



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.

Our Values: Inclusion, Inspiration, Impact



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THE COMEBACK IS JUST THE BEGINNING!

Dear Church Family,

As this issue of “The Valley Messenger” reaches you, we find ourselves right in the middle of Holy Week—a sacred and powerful time in the life of the church.

I want to begin by expressing my deep gratitude.

So many of you have poured your time, energy, creativity, and prayer into preparing for this holy season. From worship planning teams to musicians, from altar guild to hospitality, from volunteers behind the scenes to those leading up front—this is truly a communal offering to God. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and our Easter Sunday services don’t just happen—they are the fruit of faithful hearts working together so that others might encounter the living Christ.

And my prayer is simple: that this weekend will be filled with blessing and impact all around. That hearts will be moved. That lives will be touched. That someone who walks through our doors will experience resurrection—not just as a story, but as a reality.

Because Easter matters.

It is the cornerstone of our faith—the declaration that death does not have the final word, that sin does not define us, and that God’s power to bring life out of death is still at work today.

But here’s something I’ve come to realize over the years... As meaningful and powerful as Easter Sunday is, what happens **after** Easter may be even more significant. Who comes back the next week? Who continues the journey? Who allows the Easter message to take root in their everyday life?

Because the truth is—Easter is not meant to be a moment. It is meant to be a movement. It’s not just a day we celebrate. It’s a life we step into. And that is exactly why I am so excited about the new sermon series we will begin the Sunday after Easter:

THE COMEBACK SERIES

Everyone loves a great comeback story.

We see it in sports. We see it in history. We see it in **(continued on next page)**

(continued from previous page)

movies. There's something deeply compelling about watching someone rise again after falling—pushing through setbacks, overcoming failure, and stepping into something greater than before.

Why do we love comeback stories so much? Because, deep down, we all need one. Every single one of us has experienced failure. We've all had moments where things didn't go as planned. We've all faced setbacks, regrets, disappointments, and seasons where it felt like we were down for the count. But Easter reminds us of this powerful truth: our story is never over because God is not finished.

The resurrection of Jesus is not just the greatest comeback story in history—it is the foundation for our comeback stories. Because of Christ, we don't just endure failure... We rise from it. We don't just survive setbacks... We grow through them. We don't just look back with regret... We move forward with hope.

Over the three weeks following Easter, we will explore what it means to live into this resurrection reality:

April 12 – “Fail Forward”

(2 Corinthians 4:7–18; Philippians 3:7–14)

We all fall. We all fail. But failure is not the end—it can actually be the

beginning of something new. When we learn to “fail forward,” even our setbacks can become setups for God's greater purpose. Like Paul, we are called to forget what is behind and press on toward what is ahead.

April 19 – “Fight Right”

(1 Corinthians 9:24–27; 1 Timothy 4:8–16)

A comeback requires more than just getting up—it requires the right mindset and the right practices. Faith calls us to live with discipline, determination, and purpose. We are not just drifting through life—we are training, growing, and pursuing what truly matters.

April 26 – “Finish Strong”

(2 Timothy 4:1–8)

Ultimately, a comeback is about endurance. It's about seeing the journey through to the end. Finishing strong means living faithfully, not giving up, and trusting that God is at work in every season of our lives.

Church, this is more than just a sermon series. This is an invitation. An invitation to come back—not just to church, but to life. An invitation to rediscover purpose, hope, and direction. An invitation to step into the resurrection power that is already at work within you.

So as we enter this Holy Week and move **(continued on next page)**

(continued from previous page) toward Easter, I want to gently challenge you: Don't let Easter be the end of the story. Let it be the beginning of your comeback. And maybe—just maybe—the most important question isn't simply, "Who will come on Easter Sunday?" But rather... "Who will come back—and keep coming back—as God continues to write their story?"

I cannot wait to walk this journey with you.

