SAN RAMON VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2026

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 ART OF THANKFUL LIVING.

Wow, I can't believe it's November already! That wonderful time of year when the leaves turn beautiful shades of red, orange, and gold, the air gets a little crisper, and suddenly everything seems to come in pumpkin spice flavor. (Seriously, is there anything they haven't pumpkin-spiced yet?) It's also the season when Martha Stewart and every celebrity chef imaginable remind us that our Thanksgiving tables should look like something out of a magazine. Meanwhile, most of us are just hoping the turkey isn't dry, the gravy isn't lumpy, and nobody brings up politics at dinner!

Speaking of dinner, there's of course the great Thanksgiving tradition: gathering around a table overflowing with turkey and all the fixin's, eating far more than any reasonable person should, and then settling in for an afternoon of football—or, more accurately, falling into a food coma somewhere around halftime.

But beyond the food, festivities, and family traditions, November invites us to something much deeper: **the practice of gratitude.**

And this **(continued on next page)**

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year, as I reflect on the many blessings in my life, I find myself especially thankful for **YOU.**

I mean that with all sincerity. I am grateful for each and every one of you who makes San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church such a remarkable community of faith. For your commitment, your generosity, your prayers, your presence, and your unwavering support. For the countless ways you serve, often quietly and without recognition. For showing up, stepping up, and reaching out. For the ways you love one another, welcome newcomers, care for those who are hurting, and extend God's love beyond the walls of our church.

These past several months have been incredibly full—sometimes wonderfully exhilarating, sometimes exhausting, but always meaningful. Through it all, I have been reminded again and again that the church is not a building, a program, or even a pastor. **The church is YOU—the people of God, faithfully living out the love of Christ together.** And for that, I am profoundly grateful.

Appropriately, throughout November, we will be exploring gratitude in a new four-week sermon series called **"The Art of Thankful Living."** The premise is simple: gratitude isn't merely something we express once a year over Thanksgiving dinner. It's a way of seeing the world, approaching life, and responding to God's goodness—even when life isn't particularly easy.

On November 1, All Saints Sunday, we'll begin with "The People Who Made Us," remembering those whose love, faith, and influence have shaped our lives. On November 8, "The Gifts Hiding in Plain Sight" will invite us to rediscover the everyday blessings we so easily overlook. On November 15, "When Gratitude Doesn't Come Easy" will explore how thankfulness can coexist with grief, disappointment, and uncertainty. Finally, on November 22, "A Life That Says Thank You" will remind us that genuine gratitude finds its fullest expression in compassion, generosity, and service.

And speaking of gratitude, there's something else I'm especially thankful for this November: **the opportunity to step away for a little while, catch my breath, and experience some much-needed renewal after a very full season of ministry.**

I'll be spending nearly a month in Korea, beginning with eight days of conference-related ministry. Along with several Korean pastors from our California-Nevada Conference, I'll accompany Bishop Sandy Olewine as we visit various places and meet with leaders of the Methodist Church in Korea. Our hope is to build bridges, renew relationships, and explore possibilities for future ministry partnerships.
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I'm also incredibly excited—and admittedly a little nervous!—to have the honor of preaching at the freshman chapel services at Yonsei University. Two back-to-back services for approximately 1,500 college freshmen! Please pray that I'll have something meaningful to say to these young people at such an important season in their lives.

Following that portion of the trip, I'll spend the remaining time with Sun Hee's family, whom I haven't seen since her father's passing in March. It will be especially meaningful to share time together, remember his life, and simply enjoy the precious gift of being family.

And yes, lest you worry that this trip will be all work and solemn reflection, I fully intend to consume an absolutely unreasonable amount of amazing Korean food. Consider it my personal mission to support the Korean culinary economy, one delicious meal at a time!

Of course, being away means I won't be preaching for the final two Sundays of our November series. But here's yet another reason to be thankful: **we have two wonderful pastors who will be sharing God's Word in my absence.**

On November 15, we'll welcome back Pastor Dan Sturdivant—certainly no stranger to SRVUMC! Our loving, joyful, ever-encouraging, bow-tie-wearing pastor will bring his characteristic warmth and wisdom. Then, on November 22, we'll welcome Pastor Anne Lau Choy, a retired United Methodist pastor with whom my wife, Sun Hee, had the joy and honor of serving for eight years at St. Paul UMC in Fremont. Both are gifted pastors, and I know you'll be richly blessed by their ministry.

Friends, I will certainly miss you while I'm away. Please keep me in your prayers, just as I will be keeping you in mine. I leave knowing that our church is in wonderful hands and that you will continue worshiping, serving, loving, and growing together.

