

The

# Valley Messenger

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

Dear San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church,

Words cannot fully express the great joy and utter excitement that is brewing in my heart as I get ready to meet all of you soon! And yet, as my very first act as your new pastor, that's exactly what I am charged to do—to craft an article of around 500 words to introduce myself and my heart to you! While I am certainly not Shakespeare, I am a preacher at heart. So, it is my sincere hope that you will join me and the SRVUMC family in worship on July 2, where you will hear a more complete version of “my story.” For now, let me share with you a teaser of sorts.

This year, I will be entering my twenty-ninth year of ordained ministry. During my pastoral journey, I have planted two churches, led two others as senior pastor, served as an associate in a large multi-staff church, and for several years worked as conference staff in Southern California. Whether my pastoral setting was new or established, large or small, young or not so young, homogenous or diverse, my ministry vision has always focused on helping people at various stages of faith (and even non-faith) develop a life with God and a life with each other.



*Pastor Sam Yun and his wife, Pastor Sun Hee Kim*

After I was notified that the bishop was intending to appoint me to SRVUMC, I immediately did a little research on the church (which some may refer to as “stalking”, but I simply refer to as healthy curiosity!). So, I Googled the church, looked up the worship on YouTube, and of course, checked out the website: [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org). And that's when I felt

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## July 2023

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### **Next Issue: August 2023**

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 **July 15, 2023.**



# Announcements

## *From Page 1*

the Holy Spirit confirmation that this appointment was a match made in heaven! My eyes immediately fell on the large text laid over the beautiful motion graphic that read, “A COMMUNITY ON A JOURNEY WITH GOD—MIND, BODY, & SOUL.” What had been my ministry journey for twenty-eight years—a focus on a “life with God”—was now being extended and connected to the “journey with God” that all of you have faithfully been on these many years! I feel like this is more than just coincidence. It’s really a “God incidence!”

That is why I am so excited to do life with you and to journey with you in the weeks, months, and years ahead. I am absolutely looking forward to learning more about you soon, as you learn more about me as well.

Great things are ahead of us all! In fact, the best is yet to come!

With Hope and Blessings,

P. Sam

P.S. I do want to extend my thanks to Pastor Kim Risedorph for not only her years of faithful ministry at SRVUMC, but for her loving and caring way of preparing me for ministry with and among all of you! And also, great thanks to SPRC Chairperson Bill Fulcher, who has already represented for me the amazing and abundant love that is waiting for me at SRVUMC!

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## **Dialogue for Change**

### **Sundays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

### **Fireside Room and Zoom**

Join us for the last four classes of the summer!

**July 9**—“The Entanglement of Guns and Christianity” with guest speaker Dr. Joseph Slaughter, Center for the Study of Guns and Society at Wesleyan University

**July 16**—“Debating Gun Control”

**July 23**—“Immigration and Border Security”

**August 6**—“Immigration, Migration, Asylum and the Church”

Dialogue for Change is an adult education class that began as education in antiracism and continues with brave conversations about a range of controversial topics. We think about Christian responses to these divisive issues and maybe awaken to bias and injustice that we have not yet acknowledged.



Contact [Lucinda Huffaker](mailto:lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com) at [lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.huffaker@gmail.com) or watch for the Zoom link in the Friday Memo.

# Spiritual Growth

## Stephen Ministry: Your Hurting Can Be Heard

By Lisa Jancarik

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one ministry of trained lay men and women who offer confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. In the four years since I finished my training as a Stephen minister, I've built some very meaningful relationships with women who needed me to listen with genuine interest. Often, we prayed together. Sometimes the tissues came out, but a surprising number of good laughs came out, too. The point of a weekly meeting with a Stephen minister isn't necessarily to cry for a solid hour unless that's what a care receiver needs to do for that visit. Our weekly hour together offers the relief of being heard, of having her struggle noticed and validated.

Please note, I'm referring to time spent with women because Stephen ministers are matched with care receivers who identify as the same gender. Because I am female, I've never had a male care receiver. My male counterparts in Stephen Ministry have men as care receivers.

