

February 2025



# The Valley Messenger

*A PUBLICATION OF SAN RAMON VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.*

*PURSUING A LIFE WITH GOD AND A LIFE WITH EACH OTHER BY  
FOLLOWING JESUS, THRIVING IN COMMUNITY, AND HEALING THE WORLD.*

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Among Ourselves

# ANOTHER FRESH START & AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

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Dear SRVUMC Family,

By the time you read this, January would have passed, and we've turned the calendar page to February. But did you know that Lunar New Year was celebrated just a few days ago on January 29? If your New Year's resolutions didn't make it past the first few weeks of January (no judgment here!), consider this your second chance to start fresh. Isn't it wonderful that life keeps giving us opportunities for renewal and growth?

Speaking of new opportunities, I am absolutely thrilled to share some exciting news about an event that you won't want to miss! On Sunday, March 2, we will be welcoming Brian McLaren, renowned Christian author, speaker, and thought leader, to San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. Brian will join us for the morning worship service, where he will offer a powerful preview of our upcoming Church-Wide Lenten study featuring his book, *We Make the Road by Walking*.

But that's just the beginning! In the afternoon, we're hosting a

community-wide event where Brian will present a lecture based on his latest book, *Life After Doom: Courage for a World Falling Apart*. This timely and transformative event will include a Q&A session, a book signing, and time for networking. We're inviting the public and nearby churches to join us, so be sure to spread the word. Flyers with all the details can be found in this newsletter and on our church website.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Sylvia Benzler and Lucinda Huffaker, who have been instrumental in planning this incredible day with Brian McLaren. Their hard work and vision have brought this opportunity to life.

On a personal note, I have to tell you how much this moment means to me. During one of the lowest points in my life—when I was questioning my call to ministry and  
**(continued on next page)**

*“I have to tell you how  
much this moment  
means to me.”*

## ANOTHER FRESH START & AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

**(continued from previous page)**

wrestling with whether I should even continue—Brian McLaren’s book *The Last Word and the Word After That* was like a lifeline for me. It renewed my faith and filled me with hope in a way I’ll never forget. To now have the privilege of welcoming Brian to our church feels like a full-circle moment.

Friends, I truly believe that Brian’s words will inspire you, challenge you, and breathe fresh hope into your heart. Mark your calendars for March 2, and don’t miss this opportunity. Invite everyone you know—your neighbors, friends, and even those who may feel far from faith.

This February let’s continue to embrace the promise of fresh starts, the hope of transformation, and the joy of gathering in community. I can’t wait to see you in worship and at this exciting event!

With hope and gratitude,  
P. Sam | [syun@srvumc.org](mailto:syun@srvumc.org)





# Announcements

## A DAY WITH BRIAN MCLAREN - MARCH 2, 2025

By Lucinda Huffaker

Mark your calendars now for the very special events of **Sunday, March 2**, when SRVUMC will host **Brian D. McLaren**, acclaimed author, speaker, and activist, for **Sunday worship and an afternoon community lecture**. Brian is a former college English teacher and pastor, and Dean of Faculty for the Center for Action and Contemplation. As Pastor Sam wrote above, Brian will preach in church on Sunday morning, introducing our Lenten series focus. That afternoon, he will lecture for the larger area community on his most recent book about living our faith during these turbulent times, *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*.

Brian pulls no punches in addressing frightening realities of our time that center on climate change and consequent economic and civilizational upheaval. It is a subject that weighs heavy on us, with the recent LA fires. He writes that “we humans have made a mess of our civilization and our planet, and not enough of us seem to care enough to change deeply enough or quickly enough to save ourselves.”

