



Valley Messenger

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

MARCH 2020

Pastor's Pulse ~

Lent: To Struggle With Truth

By the time you receive this, we will have already moved into Lent, that yearly reminder of what most of us, including me, would rather not peer at too closely: the central motif of Christianity is one of suffering, cruelty and degradation. I'd much rather zip through to the brightness of Easter, the uplift of spring, life triumphant and all the rest of it. Lent tracks the narrative of Jesus' descent into Jerusalem and the crucifixion awaiting him there.

We've contrived to justify this horror with atonement theologies that claim he had to die in this gruesome way in order to satisfy the debt our sin rang up against God's dignity, or to pay the ransom from our slavery to sin, or some variation thereof. Never mind the logical dead ends such theologies lead us into, they blur the horror of what we know Jesus actually endured.

They distort a truth we are intimately familiar with: Jesus' agony and isolation is something we know. Not in its extremity but in its kind. We know what it is to feel abandoned by God, separated from God and from the justice we say God embodies and expects *us* to embody. Such affliction is inexplicable; it shatters the depiction of God our faith clings to. No one I know of has been exempted from some experience that casts the standard notion of the "God of love" into fatal doubt. Perhaps you have cried out with Jesus, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (**Mk 15:34**) I have.

When the young inexplicably die, when loved ones irremediably decline into helplessness, when the cruelties of the world seem too formidable for grace to overcome and nothing interrupts the pain, we quite understandably doubt that the God of our faith ever existed, for how could a loving God allow...? Fill in your own blank. Our faith in a God of love is crucified.

What the days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday confront us with is that human life is more indomitable, troubling and painful than we are willing to admit. Far from proving that God doesn't exist or is not loving, it shows that our comprehension of God's love is too small, our grasp of the breadth and length and height and depth of what God's love has created is limited to the extent to which it fulfills our wishes and our distaste for inconvenience.

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Next Issue: April 2020

*Have something you'd like included in next month's Messenger? Please submit your articles to: Lisa Jancarik newsletter@srvumc.org by **March 15, 2020.***

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Oh, my friends, this sounds so bleak and awful, and on the one hand it is. But the other hand is that however inexplicable and absurd Jesus' crucifixion may be and the sorrow you've known is, the sun still rises on the empty tomb. Lent is six weeks of a dark passage leading down. Use it to prepare your eyes to see what could not be higher.

And for those of you who struggle accepting resurrection reality, do you likewise struggle to accept the death-bound reality that proceeds it?

Pastor Dan

Easter Worship Services

6:30, 9 and 11 a.m.



Dear SRVUMC, on July 1, we will have a new District Superintendent. See the note from our Bishop below. (Boldface print the editor's own.) To visit the California-Nevada Conference website for their announcement, go to <https://www.cnumc.org/>.



Clergy and Lay Members of the California-Nevada Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Christ Jesus on this Sunday!

I wanted to keep you informed of some leadership changes that will be coming in the future that affect all of us and that would be blessed by your prayers.

Rev. Schulyer Rhodes will be retiring at the end of the conference year (June 30, 2020) and thus leaving the position of District Superintendent of the Los Ríos District. I have asked **Rev. Shinya Goto** to assume the superintendency of the Los Ríos District following Rev. Rhodes. New to superintendency in our California-Nevada Conference will be **Rev. Dr. Samuel Hong**. I have asked him to step into the role of District Superintendent of the El Camino Real District effective July 1, 2020, leaving his present appointment to Korean United Methodist Church of Santa Clara Valley, CA after 10 years of faithful service as Senior Pastor of this church.

Let us continue to pray for all who are affected by these changes with special prayers for our clergy and their families who will be moving into retirement or these new appointments.

Blessings to All of You,

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

Great Decisions of Our Age

Eight-week Series Begins

What are the great global policy decisions facing the US, and how should Christians respond? **Starting on Sunday April 19, at 10:30 a.m.**, our church will hold a series of eight weekly discussions on critical global issues using a guide prepared by the Foreign Affairs Association (FAA). This program is part of an annual, nationwide program, whereby groups of concerned citizens throughout the US will discuss why the issues are important and why we should be concerned.

