



SAN RAMON VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2025

THE VALLEY MESSENGER.

A publication of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

Pursing a life with God and a life with each other by following Jesus,
thriving in community, and healing the world.



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A GREAT OPPORTUNITY NOT TO MISS!

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." ~ Matthew 28:8-10

Spring is in the air, and with it comes one of the most significant and joyous celebrations of the Christian faith—Holy Week and Easter! At San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, we are preparing for an extraordinary time of worship, reflection, and celebration, and we don't want you to just mark your calendars—we want you to start thinking and praying about who you can invite to share in the hope of Easter with us.

Holy Week is more than a series of services; it is a spiritual journey that takes us from the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to the deep sorrow of the crucifixion and, ultimately, to the joy of resurrection morning. Each service offers a unique opportunity to connect with the heart of the Easter story:

- **Palm Sunday – April 13 at 10AM**

Join us as we wave palm branches and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This service sets the stage for the events of Holy Week, reminding us of both the hope and the sacrifice that lie ahead.

- **Maundy Thursday – April 17 at 7PM**

Led by our Chancel Choir, this service will include Holy Communion as we reflect on the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love one another. It's a moving time of worship that prepares our hearts for Good Friday.

- **Good Friday – April 18 at 7PM**

Experience the depth of Jesus' sacrifice in a powerful service led by our Living Water Band. On this somber night, we gather to remember Christ's crucifixion and what it means for us today.

- **Easter Sunday – April 20**

The celebration of Christ's resurrection begins early! We invite you to:

- o **Sunrise Service at 6:30AM** – A beautiful, intimate gathering to greet the dawn with the Good News of the Resurrection.

- o **Morning Services at 9AM & 11AM**
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– Vibrant worship celebrations featuring inspiring music and an uplifting Easter message.

o **Easter Egg Hunt (between morning services)** – A joyful time for our kids to celebrate with a fun-filled egg hunt! There will also be special programming during the services for children.

These are more than just church events—they are an invitation to transformation. Research shows that people are highly receptive to attending church on Easter when personally invited. In fact, studies indicate that 82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited by a friend or family member (Lifeway Research). Imagine what could happen if we all reached out to someone in need of hope this season!

Our church has been intentionally preparing to reach new people in this season of renewal. With the launch of our new brand—complete with a fresh logo, updated visuals, a brand-new website, and strategic marketing initiatives—we are stepping boldly into the future. By the way, doesn't this newly designed issue of The Valley Messenger look awesome?! (Be sure to read the article later in this issue about our full rebrand and website launch.)

Special thanks to our Director of Communications, Sarah Stribling, who has done such a great job in leading this massive project in partnership with our design agency, SLAM MEDIA LAB. You can read more about gifted SLAM team later in this issue as well.

I often wonder—what if the first witnesses of the empty tomb, the women who discovered Jesus had risen (Matthew 28:1-10), had kept the news to themselves? Would we be celebrating Easter today in the way we do? Their boldness in sharing the Good News is the very reason we know of Christ's resurrection. Let's take our cue from these first evangelists and be bearers of that same Good News to those around us.

In a world where so many are searching for hope, let's not keep the greatest message of all time to ourselves. This is our moment to invite, to share, and to celebrate together. It's going to be an amazing Easter at San Ramon Valley UMC—don't miss it, and don't let your friends and family miss it either!

With Great Hope & Expectation,
P. Sam | syun@srvumc.org

A FRESH LOOK WITH A STRONGER MESSAGE.

By Sarah Stribling & Pastor Sam Yun

Over the past year, SRVUMC has been on a strategic journey to refine our identity, aligning with our new vision statement: to pursue a life with God and a life with each other by following Jesus, thriving in community, and healing the world. A key step in this process has been developing a new logo and website—symbols that better represent who we are and where we’re headed.

Why a New Logo?

The United Methodist Church (UMC) cross and flames logo has long been a recognizable symbol, but for SRVUMC, it didn’t fully capture our unique identity or mission. Many churchgoers—even longtime members—struggled to explain its meaning, and for newcomers, it offered little connection to our local community. Additionally, in today’s cultural context, a burning cross can evoke painful historical associations, making it a less inclusive representation of our church’s commitment to inspiration and impact.