While forms of denial might be our most common response to the current situation, McLaren opts for facing reality and embracing the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and the need for new ways of becoming and belonging in turbulent times. His lecture will be followed by ample time for a spirited audience engagement about a challenging subject. The afternoon will conclude in Wesley Center with Rakestraw books hosting a book-signing, and information displayed by local environmental action groups. **(continued on next page)**



**Brian McLaren will speak at SRVUMC on March 2nd.**

# Announcements

(continued from previous page)

Schedule for the day:

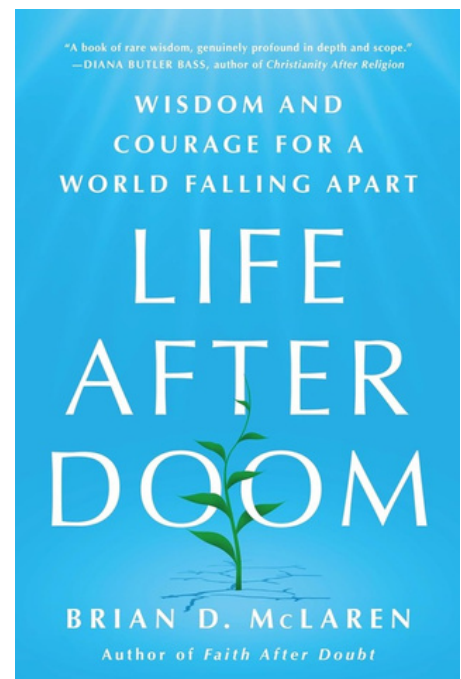
10:00 AM Worship  
Noon Lunch provided  
1:30 PM Lecture  
2:30 PM Break  
2:45 PM Q&A Discussion  
4:00 PM Book Signing /Networking  
5:00 PM Event End

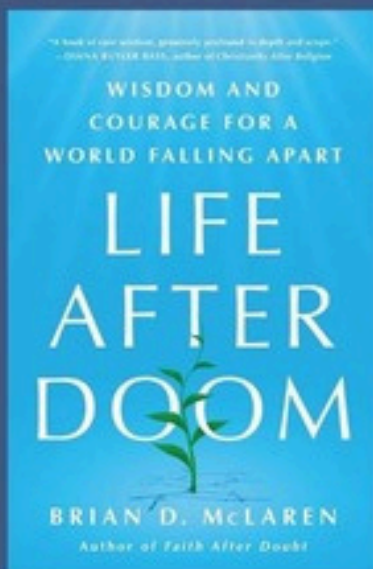
*Don't miss this  
opportunity to learn  
from and engage  
Brian McLaren!*

Please invite your friends and neighbors, and plan now to attend this exciting event our church is hosting for area churches and the community! Don't miss the opportunity to learn from and engage this remarkable man!

Register now and reserve your spot at this special event. **You must register to attend this free event.**

Click [here](https://srvumc.org/brianmclaren/) to sign up or go to <https://srvumc.org/brianmclaren/>.





# AN AFTERNOON W/ BRIAN D. McLAREN

AT SAN RAMON VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## ABOUT BRIAN

Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" -- just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. His latest book deals frankly with the spiritual and emotional challenges of living in an age of climate change, social upheaval, and personal uncertainty. McLaren will offer insights on how to move from despair to hope, rooted in faith and actionable steps.



March 2, 2025

## SCHEDULE

1:30 PM	Lecture
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	Q&A
4:00 PM	Book Signing/ Networking
5:00 PM	Event End

\* Event is free. Suggested donation: \$20, online or at the door.

BRIAN WILL BE SPEAKING ON HIS LATEST BOOK:  
LIFE AFTER DOOM - WISDOM AND COURAGE FOR A WORLD FALLING APART

\* REGISTRATION & MORE INFO AT: [www.srvumc.org/brianmclaren](http://www.srvumc.org/brianmclaren)



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[srvumc.org](http://srvumc.org)



(925) 837-5243



# Announcements

## AN EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT

BY JEFF STROIN

On December 10 of last year, I received an e-mail and a voicemail from Patrick Ryan, President of RBS, our payroll services provider, that they were canceling our contract to provide payroll services for employees of the church. A review of the original contract signed 8 years ago verified that they could take this action. What this meant was the last payroll being provided by RBS for church employees would be December 16. Despite our pleas of a grace period due to the busy church holiday calendar and various year-end obligations, RBS was adamant that they no longer wished to provide payroll services to SRVUMC.

