November Communion offering. Donations can also be made to California-Nevada Disaster Response Fund (brtapp.com) or by mailing a check payable to the California-Nevada Annual Conference at P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250, and noting Disaster Response Fund on the memo line.

Virtual Early Response Team Training (ERT)

November 5 and 6, 1 to 5 p.m.

Training led by Leslie Carmichael occurs over two four-hour sessions via Zoom. Cost for participants is \$15 for the training manual, lanyard, T-shirt and ID badge that volunteers wear when serving in this capacity. As with all volunteer work, background check and abuse prevention training by Safe Gatherings is required, with that cost covered by SRVUMC. Your spiritual gifts will deliver the caring, Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster, when "first response" has already arrived.



Preschool

Giving Thanks for All Our Blessings

November is a month that reminds us of all that we are thankful for at preschool! We are incredibly thankful for all of the people who support us in all that we do. Our teachers truly are what I like to call “the glitter and the glue” of what makes our preschool so special. They pour their time and energy into planning days that are full of learning and fun. Our students give us our purpose and our joy. Our lives and our classrooms would not be the same without them. Finally, we are all grateful for our many dedicated and thoughtful supporters. Our families, the Preschool Commission, the Church staff and community members, the area Eagle Scouts, and so many other community members contribute to our success through their unwavering support. Thank you will never be enough, but it is always the best place to start.

Eagle Scout Daniel completed our most recent campus project. As you can see in the pictures, Daniel built us three beautiful, child-sized picnic benches that fit perfectly in the newly paved area around the back of our playground. What a great addition! Our children have really enjoyed being able to snack on them so far, and we look forward to all the fun projects that we can do now that we have table room in that space.

November has brought cooler temperatures that we are loving. Our children also love watching the leaves and acorns fall from the trees. In fact, collecting fallen acorns is one of their favorite pastimes while on the playground. We are excited for our three- and four-year old children to start their hard work on a sweet Christmas program during their music time with Ms. Beth. As we look ahead, we can't wait for the winter activities that fill our December schedule soon after we return from Thanksgiving break. Sending all of our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

–Katelyn Self, Preschool Director

Photos: Check out these kid-sized picnic tables built by Eagle Scout Daniel Gross. The preschool has benefited from the work of local Eagle Scouts this year. Bet you wish you could fit in these, huh?



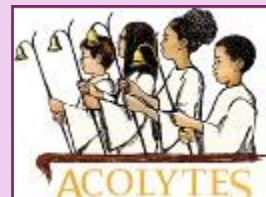
Family Ministry

Calendar

Save the date! Christmas Pageant will be Saturday, December 24, 5 p.m.

- **Sunday, December 19, 11 a.m.** We will have a quick pageant rehearsal in the sanctuary.

Acolytes are back! If your child would like to serve for the first part of Sunday services once a month contact Laura Roy at lroy@srvumc.org.



Music Makers, Thursdays, 4 to 5 p.m. Grades 2 to 5 will learn to play hand chimes, enjoy a snack and then gather for singing, musical games, and rhythm/Orff instruments. *If you have any questions or can volunteer, contact Winnie Stribling or Pastor Andrew Davis.*

Sunday School Classes Begin at 10 a.m.

Tot Spot for infants through age four.

TK through Grade 2 —Upstairs above preschool in Otterbein room (*Laura Roy leads*)

Grades 3 through 5—Upstairs in Wesley 203 (*Tom Roy leads*)

Starting in Advent: Advent Adventures! Sundays, November 27, December 4, 11, 18, at 11 a.m., right after Sunday school—Watch for updates!



Courage is being brave enough to do what you should, even when you're afraid.

Week One

Joshua and Caleb: Numbers 13-14

You can do what you should even when others are afraid.

Week Two

David Anointed/Goliath: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and 1 Samuel 17:1-51

You can do what you should even when things seem impossible.

Week Three

Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions: Daniel 6

You can do what you should because God is with you.

Week Four

Esther: The Book of Esther

You can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen.

"Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go." Joshua 1:9b, NIV



Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Shawn Luecht | Lael Takiguchi |
| Rob Rudow | 17 Alexander Bayat |
| Connie Winter | 18 John Coombs |
| 2 Kate Kocins | John Green |
| Kathy Hymes | Thelma Orr |
| 3 Jo Ann Hirsch | 21 Alex Gross |
| Myla Clark | Steve Hawk |
| LaVena White | 22 Mary Nygreen (100) |
| 4 Jet McWilliams | Jacci Osborn |
| 5 Gemma Heddle Sepull | Jackie Riedel |
| 7 Philip Harrington | 23 George Clarke |
| 8 John Byers | Adam Kennedy |
| 9 Charliene Tallett (96) | John Sayers |
| Lara Mays | 24 Pat Patteson (101) |
| 10 Gay Scott | 26 Monica Albertoni |
| 11 Kelton Lowther | Jessica Merchant |
| Mary Nelson | Fred Schreiber |
| Bob Sinclair | Annemarie Warwick |
| 12 Julie Dastic | 27 Margo Cefalo |
| 13 Sandy Greenwood | 29 Paul Kuelz |
| Dick Lam | Spencer Lang |
| 14 Suzan Rowland | 30 Linda Farhang |
| 15 Barbara Valdriz | Elke Torgersen |
| 16 Donna Bain | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Val & Duncan Miller | Tamra & Kevin Keen |
| LaVena & Ron White | 17 Shannon & Bill Dever |
| 6 Le Anne & Bart Jacobi (62) | 21 Dory & Tom Schramm |
| 8 Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei & Gary Krumrei | 27 Lynne & Larry Henderson (57) |
| 11 Catharine & Dan Baker | 27 Priscilla & Ted Wolfram |
| 13 Saba & Shadaab Kanwal | |

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns

Sharon (Susan Dowling's mother)

Nancy Benvenuto

Bob Brown

Vin Hirsch

Victor Hymes

ClaudeC Johannessen

Kay Jones

Barb McWilliams

Kate Steffy

Continued Prayers For

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

Our Christian Sympathy

The family of Shirley Wible, who passed October 18.

Kathi McShane and her family as they grieve the October 16 death of Kathi's father.

SRVUMC

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Katelyn Self (ext. 113)

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Rosalind Neisinger

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