



SAN RAMON VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE 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.

Our Values: Inclusion, Inspiration, Impact



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A SUMMER OF DEVOTION: INTRODUCING TWO42.



Dear Church Family,

I can hardly believe I'm typing this sentence, but... **welcome to June!** Somehow, we've already made it halfway through 2025, and while I'm still figuring out where April went, I'm also filled with anticipation for what's ahead. This summer at San Ramon Valley UMC is shaping up to be full of growth, energy, and Spirit-led movement—and I want to tell you all about it.

We're kicking off June with a new and very important sermon series titled "**TWO42: Becoming A Fully Devoted Church.**" This series will carry us

through the months of June and July and is designed to ground us in the heart of who we are called to be as the Church—not just as an institution, but as a **Spirit-empowered movement of people seeking to follow Jesus together.**

The name "TWO42" comes from **Acts 2:42**, a verse that gives us a beautiful, powerful, and timeless blueprint for the Church. Here's what it says:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

That one verse captures the essence of the early Christian movement known as The Way—a movement that wasn't focused on buildings, budgets, or branding, but on devotion. Deep, honest, Spirit-filled **devotion** to Christ and to one another.

Over the course of this series, we'll explore some of the **markers of devotion** that shaped the early Church: the presence of the Holy Spirit, the central message of Jesus, the spirit of boldness, the heart of generosity, (**continued on next page**)

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obedience to service, the experience of transformation, the commitment to gather, and the call to evangelism.

In short, this series is an invitation to rediscover what it truly means to **be the Church**—not just to attend church. It's a call to **return to the basics**, to reignite the fire of our faith, and to reclaim the communal rhythms that sustain and shape us.

And as an incredibly special addition to this sermon series, on **Pentecost Sunday, June 8**—a day we celebrate as the **birthday of the Christian Church**, we will be incredibly honored to welcome **Bishop Sandy Olewine**—our resident Bishop of the California-Nevada Conference. She will be preaching and leading us in worship. Additionally, the following esteemed guests will be present: our **District Superintendent Rev. Samuel Hong**, our Conference's **Executive Director of Connectional Ministries Rev. Martin Lee**, and someone I'm particularly close to—**District Superintendent Rev. Sun Hee Kim!** I think you know who she is!

It will be a **powerful and joy-filled Sunday**, and I truly hope you'll make it a priority to be in worship. It's not every day that we get to celebrate the Holy Spirit's outpouring with the

spiritual leaders of our wider connection.

Later in June, I'll be heading up to **Sacramento** with our incredible Annual Conference delegates, **Brad Stribling and Terry Sherman**, for our yearly **Annual Conference Session**. Over 1,000 clergy and laypeople from all around Northern California and Nevada will gather to worship, learn, and discern together as we conduct the "business of the Church." We'll be discussing and voting on legislative matters that shape the future of our denomination. I ask for your prayers as the three of us represent San Ramon Valley UMC—may we do so faithfully, prayerfully, and with open hearts to the movement of God.

So yes, **there's a lot going on**. But in the best possible way.

My prayer is that this summer will be more than just long days and warmer weather. My hope is that it will be a **season of renewal**—that through the TWO42 series, we'll come back to the heart of our calling and be reminded that the Church isn't just something we go to... it's something we **are**. Let's walk into June with open hearts and great expectation.

Committed to the Journey with You,
P. Sam | syun@srvumc.org

PASTORAL GOAL UPDATE: STRENGTHENING CONGREGATIONAL CARE.

One of my key pastoral goals for 2025 has been the development of a Comprehensive Congregational Care Plan, especially in response to the growing care needs of our aging congregation. This effort involves close collaboration with our Stephen Ministry Team, Prayer Team, and Christ Care Visitors Team to ensure no one in our church family is overlooked. Our aim is to foster clear communication, compassionate outreach, and faithful support across every life stage and season.