That left the church office with the responsibility to identify, interview and then select a payroll services provider that could take on church payroll responsibilities in a less than 2-week period. Our church effort was led by 3 extraordinary employees, Laura Roy, our Office Manager and head of HR for the church, Susan Madden, AP and Payroll clerk responsible for all payments to vendors, and accountant Priya Gupta who does all church related bookkeeping. Besides the incredibly tight timeline to get this done we had to find a payroll services provider familiar with church business and the nuances of how church accounting and record keeping are done.

Laura, Susan and Priya researched and interviewed a half dozen companies, narrowed the selection to 2 and then selected who they felt would be our best partner provider. Then we had to ensure the new provider, Gusto, could accept our employees' personal and banking information in a manner that made sure no employee missed a year-end paycheck.

Besides the office and payroll services work, Laura had to reach out to each employee to verify individual employment pay and PTO accuracy and employees understood how to access the new timekeeping format and payroll portal being implemented. All of this had to be done during the incredibly busy Christmas season when many employees of the church were away on vacation. The result was we made **(continued on next page)**

*We made the  
successful  
transition with  
few issues.*



# Announcements

**(continued from previous page)** the successful transition to Gusto with few issues and avoided the repercussions of employees not receiving a timely or accurate final paycheck for 2024.

The business of running a church is not easy and should be mostly invisible to our members as we want the focus to be on our mission and goal objectives so well stated by Pastor Sam. But that doesn't mean extraordinary efforts and initiative should go unrecognized.

We are a church of many blessings. Today I'd like to recognize the work of 3 extraordinary women for the great work they do every day on our behalf. Thank you, Laura, Susan and Priya, for everything that you do for our church.

\*Pastor's Editorial Comment:

*I want to personally thank Jeff Stroin, our amazing Finance Chair, for his bold leadership and guidance in this incredibly challenging transition! Jeff has diligently advocated for the best interest of our church and employees, and we are so fortunate to have him at the helm of the many aspects of our church finances – from payroll to budgets and more! Thank you, Jeff!*

*~ With Gratitude, P. Sam*

*Thank you, Laura, Susan  
and Priya, for everything  
that you do for our church.*

# Announcements

## JOIN THE GATHERING FEBRUARY 2 WITH A SPECIAL LUNAR NEW YEAR FEAST

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  
**February 2nd at 5PM** in Wesley Center.

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



***Director of Music Ministry Jeff Howe sings during worship.  
Photo credit: Bob Baker.***



# Announcements

## TRINITY CENTER EVENING MEALS

By Peggy Crawford

Beginning **January 31 through March 21**, faithful groups from SRVUMC will be providing Friday evening meals to Trinity Center Winter Shelter program. We will prepare meals in Wesley Kitchen and transport them to Trinity Center in Walnut Creek to serve there. After dinner, Trinity Center will then transport the unhoused participants to their overnight location where they will spend a safe and comfortable night. This is the third year we have provided this ministry to Trinity Center, and are thankful to all who have stepped up to reach out and support this community.

**Team leaders can click [here](#) to register on behalf of their group, or visit <https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations>.** We hope for a great participation again this year.

Questions? Contact [Peggy Crawford, pcraw2164@gmail.com](#).



***Compassion in action! Last year, Stephen Ministers served meals at Trinity Center.***





Collection Dates

February 1st - 16th , 2025

Drop-off Location

San Ramon Valley United  
Methodist Church



# FOOD DRIVE!

***Benefiting:  
Monument Crisis Center***

We're collecting non-perishable food items to help restock our local food pantry and provide meals to those in need.  
With your help we can make a difference!

***MOST NEEDED ITEMS:  
CEREAL, TUNA, PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED FOOD  
(PLEASE NO GLASS CONTAINERS)***

***\*\*Bins located in the Narthex and the Wesley Center\*\****

# Announcements

## ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEN'S BREAKFAST THIS FEBRUARY

**All (including women and guests) are welcome to attend** the Methodist Men's Breakfast.

The date will be **Saturday, February 22nd, 8-10AM**. Enjoy a great breakfast prepared by members of the group.