With these considerations in mind, we partnered with Slam Media Lab to design a logo that honors our Methodist roots while making a

distinct statement about SRVUMC. The result is a symbol that still features a cross but incorporates meaningful elements of our local landscape: the rolling hills of the Tri-Valley, Mt. Diablo, and a sun rising into a bright blue sky—reflecting our vibrant, welcoming, and mission-driven community.

A Website That Reflects Who We Are

Our branding refresh extended beyond the logo to a much-needed website overhaul. The old site, untouched (**continued on next page**)



BRANDING AT SRVUMC

(continued from previous page) for 15 years, had become outdated in both design and functionality. Its cluttered homepage and stark white background didn't reflect the warmth of our faith community, and it wasn't effectively reaching newcomers.

The new website now aligns visually with our refreshed identity. Soft cream and navy tones replace the sterile white background, and a simplified homepage highlights our core values—Inclusion, Inspiration, and Impact—alongside an invitation to engage in worship. Navigation has also been restructured to make it easier for visitors to explore who we are and how they can get involved.

From the beginning, this rebranding process has been about more than just aesthetics—it's been about clarity, connection, and growth. With a new logo and website, we are better positioned to welcome new people into our church family and live out our mission in bold, visible ways. We're grateful for the work of Slam Media and look forward to sharing this next chapter with our congregation and community. We are also grateful for the ongoing support and feedback

from our Church Council and select representatives of our community who have been instrumental in getting us to where we are at today. This launch is taking place just in time to leverage the great opportunity of the Easter season that is upon us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us.

Rebranding
isn't just about
aesthetics, it's
about clarity,
connection,
and growth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN THE GATHERING

APRIL 6.

The Gathering is our monthly contemporary worship experience, grounded in a simple yet powerful purpose: to gather together as a community and seek God's blessings. Each service is creatively centered around a unique theme, featuring inspiring music, a heartfelt message, and the celebration of communion at Jesus' table. We also extend the fellowship to a shared meal that nourishes both body and soul.

The next Gathering will be **April 6th at 5PM** in Wesley Center.

Join us for a pre-Easter Easter celebration!

Scan the QR code below to donate to The Gathering fund!



The Gathering band plays contemporary worship music at a recent worship service.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAN RAMON VALLEY CHORALE CONCERT.

The San Ramon Valley Chorale is delighted to announce its upcoming spring concert, "Postcards to Home," featuring a diverse selection of music from around the world. The concerts will be **April 26th and 27th at 4PM** in the sanctuary. This concert offers an opportunity to be an armchair traveler as the choir performs pieces from England, Italy, Russia, Ireland, Germany, Haiti, France, Venezuela, and Hawaii. A highlight of the program is "Remembering We're Alive," a composition commissioned by the Chorale from one of its own members, the esteemed composer Martin Rokeach. The Chorale hopes you will join them on this musical journey, designed to evoke both smiles and tears.

Tickets available [here](https://www.srvchorale.com) or please visit www.srvchorale.com.

The San Ramon Valley Chorale is directed by Bruce Koliha and accompanied by our very own Nadia Blank. This photo is from last year's spring concert.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SRVUMC MOSAIC CROSS HAS A NEW HOME.

By Gary Swanson

A Celebration of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church's 50th Anniversary (2007) included the dedication of this mosaic art piece. Shannon Dever made a prototype for approval and then spent a summer creating this beautiful mosaic. (Carole Johnson, our historian extraordinaire, has the prototype in her yard.)

Boyd Hasik and Brian Roberts did the original woodwork and moved it from the Dever's backyard to the church by themselves! And then completed the installation in front of the administration building.

Time took its toll and the mosaic needed TLC. It was moved into the Tot Spot room and Shannon and Boyd replaced the wood back and then replaced and regROUTED the damaged tiles which required several hours of work.

The Memorial Garden seemed to be the best location for the mosaic this time. A group of creative people lead by Tom Roy created framing for the mosaic to mirror the existing woodwork in the garden; did the digging, setting concrete posts and all

that was required to house this large, heavy gift to our congregation. All of the time and materials were donated by the Roy's and others involved in this project.

We are thankful to have such a talented and willing bunch in our church including Boyd, Brian, Paul, Steve, Rob and anyone else who helped.