The series will be facilitated by **Lyn Arscott** and will be held after the first service in the Fireside Room or Wesley Center (TBD). A short DVD, prepared by the FAA, will be shown on each topic, followed initially by discussions in small groups and finally as a combined group. *The discussion series guidebooks will be on sale for \$35. Contact lynarscott@comcast.net if you need a copy.*



The first four topics:

April 19 Climate Change and the Global Order

Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to come up with a plan, the US remains the notable holdout. What is the rest of the world doing to combat climate change? What impact will the effects of climate change have on global geopolitics?

April 26 India and Pakistan

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode a wave of Hindu nationalism to a historic reelection in 2019. His first order of business was to revoke the special status granted to the Kashmir region, inflaming the rivalry between India and Pakistan. How will the Kashmir situation affect the region, both economically and politically?

May 3 Red Sea Security

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the US building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation?

May 10 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor a large variety of projects to curb trafficking and slavery. Billions of dollars have been allocated to these efforts. What is the international community doing to combat slavery and trafficking? What are the experiences like for those being trafficked?

Check out future newsletters for the final four topics in this eight-part series.

Save the Date!

Wise Women's Retreat

Thursday, May 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville

Our retreat leader will be **United Methodist Pastor Donna Fado Ivery**. Donna is an artist, spiritual leader, inspirational speaker and the author of *Sleep, Pray Heal*, which tells the story of Donna's journey following a disabling brain injury. *All women are invited to attend. Stay tuned for details!*



Vacation Bible School

June 22 Through 26, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. **Register at SRVUMC.org.**

Summer Fun at United Methodist Camps

Camp experiences have a dramatic impact on the development of children and youth, fostering faith, friendship, leadership skills and self-esteem. It's just about the best week of summer!

- Toyon Camp in Aptos, July 6 through 12, for **grades 3 to 9**
- Toyon L.I.T. in Aptos, July 6 through 16, **ages 15 to 17**

Contact **Shari Sandoval (916-374-1528)** or campregistrar@calnevumc.org.

Canceled Until After Lent!

Meditation Class

Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

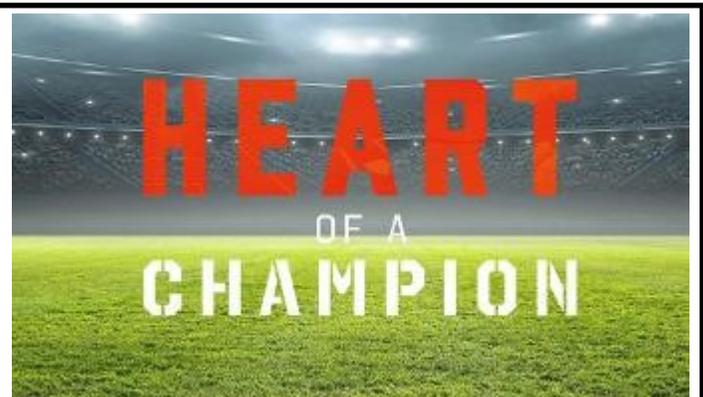
Wesley Center, Rm. 203

See Linda Stone for details.

Did Pastor Kim Really Send That Email?

Did you receive an email that you thought came from Pastor Kim? Her email has been spoofed, and if you look carefully you will see that it is not her email address. (Her correct email address is krisedorph@srvumc.org).

Another way to spot these spoofed emails is that **Kim will never, ever, ask you to buy gift cards or send money to her.** We are so sorry this is happening, and want you to be aware.



Sports and Faith Camp "Heart of a Champion"

**June 1 Through 4, 9 a.m. to Noon
Grades 1 Through 5**

Kids will discover how to become champions—both in sports and in their faith. They'll enjoy action-packed sports training sessions mixed with rallies where you'll introduce kids to their true Champion—Jesus.

*Contact **Laura Roy** for registration information.*

CCIH Renames as Hope Solutions



In 1997, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church joined with fourteen other faith community partners, forming Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) to address homelessness in our community. Since that time, we have partnered with CCIH to create Garden Park Apartments and many other effective solutions to ending homelessness for our most vulnerable neighbors. Our own Pastor Kim Risedorph has just joined the board, and many members of our congregation have been integral in growing the impact of this organization in our community.

To start 2020, CCIH has some exciting news. As part of its five-year strategic plan, CCIH will now have a new name and identity effective **Wednesday, February 12: Hope Solutions**.

Hope Solutions envisions a future in which everyone has a place to call home and the support of a strong community to live with dignity and reach their full potential. The organization's mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

In 2019, in partnership with our congregation and many others, CCIH—now Hope Solutions—created its Five-Year Strategic plan.

