

The

Valley Messenger

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

Get Ready for the Advent Conspiracy!

Dear SRVUMC Family,

Happy December, and welcome to the Advent Season! I am so excited to share in my first Advent and Christmas with you! I know that what God has in store for us will be an amazing blessing all around! Already the church calendar is filling up with various concerts, gatherings, and programs. And for someone like me, it's all too easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of this holy-day season. My guess is that this may be a struggle for you as well.

Actually, there are many people—especially church people—who find themselves quite discouraged and empty post-Christmas. They spend weeks “getting ready for” Christmas but end up feeling like they missed it in the end. More importantly, many would confess that they experienced everything but Christ at Christmas. I've been there; done that.

This year, I want to invite you to a different way of experiencing Christmas, and therefore, truly celebrating Christ. Over the four Sundays of Advent and leading up to our Christmas Eve services, I will be preaching through a series that is based on a movement called, “The Advent Conspiracy: Getting Back to the True Meaning of Christmas.” You can learn more about the movement [here](#). The basic tenets of this series is to challenge followers of Jesus to:

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services

10 a.m.—Traditional Worship

12:30 p.m.—Korean Worship Service (Korean language, Pastor Jong Kim leads)

5 p.m.—Korean Christmas Eve Service (Korean language, Pastor Jong Kim leads)

8 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service

11 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service

December 2023

- 1 Get Ready for the Advent Conspiracy!
- 2-3 Announcements
- 4-7 Spiritual Growth
- 8-11 Our Shared Story
- 12-13 Out Into the World
- 14 Christmas Offering
- 15 Youthful Energy/Family

- 16 Celebrations
- 18 Among Ourselves

Next Issue: January 2024

Have something you'd like included in next month's *Messenger*? Please submit your articles to Lisa Jancarik at media@srvumc.org by **December 15, 2023**.

Announcements

Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All. It's really an effort to make Christmas more about Jesus and less about us, more about worship and less about consumption.

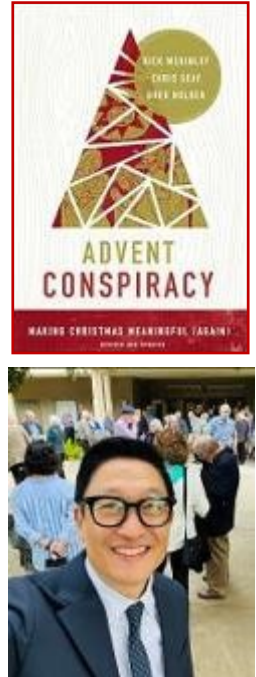
Connected to this series, we will have an opportunity for us to be a part of a generous and loving undertaking that I believe will honor Jesus for Christmas. The Missions Committee has decided to set a \$10,000 goal for our December Christmas Offering that will be used to support the Nayeji Family, a refugee family of four from Afghanistan who has settled in the Danville area (*See Page 16 for more details*). The offering will be used to purchase a much-needed car for this family. There are already several of our church members who are connected to the family and helping with some of their daily and practical needs. I believe in the kindness and generosity of our community that will rise to the occasion this month. Let's make Christmas meaningful again, friends. Let's focus on the things that will truly bring glory to Jesus. Let's get ready for the "Advent Conspiracy..."

P. Sam | syun@srvumc.org

Instagram: @revyunique

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/revyunique>

P.S. Groups and individuals are encouraged to study *The Advent Conspiracy* book as an accompaniment to the sermon series. You can purchase the book on Amazon [here](#).



Instagram and YouTube Reach New Heights While Facebook Quiets Down

By Sarah Stribling

Over the past few months, this report has focused on church communications in general rather than social media statistics, so this report will fill this gap. Facebook is simmering down in terms of the heady heights it reached three months ago as the church said "Hello" to Pastor Sam and returned from summer vacation. Our reach has decreased by 38% from the previous 90 days. This sounds dour, but another way of understanding this is to remember that we were reaching 38% more during June and July when the church was saying "Goodbye" to Pastor Kim and "Hello" to Pastor Sam. It only makes sense that posts during these emotional months would reach more people. Visits to our Facebook page are down 16% from the past 90 days.