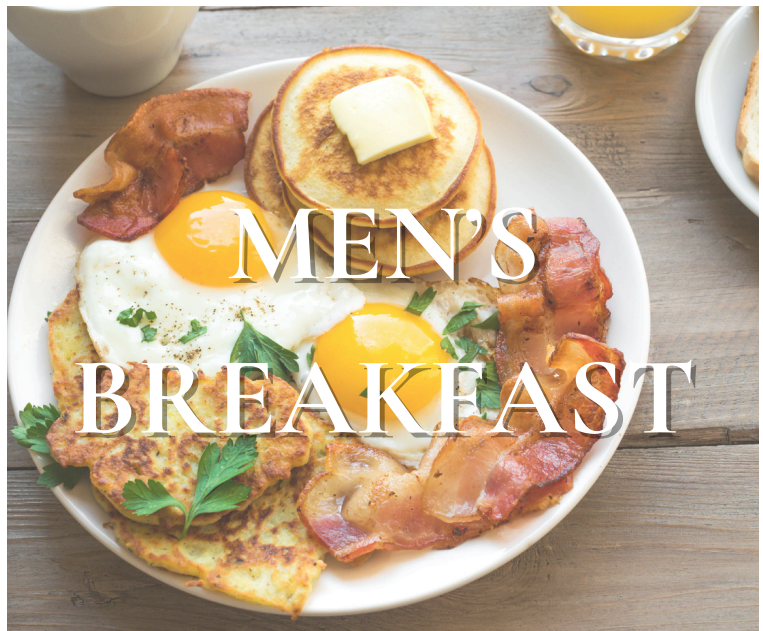
The guest speaker will be Robert Storer, who is 1 of 5 members of Danville's Town Council and former mayor.

There will be a suggested donation of \$10 a person which will be collected at the event.

Questions? Contact, Larry Pasquale at [larry\\_pasquale@hotmail.com](mailto:larry_pasquale@hotmail.com).

### **Register Now!**

Click [here](#) to sign up for the Men's Breakfast, or go to <https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2689816>.





# Announcements

## VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD BANK

*March 1, 11AM-1PM*

*Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano County*



Help fight hunger in Contra Costa and Solano County by volunteering at the local food bank. The next opportunity to serve is on **Saturday, March 1 from 11AM to 1PM**. In December we made an impact by packing 1000 fruits and vegetables for needy families. It's such a meaningful way to help with a significant need.

Click [here](http://www.srvumc.org) to sign up! Or visit our website for more info: [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org).





# **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

FEBRUARY 2025

# Spiritual Growth



## BOLD FAITH, COURAGEOUS ACTION: THE LIFE OF SOJOURNER TRUTH

BY SARAH STRIBLING

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February is Black History Month! This is a time to be intentional about educating yourself about the history, culture, and achievements of the Black community. One Black woman whose experience as a slave, mother, and devout Christian fueled her activism as an

abolitionist and advocate of women's rights was Sojourner Truth. Emboldened by her own experiences of adversity, she dedicated herself to a life of activism, traveling the country to address large crowds and advocate for equal rights. Her legacy **(continued on next page)**

# Spiritual Growth

**(continued from previous page)**  
continues to inspire many today.

Born around 1797 in Swartekill, New York, Isabella Baumfree, who later became known as Sojourner Truth, grew up on a farm. Her first language was Dutch. Slavery played a deciding role her life; she had ten siblings who were sold into slavery and she herself was sold three times to different slave owners.

At the tender age of nine, Baumfree was sold into slavery for the first time. Her enslaver abused her. In 1817, her slave owner forced her to marry a fellow slave named Thomas. They eventually had four children together. Now a mother, she endured the constant fear that her children would be sold into slavery. That same year, New York state passed a law declaring that all slaves born before 1799 would be free in the year 1827. Baumfree's slave owner promised to free her in a decade in accordance with state law. However, when the time came to free his slaves, he changed his mind.

Taking her freedom into her own hands, Baumfree ran away with her youngest daughter. They found

refuge with an abolitionist Quaker family who bought her and then freed her. Baumfree was now free!