Sometimes, well-meaning family or friends try too hard to "fix" a situation. A person might tell a Stephen minister something that might be provocative at the dinner table just to get it off his or her chest. Stephen ministers are trained not to try to find a solution because our care receivers don't need us to pile onto the avalanche of advice they may have already gotten. Our training materials say it best: We are the *care-givers*, but Christ is the *cure-giver*.

Tell your Stephen minister all about the worry that has you staring at the ceiling when you lie awake at night. People have told me lots of things, and all I'll say about any of it is that hurting—sometimes hurting badly—is not a unique experience, and Stephen ministers listen without judgment. That said, the confidentiality of our visits is crucial, and we take serious measures to honor it.

Ask about a Stephen minister if you are thinking you could benefit from someone to walk with you as you adapt to a long-term illness, grief, divorce, or a new (un)employment situation.

***Talk with Pastor Sam or Stephen Ministry leader Al Banich about finding a Stephen minister.***



# Spiritual Growth

## Grill-N-Chill: Two Dates in July!

**July 6 and July 20, 6 p.m.**

**Courtyard**

**July 6**—Our second Grill-n-Chill will be very special: a Korean barbeque! We are collaborating with our Korean UMC colleagues in the selection and preparation of some delightful dishes. Don't miss out on a friendly evening getting to know our sister church over a delicious menu!

**July 20**—Watch for even more summer fun and good food! Suggested donation for an evening of Grill-n-Chill fun is \$15 per person or \$25 per family. The limit for each event is set at 60 people, so make sure to RSVP!

RSVP [here](#) for the Korean BBQ event through SignUp Genius. Contact Brad Stribling at [brad.stribling@outlook.com](mailto:brad.stribling@outlook.com) or call Patsy Kyles in the church office if you need assistance.



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## Lunch with Friends

**Tuesday, July 18 and Tuesday, August 15**

**Wesley Center, Noon**

Summer fun! Please join us for a summer fun lunch! We'll be steaming up good hot dogs, with all the fun toppings, creamy pasta salad, watermelon slices and Jell-o salad! Enjoy a homemade strawberry slab pie with fresh whipped cream and lemonade too!

Then, mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 15, for our Annual Summer BBQ, when BBQ master and church member Greg Lane will be grilling his perfect tri-tip, and we'll be cooking up all the traditional BBQ sides! In the courtyard, weather permitting. Contact [Nancy Benvenuto](#) with questions at [nancybenvenuto@gmail.com](mailto:nancybenvenuto@gmail.com).





# Spiritual Growth

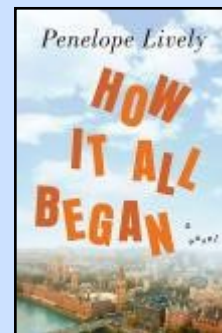
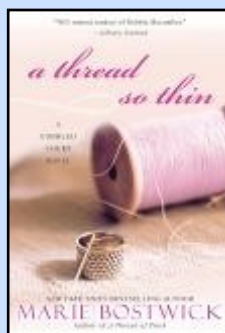


Happy Fourth of July! Celebrate the birthday of our country by displaying your flag.

The library cart will be available for choosing books, but no new books will be on offer. The committee is taking the summer to organize shelves and decide on new selections.

Please continue to look for these missing books over the summer:

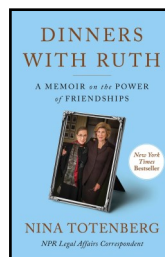
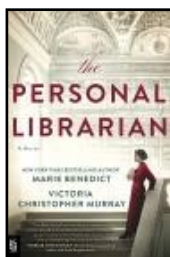
## Uncle Sam Wants YOU To Keep Looking for These Titles!



## Book Club Summer Plans Monthly, 1 p.m. Church Library

**July 17—*The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.** Historical fiction about a woman who is J.P.Morgan's librarian. Belle has many obstacles to overcome as she researches rare books for the collections. **Anita Ball leads.**

**August 21—*Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg.** Memoir of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her friends. Very pertinent to the current events involving the Supreme Court and the court's ethics. **Sharon Ross leads.**



# Out Into the World

## Paradise: Rebuilding From the Camp Fire

**By Steve Elliott**

The most striking thing about this mission trip to Paradise was how extensive the recovery is. There is home construction everywhere and new businesses open. The recovery is clearly accelerating with much optimism in the air. It is so encouraging to see.