During the past three months, our Instagram material has reached a whopping 465 accounts! Of

Announcements

these 465 accounts, 15 are followers and 450 are not. This writer suspects that our Instagram account lacks followers because Instagram users tend to trend younger than our current church demographics. Congregants are more likely to use Facebook rather than Instagram. Content on Instagram is either a post or a short form video known as a “reel.” In terms of reach, our reels are more likely to be viewed by non-followers. This is to be expected because the reels algorithm is specifically designed to reach people who do not follow our account. On the other hand, followers are more likely to see our posts. Our most popular content on Instagram is our reels, 30- to 45-second sermon excerpts. One of our reels reached 209 people. With the hopes of making our content even more popular, this writer added forced captions on the reels so that people can view the video without needing to turn on the sound. The forced captions have only been in use for four weeks, so it is too early to evaluate their efficacy.

Our YouTube channel continues to reach ever greater heights. The channel gained 47 new subscribers over the past 90 days an increase of 96%. It received 7.4K views over the past 90 days, an astounding increase of 42%. One of our reels in October reached a record 1100+ views! This writer attributes the title and relevant tags that spoke to the audience’s heartfelt needs as the reason for the reel’s success. Special music excerpts are part of the most popular videos over the past three months. The “Everybody Hurts” anthem went the equivalent of “church viral,” attaining nearly 500 views.



People can sign up for various church events with Church Center. Michelle Cooke and this writer have been working with Nancy Garnick so that women can register online for the Women’s Retreat. This important goal has been achieved, and currently eight people have signed up for the event online. People can also sign up online for the Women’s Christmas Tea and several other events.

This writer now oversees the Friday Memo and is especially grateful to Laura for training me how best to use the software.

This report was originally filed as the Church Council report from the director of social media in the November meeting. Monthly Church Council meetings are held online and are open to all members of the church. Check the [church calendar](#) for dates and times.



Left: YouTube report shows significantly increased viewership during a 90-day span. The big spike represents the 1100+ viewership reel.

Announcements

CHRISTMAS with the *Chorale*

Directed by: Bruce Koliha
Accompanied by: Nadia Koliha

Limited tickets available at the door.

Sunday
DEC 3

4PM

Saturday
DEC 9

Longest Night Lay Worship Service

December 21, 7 p.m.

Fireside Room

We gather on the darkest night of the year, aware that sometimes this long, cold night matches how you are feeling this year. Perhaps the loss of a loved one makes this year different; perhaps the forced cheer of the season wears you down; perhaps you just crave a calm place to catch your breath. You are not alone. Step away for a half hour and absorb this quiet lay service.



This year, the Longest Night worship service is coordinated by SRVUMC's Stephen Ministers. Stephen ministers are lay members who provide a listening ear and a hand to hold when carrying an especially heavy load. ***Ask Al Banisch or Pastor Sam for more information about one-on-one, Christ-centered care now or throughout the year.***



Spiritual Growth

Jesus in America Adult Sunday School Series **Sundays, January 2 Through March 31 at 9 to 9:50 a.m.** **In-person or Online**

He's back! Dave Coombs brings us another adult Sunday school series with plenty of food for thought and discussion. The class will trace the evolution of Christianity in North America, focusing on the colonies and then the United States.

The classes are as follows:

- Early Proselytizing (16th and 17th Centuries)
- Reformation in the New World (17th and 18th Centuries)
- Revolutionary War and its Aftermath (18th Century)
- The Fire Within (Early 19th Century)
- Slavery and Its Impacts (mid-19th Century)
- Post Civil War and the Rise of Spiritualism (Late 19th Century)
- Rise of Fundamentalism (Late 19th and Early 20th Century)
- Evangelical Movement (20th Century)
- Renewal of the Search for the Historical Jesus (20th Century)
- Roe v Wade and the Increase of Conflict in the Christian Community (Current)



The schedule has two weeks without a class. **Contact Dave Coombs at dfcassoc@comcast.net with questions.**

Looking for the Family Ministries Page This Month?