Meanwhile her former slave owner in New York sold her five-year-old son Peter to enslavers in Alabama. When she learned that selling a slave across state lines was illegal, Baumfree went to court and won her son's freedom.

In 1828 Baumfree moved to New York City where she worked as a housekeeper. It was during this time that she began speaking out against the sin of slavery. She also became a Methodist, for a time. In 1843 she changed her name to Sojourner Truth. True to her name, Sojourner would go on to live an itinerant lifestyle speaking the truth of her lived experience of slavery and advocating equal rights for slaves and women. She understood herself as preaching the gospel. People listened. Her speeches helped spread awareness of the cruelty and dehumanization of slavery. She highlighted the hypocrisy of those **(continued on next page)**

*Sojourner spoke the truth about slavery and advocated for equal rights.*



# Spiritual Growth

**(continued from previous page)** who called themselves Christians and yet owned slaves. She became a key figure in the abolitionist movement.

Truth met many people when she joined the abolitionist speaking circuit, including Frederick Douglass. During this time, she saw potential allies in the women's suffrage movement: Both slaves and women were marginalized and in need of liberation. At a women's convention in Akron, Ohio, Truth gave her famous extemporaneous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech that challenged the stereotype that women should not participate in public discourse and emphasized that she was not only Black but also a woman worthy of equal rights. Her Black feminist perspective and powerful stage presence rocketed her to national prominence.

Inspired by the challenges she had overcome, her friends encouraged her to write an autobiography. Because she was illiterate, Truth narrated her life story to Olive Gilbert, a



***Sojourner Truth met President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. In this portrait, they rest their hands on a Bible.***

friend who published *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*, her autobiography. Truth supported herself by selling her book. In 1864, President Lincoln invited her to the White House to thank her for her abolitionist work. He signed a copy of her autobiography. **(continued on next page)**

# Spiritual Growth

## **(continued from previous page)**

After Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Truth turned her attention towards combating discrimination in public transportation. In segregated Washington D.C., only whites were allowed to ride in streetcars. One day, Truth attempted to ride in a streetcar but the driver refused. Refusing to accept this discrimination, Truth stayed inside the car. Eventually the driver reluctantly gave her a ride. Truth's defiant act inspired others to stand up to societal oppression.

Truth continued to give speeches and fight for women's suffrage into her twilight years. When she passed away on November 26, 1883, she had lived to see the 13th Amendment that outlawed slavery ratified as well as the 15th Amendment that gave all men

regardless of race the right to vote.

Her legacy continues to this day. In addition to her powerful "Ain't I a Woman?" speech, Truth is remembered in many ways. Schools and streets bear her name, her picture has graced a U.S. postage stamp, and a statue of her stands in the U.S. Capitol. Even the 1997 Mars *Pathfinder* rover was named in her honor.

Sojourner Truth continues to inspire people today because she never gave up on her convictions, nor her belief that society could change. Her unique ability to organize and inspire people made an impact for Black people and women. Her strength and courage are a beacon to those who still hope for a joyous day where justice will roll like a river and righteousness will flow like a never-ending stream, as in Amos' prophetic vision.

## Sources

Cipriano, J. (2020). *Sojourner Truth: Fighting for Freedom*. Red Chair Press.  
Fabian, R. & Baber, J. (Producers), & Fabian, R. & Baber, J. (Directors). (1992). . . .  
Black Americans of Achievement: Sojourner Truth. [VHS]. United States: . . .  
Schlessinger Video Productions.  
Reynolds, A.M. (2021). *Sojourner Truth*. Pebble.

# Spiritual Growth

## MINISTRY FAIR A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Special thanks to the many volunteers who made last month's Ministry Fair so successful! We're so grateful to all the volunteers who stepped up to serve and use their gifts!

Here are some photos from this fun event!



# Spiritual Growth



February is our month to extend messages of love to those who are dear to us.



's are sent, phone calls are made, and flowers are delivered.



Love can be given in ways mentioned or by gentle pats on the head to dear pets.



In Farley Mowat's book, *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be*, Mutt was not fond of such attention.