Perhaps that's one of the greatest lessons of thankful living: recognizing that so much of what makes life beautiful is found in the people God places along our journey.

This Thanksgiving, know that you are among my greatest blessings.

With a grateful heart,
P. Sam | syun@srvumc.org

ADVENT 2026

SONGS OF THE SEASON: AN ADVENT JOURNEY OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE.

There is something magical about the music of Christmas! A familiar melody can transport us to cherished memories, warm our hearts, lift our spirits, and remind us of what matters most. But beyond the beautiful melodies and familiar lyrics, the songs of Christmas carry powerful messages that speak to our deepest longings.

Beginning Sunday, November 29, join us for **"Songs of the Season,"** our four-week Advent sermon series exploring the timeless themes of **hope, peace, joy, and love** through some of our most beloved Christmas songs and carols. Each Sunday, we'll discover how these familiar songs connect with the promises of Scripture and invite us to experience the wonder of Christmas in fresh and meaningful ways.

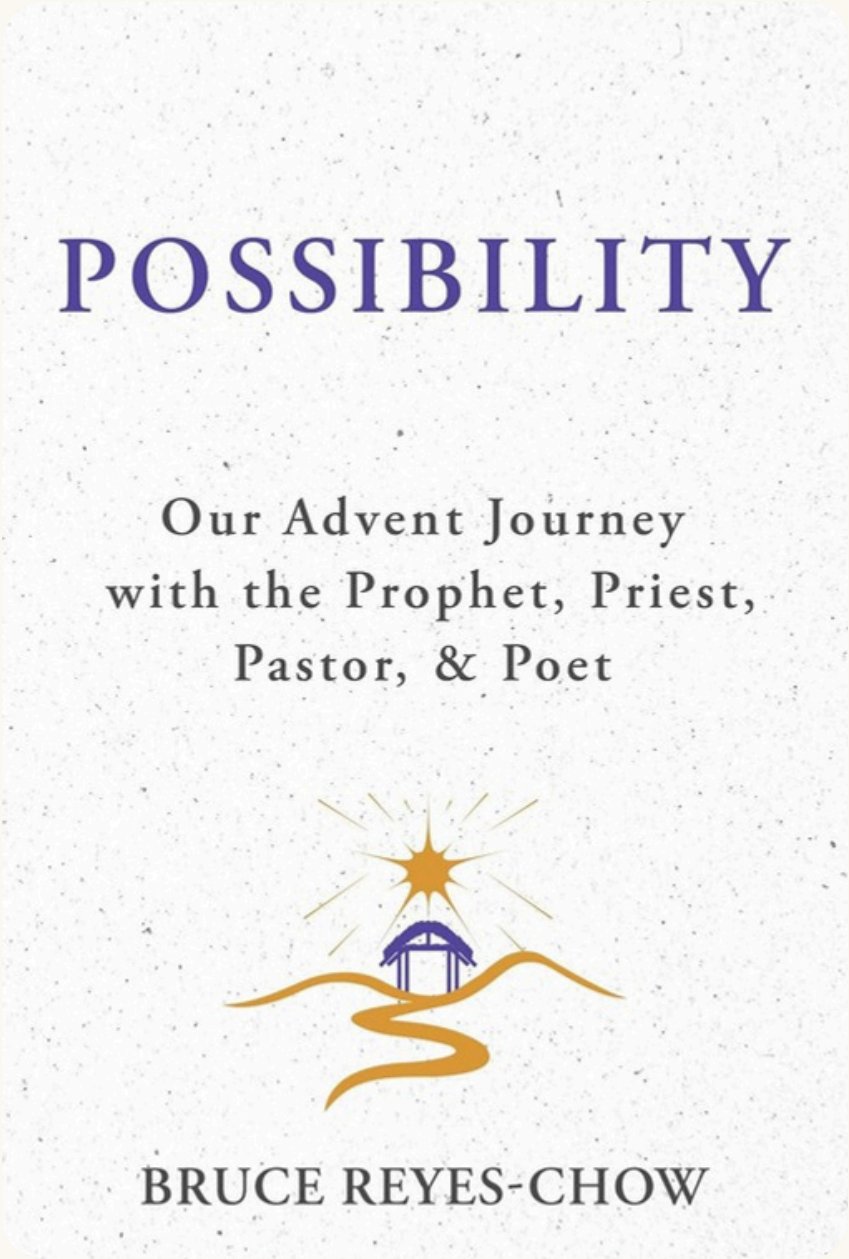
To enrich our Advent journey, we're also recommending a **church-wide Advent devotional, Possibility: Our Advent Journey with the Prophet, Priest, Pastor, & Poet, by Bruce Reyes-Chow.** This thoughtful, contemporary devotional offers daily Scripture readings, engaging reflections, questions, and prayers that help us explore the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ in our everyday lives. It's perfect for personal reflection, family devotions, or small-group discussion.