P. Sam | syun@srvumc.org



Join SRVUMC for

HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY

March 29 • 10 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 • 7 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 • 7 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5

Sunrise Service • 6:30 AM

Easter Worship • 9 AM • 11 AM

Easter Egg Hunt • 10:30 AM



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOOD DRIVE WITH LDS CHURCH ON APRIL 24.

You are invited to participate in the Interfaith SRVUMC and Latter-Day Saints Blood Drive on April 24th from 10 AM-4 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Danville.

Volunteers are needed to assist those giving blood. Please sign up for one of the three shifts:

- First Shift: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
- Second Shift: 11:30 AM -1:30 PM
- Third Shift: 1:30-3:30 PM

Click [here](#) to sign up to assist those giving blood at the blood drive or visit <https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3511687>.

Blood donations are also needed. Click [here](#) to sign up to give blood or visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=LDS DANVILLE>.

SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING: WHITE PONY EXPRESS.

Your Special Offering this quarter will go towards supporting White Pony Express based in Concord, CA. The nonprofit group was founded by Dr. Carol Weyland Conner in 2013 to address the issue of food waste and hunger. White Pony Express' "Food Rescue" program delivers surplus high-quality food to local organizations serving those in need. Annually, the food rescue program rescues an average of 15,000 pounds of high-quality and largely perishable food from grocers, retailers, restaurants and wholesalers. Volunteers sort and deliver nutritious foodstuffs to receiving organizations in refrigerated vehicles the same day. SRVUMC members volunteers at White Pony Express about four times a year.

You can support White Pony Express' important work by donating to SRVUMC's Special Offering fund [here](https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/special-missions-offering) (<https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/special-missions-offering>) Learn more about White Pony Express [here](#) or visit <https://whiteponyexpress.org/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME LUIS MATA TO THE SRVUMC STAFF.

We are pleased to welcome Luis Mata as our new Facilities Technician. Luis currently serves as a Journeyman Stationary Engineer with the Albertson's/ Safeway companies in Richmond, bringing valuable technical experience and expertise to our campus. Luis and his wife, Jessica, live in Pittsburgh with their five children. We are grateful to have Luis join our team and look forward to his expert assistance in the day-to-day care, setup, and maintenance of our church buildings, grounds, and the ARC. If you have a facility request, please contact [Laura Roy](mailto:lroy@srvumc.org) (lroy@srvumc.org) in the church office to schedule it.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Luis to the SRVUMC community!



FREE PARKINSONS NETWORK PICKLEBALL CLASS.

Announcing a **FREE pickleball class Thursdays from 1-2:30PM in the Activity Recreation Center (ARC) for people with Parkinson's and early dementia** to exercise and socialize in a healthy, safe, and fun environment. Whether new or experienced, all players are welcome (including accompanying caregivers)!

Instructors and equipment will be provided on site. Come on in and have fun, learn a new sport, and socialize.

For more information, contact [Brad Falk](mailto:bradrfalk@gmail.com) at bradrfalk@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BALANCE AND MOBILITY CLASS MEETS WEEKLY.

Balance and Mobility class for adults over 55 meets Thursdays from 12-12:45 PM in the Fireside Room.

Move with strength. Age with confidence.

Falls are one of the top reasons older adults land in the emergency department. As a former ER nurse, instructor Teri DeLaMontanya has seen firsthand how often loss of muscle, mobility, and balance are to blame—and how much of it is preventable.

After age 30, we lose up to 5% of muscle mass each decade. That decline affects strength, reaction time, and stability. But it doesn't have to. With focused movement and strength training, you can rebuild muscle, improve coordination, and protect your independence at any age.

This class is designed for adults 55+ and led by Teri—a Registered Nurse, Ironman triathlete, and lifestyle coach with deep medical knowledge and personal experience. Whether you're recovering, maintaining, or building

strength for the future, Teri will meet you where you are.

Join us at San Ramon Valley Methodist Church—a welcoming space where you'll train your body to stay upright, energized, and in motion.