We don't have one for December, but that doesn't mean there isn't plenty going on! Check out the calendar on Page 17 or [Youth and Family Ministries](#) on our website.

Nursery Through Grade 5 Sunday School

Classes begin at 10 a.m.

- Tot Spot for infants through age four is temporarily meeting in Wesley Center Room 102, across from the preschool building.
- TK through grade five upstairs in Wesley Center Room 203.

Special thanks to our Sunday School volunteers for all their work.

Spiritual Growth

Annual Craft Fair “Harvests” Record Numbers!

By Shannon Dever

This year’s Harvest Festival Craft Fair—our fourteenth annual—was a surprise success. Very few crafters had signed up, so Pastor Sam offered me the opportunity to recruit from the pulpit. Almost immediately, another six crafters requested to join us. There were still only twelve crafters, compared to our pre-Covid number of twenty-four, but we were able to spread out and transform Wesley Center into a holiday wonderland. On the day of the Harvest Festival, we had a record number of visitors who enjoyed perusing our fine crafts and dining on a delicious lunch of homemade soup, salad, and a wide variety of homemade pies donated by church members. The youth bake sale raised more money than ever before, thanks to the dogged determination of the youth who participated. Thanks to food sales, baked goods, and crafter donations, we raised approximately \$2800 for various church-supported mission projects! Special thanks to Nancy Benvenuto and Anita Weir Ball and their team for the delicious offerings in our Harvest Café; to Justin Byers and youth helpers for handling the bake sale; and for all-day general helpers HollyAnn Melton, Marilyn Clarke and others. The extra efforts of all these people made this year’s Harvest Festival happen.



Shannon Dever with her range of wares.

I’m hanging up my hat as chair of the Harvest Festival. It has been a labor of love to create a place for our church members to display their talents and creativity and to raise funds for SRVUMC missions at the same time. Our craft fair is also an opportunity to offer our community a warm welcome to our church home. If you are interested in learning more about hosting the Harvest Festival next year, I’d be happy to talk to you about it.



Left: Lisa Laird brings holiday spirit and some hand-crafted jewelry. (Credit: Sarah Stribling)



Right: Paul Kuelz and his famous vanilla caramels. Editor vouches for the pretzel and chocolate variety.

Spiritual Growth

UMeUs December and January Schedule: Holiday Adjustments!

Combined Thanksgiving and Christmas Celebration. Tuesday, December 5, Noon, Wesley Center. All are welcome! We will serve up a traditional holiday feast with appetizers, roasted turkey, home-made stuffing and gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, green beans and pumpkin pie for dessert. Yum! If you are not a regular attendee, then we're so happy you are joining us! Please call the office to RSVP. If you are a regular, then you're good! We'll have entertainment too!

Potluck and Presentation. Tuesday, January 2, Noon, Wesley Center. Meet the Afghan refugee family.

Lunch With Friends. Tuesday, January 16, Noon, Wesley Center. Third Tuesday of the month, as usual.



Methodist Women's Christmas Tea Is Back!

December 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wesley Center

Sponsor a table! You decorate and invite six friends, and leave two spots open for walk-in guests. Everyone should bring a dish to share: fruit or vegetable, appetizer, lunch/tea item, or dessert/sweets. **Sign up at [Church Center](#)!**

Contact Nancy Benvenuto with questions 925-784-1955 or email her at Nancy@NancyBenvenuto.com. To coordinate food, contact Nancy Banisch at 303-906-2588 or email NancyBanisch@comcast.net.



UMeUs Field Trip!

Ruth Bancroft Garden's "Garden of D'Lights"

December 3, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join the UMeUs field trip to take in the "Garden of D'Lights"! Bancroft describes it as a "dazzling sculptural art show" among three acres of cacti, succulents and other plants. Look for local artists' installations on this self-guided, pet-friendly tour. Rain or shine! Tickets \$30. Located at 1552 Bancroft Rd, Walnut Creek **Contact Jerry Ricker with questions.** **Sign up at [Church Center](#)!**



Spiritual Growth



Between the Bookends



The Library Committee wants to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. You will find some Christmas books on the book cart for your browsing. Enjoy the holidays, and look forward to some new books in January.