Order your copy now so you'll have it in time for the beginning of Advent! Books are available directly from Chalice Press (https://chalicepress.com/products/possibility?_pos=1&_sid=b6520adff&_ss=r) (also available on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/Possibility-Advent-Journey-Prophet-Priest/dp/0827231970)

We also encourage you to consider gathering a few friends to journey through Advent together. If you're interested in organizing or hosting a small-group study, please contact Pastor Sam.

This Advent, amid the busyness of the season, let's make room to listen more deeply, reflect more intentionally, and rediscover **(continued on next page)**

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the extraordinary good news of Christmas. Come, and let the songs of the season awaken something beautiful in our hearts!





STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MARIA SOTTILE.

By Sarah Stribling

Maria Sottile, SRVUMC's Director of NextGen Ministry, is committed to seeking God's vision for the children and youth program. She begins by asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance as she seeks to meet youth and children wherever they are on their faith journey. She envisions a revitalized ministry where young people live out the teachings of Christ and grow together in community. Filled with God's love, young people respond to God's overflowing love by sharing their faith and serving others. Following Jesus and thriving in community are central to Maria's vision. "Committing to a personal relationship with Jesus and deepening the connections with each other will grow our faith community," Maria declares.

That commitment to connection begins with an open heart. "Oftentimes, it is the youngest disciple in the room who speaks the most profound words. We can all learn from a child's innocence and honest authentic expression of love," Maria admits. Indeed, Maria is open to the Spirit's guidance and the leadership of little children. "God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it," Maria says with a smile. When that acceptance is lived out, the church becomes a **(continued on next page)**

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safe and authentic place to build strong relationships with God and each other. Maria also sees value in allowing children and youth to ask questions about faith, resisting easy or canned answers to life's profound questions.

Alongside her commitment to listening for God's guidance and meeting children where they are on their faith journey, one of Maria's passions is making an impact through outreach missions. "You may be the only Jesus someone sees," Maria remarks. For Maria, missions are about being the hands and feet of Jesus. Some of her outreach ideas include having youth serve at a local food bank, helping members of this congregation who could use a helping hand with yard work, and unpacking artificial Christmas trees at a local nonprofit organization. Beyond the Bay Area, Maria is in the early stages of organizing a youth mission trip with Sierra Service Project for July 2027. Keep an eye on SRVUMC communications channels for more details.

Maria also has a passion for music. Last month, Maria launched a new music activity for children and youth called Musical Me. The inspiration behind the program derives from an intergenerational music and movement class she started twenty years ago. The purpose of Musical Me is to encourage a love of music and to integrate God's presence into participants' daily life. Through singing, ringing handbells and other instruments, Maria looks forward to participants sharing their gifts of music in worship during Advent. "We all need music in our lives," Maria states.

September saw the launch of Scripture and a Slice in which youth gather in connection and community over a slice of pizza. At the time of this writing, there has been only one Scripture and a Slice session, but the program appears to be off to a strong start. "The kids liked the pizza and made a connection to each other," Maria says. "It was a great opening." With Maria's leadership, the program has a foundation upon which to build.
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With NextGen Ministry in Maria's capable hands combined with the youth's growing enthusiasm, the children and youth program is building momentum. As children and youth continue to follow Jesus and thrive together in community, church members can help support NextGen Ministry in practical ways. Chaperones are needed for upcoming youth outings and local mission trips. Sunday School teachers are needed as well. If you are interested in helping with these activities or transporting youth to church activities, email Maria (msottile@srvumc.org).



Maria and her family: Maria, husband Russell, sons Aaron and Sam, and daughter-in-law, Sophie.

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES IS A SPECIAL BLESSING THIS FALL.

By Maria Sottile

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." Philippians 1:3 (NLT)

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, let us remember that one of the greatest ways to show our gratitude to God is by being a blessing to others.

God has blessed each of us in different ways, and He calls us to share His love, kindness, and compassion with those around us. Sometimes, being a blessing doesn’t require great wealth or grand gestures. A kind word, a helping hand, a heartfelt prayer, a warm smile, or simply taking the time to listen can make a meaningful difference in someone’s life.

You are a blessing to me. Thank you for your warm smiles, kind words, and helping hands of support.

Please continue to pray with me, for our Youth and Ministry team as we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us forward on God’s path.