It's never too late to start.

This is a donation based class and is open to the public. Suggested donation is \$15 payable to PEACE (Providing Easier Access to Care Everywhere).

[Click here to sign up or visit https://www.behavioralfitnesstoday.com/schedule/be-fit-classes-and-groups/.](https://www.behavioralfitnesstoday.com/schedule/be-fit-classes-and-groups/)

Contact [Rob Rudow](mailto:robert_d_rudow@yahoo.com), at robert_d_rudow@yahoo.com for more information.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WINTER NIGHTS PROGRAM.

We are excited to be hosting unhoused families this year from April 27 - May 11. SRVUMC is responsible for taking care of the first week (April 27 - May 3). St. Isidore's Catholic Church will be responsible for the second week, on our campus. For the program to be successful, we rely on lots of volunteers!

This year, we will be asking everyone who is interested in volunteering to sign up via Signup Genius. We still need volunteers to help with weekend breakfasts, childcare, Saturday night dinner, and grocery shopping (we will provide the grocery list, and you will be reimbursed.) Any adults working directly with children must have current Safe Gatherings certification and be fingerprinted (the church will cover the cost of those; contact [Laura Roy](mailto:Laura.Roy@srvumc.org) (Lroy@srvumc.org) for details).

You can sign up to volunteer [here](#) or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949A8AD22A31-61831546-winter>.

If you are interested in making a donation to help pay for groceries and supplies, you can do so [here](#) or go to

<https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/winter-nights-shelter>.

You can learn more about the Winter Nights program [here](#) or visit <https://cccwinternights.org/>.

Thank you for your support and your generosity. It really make a positive impact on the temporarily unhoused. Feel free to contact either of us with any questions you might have.

Kal Peters (kaltpeters@gmail.com)
and Nancy Garnick
(nancyogarnick@gmail.com)



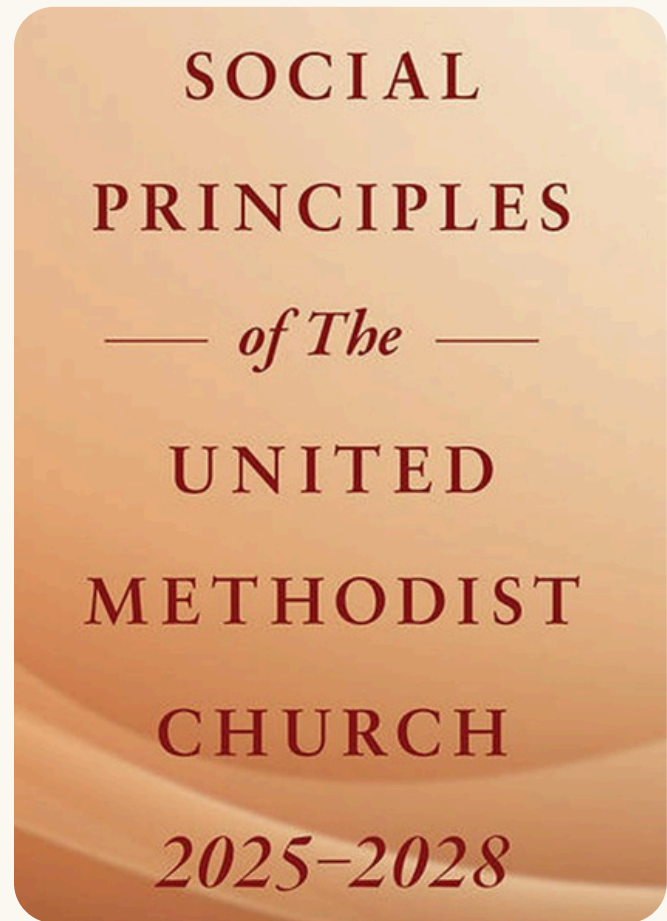
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MAY: UMC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES DISCUSSIONS.