Once again we ask that all readers please look for these books which have been taken without **signing** and **leaving** their library cards.

Honey Bus

Only Woman in the Room

How It All Began

Paris Architect

Summer Rental

Ordinary Grace



Don't risk that lump of coal!
"Nice" readers sign the cards in the back cover and deposit them in the box on the book cart.

Book Club

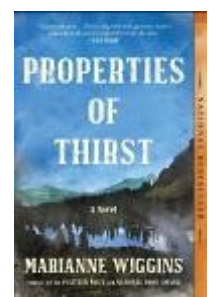
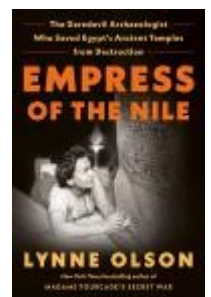
Upcoming Books and Discussion Dates Church Library

The Book Club will not meet in December. Please note also that the January meeting is scheduled for the second Monday rather than the third Monday to avoid conflicting with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

January 8: Lynne Olson. *Empress of the Nile*. The story of a determined Egyptologist who helped preserve many ancient structures when the Aswan Dam was being constructed. **Discussion leader Linda Jimerson.**

February 19: Marianne Wiggins. *Properties of Thirst*. A California tale about the time before WWII. Japanese internment camps are being built and water use is also being debated by Northern and Southern California. This historical fiction book gives us a new lens on history.

Contact [Jenny Swanson](#) with your questions.



Our Shared Story

Nativity Details

By Lisa Jancarik

When a group from our church traveled to the Holy Land in the spring of 1998, an event took place one evening that has enriched us all over the years. Millie Loper (mother to Shannon Dever), a member of the Worship Committee, asked a shop owner about the possibility of ordering a large-scale nativity set. Further conversation led to a special invitation to return to the shop that evening to meet a

second-generation wood carver, George. Millie and Ollie went with Pastor Emeritus John Corson and his wife, Sylvia, to talk more with George, a Palestinian Christian living in Bethlehem, a plan for three carved figures emerged. The Nativity set would be crafted from olive wood from the Mount of Olives. The Holy Family was given by Bob and Linda Sada. The angel came along much later, a gift from the Alexander family.

These figures show an especially high degree of detail and craftsmanship. Figures have unique facial expressions and textured clothing or animal skins, something we can't appreciate fully without a close



Top: Holy Family group with the angel (donated later). Bottom: Portrait details of Joseph, Christ Child and Mary.

Our Shared Story

approach. The artist has made Joseph's staff a separate piece from the right hand holding it, and the angel is meant to be suspended and has a hook in her back to facilitate her flight. From a purely artistic perspective, the adult human figures are especially tall and slim, a way to visually impart the idea of grace.

Notice the robust and healthy-looking Infant Jesus resting in a peaceful aspect of prayer. According to Shannon Dever, her mother asked George to make Jesus resemble his own new baby. (In some Medieval and Renaissance art, Jesus is depicted as a rigid-looking small man rather than an infant.) I love that Shannon's mom talked with the artist enough to know about his new baby, and that moment of friendly conversation persists now in Jesus' dimpled knees.

Like Jesus, Mary folds her hands, but she is looking at us, a way to include us in the scene. The artist has given her a youthful face and a high forehead. In spite of her circumstances, she also looks peaceful, even hopeful. Joseph attends them, but in his prayer, he looks to the heavens with a somewhat more careworn affect. Mary and Joseph are positioned on matching flowers, a subtle hint to group them together visually.

The shepherd with the lamb on his shoulders was given by Millie and Ollie Loper in honor of their grandchildren, Ashely and Kyle Dever, Leigh, Gregory and Julia Loper. The shepherds and wise men joined the set later, but none of them has the look of an afterthought. The shepherds impress me as living a much more rough-and-tumble lifestyle than the figures carved from wood with a more even grain. I like to imagine that the slight imperfections in the grain of their wood translate to scars and bruises. The one with the pipe has a head of curly hair and no beard, implying that he



Top: Shepherd group. Bottom: Wise men group.