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 were permitted to scale up efforts to assist low-income survivors with construction of new homes. One such organization is Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN). At present, HCRN has ten homes under construction. We have been working with HCRN on wildfire recoveries for over five years.

Our June 2023 Mission Team was the second United Methodist Team this year. Glenwood Springs UMC from Colorado, Community UMC and Huntington Beach and Santa Rosa UMC will follow up our efforts. Our team included Asbury UMC in Livermore, San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo, Lynne-wood UMC in Pleasanton, El Dorado County Federated Church in Placerville, and Los Altos UMC. We worked on three homes, doing interior and exterior painting and installing flooring, baseboard, trim, and doors.

*Continued Page 7*



*Left: The Paradise mission team.  
Above: A sign in Paradise with a message for its residents, volunteers and the wider world.*



# Out Into the World

## From Page 6

Our clients, Fred, Don and Eddy were all fire survivors. Fred and Don live in trailers on their property as their home is being built. Eddy has been staying in a modest motel since the fire. They are so ready to have a new home!

Each day was collectively rewarding work. We enjoyed the shared comradery and sense of purpose in helping wildfire survivors. We also enjoyed evenings back at the dorm. We reflected on each day, shared devotional moments, and laughed at stories told.

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.

Faithfully,

*Steve Elliott, Roger Everett, Steve Wilson, Coleman Johnson, Raeanne Passantino, Doug Huey, Mary Ellen Huey, Scott Smith, Ron Logan, Mary Morisset, Gretchen McLean, Ryan Hornbeck and Bob Lee.*



## Perennial Partners for June Blood Drive



**Left: Church of Latter Day Saints President Tim Richards and Pastor Kim Risedorph pose together at the June 10 blood drive. Below: Kal Peters and Anne Warwick greet blood donors as they arrive. SRVUMC and LDS have successfully partnered with this crucial community service for years. LDS hosted this event.**

# Out Into the World

## Pajaro Flooding Recovery

The first part of 2023 was one of the wettest periods on record in California. The result was widespread flooding in many parts of Northern California. The California-Nevada Conference responded with relief volunteers and financial assistance to survivors in several areas, one of which was the town of Pajaro, in Monterey County. Pajaro is home to many low-income farmworkers.

We are now gearing up to return to assist with repairs to flooded homes. This effort will take several months of focused effort. The Cal-Nev Conference is one of several non-profits planning to participate in this recovery.

The remaining dates for the summer include:

- July 20 to 23
- July 27 to 30
- August 10 to 13
- August 24 to 27
- September 7 to 10
- September 21 to 24

There is work available for everyone. Each weekend team will be no more than six participants. We have arranged a place to stay and have set up meal arrangements, tools and related details. Travel is on Thursday night, returning by Sunday evening.

Bob Lee, from Los Altos UMC, will be leading weekend repair teams from late June through September. **Contact Bob Lee for more information or to receive a registration packet by email at [rlee@carmlee.net](mailto:rlee@carmlee.net) or by phone at (650) 468-1612.**

### Steve Elliott Receives Bishop Brown, Jr., Award at Conference



Steve Elliott received the Bishop Brown, Jr., award on June 16, 2023, for his dedicated work in disaster relief. Now retired, Bishop Brown served his Oakland congregation during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the 1991 fires. The award bearing his name honors volunteers for excellence in disaster response.

*Left: Steve receives his award from Bishop Brown. Left, Pastor Kim Risedorph (retired), and Pastor Sun Yun stand directly behind Steve.*



# Thank You

## Pastor Kim Risedorph Says Thank You

My heart is full! Thank you, SRVUMC community for the wonderful send-off for Steve and myself. The gathering at Grill and Chill, the spoken words, the notes and the gifts are all so meaningful. I'm cherishing each one, and all of you. I'm so grateful for our time(s) at SRVUMC. For the good that has been, I give thanks. And for the good yet to come, I give thanks.