Shannon Dever made the mosaic cross to celebrate SRVUMC's 50th anniversary in 2007.



April 22, 2025

EARTH DAY



Announcements

EARTH CONNECT RETREAT APRIL 26.

There will be a retreat on April 26th at Windsor Community UMC. The aim of this retreat is to deepen participants' sense of connection with God's creation, reflect on our responsibility for creation together biblically/theologically, and to foster a sense of community around creation care and climate action.

Pastor Laurie of Windsor UMC will also be giving an orientation to the Sacred Ground project, an educational tool available on the free Otocast smartphone app, that she has been developing over the past couple of years.

You can learn more about that project by clicking [here](#) or visiting <https://www.windsorumc.com/events/earth-connect-retreat/>.

Follow the project on [this YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgF3Y-_8Nloe-p7nJBkE4Ug) (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgF3Y-_8Nloe-p7nJBkE4Ug), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sacredgroundca/) (<https://www.instagram.com/sacredgroundca/>) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groundsacred/) (<https://www.facebook.com/groundsacred/>) for daily inspiration.

Click [here](#) to register or visit <https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/ClimateJusticeMinistriesEarthConnectRetreat>.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

INTERVIEW WITH SLAM MEDIA LAB.

By Sarah Stribling

Slam Media Lab, a Bay Area local award-winning marketing and creative company, designed our new branding: the new church logo and website. Pastor Sam and Sarah have had the pleasure of working with Slam Media Lab Founder and CEO Silvia Li Sam and Design Partner designer Kyle Kazimour nearly every week since November 2024.

Pastor Sam and Sarah admire Slam Media's hands-on, collaborative approach and were impressed that Silvia and Kyle genuinely cared about the church's mission of reaching new people while staying true to SRVUMC's denominational roots.

Throughout the entire rebrand process, Slam Media went above and beyond Pastor Sam and Sarah's high expectations. Pastor Sam, Sarah, and the church leadership who provided feedback as the rebrand project progressed are thrilled to be able to share the new SRVUMC rebrand with the congregation and those outside the church.

A Thoughtful, Strategic Rebrand Process

One of the key aspects that impressed Pastor Sam and Sarah was Slam Media Lab's ability to adapt to **(continued on next page)**

SILVIA AND KYLE WORKED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN HERITAGE AND MODERNITY.

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SRVUMC's timeline while still delivering a high-quality work. From the initial consultation to the final brand rollout, Silvia and Kyle ensured that every milestone was met with efficiency, care, and a clear strategic direction.

As a boutique agency, Slam Media Lab provided direct access to the experts actually doing the work. Rather than being passed through multiple layers of account managers, Pastor Sam and Sarah worked directly with Silvia and Kyle throughout the process. Additionally, because Slam Media is local to the Bay Area, in-person meetings allowed for deeper discussions and a more fluid exchange of ideas.

A Unique Challenge: Modernizing a Church's Brand

While Slam Media has worked extensively with nonprofits, SRVUMC was the first church rebrand they took on. This required a unique approach—one that respected the church's deep faith traditions while ensuring the new identity felt fresh, inviting, and aligned with the needs of today's faith

communities.

As the rebranding process unfolded, Silvia and Kyle worked to strike the right balance between heritage and modernity. Their goal was to create a brand that resonates with both long-standing members and those exploring faith for the first time.

Silvia and Kyle's Expertise in Branding & Storytelling

Born and raised in Peru, Silvia was first exposed to branding, technology, and digital storytelling while attending USC in Los Angeles. She started a blog, writing about design, marketing, and tech, and began interviewing influential industry leaders. One of her interviews went viral overnight, reaching hundreds of thousands of people.

"That moment made me realize how powerful storytelling can be in reaching and engaging audiences," Silvia shares. She went on to lead digital strategy for a publication seen by millions, grow content that reached billions, and contribute to a TV show **(continued on next page)**

OUR CORE VALUES WERE THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL CREATIVE DECISIONS.

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produced by LeBron James. Before founding Slam Media Lab, Silvia worked with mission-driven organizations to build impactful brands and digital experiences.

Kyle has always been drawn to visual storytelling—from photography and documentary filmmaking to branding and digital design. Before joining Slam Media, he worked as a freelance photographer, content creator, and social media strategist.