Our Shared Story



Top: Portrait details for each shepherd. The middle man has a small knot on his forehead. Middle: Animal group. Notice the smooth coats of the cow and donkey versus the wool of the sheep up close. Bottom: Detail of the camel, whose coat isn't quite woolly and isn't quite smooth, either.

Our Shared Story

is much younger than the other two. Unlike Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men are gazing straight ahead at the wonder before them. Perhaps the piper in the group is playing something to fill the silence. The other two look too awestruck to say anything.

As I look at the wise men, I wonder...who was carrying what? After some google trolling, I have a guess. Looking below, I think the left wise man may bear the gold in his chest. The middle wise man has the myrrh, and the wise man on the right has the chunks of frankincense in his basket. Not only are the wise men dressed differently from the poor shepherds, they are also dressed differently from one another to imply that they come from different cultures. The “frankincense” wise man styles his beard with two points, and his long robe has a very delicate design to suggest its print. The “myrrh” wise man wears a turban. These men are serious ambassadors to a king: None of them is making funny face or playing with baby feet.

The animals also receive detailed attention from the artist, but I have a soft spot for the camel. Notice her elaborate saddle and the curl in her coat. I get the sense that she is normally a bit cantankerous, but even she is drawing peace from the moment. If she can find peace in a season that sometimes makes me crabby, then I guess I can, too.

Regrettably, I don't have complete information about who donated which pieces. Please excuse errors and oversights, and corrections are welcome. Thanks to the altar guild for their efforts throughout the year and especially to Ginny Ferreira for her patience and assistance with this photo project. Please find a moment to appreciate our nativity set without handling it.



Wise men, left to right: Gold, myrrh, frankincense. At least, that's what I think after comparing them to art I find online.

Our Shared Story

Serve Dinner at Trinity Center

First Date is Friday, January 19, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

1888 Trinity Avenue

SRVUMC volunteers provide and serve a hot meal and then clean up after thirty or so diners. Dinner is served at Trinity Center (1888 Trinity Avenue) at 5:30 p.m. Ask if your group may reserve the church kitchen beginning at 3 p.m., with advanced confirmation. Register a team of between two and six people through Church Center. **Contact Peggy Crawford or Dick Lam with questions. Sign up for any of these dates below:**



- Friday, January 19
- Friday, January 26
- Friday, February 2
- Friday, February 9
- Friday, February 16
- Friday, February 23
- Friday, March 1
- Friday, March 8



Please note that each date has its own separate instance on the [Church Center Registrations](#) page under the Trinity Center icon.

2024 SRVUMC Women's Retreat

February 2 to 4

Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz

Pastor Dan Sturdivant leads a retreat with the theme "JOY Through the Back Door."

Our friend and frequent guest pastor Dan says, "The most profound and enduring joy any of us are likely to find arrives through our failures, losses, disappointments; in short, through grief. We can't get there, however, without trusted companions to help us see our lives clearly." We hope you'll join us in 2024. **Contact Nancy Garnick, Linda Jimerson, Linda Albertoni Engman, or Priscilla Wolfram for more information.**



Out Into the World



Monument Crisis Center Canned Food Drive

December 1 Through December 17

Narthex and Wesley Center

SRVUMC community, please help the Monument Crisis Center this holiday season. We will be collecting canned items (no glass, please).

- Tuna, Sardines or Chicken
- Low-Sodium Canned Vegetables
- Canned Beans
- Low-sodium Canned Soups
- Canned Fruit

“New and Old, Silver and Gold” Annual Charity Concert

Saturday, December 2, 5 p.m.

Sanctuary

Vocalist Elizabeth Hunter Ashley and pianist Melinda Morse will present the annual concert benefiting christmasforeveryone.com. This year's theme will feature Melinda's 2023 arrangements of famous Chopin Nocturnes overlaid with well-known 1800s Christmas carols. In addition, we are delighted to include monologues by two award-winning speakers from Amador Valley Toastmasters, Evelyn Lee and Dr. James Volponi. Plus, of course, Elizabeth will enthrall us with her beautiful voice on all-time popular music as well as historic Handel selections. Please join us as we pioneer both new and old in our holiday concert gift. ***The concert is free to all. A collection box will be available for donations toward christmasforeveryone.com in the Narthex. A \$20 per family donation is suggested but not required.*** Each person receives free transport to a traditional Christmas dinner with entertainment. Clients receive a new gift and some clothing. Christmas For Everyone is a volunteer organization serving Contra Costa County. Its 38-year mission is to make sure no one spends Christmas alone or in need.