As of May 1, I'm pleased to share that Pastor Dan Sturdivant has joined this effort in a supportive and strategic way. Many of you already know Pastor Dan through his long-standing relationship with our church and his deeply pastoral presence. One of the first initiatives he's undertaking is the launch of a Caregivers Support Group for Women, which we hope to begin in June. Pastor Dan has faithfully walked alongside a group of male caregivers for several years, and this new group will offer a much-needed space of encouragement, prayer, and shared wisdom for women serving in

caregiving roles.

This is just the beginning. I look forward to working with Pastor Dan to further strengthen and expand the care we offer as a church community. His heart for ministry and love for people will continue to be a deep blessing to us all.

If you have any questions about Pastor Dan's new role or the upcoming support group, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

With Great Hope,
P. Sam

P.S. Here's a personal word from Pastor Dan himself:

I'm thrilled about this and grateful to Pastor Sam for the invitation. This is coming at a marvelous time for me. I don't remember any other time in my life where my stride has felt more in sync with the one God has set out for me. Really.

A line from the hymn "Here I am, Lord" **(continued on following page)**

(continued from previous page) has been running through my head for the last year or so: “I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.”

And look where God has led me. To do exactly that. With you. How about that?

Paul was all over this. See Romans 8:28. And I’ll see you soon. ~ Dan



The background of the image shows the silhouettes of a man and a child against a sunset sky. The man is on the right, holding the child on his shoulders. The child is on the left, with arms outstretched. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue, with some clouds. The text is overlaid on a white rounded rectangle in the center.

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**
JUNE 15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN THE GATHERING JUNE 1.

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 **June 1st at 5PM** in Wesley Center. This month, we'll be celebrating with a special pre-Pentecost theme: a birthday party for the Church! After the service, stay for our community meal! We'll provide pizza and birthday cake. Please bring a dish to share!

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



The Gathering band sings energetic praise and worship music at each worship service.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD BANK JUNE 7.

Help fight hunger in Contra Costa and Solano County by volunteering at the local food bank. The next opportunity to serve is on **Saturday, June 7 from 11AM to 1PM**. In March we made an impact by packing fruits and vegetables for needy families. It's such a meaningful way to help with a significant need.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.

DATE: July 21-25, 2025

TIME: 9:30AM-12PM

**Ages: 3 (potty trained) thru Grade 5
(ages 3 years old through ages 11)**

For more information, please reach out to Director of NextGeneration Ministries, Dr. Karen Hernandez, at khernandez@srvumc.org.

Got Compassion?

Join us this Summer for Vacation Bible School!

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church is happy to announce this year's Vacation Bible School, Compassion Camp - Changing the World with LovingKindness

Join us for 5 days of music, movement, art, play, and so many more activities, while your child learns about empathy, compassion and lovingkindness.

Register now!

Click [here](https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2864949) to register your child or visit <https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2864949>.

Join us for Compassion Camp! Your child will learn about empathy and compassion in a fun and supportive environment.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

MEET THE PRAYER TEAM'S NEWEST MEMBERS.

By Sylvia Hemmerich and Patsy Kyles

It's great to have familiar faces joining the Prayer Team! We are thrilled to welcome Millie Sherman, Nancy Banisch and Patsy Kyles as our newest members. Joining the Prayer Team is not a one-time act, but an ongoing commitment. We agree to lift everyone's prayers, faithful prayer meeting attendance, keep confidentiality of prayer requests, and maintain a close relationship with the Lord through spiritual disciplines.

I know that they do not need a full-blown introduction, but I thought I'd share a few bits of key information for those who have not had the privilege of getting to know them up close.

Millie Sherman has been a member of our church for over 35 years. She is a Stephen Minister, Chancel Choir and Carillon Bell Choir member, liturgist, LIFT Bible study member, and on the Preschool Commission.

Nancy Banisch has attended our church for 8 years. She's served in many capacities including being a Stephen Minister, Youth Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School volunteer, LIFT Bible study group

member/facilitator, food bank volunteer, and worked with UMeUs on luncheons, potlucks, and the Christmas Tea.