By Lyn Arscott

John Wesley was a tireless worker for improved social conditions for the underprivileged in the eighteenth century. During that period such topics as child labor, slavery and women's rights were very controversial. In 1908, the Methodist Episcopal Church issued its first Social Creed which covered equal rights, worker safety, abolition of child labor, and fair wages. Over the years, the Methodist Social Principles have been expanded to include modern challenges such as human sexuality, drug and alcohol abuse, abortion, and environmental stewardship. Clearly it is very difficult to prepare a set of positions on controversial issues that represent the views of all Methodists. Rather, the intent of the Social Principles is to encourage prayerful, studied dialogue with yourself, God and others on matters of faith and social practice.

The current version of the principles created deep disagreements within the United Methodist Church, particularly regarding LGBTQ inclusion, ordination, and same sex marriage, leading to the formation of the Global Methodist Church in 2022



and the departure of thousands of conservative congregations. Our Church suggests that it is our responsibility to unpack the Social Principles and amplify what they actually mean in the context of our own lives.

Starting on Sunday, May 3, following worship, a facilitated discussion will be held in the **(continued on next page)**

(continued from previous page) Fireside Room on the most recent edition of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. The discussion series will last five weeks. The 2025 booklet can be obtained from the Cokesbury website for \$10 plus postage. The discussion will be facilitated by Lyn Arscott.

Overview

The 2025 United Methodist Church (UMC) Social Principles adopted at the 2024 General Conference, represent a comprehensive revision of the 2012 document.

Key Differences Between 2012 and 2025 Social Principles:

- **LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Human Sexuality:** The 2012 Principles included language stating that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching," which was used to ban the ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" and prohibited same-sex weddings. The 2025 revision removes this language, eliminates bans on LGBTQ+ ordination, and allows clergy to perform same-sex marriages. Human sexuality is now described as a "sacred gift" for all, focusing on fidelity, consent, and mutual respect rather than strictly heterosexual unions.
- **Global Perspective and Structure:** While the 2012 document was criticized for being largely oriented toward a US context, the 2025 revision was created with input from leaders in Africa, the Philippines, Europe, and the US. It is more succinct (20 fewer pages) and structured into four sections: Community of Creation, Social Community, Economic Community, and Political Community.
- **Marriage and Family:** The definition of marriage has been expanded to affirm a "sacred lifelong covenant" between "two people of faith," changing from the previous restrictive definition. The 2025 Principles also explicitly address and reject child marriage and polygamy.
- **Environmental and Social Justice:** The 2025 revision replaces "The Natural World" section with "The Community of All Creation," emphasizing that humans are part of the ecological community rather than separate from it. It adds language on environmental racism, food justice, and the rights of indigenous people.
- **Economic and Political Shifts:** The 2025 principles include stronger language against income inequality, rejecting "prosperity gospel" teachings that equate wealth with divine favor. The political section now directly addresses issues like colonialism.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

IN THE PEW: BILL FULCHER.

By Sarah Stribling

Longtime church member and road trip enthusiast Bill Fulcher was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Starting his travels early in life, he lived there until he was ten before moving to Los Angeles and then, Pittsburgh, PA due to his father's work. After majoring in Civil Engineering in college, he moved to Danville in 1978.

Raised in a family actively involved in the Methodist Church, Bill wanted to provide his daughter with a religious upbringing. In 1980, he attended Sunday worship at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. Then-pastor Dr. Rev. Dennis Nyberg's preaching style beautifully blended Bible teachings with practical insights strongly resonated with Bill. The strong children and youth programs also impressed him.

Bill Fulcher remains an active member of SRVUMC. He has participated in several music groups at SRVUMC including the Chancel Choir and Living Water Band. He's been part of the choir for 35 years! Bill is also a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and is a co-lay leader alongside Peggy Crawford.