Out Into the World

Angel Tree 2023 Through December 3 Narthex Drop-off



This year our community has come together to brighten the Christmas of many! We are providing gifts to ten young ladies from Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services, fifteen children from Fred Finch Youth Center, and twenty-five individuals from Hope Solutions, Trinity Center homeless, and clients at STAND!

By now you have probably selected a gift, shopped and attached the label to the gift—but make sure it's **unwrapped**! Thank you to all who have already dropped off gifts. We welcome deliveries of gifts to the church at our church service. Any last-minute purchases or deliveries need to be dropped off at the church office by Tuesday December 5. If you need one of us to pick up your gift and deliver it to the church, please email or call one of us (check the directory for personal information.)

We have several "Angel Shoppers" ready to shop on your behalf if you decide to make a monetary donation. We are still in need of monetary donations to purchase gifts that have not been selected. To make an online donation through [Church Center](#) on the Giving page, use the pull-down menu (where it says "General Operating") and select "Angel Tree."

To mail a check, put "**Angel Tree**" in the memo line, and send to:

SRVUMC
ATTN: Angel Tree
902 Danville Blvd.
Alamo, CA

Wishing everyone good health, peace, love and happiness during this season of Advent.

Beth McClelland, Linda Green, Nancy Garnick



**Angel Trees in the Narthex,
ready for your generosity.
Don't forget that gifts must be
unwrapped!**



HOPE
SOLUTIONS



STAND!
For Families Free of Violence™

Communion

The Nayebi Family Settles in for a Second Chance

This month's Communion offering supports our Afghan friends, the Nayebi family, as their work in building a life in America continues. Our Missions Committee has a goal of raising enough money for the Nayebi family to buy a used family car, with a target figure of \$10,000. Owning a family car will facilitate grocery shopping, work, school and extracurricular activities.

Amin and Laila continue to look for employment. Amin has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Avicenna University in Kabul. Amin has appeared on Afghan national television twelve times in the course of his career, and he speaks multiple languages. Most recently, he worked in Afghanistan as Director of Scout Program Activities and Adult Leadership Training for Seattle-based nonprofit PAR-SA, Inc. That role called upon him to structure and implement activities for 10,000 youth throughout Afghanistan. He coordinated these activities with the Ministry of Education and the U.S. Embassy until the Taliban forced the organization to suspend its operations. Laila, too, speaks English and has been applying for work.

Their son, Basit (8) and their daughter, Yasna (4), are adjusting to life in California. Yasna has been enrolled in our preschool. Both children are learning English quickly. The United Methodist Preschool is pleased to announce that the scholarship fund set up to honor Pastor Kim Risedorph's retirement will allow Yasna to attend the preschool at no cost to the family. *If you are interested in helping in other ways besides our Christmas offering, please contact [Sherri Fraser](#), [Lucinda Huffaker](#), or [Lyn Arscott](#). Transportation volunteers are welcome, and gift cards for food and clothing are always helpful.*



Yasna Needs a Ride to Our UMC Preschool

We are happy to provide a place for Amin and Laila's daughter in our preschool, but she does need someone to drive her to and from the school.

- Drivers must have a SafeGatherings certification and a carseat.
- Two adults must be in the car.



Please review the available dates and [sign up](#) at Church Center. **Contact Lucinda Huffaker with your questions.**

The Nayebi family in California, where they are living with their sponsor, Bill Small of Danville.



Youthful Energy

Christmas Preschool Performance

Wednesday, December 20, 9:30 a.m.

Sanctuary

The month of December brings many exciting events, and we are especially looking forward to our annual Preschool Christmas Performance. Ms. Beth, our fabulous music teacher, will be leading our pre-K and 3's classes for a holiday music performance that is sure to delight! Please come join us!