"The common thread in all of my work has been storytelling—whether through photography, film, or branding," Kyle explains. "Branding, to me, is about capturing the essence of an organization and translating it into something visually compelling and strategically effective."

At Slam Media Lab, Silvia and Kyle have worked with nonprofits, startups, and established organizations, helping them craft brands that are both aesthetically powerful and strategically impactful. Their expertise in branding, design, and digital strategy ensures that organizations like SRVUMC can build a

brand that stands out, connects deeply with its audience, and grows with its mission.

Building a Cohesive and Purposeful Visual Identity

The rebrand began with an in-depth brand discovery process to define SRVUMC's values, target audiences, and long-term vision. Through these discussions, they used our three core values—Inclusion, Inspiration, and Impact—as the foundation for all creative **(continued on next page)**



THE NEW BRAND IS ROOTED IN TRADITION AND READY FOR THE FUTURE.

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decisions.

"We wanted the brand to feel inviting to new generations while ensuring that longtime church members still recognized and felt connected to SRVUMC," Silvia explains. "It was about striking a balance between tradition and a forward-thinking approach."

With this strong identity in place, Slam Media carefully crafted the new brand to resonate with two key audiences:

- Longtime churchgoers, ensuring familiarity and a sense of continuity.
- Newcomers exploring faith, offering a fresh, welcoming, and accessible experience.

This balance was reflected in every aspect of the branding—color choices, typography, logo design, and website functionality.

"We knew the visual identity needed to reflect both history and possibility," Kyle shares. "The typography, for example, is modern yet timeless—clean and approachable, but with enough presence to carry the weight

of SRVUMC's mission."

The final brand direction, recommended by Pastor Sam and Sarah to Church Council, successfully blends heritage with modernity. The color palette conveys warmth and community, while the website was designed to be fast, mobile-friendly, and intuitive, ensuring easy access for all.

"A church's digital presence is an extension of its welcome," Silvia notes. "It was important to create a website that wasn't just visually appealing, but actually made it easier for people to find information, engage with the community, and feel connected before they even step inside."

By weaving together SRVUMC's mission and modern design principles, Slam Media Lab built a brand that is both rooted in tradition and ready for the future.

A Rewarding Collaboration

For Silvia and Kyle, partnering with Pastor Sam, Sarah, and the SRVUMC leadership team was an incredibly fulfilling experience.

"The best branding projects happen when (continued on next page)

THIS CHURCH IS EMBRACING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FAITH COMMUNITY IN THE MODERN WORLD.

there's a clear vision and a willingness to embrace the creative process, and that's exactly what we had with SRVUMC," Silvia shares. "This wasn't just about a logo or website—it was about telling the church's story in a way that resonates today and for years to come."

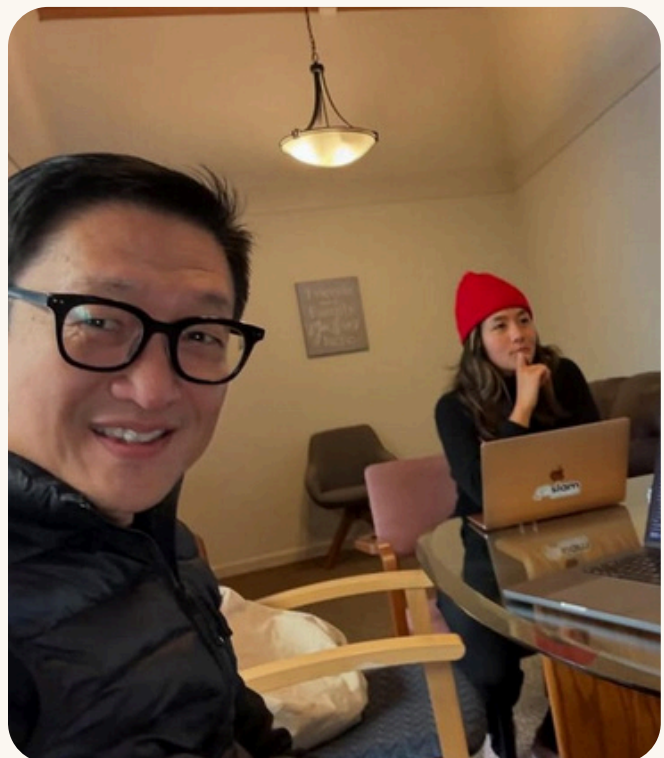
As this project comes to a close, Slam Media Lab is excited to see how SRVUMC continues to evolve and grow.