Asked what the co-lay leader does, Bill smiled and replied that "a co-lay leader is a walking suggestion box." As co-lay leader, he and Peggy are open to hearing everyone's thoughts and suggestions regarding ideas for new ministries and missions. They serve as a conduit to church leadership.

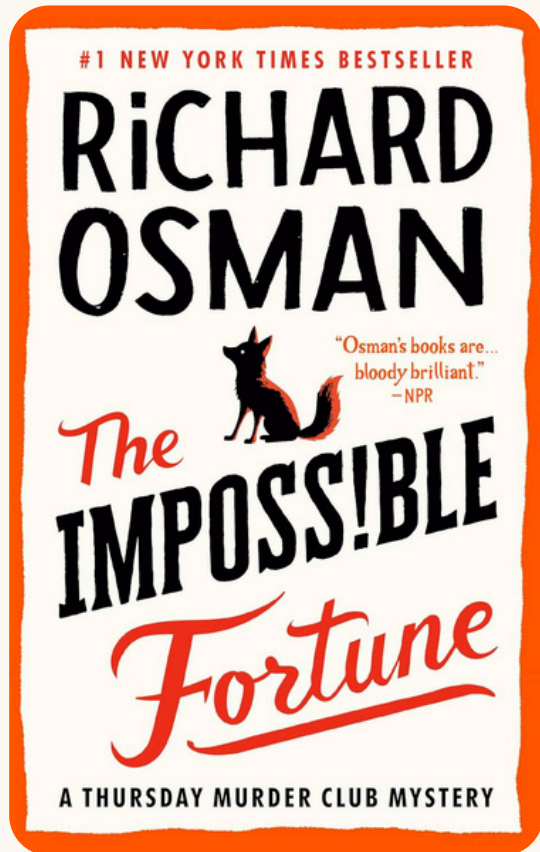
As someone who has gained perspective throughout his life journey, Bill envisions this faith community becoming even more actively engaged. "If you're standing still, you're moving backwards...we need to embrace the idea that the best is yet to come.

Bill and his wife, Sue.

The two married in 2013.



BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS.



MITTS AND A MURDER MYSTERY

April not only brings showers for **May** flowers to pop-up, but it also means **baseball** season. You will find some books that “popped up” and landed on the book cart! They are: [Calico Joe](#), [One Last Strike](#), [Where Nobody Knows Your Name](#), and [Baseball as a Road to God](#). [Golfing with God](#) has also found a place there.

[The Impossible Fortune](#) is Richard Osman’s fifth book in his series of wannabe sleuths. Elizabeth, who has always led the group in solving cases, is in a saddened state since she has lost her beloved Stephan to dementia. When she learns Joyce’s daughter, Joanna, is getting married, that helps to brighten her mood. However, while at the reception, she is approached by the best man, Nick. He asks her for help since he learned from Joyce that she was a former agent in

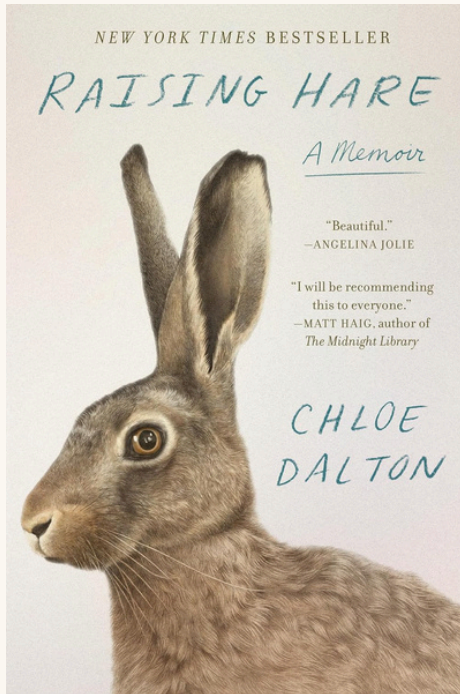
Scotland Yard. He tells her he is frightened for his life. When asked why, he tells her there is a bomb under his car! He and Joanna’s husband Paul, plus a partner named Holly, have a business together entitled Cold Storage Solutions. What is stored? Money! Where is it stored? Down in a deep mineshaft! Elizabeth must now try to save Nick from being killed, learn who gave them money to be stored there and is that business of holding money legal. The reader will be challenged to unravel and assemble the clues to locate the fortune and save lives.