Save the Dates:

November 1st and 8th
Musical Me
Meet in Wesley Center at 11:15 AM
Learn simple songs for Advent worship services. All ages welcome!

November 14th
Harvest Festival
Middle and High School youth
9 AM -12 PM, Wesley Center
Bake and Sell Cookies
Raise money for future youth events

We will take time during the morning to visit the Game Room upstairs together. Let’s see what works!

November 15th
Scripture and a Slice
Middle and High School youth
11:15 AM – 12:45 PM, Wesley Center
Invite a friend to free lunch, conversation and fellowship!

Reach out anytime!

Thankfully,
Maria Sottile
msottile@srvumc.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DUST OFF YOUR HALOS! THE ANGEL TREE IS CALLING YOU!

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can."
- John Wesley

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are especially grateful for our many blessings and the opportunity to practice John Wesley's teachings through acts of kindness, compassion and service to others.

The Angel Tree represents so much more than presents. It is a way to connect, comfort and care for those in need within our immediate area. Through this service project, we can share the hope, joy and love of Christ during the Christmas season. We give not expecting anything in return, but because we are blessed with the opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life.

Once again, we invite you to dust off your halos and join us in spreading a little extra Christmas love! **(continued on next page)**

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The Angel Tree will be in the narthex for four weeks beginning November 15th and running through December 6th. The Gift tags will identify the specific request from individuals/ families who will benefit from your generosity.

Our Angel Tree gifts will support four wonderful organizations:

Fred Finch Youth Center - Children ages 3-18 receiving long term care and support for developmental or mental health needs.
Trinity Center - Adults experiencing homelessness.
Hope Solutions - Individuals and families who have recently transitioned from homelessness into housing.
STAND! - Families and individuals affected by domestic violence, including those receiving shelter and support as they work toward safety, stability, and a more peaceful future.

How Can You Participate?

1. **Choose one or more tags off the tree in the narthex.**
2. **Purchase a gift**

Choose a gift that corresponds to the request on the tag. Remember, this may be one of only two gifts this person receives for Christmas, so your thoughtfulness makes a difference.

3. **Return your <u>unwrapped</u> gift with the tag attached to the church** either by putting it under the Angel Tree during regular Sunday worship (11/22,11/29 or 12/6). Gifts may also be delivered to the church office. **All gifts must be received no later than December 7th.**

Prefer to Give a Monetary Donation?

Monetary donations are always welcome! It would be most helpful to have these donations by December 7th so your Angel Tree helpers can get the shopping done. You can contribute in any of these ways:

- In-person: Angel helpers will be in the **(continued on next page)**

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the narthex to collect donations ateach worship service.

- Online: Donate online through Church Center by selecting the Special Mission Offering fund here or go to https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/special-missions-offering.
- By mail: Make a check payable to SRVUMC, write "Angel Tree" on the memo line and mail it to the church office:

SRVUMC
Attn: Angel Tree
902 Danville Boulevard
Alamo, CA. 94507

Let's Make a Difference Together!
Thank you for your generous hearts and for continuing to put our faith into action. Together we will make this Christmas brighter, one angel at a time!

With Gratitude and Christmas cheer,
Your SRVUMC Angel Tree Team
Nancy Garnick Linda Green
Roni Item Beth McClelland



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION BEGINS NOVEMBER 1.

Friday, January 29 - Sunday January 31
at Villa Maria Del Mar in Santa Cruz on the ocean



"The Joy of Living with Courage"
Women's Retreat led by Pastor Kim Risedorph

When we know we are being authentic, when we feel comfortable being ourselves, we feel fully alive. No matter our age or experiences, being our truest selves takes practice, awareness and courage. And, being our true selves is not just about us as individuals. There's more at stake. Being authentic and courageous is how we help heal the world around us. Nothing delights God more than when we are living as God's beloved. Join us for a joyful exploration of God's love for us, here and now.
"Each of us has the potential to give birth to whatever our world most needs."
~ Macrina Widerkehr

"Retreats offer us a time to pause, reflect, connect with others. Community, home cooked meals, a beautiful setting and a meaningful exploration of authentic faith----that's a great combination. That's what the Women's Retreat offers. I look forward to this time with you."
~ Pastor Kim Risedorph

All registration is online this year and begins Sunday November 1, 2026 at 11:30 AM.
Register here starting November 1.
Our 2027 retreat rates: Single is $500 and Double is $410 (each person)
Partial scholarship help is available.

We will be in Wesley after the 10 am service November 1 to help anyone who needs aid registering on Church Center or who may have questions. Thank you!!

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE ON REIMBURSEMENTS.