FARLEY MOWAT

*The Dog Who Wouldn't Be*



**Mowat, Farley. *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be*. Reviewed by Caroline Walsh.** Mr. Mowat, father of the author mentioned above, would like to acquire a dog specially for duck hunting. However, money was a little tight. When Mrs. Mowat was offered to buy a puppy for a few cents, she did without consulting her family. When Farley and his dad realized that this pup was of no breed but a mut, that's when they decided to name him Mutt.

Mutt's whimsical ways often were amusing but also annoying as the family tried to teach him certain commands such as "stay" or "come." That was not for Mutt. He would rather do as he pleased. When he did decide what he wanted to do, he climbed a tree. **(continued on next page)**

*The dog's whimsical  
ways were amusing  
and annoying.*

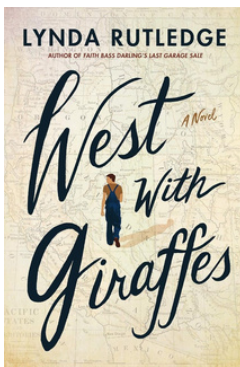


# Spiritual Growth



**(continued from previous page)** But then found he could not get down. Firefighters rescued him!

Later he decided to climb a ladder, but once again realized he could not get down. In his efforts he nearly caused a disaster because a painter was upon that ladder. The disaster was narrowly avoided! The reader will smile as she or he reads the many antics of Mutt.



**Rutledge, Lynda. *West with Giraffes*. Reviewed by Sharon Ross.**

This fascinating saga takes place in 1938 and spans from the New Jersey docks to San Diego. The tale is historical fiction based on the adventures of Woody Nickels and Riley Jones as they deliver two giraffes cross-country to the San Diego Zoo.

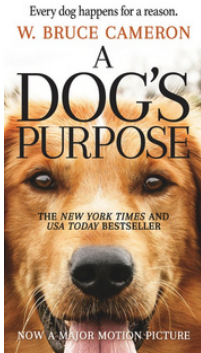
We learn to love the two giraffes, Boy and Girl, named by Woody and Riley. Seventeen-year-old Woody, changes from a naive Oklahoma dust bowl survivor to an accomplished long-haul truck driver and “giraffe whisperer.” Along the way, they meet a female photo journalist, Red, who has curly red hair. Woody is smitten by Red, but she is older and married. However, Red sells her remarkable photos to LIFE magazine and the nation is mesmerized by their trip. If you want a rousing adventure with a coming-of-age twist, this is the book for you! **(continued on next page)**

*If you want an adventure,  
this book is for you!*

# Spiritual Growth



**(continued from previous page)** These books will be found on the library cart:



## ***A Dog's Purpose.***

This pet dog and owner displayed their love and devotion to each other daily.



## ***Perestroika in Paris.***

The main character is Perestroika, a horse who is cared for by a dog and they are watched over by a raven with many other animals around and about. The human characters are a grandmother and her grandson who loves her deeply and tends to her daily needs. This is a tender, heartwarming book.

*This is a tender,  
heartwarming book.*



# Spiritual Growth



## **Potluck & Presentation.**

**Tuesday, February 4th, 11:45AM, Wesley Center**

Terry Bailey has something fun up her sleeve for Valentine's Day. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a classic Methodist potluck. Stop at Safeway or bring a dish – we always have plenty of food. It's your company we want! All are welcome!



***Jan Foulds and Terry Bailey often cook in the church kitchen.***



***Walt Torgersen and Nancy Benvenuto smile at a recent Lunch with Friends.***

## **Lunch with Friends**

**Tuesday, February 18th, noon, Wesley Center**

Several years ago, someone pointed out that spaghetti and meatballs was the most romantic dinner ever! Thanks to the movie "Lady and the Tramp" – ha!! And we do happen to make the best meatballs in the Tri-Valley. Pssst, there are two secret ingredients!