March 8 was International Women’s Day. There will be many books on the library cart about women who helped to change or affect the history of our world.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP.

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



NEXT BOOK SELECTION: RAISING HARE.

Our **April 27th** choice is Raising Hare: A Memoir by Chloe Dalton. It is a story of a woman locked down during Covid and her relationship with a wild creature. She shows respect and dedication to her charge.

Click [here](#) to buy the book or go to <https://www.amazon.com/Raising-Hare-Memoir-Chloe-Dalton/dp/0593701844>.

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

HAPPY EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

Psalm 24:1

“The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it,
the world, and all
who live in it.”



SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Last month's St. Patrick's Day feast was a huge success! Everyone enjoyed Shepherd's Pie and special mint chocolate chip ice cream. Yum!



Join us in April for a special menu inspired by Chicken Cordon Bleu! We'll also have some tasty Easter goodies to celebrate spring.

POTLUCK & PRESENTATION TUESDAY, APRIL 3RD, 11:45AM, WESLEY CENTER

Join us for a lunch presentation with Hope Solutions, one of our missions supporting local families and individuals facing housing insecurity. We're looking forward to hearing how the recent fundraising gala will support their work, the families who rely on their services, and how we can be part of that hope. Please bring a dish to share!

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST, NOON, WESLEY CENTER

We're cooking up a little spring celebration this month, with "kinda" Chicken Cordon Bleu, a cozy rice pilaf, and broccoli with toasted almonds. And because spring always seems to bring out everyone's sweet tooth, we'll have a few bright seasonal treats to round things out.

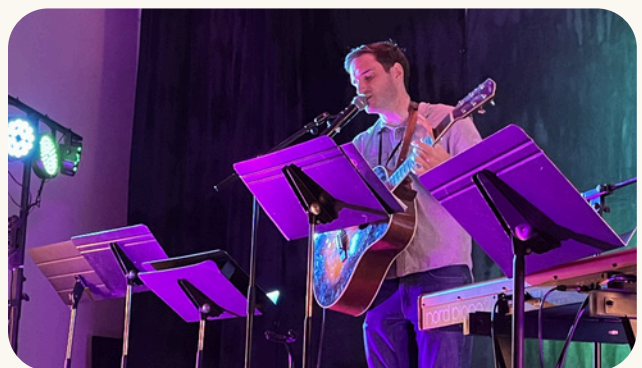
Come for the meal, stay for the company, and let's welcome the season together. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

OUT INTO THE WORLD

ELEVATED CONNECTION CONCERT.

Christian singer-songwriter Rachel Gould was featured in March's Elevated Connection concert! Our own Director of Music and Worship, Jeff Howe, was the opener and Jeremiah, our Director of A/V deejayed the event. The goal of the series is to bring new people into the church while showcasing SRVUMC's community and values.

Special thanks to Rachel Gould and Jeff Howe for sharing their heartfelt and encouraging music and all the volunteers who made the concert a success!



OUT INTO THE WORLD

4,000 DIAPERS DONATED TO LOCAL NURSERY!

By Claudia Artiga & Warren Cancel

There is something truly powerful about a community that doesn't just talk about faith, but lives it out. This past month, the **SRVUMC community** did exactly that. We want to extend a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent diaper drive collecting nearly 4,000 diapers (!) for the **Bay Area Crisis Nursery (BACN)**. Your generosity is more than just a donation; it is a lifeline. Because of supporters like you, the Nursery is able to provide **115,000 diapers** annually to keep babies clean and healthy.