In just the first year, they have

- Increased the number of households housed and served from 127 to 418
- Added a new program model to house an additional 125 homeless families and launched a program for 40 homeless transition-age youth
- Grown revenue from \$4.4M to \$7.2M, comprised of a 78% increase in public funding, and a 20% increase in private funding
- Added eleven program staff positions to ensure quality support of clients
- Increased the Resident Empowerment Program (REP) leaders involvement in program oversight and governance
- Selected a new name that better conveys their mission and values and supports growth goals

The new name, Hope Solutions, reflects the essence of how the organization supports its residents and how it will grow its impact in the future. For six months, the rebranding team had rich conversations about the organization's values, identity and future goals. Hundreds of possible names were considered, and this name reflected the hope that we all hold for the organization's clients until they can hold it for themselves. Hope Solutions continually invites their clients to dare to hope while offering concrete solutions and support to heal and thrive.

This new name carries the organization into the future and reinforces its position as a heart-centered organization focused on providing quality housing, ongoing support, and the courage to hope.

CCIH, now Hope Solutions, always welcomes your help, so watch for more information about how you can become involved.

Did You Know?

Our coffee hour each Sunday comes from a different small (or not-so-small!) group within SRVUMC. Check out the bulletin each Sunday to discover if a group you're curious about is hosting so you don't miss a chance to ask questions—or just say thank you!



The Gift of Charitable Stock Plan

The Benefits of Charitable Giving with Stock

If you are like most individuals, the value of your stock and other investments has grown over the years. Perhaps you are entering your retirement years and wondering how you can turn your highly appreciated asset into extra income.

You may also be concerned about the mounting capital gains taxes due. If you sell your stock in today's market, you will forfeit a portion of the proceeds to taxes, and that means less cash for you. In short, you need a way to sell your stock and avoid capital gains.

If you identify with any of these situations, the solution is a charitable stock plan. A variety of charitable plans can help you achieve your goals for tax savings and even provide income. The purpose of this brochure is to explain the benefits of a charitable stock plan and how it can work for you.

Gifts of Stock For Life Income

The two charitable stock plans discussed below may provide you tax savings and income for retirement.

Gift Annuity for Stock

You may transfer your stock to fund a charitable gift annuity that will avoid capital gains tax and pay you fixed income for life. The rates can be quite high depending on your age and a part of your income stream may even be tax-free! You will receive an income tax deduction for your gift in the year you set up the annuity.

At the end of your life, you have the satisfaction of knowing the remaining value is going to help your church.

Unitrust and Sale of Stock

By giving your stock to fund a unitrust you can avoid capital gains tax because the trust will sell your stock tax free and then invest the proceeds to provide you with income for life. You will receive a charitable income tax deduction in the year the trust is established and benefit from tax savings that could be spread out over a number of years. Your church will benefit from the future remaining trust value.

Outright Gifts of Stock

Two other charitable stock plans may help achieve your goals if you are looking for ways to avoid income or estate tax.

Current Stock Gift

By transferring your stock to your church today, you can enjoy the benefits of tax savings on this year's return. In addition to your charitable deduction, you will avoid paying capital gains tax that would otherwise be due on the sale of your appreciated investment.

Stock Bequest

If you are still enjoying the benefits of holding your appreciated stock but looking for a way to avoid estate tax in the future, a stock bequest is a good choice. In your will or trust you may wish to include instructions for transferring your stock to us. Your estate will benefit from a charitable deduction that will lessen the impact.

Editor's Note

This article's content and the sidebar are reprinted from materials published by **California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation, 1350 Hayward Dr., West Sacramento, CA 95691.**

Email: davidm@canvumf.org

Website: www.canvumfgiving.org

Watch for more content from this foundation offered under the direction of your Endowment Committee in the coming months.

San Ramon Valley UMC Endowment Committee

For questions or more information, please contact

Mike Prenger at mprenger@comcast.net or (925) 838-7928

Bob Dominici at rjdomo@aol.com

March Communion Offering UMCOR

In 1940, Bishop Herbert Welch founded The Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (MOR) to address the displacement of populations during World War II. Over more than a decade, the humanitarian arm of the United Methodist Church resettled and assisted refugees in more than five different countries. Over time, its scope expanded to address hunger in Bangladesh and famine and drought in African nations like Ethiopia.



Hurricane Maria. Source: NASA NOAA-GOES project.