Patsy Kyles is no stranger to us. She not only works as Pastor Sam's Executive Assistant but also serves the congregation in multiple ways. Patsy works with Pastor Sam in reviewing the prayer requests and providing them to the Prayer Team.

Here's a word from Patsy herself: "I was born and raised in a Christian family. I have sung in choirs, taught children's Bible study, read scripture, and more. To make a long story short, I would not be the lady that I am without Jesus. I am honored to be part of the SRVUMC prayer team."





June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month

“...I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” - Psalm 139:14

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
is a Reconciling Congregation



PRIDE MONTH

RAINBOW REVOLUTION.

By Sarah Stribling

June is Pride Month! Parades celebrating LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and other sexual minorities) identities often take place this month. But June has not always been about rainbows and unicorns. Only a few decades ago, celebrating one's identity as LGBTQ+ was unthinkable. The Stonewall riots of June 28, 1969, in Greenwich Village changed that. The Stonewall uprising ushered in the beginning of the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement that has led to increased visibility in society, recognition of LGBTQ+ rights, and bolstered societal acceptance of members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Before Stonewall

Before the events of June 28, 1969, American society treated the LGBTQ+ community like outsiders. Being attracted to someone of the same gender was pathologized as a mental illness. Some gay men were sent to mental institutions for sterilization and other life-altering surgical procedures. It was not uncommon for gay people to be denounced from pulpits. It was legal to be fired for being gay. Gay people found serving in the military were subject to a dishonorable discharge. Dressing as someone of the opposite sex was illegal in **(continued on next page)**

DEMONSTRATIONS AIMED TO SHOW THAT GAY PEOPLE WERE JUST LIKE STRAIGHT PEOPLE.

(continued from previous page) some states. In such a stifling environment, members of the LGBTQ+ community faced a tough choice: Be open about who they were and face inevitable negative consequences or hide their identity. Many chose the latter.

Inspired by the civil rights movement, the first gay rights group called the Mattachine Society held various demonstrations in the 1960s to show that gay people were just like straight people and worthy of being treated equally. Their protests led to the striking down of the law prohibiting people of the same gender from dancing together. This was a step towards equality, but discrimination and marginalization still overshadowed everyday life for LGBTQ+ people.

For the LGBTQ+ community, finding community and belonging was challenging. Bars were one of the few places where the LGBTQ+ community could gather, shielded from the disapproving eyes of the public. But because gay people were considered “disordered” according to New York state law, it was illegal to serve alcohol to an openly gay person. To fill this

gap, bars catering to the LGBTQ+ community were often run by organized crime. This was the case with the Stonewall Inn that became the epicenter for LGBTQ+ rights. One summer night in June 1969, a routine raid morphed into a riot whose implications still echo in contemporary Pride parades.

The Uprising

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) had been given orders to shut down the Stonewall Inn because it was operating without a liquor license. Around 1AM on Friday, June 28, 1969, eight police officers entered the Stonewall Inn and yelled, “Police! We’re taking the place!” As they began assessing the bar patrons for evidence of breaking the law, a small but curious crowd noticed the police cars outside the bar and began gathering on the street outside. What exactly happened next is uncertain, as the event was not widely reported in newspapers.

As she was thrown into a police car, one lesbian reportedly looked at the crowd and yelled, “Why don’t you do **(continued on next page)**”

THE FOLLOWING MONTH, FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE GATHERED TO RALLY FOR GAY RIGHTS.

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something?” And they did. After decades of oppression and humiliation, the anger that had steadily been building underneath the surface of the LGBTQ+ community boiled over. The large crowd began to riot. Glass bottles and bricks were hurled through the air. Vastly outnumbered and fearing for their safety, the police retreated into the Stonewall Inn, barricading themselves inside. The police requested backup to control the 2,000 strong crowd outside. An interminable forty-five minutes later, thirty police officers in riot gear arrived. By 4AM, the streets were relatively calm, aside from shards of broken glass covering the street near the bar.