1

*Clockwise From Top: 1. A massive turnout of well-wishers for Pastor Kim dig into their barbeque dinner (photo credit: Steve Brown).*

*2. Kim (left) has a laugh with office staffers Michelle Cooke (middle) and Patsy Kyles (right).*



2

*3. The cake!*

*4. Heather Hammer makes her remarks. Once an associate pastor at SRVUMC, Hammer was one of multiple speakers. Other speakers included Linda Van Pelt of Lynnewood UMC and Kathy LaPointe-Collup (lead pastor at Asbury UMC).*

*5. SPRC Chair Bill Fulcher introduces speakers.*



3



5



4



# 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 whole-



some 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. The number of clients served ballooned from 176,000 per month to 260,000 per month during this worldwide crisis. To serve this enormous spike in clients, the organization reimagined 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 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](#).



*SRVUMC has a long history with the food bank.  
Above: volunteers in January 2016. Right: Volunteers from our most recent trip in 2023.*





# Youthful Energy

## Youth Summer Fun!

By Laura Roy

Welcome to Summer! We have some fun things planned with more coming in the fall. I hope you will join us, even if it's been a while since we've connected. [Justin Byers](#) will be our youth leader, and the youth committee will be assisting. I am the staff support for youth. With that said, here is what's happening for young adults this summer at SRVUMC:

**Sunday July 2—Water Wars in ARC parking lot, 3 to 5 p.m.** Bring your favorite water shooter. We will have lots planned, along with snacks. What could be more fun? P.S. Come to meet Pastor Sam Yun, our new lead pastor.

**Sunday, July 16—Children and Youth Family BBQ in courtyard 6 p.m.** Youth, don't let the word "children" put you off—this BBQ blast wouldn't have the right flavor without you! Did someone say "games"?

**Friday, August 4—San Ramon Olympic Pool "Dive In Movie" night, 7 p.m.** Features *Top Gun: Maverick*. \$1 dollar movie night at the pool under the stars. Recreation swim starts at 7 p.m., so be sure to bring your pool floats and enjoy everything the pools have to offer. Once the sun starts to go down, settle into your deck chair, get cozy on your blanket, or watch the movie from the pool. It's sure to be a splashing' good time! Come and see why your mom thought the original *Top Gun* was such a great movie for just a buck! Registration recommended: [Click here](#).

Plans coming soon:

- Youth Works in July
- Fall Retreat

Please RSVP to the above events to Laura at [loy@srvumc.org](mailto:loy@srvumc.org).

### Not Just a Kid Anymore: Youth Can Assist With Sunday School

Do your youth plan to come to worship on Sunday mornings? They can help teach elementary Sunday school. Let Laura Roy know they are coming, and they can take part in leading the kids' class.



### Summer Sunday School Nursery To Grade 5—New Rooms! Same 10 a.m. Start

- Our Tot Spot for infants through 4-year-olds is temporarily meeting in Wesley 102, across from the preschool building.
- We will be combining TK-5th for the summer. Join Laura Roy upstairs in Wesley room 203.



# Family Ministry

## Calendar

Join us for Vacation Bible School! Hero Hotline, July 24 to 28, ages three years (potty trained) to grade five. We will invite children to the Hero Hotline Headquarters where everyone's gifts are valued, and every hero has a role to play! Invite your neighbors, friends and family to VBS right here at SRVUMC. *We've added more fun! A music station! We will go half an hour longer—9 a.m. to noon—no extra charge!* \$55 per child. Discount to \$50 per child for family of three or more children. For \$5 more, you'll also get a take-home music download card. **Contact Laura Roy at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org) for more. Register here: <https://www.myvbs.org/srvumc/>**

**Let's party this summer!** Children and Youth Family BBQ in courtyard. Sunday, July 16, 6 p.m. You won't want to miss the tasty feast games and fun! **Please RSVP to Laura Roy at [lroy@srvumc.org](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org).**

## Summer Sunday School Nursery To Grade 5—New Rooms! Same 10 a.m. Start

- Our Tot Spot for infants through 4-year-olds is temporarily meeting in Wesley 102, across from the preschool building.
- We will be combining TK through grade 5 for the summer. Join Laura Roy upstairs in Wesley room 203.