"This church is boldly embracing what it means to be a faith community in the modern world," says Silvia. "That's what made this project so special."

With the rebrand complete, Silvia and Kyle look forward to seeing the impact of this transformation.

"It's been an honor to work with Pastor Sam, Sarah, and the entire SRVUMC team," says Silvia. "We hope this new identity helps the church reach more people, build deeper connections, and continue making a meaningful impact."

In this candid shot, Pastor Sam takes a selfie with Silvia in the background.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

IN THE PEW: JULIE WOOD.

By Sarah Stribling

Born in Colorado, Julie Wood was raised in a small town called Portales in New Mexico. Music has always played a key role in her life. Her father was a college music professor, church organist, arranger, and handbell choir director. Her mother was a member of the church choir.

Julie was raised Methodist. Growing up, she participated in music programs at her local church as well as her high school band. Julie received her Master's degree in Technical Writing from a university in Las Cruces, NM. When she moved to Danville, she discovered SRVUMC and felt especially welcome.

She joined SRVUMC because she and her husband Peter Basmajian were looking for community and opportunities to build friendships. Thanks to its many small groups, SRVUMC provides the sense of community that Julie was seeking. "I was looking for a place where I feel like people know us and we know them," Julie asserts.

Julie is a self-proclaimed joiner. Since becoming a member of SRVUMC in

December 2024, Julie has joined a Life Group, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and trained as a liturgist. Coming from a musical family, Julie is especially excited to join the Carillon Bell Choir. In the future, she may join the Prayer Shawl group.

A fun fact about Julie is that one of her ancestors arrived in America on the Mayflower. Her ancestor somehow fell off the ship and was rescued. This historical incident was portrayed in "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" tv special. Julie also enjoys making mixed media journals and scrapbooking.



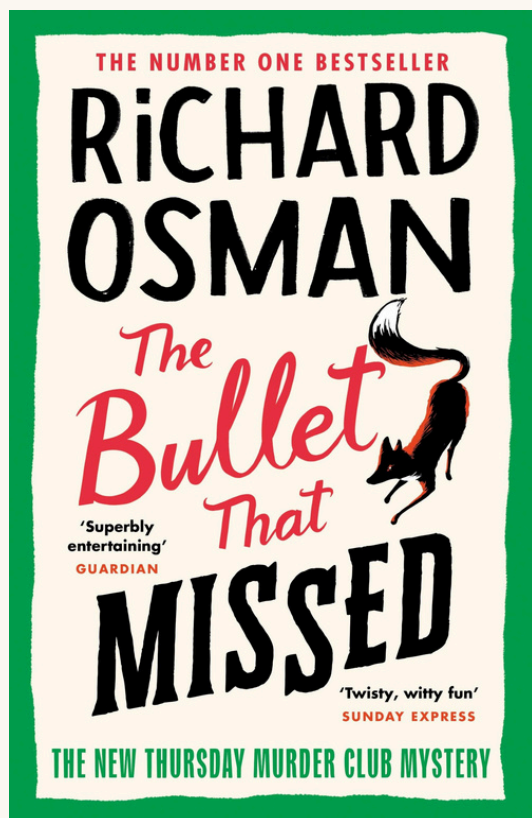
BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS.



SPRING INTO READING!

April showers are on their way! They'll be raining books now any day!

Baseball season is also upon us. Have a book ready to slide into while waiting for the game to start. Baseball books will be on the carts.



Osman, Richard. The Bullet That Missed. **Reviewed by Caroline Walsh.**

How can a book entitled The Bullet That Missed be heartwarming? Well, it can when written by Richard Osman, author of The Thursday Murder Club mysteries.