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, **March 4th for Potluck and Presentation** and Tuesday, **March 18th for Lunch with Friends.**



The background is a light pink color. At the top, several thin vertical lines hang down, each ending in a heart of varying size and shade of pink and red. The hearts are scattered across the top half of the image. The text "HAPPY Valentine's Day" is centered in the middle. "HAPPY" is in a simple, black, sans-serif font. "Valentine's Day" is in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below the text, there is a quote in a smaller, black, cursive script. At the bottom, there is a dense layer of many small hearts in various shades of pink and red, creating a textured, festive border.

# HAPPY *Valentine's Day*

*Set me as a seal upon your  
heart, as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death...*

*Song of Solomon 8:6*

# Out Into the World

## SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING

Your Special Missions Offering will benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of the United Methodist Church, providing early response to disasters in the U.S. and internationally.

UMCOR is responding to the wildfires that began in January 2025. Thousands of buildings have been destroyed, including some United Methodist Churches. Volunteers are assessing damage and supporting relief efforts by providing hot meals and other essential supplies to evacuees.

**Make an impact for those affected by the fires in Los Angeles by donating to UMCOR [here](#).** All of your donation will go towards disaster relief.

***Scan the QR code below to donate!***



***The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already on the ground in southern California distributing supplies to evacuees.***



# NextGen Ministry

## CONFIRMATION CLASS PLUS INTERFAITH LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

BY KAREN HERNANDEZ

It is hard to believe that February is already upon us. We have been working on several things these past few months, one of the most important is that of Confirmation for our youth. On March 9, 2025, those who are in 7th grade and up will begin an eight-month confirmation journey, where they will not only grow in more understanding of what it is to be a Christian, but also in what it means to be a United Methodist.

Additionally, as part of their learning more about other religions, in March, they will visit the San Ramon Valley Islamic Center during the Holy Month of Ramadan, in September they will visit a synagogue, and in October, a Hindu temple. They will also serve a week on a local service trip that will include projects at local social service organizations including Monument Crisis Center as well



***Director of NextGen Ministries, Karen Hernandez looks forward to facilitating Confirmation class.***

as Shelter Inc. There will be a family project that focuses on the environment and finally, they will interview several long-time members of SRVUMC. There is some fun in there too - including a trip to Six Flags, a family picnic, as well as a special Confirmation dinner!

United Methodists use the term  
**(continued on next page)**

# NextGen Ministry

**(continued from previous page)**

"confirmation" to mark the first time a baptized Christian publicly "confirms" their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of the local congregation and The United Methodist Church. This journey is not just for the youth however, but, in reality, it is part of the entire church's journey too. Christianity is changing in America, and as we all know too well, in a post-Covid world, church is different now. Not as many families attend, Sunday school and youth group compete with sports, video games, homework and other activities. It is difficult to keep youth active after Confirmation as well. I am reminded of the phrase, Confirmation does not = Graduation. Confirmation is not just the intention of living into the vows of professing to be a Christian and a member of the United Methodist Church - it is a commitment to love, social justice, understanding, living as Christ did, and intentionally

practicing peaceful coexistence with each other and the world.

It is no lie that we are entering some difficult and some might say, perilous times in the United States. Our kids are watching us, the adults, and it is up to us how we move through the world, how we support our youth, and how we emulate what it means to be a Christian. May we all understand this duty and may we all take this duty seriously. Our kids need us. Our families need us. As we embark on this confirmation journey, I look forward to the entire congregation joining us - with your presence, prayers, wisdom, love, fortitude, by your example, and in your faith.

Peace and All Good,  
Karen

*Confirmation is a  
commitment to love  
as Christ does.*



# Preschool

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

BY CHRISTINE PEZZA

Here at United Methodist Preschool, we opened REGISTRATION for the 2025-2026 school year! We are very excited for the opportunity to welcome new families and new students into our incredible preschool! Our amazing families do such a wonderful job of advertising for us. They tell their friends, co-workers and families they meet at the park what a fantastic environment we offer here at UMP! Our families love our dedicated teachers, and the feeling is definitely mutual. We are so fortunate to have the support of our families, our FANTASTIC Preschool Commission, Pastor Sam and the entire SRVUMC community!