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***Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.***

### Week One

Salvation Is God's Gift: Ephesians 2:8-9

*Jesus is a gift for everyone.*

### Week Two

Paul and Silas Are Thrown Into Prison: Acts 16:16-40

*God can help you find joy.*

### Week Three

Paul Shipwrecked: Acts 27:1-28:10

*When bad things happen, God is with you.*

### Week Four

The Church: Hebrews 10:23-25

*Our faith is stronger together.*

### Week Five

Heaven: Revelation 21:3-5a

*God will make everything right in the end.*

**"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift." —Ephesians 2:8, NIV**





# Celebrations

## Birthdays

3 Greg Benvenuto  
4 Don Field  
6 Xan Alexander  
Stephanie Ricker Schmalz  
7 Brenda Domergue  
Fred Toney  
9 Caroline Gross  
10 Shannon Dever  
Vin Hirsch **(95)**  
Kathy Kennedy  
11 Marti Starnes  
12 Linda Ashcraft  
Amelie Sepull  
Sherrie Weis  
13 Devon Drake  
14 Amy Riedel  
15 Gloria Holleman  
Rebecca Mays  
Briggs Wood

17 Steve McAdams  
Caroline Walsh  
19 Judy Baker  
John Orr, Jr.  
Steve Oborn  
Marilyn Scott  
20 John Hemmerich  
21 Carol Fhlug  
Harry Hanover **(96)**  
Ginger McGuffin  
Bill Rust  
25 Rich Lowther  
26 Bill Sabin **(96)**  
27 Langley Choy  
Jerry Ricker  
30 Randy Slinger  
31 Gail Soldavini

## Anniversaries

2 Bonnie & Brian Roberts **(57)**  
5 Carol & John Sayers **(60)**  
6 Kathleen & Kevin Isbell  
Judy & Randy Slinger  
7 Teresa Fimby-Christensen & Randy Christensen  
Suzanne & Jerry Ricker  
8 Pam & Alan Christian  
Jane & John VanderWerf  
9 Linda & Curtis Jimerson  
16 Rebecca & Roger Ten Elshof  
17 Trudy & Larry Pasquale  
20 Katy & Gregg Mannell  
21 Liz & David Bayat

Tim & Megan Buckley  
Nancy & John Harrison  
Alice Anthony & Alex Iantuano  
28 Beverly & Steve McAdams  
31 Marci & Kelly Milligan

# Among Ourselves



*Above: Pink altar flowers and many well-wishers for Kay Jones' 97th birthday on May 28, 2023. Photo credit: Priscilla Wolfram.*

## **Thank You From Pastor Andrew & Trevor**

Dear San Ramon Valley UMC Community,

Thank you everyone for the wonderful send-off on June 11! Thank you for the cake, cards, flowers, gifts, the kind words expressed, and all the love you have shown us this past year. Thank you to the members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) who organized our farewell and for all the support this past year. We leave SRVUMC with nothing but gratitude for our time here, and our prayers are with you all. Our prayers and well-wishes are with Pastor Kim in retirement and with Pastor Sam as you welcome him as your new lead pastor. Wishing everyone all the best in this new season!

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Andrew and Trevor



*Terry Bailey presents Pastor Andrew with a memory book at the June 11 farewell gathering. Trevor is between them.*



# Among Ourselves

## Health Concerns

Bob Brown

Liz Field

Kay Jones

Andy (Susan Madden's husband)

Kim Maddux-Perry

Judith (Debbie Byers' mother)

Barb McWilliams

Marti Sketchley

## Continued Prayers For

All those who live with long-term illness, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families, Shana Carroll, Joan Lee, Ann Schroeder.

We continue to pray for those in our community impacted by COVID-19 and recall that testing ourselves is caring for everyone. Please test if you are not feeling 100%.

## Our Christian Sympathy

To the Webb family as **Dave Webb** passed in June.

With the family of former member **Ariel Bohleen**, who recently passed.

With the family of former member **Gene Cole**, who recently passed.

## SRVUMC

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### Preschool Director

Christine Pezza (ext. 113)

### Office/HR Manager

Soledad Cuenco (ext 104)

### Accountant

Pritya Gupta

### Accounts Receivable Clerk

Susan Madden

### Office Administrator

Patsy Kyles

### Music Director

Rosalind Neisinger

### Organist

Nadia Blank-Koliha

### Messenger Editor

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### Director of Social Media and Online Ministries

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### Director of Recreational Ministry (ARC)

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