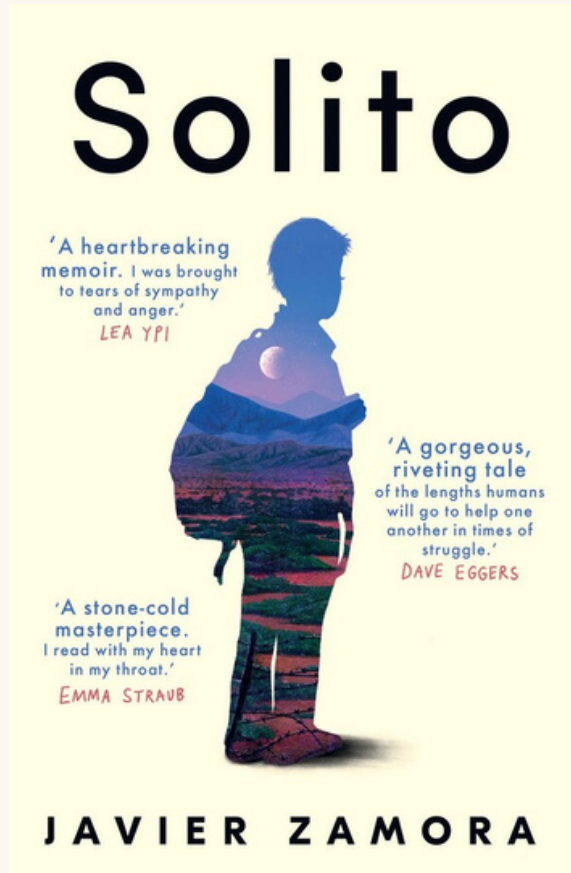
The four retirees, Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron and Ibrahim, were looking through files of unsolved murder cases and chose the one about Bethany Waites. Of course, that was chosen because Joyce wanted it. She had been watching a program called "South East Tonight" with host Mike Waghorn for years. His co-host was Bethany who suddenly disappeared. Her car was found at the bottom of Shakespeare Cliff, but her body was never located.

This would be intriguing enough, but there is another case arising with Elizabeth as the target! Is it because she is a former MI6 agent? A new resident, Bob, has come to Coopers Chase and has been asked to assist in aiding Elizabeth. Along with his excellent knowledge of computers, does he have sleuthing skills as well?

The reader of this mystery will be intrigued by each person's involvement, no matter how big or small a part in attempting to put the pieces of this unsolved case together.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP.

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1 PM IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY.



NEXT BOOK SELECTION: SOLITO

On **April 21st**, we are reading a non-fiction book **Solito** by Javier Zamora. It is about a child traveling from El Salvador to the USA.

Click [here](https://www.amazon.com/Solito-Memoir-Javier-Zamora/dp/0593498062/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&sr=) to buy the book or go to [https://www.amazon.com/Solito-Memoir-Javier-Zamora/dp/0593498062/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&sr=.](https://www.amazon.com/Solito-Memoir-Javier-Zamora/dp/0593498062/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&sr=)

Contact [Jenny Swanson](mailto:jenny.swanson646@gmail.com) (jenny.swanson646@gmail.com) for more information.



Jerry Ricker will share some of his favorite photographs that he's taken over the years.

POTLUCK & PRESENTATION. TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST, 11:45AM, WESLEY CENTER

We've all enjoyed Jerry Ricker's wonderful photography both in correspondence and cards! Come hear his story and see some of his best photography. Please bring a dish to share or stop at the grocery store on your way over. We always have plenty of food. No foolin', it's your company we want!



Director of NextGen Ministries, Karen Hernandez presented at last month's UMEUS.

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH, NOON, WESLEY CENTER

Please join us for a lovely spring Easter Feast! Forget about deductions and refunds for a moment and enjoy glazed ham, strawberry green salad with honey vinaigrette, deviled eggs, Hawaiian sweet rolls, zucchini Easter soup, and carrot cake for dessert. No audits here- just great food and even better company!

MAY SCHEDULE

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, **May 6th for Potluck and Presentation** and Tuesday, **May 20th for Lunch with Friends.**

SMALL GROUPS PROVIDE WARM MEALS FOR COMMUNITY'S UNHOUSED.

By Peggy Crawford

Our church came forward again this year to serve evening meals to unhoused people at Trinity Center in their Warm Winter Nights overnight program. Seven different small groups cooked meals in our church kitchen, then transported the meals to Trinity Center to feed those individuals who were then able to spend a warm safe comfortable night there. Trinity Center provides counseling, mail and phone services, showers, laundry facilities, breakfast, and lunch to many unhoused individuals in our community on a daily basis.