Despite the violence on both sides, no one was killed or seriously injured. By the end of the night, about twelve people had been arrested. The following day, the Mattachine Society circulated leaflets encouraging people to boycott Mafia-owned bars and called for increased law enforcement accountability. The following month, over five hundred people gathered in a park near the Stonewall Inn to rally for gay rights and then marched down

Christopher Street where the Stonewall Inn was located. This was the first time in American history where people marched in solidarity to support gay rights.

The First Pride Parade

The first Pride parade was held the following year on the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. It was a three-mile march through Manhattan to Central Park. NYPD provided security for the demonstration. Even so, once the march **(continued on next page)**



ONCE THE PARADE BEGAN, THOUSANDS OF ONLOOKERS JOINED THE MARCH.

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began, no one knew what to expect. Once the parade began, thousands of onlookers spontaneously joined in the march – so much so that the parade spanned fifteen blocks! This was more than a protest – it marked a time when taking pride in one’s identity became something to celebrate rather than a constant source of shame.

The Rainbow Flag

Gay rights groups proliferated in the 1970s. This increased visibility was heightened in 1978 when Gilbert Baker designed the rainbow flag that is synonymous with LGTBTQ+ identity. Variations of the rainbow flag have been made to symbolically include people who are transgender, people of color, and nonbinary people.

The Pink Triangle

The gay community was hit particularly hard by the 1980s AIDS epidemic. Commemorating the deaths of over 50,000 people, many of whom were gay, the famous AIDS quilt was displayed at the National Mall in 1987. Alongside this increased

visibility, the AIDS awareness group ACT UP created their famous slogan “Silence = Death,” often accompanied by a pink triangle. The symbol of the pink triangle was originally used by the Nazi party to identify gay men in concentration camps. In the 1980s, this reclaimed symbol became a symbol protesting homophobia and in later decades, a symbol of gay pride.

Increased Acceptance in Society

The 1990s saw the beginning of a trend towards increased acceptance of LGBTQ+ people. Openly gay characters appeared in starring roles on television, including “Ellen” and “Will and Grace.” This same decade also saw the use of a new acronym: LGBT. In the following decades, this acronym has expanded to include queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, two-spirit, pansexual, and other people who do not identify as heterosexual. To accommodate this growing list, the acronym is sometimes written as “LGBTQ+.”

There has been increased federal recognition of LGBTQ+ rights. In 2003, the landmark Supreme Court case **(continued on next page)**

JUNE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS PRIDE MONTH IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 2000.

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Lawrence v. Texas overturned sodomy laws that were on the books in fourteen states. The military policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was overturned in 2010, making it legal for gay people to serve openly in the armed forces. Same-sex marriage became legal in all fifty states in 2015. The Stonewall Inn was declared a national monument in 2016. It is the only national monument honoring LGBTQ history.

The Rippling Rainbow

June has been recognized as Pride Month in the United States since 2000. Pride parades are also held worldwide in many major cities.

Despite decades of increased visibility and acceptance in society, many LGBTQ+ people contend with discrimination daily. In 2017, twenty-nine transgender people (most of whom were people of color) were murdered. Forty percent of unhoused youth are LGBTQ+. LGBTQ+ children are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers. The Trevor Project launched in 1998 to help prevent LGBTQ+ youth suicides.

Pride parades are not about celebrating a dingy gay bar. Pride Month celebrates an oppressed and marginalized community who found their voice and united in freedom and authenticity to live and love fully -- the way God created them to live.

Sources

Bausum, A. (2015). Stonewall: Breaking out in the fight for gay rights. Viking.

Davis, K. & Heilbroner, D. (2010). Stonewall Uprising [Film]. Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Medina, N. (2019). What Was Stonewall? Penguin Random House LLC.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

IN THE PEW: CHRIS ROESGEN.

By Sarah Stribling

Chris was born in Syracuse, NY. His father's career in the Air National Guard meant that Chris moved several times during his childhood. After high school in Buffalo, NY, he attended the United States Naval Academy. He married his wife, Annie, in 2003. His family moved to this area a decade ago. Today, Chris works in finance.