Today, UMCOR responds to major disasters we hear about on the news, like the recent earthquake impacting Puerto Rico. UMCOR sent medical supplies and other staples, as well as volunteers to assist at distribution points operated by the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. Partnering with FEMA and other organizations, UMCOR helped in the recovery in the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian. On the mainland, UMCOR participated in efforts to relieve Hurricanes Michael and Florence victims in 2018 throughout affected areas in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and Georgia. Funds and volunteers from UMCOR helped flooding in 2019 affecting Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Ohio, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.



Devastation by the Camp Fire. Source: www.cnumc.org

Closer to home, UMCOR supported The California-Nevada Conference's relief efforts with 2018 Camp and Carr Fires. At the time UMCOR responded to Bishop Carcano's request for a grant, the Camp Fire had only been 30% contained. To read more about the sophisticated role of faith-based organizations like UMCOR in disaster relief, a quick online search reveals many places where UMCOR is active. Meanwhile, efforts continue in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria of 2017. According [Coral Springs Talk](#), a Catalina bishop says that about eight volunteer teams are active per week on what will likely be a five- to ten-year overall rebuilding project.



***This year, UMCOR Sunday
occurs on March 22.***

*Our collection for the fund will occur
on Communion Sunday, as usual.*



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

Food Bank Opportunities For All!

We have our dates for working at Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank in 2020! We hope you will consider joining our service group for two hours on one or all of these days

- **April 4, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**
- **July 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**
- **October 3, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**



Please contact **Anne Garnick Kuelz** at anneKuelz@sbcglobal.net if you would like to join us. Space is limited to 18 volunteers each session. Students age ten and older are welcome to join parents in this service project. As the dates get closer, Anne will be in contact with those who sign up.

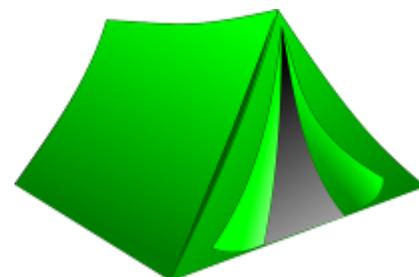
Another opportunity to serve is to donate food to our collection barrel just outside Wesley Center. When shopping for the Food Bank, think about buying peanut butter, canned tuna, canned beans, or canned chicken as these items are valued their high protein content. When you see a special to buy two and get one free, perhaps you only need one and will consider donating the rest to the Food Bank. Let's try and fill our food barrel quickly with quality food items as the need is great! Thank you for your ongoing support. —**Beth McClelland and Anne Kuelz**

Winter Nights Comes to SRVUMC

May 4 through 10 (Inclusive) and May 17

St Isidore's and Danville Congregational are taking some days as well. This is a really fun thing to do and fun for families. Here are some things we need help for

- Set up/take down **May 4, 18:** contact **Greg Lane** at gghlane2011@gmail.com
- Meal preparation leaders
- Overnight hosts: (air bed this year! Stay for dinner!)
- Child activities: contact Daniellejohn0@gmail.com
- Tutoring
- Laundry



Contact **Bob Baker** at rbaker3600@aol.com about volunteering for any of these roles unless otherwise noted.

There is a box in the Wesley Center lobby for donations. Suggested donations include towels, shampoo, baby wipes, packing tape, personal grooming items. Please give donated gas cards and gift cards to **Sue Dowling** or **Marilyn Clarke**. —**Bob and Judy Baker, Coordinators**

Help With Wildfire Recovery in Lake County, California

Lake County has had several major wildfires in the last few years, including the Valley Fire which destroyed 1300 homes in the Middletown area. We will assist with the continued rebuilding homes for families that are challenged to do so on their own. We will leave on **Sunday, May 3**, and return on **Friday, May 8**.

We will stay at the Hope City team housing in Middletown, facilities offering twin-size bunk beds and showers with meals provided by the Hope City Staff with our help. The cost of the trip is \$225. Registration is now available and due by **April 17**. For more information, questions or to register, contact **Steve Elliott** at sae612@msn.com or 925-362-8697.



Mission Memories...

Changing Lives in Guatemala

Imagine, if you will, never having walked due to a birth deformity; losing a leg to diabetes or other health challenge; or being disabled in a tragic accident, and then suddenly the gift of mobility comes into your life. That was the blessing we offered to during our wheelchair mission to Guatemala in January 2020.