If anyone has a preschool-age child you would like to join our special community, we would love to hear from you!

Learn more about the preschool [here](#) or go to <http://www.unitedmethodistpreschool.org/>.

*If you have a  
preschool age child,  
we would love to  
hear from you!*



# CELEBRATIONS

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## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Renée Beck              | 13 Eleanor Gross           |
| Stan Nakaso               | Lisa Jancarik              |
| Amy Sidhom                | Maggie Stienstra           |
| 2 Harry Knapp             | 14 Chuck Lindquist         |
| Ted Nguyen                | 15 Teri Hawk               |
| Cynthia Stephenson        | 16 Anne Burk               |
| 3 Le Anne Jacobi          | Carol Sayers               |
| Linda Jimerson            | Linnea Winter              |
| 4 Megan Buckley           | 19 John Pavel              |
| 5 Doug Beck               | 20 Laura Altamirano        |
| Melanie Hasik             | John Vanderwerf            |
| 7 Debbie Kelly            | 22 Hannah Niederauer       |
| Katy Mannell              | 23 Kal Peters              |
| 8 Ami Rowland             | 24 Elisa Ericson           |
| Marge Brower <b>(101)</b> | Christine Ritter           |
| Marilyn Hansen            | Sherrie Fraser             |
| Elise Meyer               | Lindsay Hiratzka           |
| 9 Laurie Stocking         | 25 Andrea Bourgeois        |
| 10 Dave Pierce            | Joan Pierce                |
| 11 Beverly McAdams        | 26 Suzanne Stephens Ricker |
| 12 Joanne Knapp           | Isabel D'Elia              |
| Millie Loper <b>(96)</b>  | 27 Nahira Prasad           |
| Rebecca Byrom             | 28 Maggie Rossini          |

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*May the Lord crown your year  
with His bounty. ~Psalm 65:11*

# CELEBRATIONS

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## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Anne & Jim Burk **(62)**
- 4 Nancy & Cliff Campbell  
Candice & Steve Newburn
- 6 Donna & Chuck Lindquist
- 16 Kal & Kevin Peters

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*Be devoted to one another in love.  
~Romans 12:10*





# 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, and Bob Tharalsen, Bill Foulds, ClaudeC Johannessen.

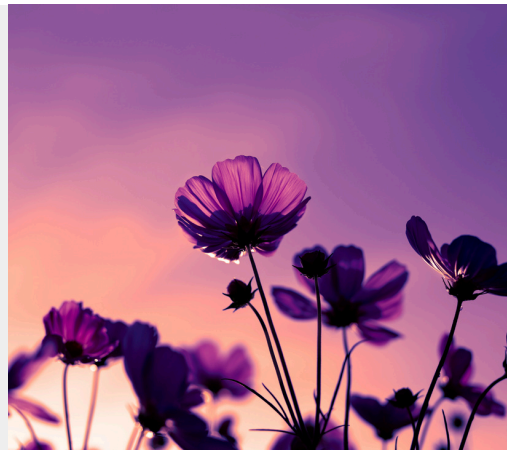


## Continued Prayers for

All those who live with long-term illness, those recovering from COVID-19, unemployment, life decisions, and sickness in their families, Shana Carroll, Joan Arscott, and Laura Sanchez's family.

## Our Sympathy

To the family of Rob Rudow on the passing of his mother.  
To the family of Rick McGuire on the passing of his father.



You can always submit a prayer request online by clicking [here](https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/498595) or visiting <https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/498595>. Our awesome prayer team and Pastor Sam would love to pray for you.



# Meet the Team

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Weekdays

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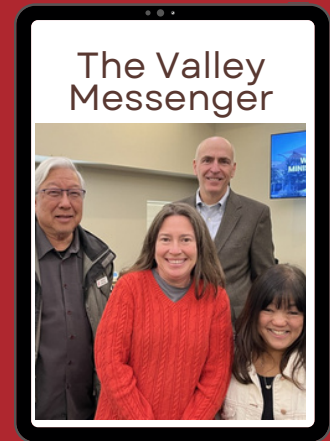
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