Although Chris was confirmed as a youth in the United Church of Christ, his faith remained somewhat superficial. However, during his college years, his roommate was a strong and mature believer. Through deep conversations with him, Chris gradually came to understand the true meaning of believing in Christ.

Looking for a church closer to home, Chris' wife, Annie, heard about SRVUMC through word of mouth and decided to attend a Sunday morning worship service. She was drawn in by SRVUMC's core value of inclusivity, a church that welcomes everyone. On his first Sunday there, Chris vividly remembers the warm welcome he received. He and his family officially

joined SRVUMC in October 2024.

As a member of the Chancel Choir, Chris loves the people he serves alongside. Chris joined the Sodbusters and participates in a Life Group.

He appreciates being able to contribute to the church's needs. "There are so many opportunities for people to contribute, and that draws the community closer together," Chris observes. Chris is grateful for this faith community and looks forward to the many opportunities for his family to participate in the ongoing life of this congregation.



BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS.



SUNNY SUMMER READING

Please Read: After choosing a book from the library cart to take home, turn to the back of the book and remove the card. Please sign it and write your phone number. Then please put the card in one of two boxes found on either side of the cart.

When returning the book, please put it in the box marked Return Library Books Here. The box is found in Wesley Center on the bench, so you don't have to lean over! Done!

Thank you,
The Library Committee

Solito

'A heartbreaking memoir. I was brought to tears of sympathy and anger.'
LEA YFI



'A gorgeous, riveting tale of the lengths humans will go to help one another in times of struggle.'
DAVE EGGERS

'A stone-cold masterpiece. I read with my heart in my throat.'
EMMA STRAUB

JAVIER ZAMORA

Zamora, Javier. *Solito*.

Javier tells his early life experiences from a nine-year-old child's perspective. This story is compelling as this real escape happened when he was that age. Zamora captures the spirit and thoughts of a nine-year-old child. His parents left him in the care of his grandparents when he was four or five years old - too young to make the long trip from El Salvador to California.

By the age of nine, his parents feel he is capable of making the hazardous journey to the United States. Arrangements are made with a coyote to make the journey. The boy makes it safely to Puerto Vallarta where he experiences a frightening boat ride. The coyote abandons his refugees at this point. Fortunately, Javier has befriended a **(continued on next page)**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

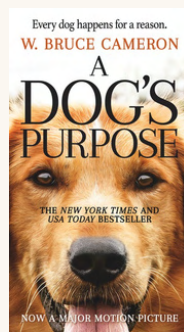
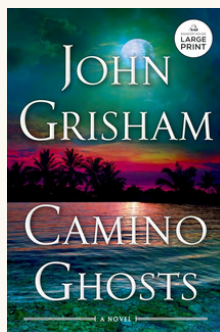
(continued from previous page) woman with a young daughter.

Patricia and daughter Carla take him under their wing and the threesome brave the long walks, foot sores, sunburns, worn out shoes, exposure, hunger, and thirst. They make it to the United States border but are caught by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent. This works in their favor as the sympathetic agent treats Patricia's cactus infection and tells them about a safe house in Arizona and how to find it.

So their arduous journey continues through more desert dehydration scares but they finally make it to the safe house. There they find passage to their various destinations. Sadly, Javier must part with Patricia and Carla but not before exchanging telephone numbers. Javier is driven to California and his parents meet him there. After the coyote is paid, the family is reunited. Safe at last!

Javier as an adult college professor, pleads with readers to help him find Patricia and Carla as they lost touch. He owes them his life and wishes to thank them as an adult and father. Let's hope he finds them.