Through the generosity of the Asbury, Lynnewood and San Ramon Valley United Methodist Churches, our team traveled to Guatemala to deliver 260 wheelchairs in partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation.

This was a remarkable opportunity to engage with families that had no means to purchase a wheelchair. They carried, carted or hobble-walked a family member everywhere. Our recipients included disabled and mobility challenged children, adults and seniors.

We started our week volunteering at Virgen Del Socorro in Antigua. This long-term care facility, run by the Franciscan Order of the Catholic Church, is for children and adults with permanent disabilities. Many of these residents suffer from cerebral paralysis. We found this experience rewarding, enlightening, and so appreciated by the residents.

Our second day of volunteering was at the Hospital of Santo Hermano Pedro, a charity hospital that turns no one away, and only charges what a person can afford. This Franciscan hospital provides medical services by local staff and volunteer physicians from around the world. We worked in the day care center and the nutrition clinic for young children. We were particularly touched by how

children with cleft palates and other congenital deformities receive feeding assistance to help them achieve improved health.

Our first delivery of wheelchairs was to a senior care community in Antigua. This government-run residence provides compassionate care to elderly men and women who have no place else to go. It was amazing to see mobility limited residents slip into their new wheelchairs.

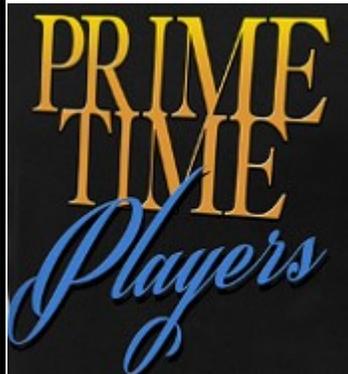
Our major wheelchair distribution was at an event in the little town of Barberena. It was exciting to walk into the town hall filled with anxious families selected to receive wheelchairs. Each family was called forward to accept the wheelchair. We collectively celebrated the grateful, beaming recipient and family. It was one of the most heartwarming moments you can imagine and one of the most humbling.

We delivered what seemed like an endless stream of wheelchairs. To see a child experience mobility for the first time in her life, brought tears to our eyes. Adults who had lost a leg, or seniors who could no longer walk on their own, were simply grateful beyond words. We changed many lives that day, with great love.

Thank you for your donations, prayers and the privilege to be your representatives to the people of Guatemala.

Steve Elliott, Kal Peters, Raeanne Passantino, Mark Reckers, Thomas Johannesson, Bob Sanchez, Doug and Mary Ellen Huey





Remember, everyone! **It's the *first* and the *third* Tuesday of the month!** There are a few exceptions toward the end of the year, but for now—mark your calendar for the ***first* and *third* Tuesday of the month!**

Tuesday, March 3, Prime Time Presentation and Potluck, Noon, Wesley Center—What a great speaker we had in February! Check out the mosaics in Zacatlan, Mexico, if you missed our speaker last month—amazing! In March, **Terri Tobey** from the **Diablo Valley Foundation on Aging** will talk with us about the many options for care managers for seniors. Bring a dish to share, or just stop at the deli or bakery. We always have plenty of good food—it's your company and fellowship we want!

Tuesday, March 17, Prime Time Lunch with Friends, Noon, Wesley Center—It's St. Patrick's Day! Wear green, or expect to be pinched! Chef John Sanders will cook up his delicious corn beef and cabbage, a winter fruit salad, luscious potatoes and carrots, with homemade banana splits for dessert (are banana splits Irish?). So, bring the luck of the Irish with you, and enjoy great fellowship, food and fun! **Marla, Kay and ClaudeC** will have our tables festive as always! Best \$5 to \$10 meal in the valley!



Men's Breakfast

**Speaker on Human Trafficking
Saturday, March 21, at 8 a.m.**

Wesley Center

Speaker David Bernal will discuss his work with a group called [One Bread Foundation](#).

The group focuses on being the advocate for children who cannot speak for themselves and to educate our communities through community events, social media and newsletter campaigns. They fund safe houses for these victims of sex trafficking and provide the emotional, physical and medical support necessary to heal these rescued children.

Every year, over 1.2 million children worldwide are bought and sold by child sex traffickers, where they are abused, sexually assaulted and denied basic human rights. David is CEO of the foundation and also a managing partner of a nationwide real estate investment firm.

All church men and their spouses and guests are welcome.