Holiday Wishes and Gratitude for Our Church Family!

During this time of year, we would like to acknowledge how grateful we are to our United Methodist family. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by engaged families; delightful, inquisitive children; incredibly dedicated teachers; a devoted Preschool Commission; and a supportive, dynamic pastor. Our beloved preschool is fortunate to have such a wonderful extended family. We appreciate all the amazing people who help keep our school thriving!

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday filled with family, friends, peace and comfort.

Warm regards,

Christine Pezza

Director of United Methodist Preschool

Nursery Through Grade 5 Sunday School

Classes begin at 10 a.m.

- Tot Spot for infants through age four is temporarily meeting in Wesley Center Room 102, across from the preschool building.
- TK through grade five upstairs in Wesley Center Room 203.

Special thanks to our Sunday School volunteers for all their work.

Youth and Family December Calendar

3—Youth Dinner Connection, 5 p.m., middle and high school, Youth Room.

6, 13, 20, 27—Music Makers, 3 p.m.

10, 17, 31—Youth meetings in Youth Room. High school, 4 p.m.; middle school, 5 p.m.

20—Preschool Christmas Performance, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary.

Celebrations

Birthdays

1 David Hagebush Liz Hirsch	12 Dewey Reikofski 13 Olivia Bybel Amanda Lang Robbie Rigolfi, Jr. Deborah Robinson	Flo Spanier (102) 23 Gayle Jackson Angela Norton 24 Gordon Pierce 25 Quentin Alexander 26 Katie Merchant Sherry More'
2 Wade Bickel Madison More' Anita Weir-Ball	14 Ivan Kerr Annette Whiting	29 George Hawk 30 Phyllis Meyer Elise Doyle Susan Rideout 31 Warren McGuffin
3 Jeff Lang Jane Roath	15 Jim Braden 17 Teresa Christensen Helen Sinclair 18 Carol Arabian Anne Kuelz 19 Teresa Stroin 21 Kate Steffy Kerri Wakefield 22 HollyAnn Melton	
5 Allison Kelly 7 Niles Bybel Sketch Sketchley Bailee Smallwood		
9 Kirsten Choy Alison Kuelz Epi Vazquez		
10 Wendi Cerda Karen Steffy		

Anniversaries

1 Pam & Bob Dominici (57)	27 Barbara & Tom Valdriz
9 Renée & Doug Beck	28 Sheryl & Ivan Kerr (61)
18 Laura & Tom Roy	29 Eleanor & Fred Toney (62)
21 Shelley & Bill Lettis	



Does the Newsletter Get Your Celebration Wrong, Year After Year?

The Celebrations page information comes from the Church Center online application. The best way to make sure we're wishing you a happy birthday or anniversary at the right time is to update your information. Someone in the office will help you—or you can do it yourself, online!



Among Ourselves

Health Concerns

Kay Jones

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, Andy (Susan Madden's husband).

Our Christian Sympathy

To the family of **Bob Brown**. Bob's memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, at 1 p.m.

Longest Night Service December 21, 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This short lay service welcomes anyone who needs a pause to acknowledge the grief, sadness or sense of isolation they may be feeling during this season. The time also offers a quiet moment to step back from overstimulation that sometimes comes with the season. This year, SRVUMC's Stephen Ministers arrange the service.

SRVUMC

902 Danville Blvd • Alamo, CA 94507

Office Hours: 9 a.m.-12, 1-4:30 p.m.

Phone (925) 837-5243 • Fax (925) 837-7263 • www.srvumc.org

Ministers EVERYONE • Lead Pastor Sam Yun (ext. 107)

Preschool Director

Christine Pezza (ext. 113)

Office/HR Manager

Laura Roy (ext 104)

Director of Facilities and A/V

Sam Hawk

Accountant

Priya Gupta

Accounts Payable/Payroll

Susan Madden

Accounts Receivable

Michelle Cooke

Music Director

Jeffrey Howe

Office Administrator

Patsy Kyles

Organist

Nadia Koliha

Messenger Editor

Lisa Jancarik

Director of Social Media and Online Ministries

Sarah Stribling