Many thanks to all who participated.

**The Learning, Living,
Loving in Faith Together
(LIFT) group was one of
seven groups who
provided meals.**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WINTER NIGHTS.

By Nancy Garnick

Plans are progressing well for our church hosting several unhoused families in Wesley Center April 28 - May 12. Thanks very much to those of you who have already volunteered to help with kitchen management, meal prep, unloading and re-loading the truck with the clients' belongings, doing laundry, grocery shopping, and supervising the children. We still need volunteers in three areas:

1. Prepare and serve dinner Saturday, May 10 or breakfast Sunday, May 11.
2. Help with childcare/games/activities from 5:00-6:30PM weekdays, May 9, and possibly mornings, afternoons, and evenings on May 10 and 11. Note that it is our church policy that all volunteers working directly with children must have current Safe Gatherings training and be fingerprinted.
3. Run a Bingo game (we have all the supplies plus prizes) for all the families Friday evening the 9th, about 7:15-8:30PM.

If you have a special talent or activity for which you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to hear about it and fit you in the schedule!

Right now, there are 11 kids in the program, most of them ages 7 - 14, but that is subject to change as current families find housing and new ones are added. If you want to donate to help defray the cost of food supplies and other expenses, please write a check to the church (Winter Nights) or donate online here or visit <https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/winter-nights-shelter>.

Contact Kal Peters (kalteters@gmail.com) or Nancy Garnick (nancyogarnick@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer.



In this photo from a recent Winter Nights event, volunteers serve dinner to families.

OUT INTO THE WORLD

ACCLAIMED AUTHOR VISITS SRVUMC.

Last month, Brian McLaren, author of *Life After Doom*, launched the Lenten season at SRVUMC with a compelling lecture on climate justice, attracting more than 200 people from a wide range of professions and faiths. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this event so memorable!

Here are some photos from this meaningful event!



YOUTH SERVE AND CONFIRMATION BEGINS.

By Karen Hernandez

It is hard to believe that it's already April 1 and that I have been in this position as Director of Next Gen Ministries for 6 months! I have really enjoyed getting to know this church and growing into this position. They say most learning curves are a year for a new job, so I know there's more learning to be had and I am ready for it.

First, for Sunday School, I have been adding new and supplemental curriculum, as well as a new TV in the elementary school classroom that will allow for enhanced learning, including Veggie Tales videos that even at my age, still make me giggle. Also, we have added one new children's teacher which is fantastic! Erica, Debbie and Kim are our teachers for the children, and Laura, Nancy and Kathy are our dedicated youth teachers - all who show up every week, even when no kids or youth show up! I am so very appreciative of their efforts and dedication. We do still, however, need more teachers. My hope is that by the beginning of September, we have at least 2 more teachers for both the elementary aged kids and the youth. Please

consider teaching and do reach out if you have any questions or want to volunteer.

Justin and I have been working very hard on creating cohesiveness with the youth group. They are meeting regularly, and they have completed several service projects, including their phenomenal sandwich making efforts in February where they raised over \$2200 for a fundraiser for Southern California Fire Survivors! We have our schedule set through June, including **(continued on next page)**



(continued from previous page) more volunteer service opportunities, as well as some fun at Boomers in Livermore and Six Flags in June.

Confirmation began last month as well. The five confirmands have a spiritually filled nine-month journey ahead of them, with a solid United Methodist curriculum, visits to other faith communities, a service trip, the exploration of environmental theology and a family activity, interviews with church elders, and so much more! They already had their first holy site visit on March 15, to the San Ramon Valley Islamic Center, where they met with Sheikh Hassan and learned about Islam.

Upcoming events and activities include an Easter Egg Hunt in between services on April 20 and Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 21-25, 2025, 9:30AM-12:00PM.

Finally, I close with a favorite quote of mine from Carl Sandburg - "A child is God's opinion that the world must go on." May we continue to support our children in their Christian education and in their spiritual journey - creating a space where they grow and learn in our love and in the love of Christ.

**THE CONFIRMATION CLASS HAS A
SPIRITUALLY FILLED NINE-MONTH
JOURNEY AHEAD OF THEM.**

PRESCHOOL

LITTLE CHEFS, BIG LEARNING.