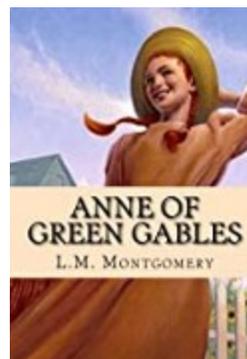


Afternoon Book Group

Monday, March 16, 1 p.m.

Rm. 202 Wesley Center

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery
(Sharon leading)



Don't forget!

Contact Patsy about donating flowers or serving on the altar guild.



Between the Bookends



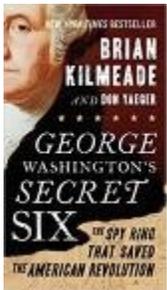
By the Library Committee

We would like to thank the person who generously donated the Barnes and Noble gift card to the library. The gift is truly appreciated.—*The Library Committee*

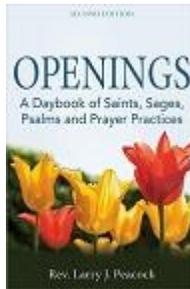
The following book became a missing book almost as soon as it first appeared on the book cart. We have replaced it because we consider it a worthwhile book that should be in our collection. Please keep in mind the importance of checking out books according to instructions and returning them when they are due.



See, Lisa, *Shanghai Girls*. This book begins in 1937 in Shanghai during the turmoil of the second Sino-Japanese War. Two young sisters Pearl and May are forced into arranged marriages by their father's profligacy, and their only recourse is to flee to their new husbands in Los Angeles. The story follows the sisters who undergo the Chinese-American immigrant experience against the background of WWII and the communist witch-hunts of the 1950s. Although there are periods of happiness, their lives are difficult, even tragic at points. But readers will admire the strength and intelligence that they bring to bear upon their circumstances and See's remarkable exposition of this historical period.



Kilmeade, Brian and Don Yaeger, *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution*. This spy ring, known as the "Culper Ring," was formed to defeat the British in Manhattan and win that territory back for the patriots. Messages on written missives, names, and places were coded and invisible ink was used. Agents were assigned numbers for identification, and to this day, no one knows for sure who Agent 355 was! However, speculation is that the agent was a female. This book describes the missteps first taken and how the ring morphed into a more secret and workable undertaking. Any history buff will find this intriguing and true account a quick read!



Peacock, Larry James, *Openings—a Daybook of Saints, Psalms, and Prayer*. The practice of daily devotions is part of the life of many Christians. Peacock, a Methodist minister, has had a long career as a church pastor, retreat leader, and educator intent upon helping people move along their spiritual paths. The format offered here for study each day entails the remembrance of saints both famous and obscure, the systematic reading of the Psalms, concise but cogent reflections on both, and finally guidance in various prayer practices in order to lead the reader in thoughtful devotions. This Upper Room publication is a helpful and meaningful addition to our church library's collection of devotionals.



Grisham, John, *The Guardians*. Grisham's latest law novel relates the anxieties of a young lawyer, Cullen Post. After three years of toiling in the nitty gritty of the criminal justice system, Post not only becomes disillusioned but also sickened with the injustices he sees and experiences. He simply walks out of a courtroom one day and plans to abandon his law career. Seeking solace for his decision, he goes to the priest of his childhood and feeling God's call, becomes an Episcopalian minister. When he is ordained at age 35, he decides to help those who were forgotten in prison rather than be assigned to a church. He joins a group entitled Guardian Ministries, therefore the title of Grisham's novel. How successful is Post in seeking clemency for inmates who were falsely imprisoned? Grisham's unique style of writing with emphasis on legal drama keeps the reader engrossed to the end.

"To add a library to a house is to give that house a soul."
—*Cicero*



Youth Events

(You Can Still Chaperone If There Is an Asterisk Next to the Event!)

March 27 and 28—“You(th) Belong Here” Lock-in—A multi-church overnight lock-in for middle schoolers and high schoolers from any church (or no church!). The night is filled with games, snacks, time to get to know new people, and small group time focusing on how youth are not just kids being invited into an adult world, but how they belong as full, empowered people as much as anyone else.



***April 5 through 9—College Road Trip**—Road trip for high school sophomores and juniors to visit schools up the coast of Oregon.

June 12 through 15—Annual Conference—Our Annual Conference leaves space for youth and young adult delegates. They are (I believe) full voting delegates, and the conference reserves room for them to stay in the hotel and takes care of their meals. Their days are spent in the plenary session’s different sections learning about what’s happening in the church, and they’re given a different presentation each day on the different ministries of our conference and how youth can be involved. Nights and free time are spent looking around Modesto and with game nights. I met a *lot* of the youth last year, and many of them had been back for their third or fourth time.