Continue to look for these missing books or very late books:

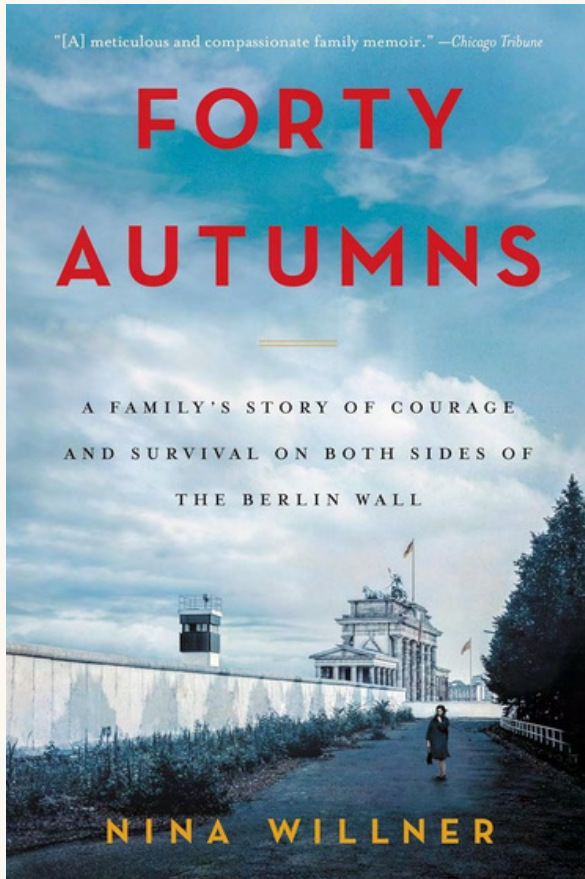


Born a Crime – late
Empress of the Nile – late
The Girl with Seven Names

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP.

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



NEXT BOOK SELECTION: FORTY AUTUMNS.

On **June 16th** we will we will discuss **Forty Autumns** by Nina Wilner. It is a story about a family separated by the Berlin Wall post-WWII. It is the story of a totalitarian regime's rise and fall.

Click [here](#) to buy the book or go to <https://www.amazon.com/Forty-Autumns-Familys-Courage-Survival/dp/0062410326>.

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

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Bill Nelson, Terry Sherman, Bill Foulds, and others enjoy a recent Lunch with Friends meal.
Photo credit: Terry Bailey.

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

Please bring a dish to share and join us for a special presentation from Dan Dunn, Executive Director at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is dedicated to connecting the community with the rich history of our Valley. All are welcome! We always have plenty of food – it's your company we want!!



Game on! Join us for a fun field trip to the ballpark this July!

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS TUESDAY, JUNE 17TH, NOON, WESLEY CENTER

Come celebrate Americana, Flag Day and lead up to the 4th of July! Guest chef, Paul Kuelz, will BBQ his amazing baby back ribs, mac and cheese, delicious baked beans and coleslaw! Happy summer!

JULY SCHEDULE

Save the date for Tuesday, **July 1st, Potluck & Presentation** and Tuesday, **July 15th, Lunch with Friends.**



UMeUs
YOU/ME/US

FELLOWSHIP

Day

Cost

\$60

Wednesday,

9
July

**San Francisco
Giants**

VS

**Philadelphia
Phillies**

ORACLE STADIUM

24 Willie Mays Plaza San Francisco

Game Time 12:45pm

Club Level Ticket • Ferry Ride • Concert

Register on Church Center

JUNETEENTH



Freedom Day
June 19

OUT INTO THE WORLD

INTERFAITH BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS.

April's interfaith blood drive with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Danville was an impactful event! A huge thank you to the wonderful members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for hosting this important community event. We're so grateful to all the volunteers who helped at the event, including all the compassionate individuals who rolled up their sleeves and donated blood.

Check out these photos from the event!



OUT INTO THE WORLD

SRVUMC HOSTS UNHOUSED FAMILIES.



To our church family,

We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped make Winter Nights a success this year. It takes a lot of people—approximately 50 in all, to provide meals, childcare, laundry, clean up, grocery shopping, loading/unloading the Winter Nights truck, special treats for the moms and kids, and a special bingo and movie night! We had a total of nineteen guests, half of whom were children.

We couldn't do it without every one of you and we thank you for your kindness and generosity toward those who are living in challenging circumstances. Your love was felt and appreciated by our guests.

With gratitude,
Kal Peters and Nancy Garnick



OUT INTO THE WORLD

MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER OUTREACH.