Each Wednesday our preschool offers an enrichment class. This month the children are enjoying a cooking session. The children are learning to follow a recipe, measure ingredients, make predictions about how ingredients can change, and they practice patience. Cooking with young children helps them to learn about collaboration and encourages creativity. Here are some pictures of our adorable chefs!



*Be sure to have a look at the bulletin board outside of Wesley Hall. One of our preschool teachers, Sue Kohles and Christine Pezza, Director of United Methodist Preschool, worked together to create a lovely display depicting our fabulous teachers and how they nurture our precious children.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Steve Brown
Julien Hansen **(91)**
- 2 Annette Warwick
- 4 Linda Green
Greg Lane
Joanne Van Bezey
Jane McGuire
- 5 Jayne Schnittker
- 6 Lonnie Bristow **(95)**
Sam Colman
Lee Russ
Elijah Thompson
- 7 Martha Kitajima **(91)**
Lauren Kraus
- 8 Nancy Benvenuto
Jeryn Blair
Trudy Pasquale
Judy Bauerlein
- 9 Randy Helms
Sarah Herzog
- 10 Dave McWilliams
- 11 Jim Ball
Craig Schleicher
- 12 Alice Anthony
Joe Voelker
- 13 Ed Davidson
Kevin Yip
Bee Gee Millinich
Randy Durrenberger
- 13 Rosanne Ogles
- 14 Cliff Campbell
Bruce Koliha
Katherine Herzog
- 15 Alexis Bybel
Ruth Riffin
- 16 Diego Altamirano
- 18 Shelley Lettis
- 19 Nancy Vazquez
- 20 Bill Dastic
- 20 Eric Johnson
- 21 John Evans
Bonnie Roberts
Brian Uitti
- 22 Randy Christensen
Jill Shibuya
- 23 Boyd Hasik
- 24 Rafael Altamirano
Larry Henderson
- 24 Debbie Koos
- 25 Donna Lindquist
- 26 Karen Brown
Steve Garnick
- 27 Lynne Henderson
- 28 Nancy Reynolds
Dan Whiting
- 29 Shirley Stephenson
Evan Yun

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Ginger & Warren McGuffin **(53)**
- 7 Kathy & Adam Kennedy
- 8 Teri & Steve Hawk
Sara & Jim Rossini
- 11 Marilyn & George Clarke
Winnie & Brad Stribling
- 12 Debbie & Greg Koos
- 20 Laurie & Terry Stocking
Jenny & Gary Swanson
- 22 Sam Yun and Sun Hee Kim
- 23 Kim & Will Maddux
- 24 Lael & Gerard Takiguchi
- 24 Eric & David Grant
- 25 Kirsten & Scott Ericson
Sylvia & John Hemmerich
- 26 Melanie & Boyd Hasik **(56)**



AMONG OURSELVES.



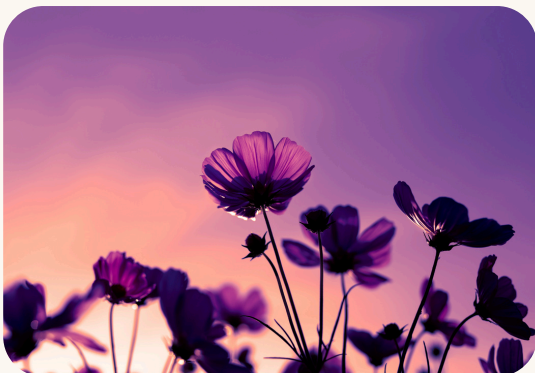
HEALTH CONCERNS

Kay Jones, Barb McWilliams, Jeff Lang, Mary Nelson, Jo Ann Hirsch, Melanie and Boyd Hasik, Adam Kennedy, Lonnie Bristow, Judy Slinger, Carol Fhlug, Isabel D'Elia, Andrea Bourgeois, Teri Hawk, Anne Burk, Julie Klug's nephew Taylor, Chris Hoff, ClaudeC Johannesen, Shana Carroll.



CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR

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



OUR SYMPATHY

To the family of Betty Jo Bennett on her passing.
To the family of Laura Altamirano on her passing.

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Check out our website to keep up with church happenings, sign up for upcoming events and groups, and read our newsletter anytime, anywhere.



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