***June 28 through July 5—SF Mission Trip**—Incoming freshmen and older can go on this trip to San Francisco. We’ll spend four days working with the SF Food Bank, City Impact, and potentially Glide. Plus, we’ll build a tiny home shelter for the Waller Center (the UMC retreat center where we’ll be staying) to have on the sidewalk for a person who needs a safe, dry place at night. After our time in SF, we’ll head north to [Rock-N-Water Christian adventure camps](#) where we’ll spend two days on a guided whitewater rafting tour (no experience needed!)



***July 25 through 31—Portland YouthWorks**—Our all-ages mission trip to Portland, Oregon where we’ll work with local organizations to learn about the social injustices in the area such as poverty, homelessness, and other related issues. We’ll leave knowing a little more about how those issues arose in Portland and what local organizations are doing to combat them. Plus, we’ll get to serve alongside them, including at Portland’s Night Strike, a Thursday night event where volunteers set up food, hair and nail salons, booths to get clothing, a library and more to service the people who are in need.



Did You Know?

You don’t actually have to be a parent of a youth to chaperone a youth event. Lots of teens would like to have interactions with some adults who aren’t Mom or Dad, teachers or coaches.

Contact **Rebecca Bernstein** at rbernstein@srvumc.org if you are curious.

Save the Date!



Saturday Morning, April 25

Such a fun and worthwhile event for all ages. Put it in your calendar now!



Sunday School Topics

WEEK ONE

MATTHEW 18:21-35: Unmerciful Servant

SAY THIS: Forgive others because God forgives you.

WEEK TWO

LUKE 19:1-10: Zacchaeus

SAY THIS: When you forgive others, it can change them.

WEEK THREE

MATTHEW 5:1-2; 23-24: Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness

SAY THIS: Take the first step to forgive others.

WEEK FOUR

LUKE 15:11-24: The Story of the Lost Son

SAY THIS: Everyone needs to be forgiven.

WEEK FIVE

LUKE 15:21-32: Father and Older Brother

SAY THIS: When you don't forgive, you miss out.

REMEMBER THIS:

"Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

FORGIVENESS: Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

Contact Us!

Laura Roy

Children's and Family Ministries
(Children through Grade 5)

lroy@srvumc.org

(925)837-5243 ext 106

Rebecca Bernstein

Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

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(925)837-5243 ext.109

Calendar

March 22, 9 a.m. Third Grade Bibles.

It is tradition at SRVUMC to present Bibles to our third grade students as gifts from the congregation.

It is our prayer that this gift will be the starting point for a deeper relationship with God as they are on their journey of faith. To prepare the students we will have **Bible Introduction Class March 15, from 10 to 10:30 a.m.** to help them get acquainted with this wonderful book. *Please contact Laura Roy for more information.*

April 5, Palm Sunday Brunch and Egg Hunt. All children proceed with palms, Children's Choir sings both services, Sunday school during the 9 a.m. service, 10 a.m. brunch, egg hunt following 10:30 palm processional and children's choir singing.

June 1 to 4, 9 a.m. to Noon—Sports and Faith Camp, "Heart of a Champion." For grades 1 through 5. Register at SRVUMC.org. Kids will discover how to become champions—both in sports and in their faith. They'll enjoy action-packed sports training sessions mixed with rallies where you'll introduce kids to their true Champion—Jesus.

Every Sunday

9 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday school meets

K to Grade 5: Lamm Hall

Grades 6 to 12: Room 202

10:30 a.m. Nontraditional Worship

Confirmation meets in room 201 until 11:45 a.m.

Childcare for all ages in Tot Spot, either service.

Weekly Programming

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 to 8) Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9 to 12) Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Music

Children's Choir—Sundays, 10 to 10:30 a.m., TK through grade 5, meets upstairs in Judson. The choir will sing once a month. In addition, they perform for the Christmas concert, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and the May Music Concert. Contact Beth McClelland with questions.

Youth Choir—Grades 6 to 12, Sundays 3 to 4 p.m. in Judson, 2nd floor.

Bros and Belles Choir—Grades 6 to 12, Practice Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. Winnie Stribling directs.

June 22 through 26, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Vacation Bible School. Knight of North Castle, age 3 (potty trained) to grade 5. Register at SRVUMC.org. Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book.