Why Your Support Matters

To understand the impact of your gift, you only have to look at the families that BACN serves. Over 85% of the clients of BACN are single mothers in emotional and financial distress.

A Community of Compassion

By providing something as simple as a diaper, the SRVUMC community gives mothers peace of mind and supplies children with security.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of our mission. Together, we are making a significant impact in the lives of our neighbors.



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Steve Brown
Julien Hansen (92)
- 2 Annette Warwick
- 4 Linda Green
Greg Lane
Joanne Van Bezey
Jane McGuire
- 5 Jayne Schnittker
- 6 Lonnie Bristow (96)
Sam Colman
Elijah Thompson
Lee Russ
Sarah Stribling
- 7 Martha Kitajima (92)
Lauren Kraus
- 8 Judi Bauerlein
Nancy Benvenuto
Jeryn Blair
Trudy Pasquale
- 9 Randy Helms
Sarah Herzog
- 10 Dave McWilliams
- 11 Jim Ball
- 12 Alice Anthony
Joe Voelker
- 13 Ed Davidson
- 13 Kevin Yip
Bee Gee Millinich
Rosanne Ogles
- 14 Cliff Campbell
Bruce Koliha
Katherine Herzog
- 15 Alexis Bybel
Ruth Riggin
- 16 Diego Altamirano
- 18 Shelley Lettis
- 19 Nancy Vazquez
- 20 Bill Dastic
Eric Johnson
- 21 John Evans
Bonnie Roberts
Brian Uitti
- 22 Randy Christensen
Jill Shibuya
- 23 Boyd Hasik
- 24 Larry Henderson
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 (54)
- 8 Sara & Jim Rossini
- 11 Marilyn & George Clarke (50)
Winnie & Brad Stribling (50)
- 12 Debbie & Greg Koos
- 20 Laurie & Terry Stocking
Jenny & Gary Swanson (51)
- 22 Sam Yun and Sun Hee Kim
- 24 Lael & Gerard Takiguchi
Erica & David Grant
- 25 Kirsten & Scott Ericson
Sylvia & John Hemmerich
- 26 Melanie & Boyd Hasik (57)



AMONG OURSELVES.



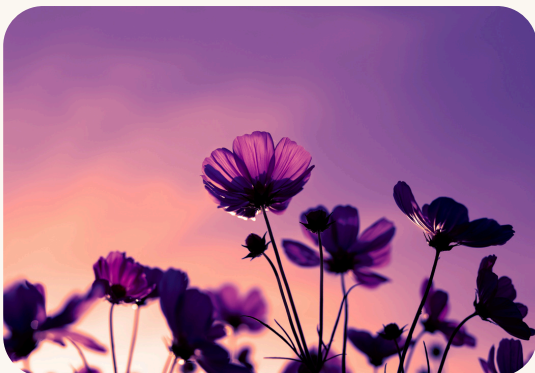
HEALTH CONCERNS

Kay Jones, Jeff Lang, Melanie and Boyd Hasik, Adam Kennedy, Lonnie Bristow, Carol Fflug, Isabel D’Elia, Andrea Bourgeois, Dave McWilliams, Julie Klug’s nephew Taylor, Chris Hoff, ClaudeC Johannesen, Bart Jacobi, Pastor Sam’s parents, Bill Sabin, Jim Bunker, and Judi Bauerlein.



CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR

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



OUR SYMPATHY

To Bill Nelson and his family on the passing of his wife, Mary.

To Sun Hee Kim and Pastor Sam’s family on the passing of Pastor Sam’s father-in-law.

To Alice Anthony and her family on the passing of her husband, Alex Iantuono.

To Lee Rust and her family on the passing of her brother, Joseph.

NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!

The Valley Messenger is delivered right to your inbox. Stay connected with all things SRVUMC, and read interviews, book reviews, and more.

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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SAN RAMON VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