By Claudia Artiga

On May 14, 2025 a team of four from SRVUMC traveled to and volunteered at Monument Crisis Center in Concord, CA. The team was tasked with assembling bags of groceries, greeting clients, sanitizing delivery carts and spreading good cheer. On this day, over 150 families in need were served. We are pleased to announce that this outreach project was a big success!

Thank you for all of those who volunteered.



OUT INTO THE WORLD

SRVUMC SPONSORS INTERFAITH EARTHFEST.

To celebrate Earth Day and encourage stewardship of God's creation, SRVUMC was one of several sponsors of Interfaith-San Ramon Valley's EarthFest. This year's event was graciously hosted by St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville. There were inspiring presentations, various booths from local organizations, fun crafts, live music, dancing, and more!

Special thanks to Amin Nayebi for taking these awesome photos from the event!



PRESCHOOL

GROWING MINDS & GARDENS.



The children are truly enjoying our beautiful weather. They're fascinated watching lizards basking in the sun, climbing up the walls and scurrying through our garden beds.

The children are learning how to tend to our beautiful flowers, vegetables and herbs growing in our planter boxes. They love watering the plants and learning about the different things that are growing. The children are learning what plants need to grow and thrive. They've been observing the garden and discussing the changes they see.

Gardening fosters a connection with nature and helps children develop an appreciation for the natural world. It's never too early to cultivate a gardener.

The children are enjoying our garden thanks to the generosity of Jenny Swanson. She is our **garden** angel, thank you so much Jenny!



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marty Osborn
Beth Robertson
- 2 Victor Hymes
Quinn McDaniel
Jane VanderWerf
- 4 Nick Brown
Emily Colman
- 6 Dana Jancarik
ClaudeC Johannessen
John Stienstra
- 8 Linn Coombs
Marilyn McCurdy
Steve Newburn
- 9 Susie Barton
- 10 Alex Buckley
- 11 Jeff Lang
- 13 Nadia Blank-Koliha
- 14 Brian Steffy
- 16 Elyse Rigolfi
- 17 Nancy Banisch
- 18 Erin Lowther
- 19 Sharon Greene
- 20 Kim Sherman-Porteous
- 21 Mary Ellen Brown
Beth McClelland
Mark Schramm
- 22 Kira Rose Grant
- 23 Lee Rust
Connor Sandoval
- 24 Amy Parnes
- 25 Cindy Leonard
- 27 Sam Yun
- 29 Justin Byers
Jess Erickson **(94)**
- 30 Sara Rossini

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Lucinda & Gordon Huffaker
- 4 Norma Jean & Jim Bunker **(59)**
- 5 Ellen & James Kocins
- 6 Carrie & Jeff Doyle
Cindy & Rob Rudow
- 12 Sandy & Bill Gsand **(60)**
Joanne & Harry Knapp
- 14 Debbie & Mike Kelly
- 15 Linda Ashcraft & Richard Hudak **(57)**
Marilyn & Julien Hansen **(68)**
Elizabeth & Kristofer McDaniel
- 16 Pam & Brian Uitti
- 17 Karen & Tony Stepper **(58)**
Elke & Walter Torgersen **(66)**
- 19 Linn & Dave Coombs **(58)**
- 24 Marla & Bob Schleicher
Greg Lane & Patti May
- 26 Rosanne & Michael Ogles **(60)**
Jane & Steve Roath **(60)**
- 27 Liz & Don Field **(55)**
Joan & David Pierce **(55)**
- 30 Greg & Annemarie Warwick



AMONG OURSELVES.



HEALTH CONCERNS

Kay Jones, Jeff Lang, Mary Nelson, Jo Ann Hirsch, Melanie and Boyd Hasik, Adam Kennedy, Lonnie Bristow, Judy Slinger, Carol Fflug, Isabel D'Elia, Andrea Bourgeois, Teri Hawk, 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 Barb McWilliams, on her passing.

To Teresa & Jeff Stroin and their family, on the passing of Teresa's mother Frances Mildred Nugent.

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.



OUR TEAM

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