Among Ourselves

Health Concerns...

Shana Carroll
Leslie Gross
JoAnn Hirsch

Susie McKnight
Marsha Perkins
David Scott

Our Christian Sympathy To...

We will celebrate **George Swallow's** life on Saturday, **March 14, at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary**, followed by a reception. All are invited to attend and meet George's family.

Those touched by **James Tefft** on his recent death.

Wendy Cooper and her family on the recent passing of her husband, Tony.

Thank You...

Susie and Peter Ruotsi wish to express their feeling of blessing for Pastor Kim's compassion through the passing of their son, Matt.

Congratulations, Johnny!

Congratulations to Johnny Johnston on his recent 100-year birthday! Well-wishers gathered February 16 to celebrate with Johnny. Photos by George Clarke.



Continued Prayers For...

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families: Barbara Brick, Bob De Chene, Doug Domergue, Connie Erickson, Louise Hanover, Felicia Hillard, Cary Johnson, Johnny Johnston, Joan Lee, Lea Patten, Lillian Scherer; Ann Schroeder, Shirley Slater, Joan Webb, Jeannine Woolery

Name Tags

Please contact **Patsy Kyles** in the church office if you need a new name tag (\$8/ea.)

March Celebrations



Birthdays

1 Bart Jacobi	Justin Walz	Elizabeth Beck McDaniel
3 Debra Carter	19 Jim Burk	29 Katie Hawk
Stephanie Fenoglio	Grady Milligan	30 Corin Drake
Steve Roath	Lori Pavel	Sam Hoff
4 Mike Scalzi	20 Bill Van Bezey	Kevin Peters
Cole Donaldson	22 Joan Arcscott	31 Candice Newburn
6 Ed Keller	Liz Field	Greg Warwick
7 Cindy Rudow	Sandra Willman	
8 Gentry Higgins	23 Brad Kobsar	
9 Terry Sherman	Miles Robinson	
Paige Steffy	Karen Scalzi	
11 Carrie Doyle	24 Katie Buckley	
13 Ellen Kocins	Chris Shiber	
15 Betty Jo Bennett	Judy Slinger	
Cathy Colman	25 Marcus Durrenberger	
Lucy Hooper	Catherine Godbey (93)	
Gene Ives	Marianne Templeton	
Abby Lang	26 Kyle Knapp	
16 Susan Stevenson	27 Dianne Anderson	

Did the Newsletter Miss You?

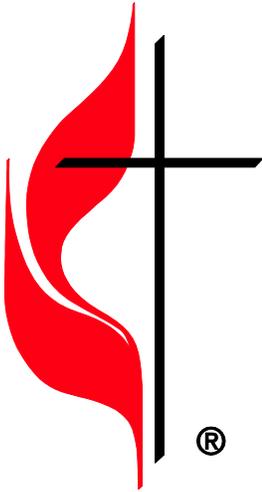


If the newsletter missed your special day, then please email newsletter@srvumc.org to make sure the records get updated to include you!

Wedding Anniversaries

5 Kirsten & Langley Choy	25 Sherry & Sanjiv More'
6 Amy & John Riedel	26 Dianne & Roger Ehlers (48)
8 Cindy & Tony Leonard (40)	27 Darrelyn & John Orr
Andrea Bourgeois McWilliams & Dave McWilliams	29 Marilyn & Berry Scott (62)
Lori & John Pavel	31 Susan & Dale Stevenson (57)
Susie & Peter Ruotsi (51)	
22 JoAnne & Jess Erickson (63)	
Erin & Rich Lowther	

MARCH 2020



Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

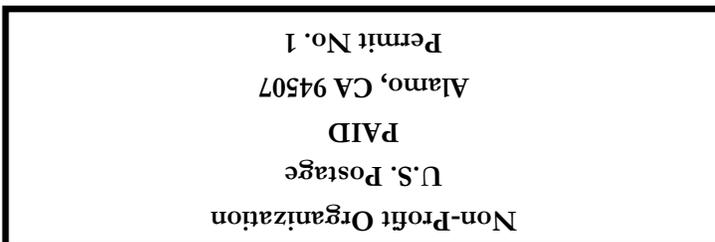
Living Water Worship, 10:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Child Care for birth-kindergarten is available during the morning services in Tot Spot

March 2020

Time-valued material — Deliver promptly

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Alamo, CA 94507