As part of the 2026 financial audit, the church has updated reimbursement processes for greater efficiency and better cash flow. Whenever possible, the church office would like to handle the purchase of non-perishable products and/or services and will ensure the correct authorizations are in place. If you require non-perishable items, please contact the church office to handle your purchase.

To request reimbursement for the purchase of perishables, please write your name and reason for reimbursement (i.e., 'coffee hour supplies') on your original receipts, and drop them off at the church office – Attn: Accounts Payable. If you wish to speak with someone in Accounts Payable, please come to the church office Monday through Wednesday 8am to 3pm with your original receipts.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEVATED CONNECTION RETURNS NOVEMBER 7.



- **Live Music:** Inspirational performances by the talented Here and Now Band
- **Great Food:** A delicious dinner from Groovy Gorditas with all your Mexican favorites such as burritos, nachos, and more will be available for purchase before the show
- **Authentic Community:** Experience an inclusive community that welcomes you just as you are.

On **Saturday, November 7,** Elevated Connection will showcase a special performance from the **Here and Now Band.** The theme of the concert is **"Words of Hope"** and will feature uplifting music and a **special testimony** from one of the Elevated Connection leaders**!**

Who: All ages are welcome
When: November 7 | 6:00 PM
Where: Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo
Cost: Free!
Click here to RSVP or visit https://ElevatedConnection2026.eventbrite.com.

Help keep the music going! Your generous donation allows us to keep these inspiring Elevated Connection concerts free of charge and accessible to all. **DONATE HERE** or visit https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/elevated-connection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATE TO THE MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER BOOK DRIVE.

Dear SRVUMC Family,

Now through Sunday, November 7, 2026, SRVUMC is partnering with the Monument Crisis Center (MCC) in Concord to collect books for local at-risk youth (ages 12–18). By donating, we will put our faith into action—helping teens foster a love of reading, boost academic achievement, reduce anxiety, and take a healthy break from screen time.

We are collecting new or gently used books (hardcover or paperback) in the genres teens love most:

- Mysteries & Thrillers
- Fantasy & Magical Realms
- Graphic Novels & Manga
- Realistic Fiction

Where to drop off: Look for the MCC collection bins in the narthex and the Wesley Center lobby.

Together, we can make a difference... one young person at a time!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL IS ON NOVEMBER 14!



The Harvest Festival will take place on **November 14 from 9AM - 2PM.** For the past 16 years, the Harvest Festival has consistently shown high-quality handmade items by local artists, such as quilts and quilted table linens, handmade shawls and sweaters, fused glass ornaments and jewelry, handmade caramels and preserves, and many other unexpected and beautiful finds. The Harvest Festival is a wonderful way to begin your holiday shopping for everyone on your list. Don't miss out!

Questions? Contact Shannon Dever (shannondever62@gmail.com).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOOD DRIVE WITH LDS CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 18.

You are invited to participate in the Interfaith SRVUMC and Latter-Day Saints Blood Drive on November 18th from 9 AM to 3 PM at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church.

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every two to three seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

Volunteers are needed to donate blood and assist those giving blood.

Three volunteers are needed to help those giving blood. One volunteer is needed for each shift.

Please sign up for one of the three shifts:

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

Click here to sign up to assist those giving blood at the blood drive or visit https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3979008.

Check the Friday Memo in the coming weeks for a link to donate blood. Thank you for supporting the American Red Cross blood program!



CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHORALE: DECEMBER 5 & 6.

The San Ramon Valley Chorale is delighted to announce its upcoming Christmas concerts, "Christmas with the Chorale." The concerts will be **December 5 and 6 at 4PM in the sanctuary.** This concert will feature Vivaldi's "Gloria" and an eclectic mix of holiday favorites and surprises.



Grab your tickets here or visit https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/san-ramon-valley-chorale-christmas-with-the-chorale.

CHARGE / CHURCH CONFERENCE: DECEMBER 7.

On **Monday, December 7 at 6 PM we will gather in Wesley Center** for our Charge Conference. All SRVUMC members are welcome to attend. Rev. Dr. Theon Johnson III will preside. The agenda of Charge Conference includes approving the Pastor's Compensation for 2026, blessing new church leaders, and hopefully, approving a budget for the upcoming year. Church members can vote on issues raised during the meeting.

A light dinner will provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE CONCERT DECEMBER 11.

Don’t miss the 15th annual "Christmas for Everyone" benefit concert on December 11 at 7 PM in the sanctuary. This is a free concert. Donations will be accepted.

Your voluntary contributions will go directly to the local 501(c)(3) charity Christmasforeveryone.com - serving Christmas dinner and a small gift to those in need in Contra Costa County.

Watch for more details in church communications!



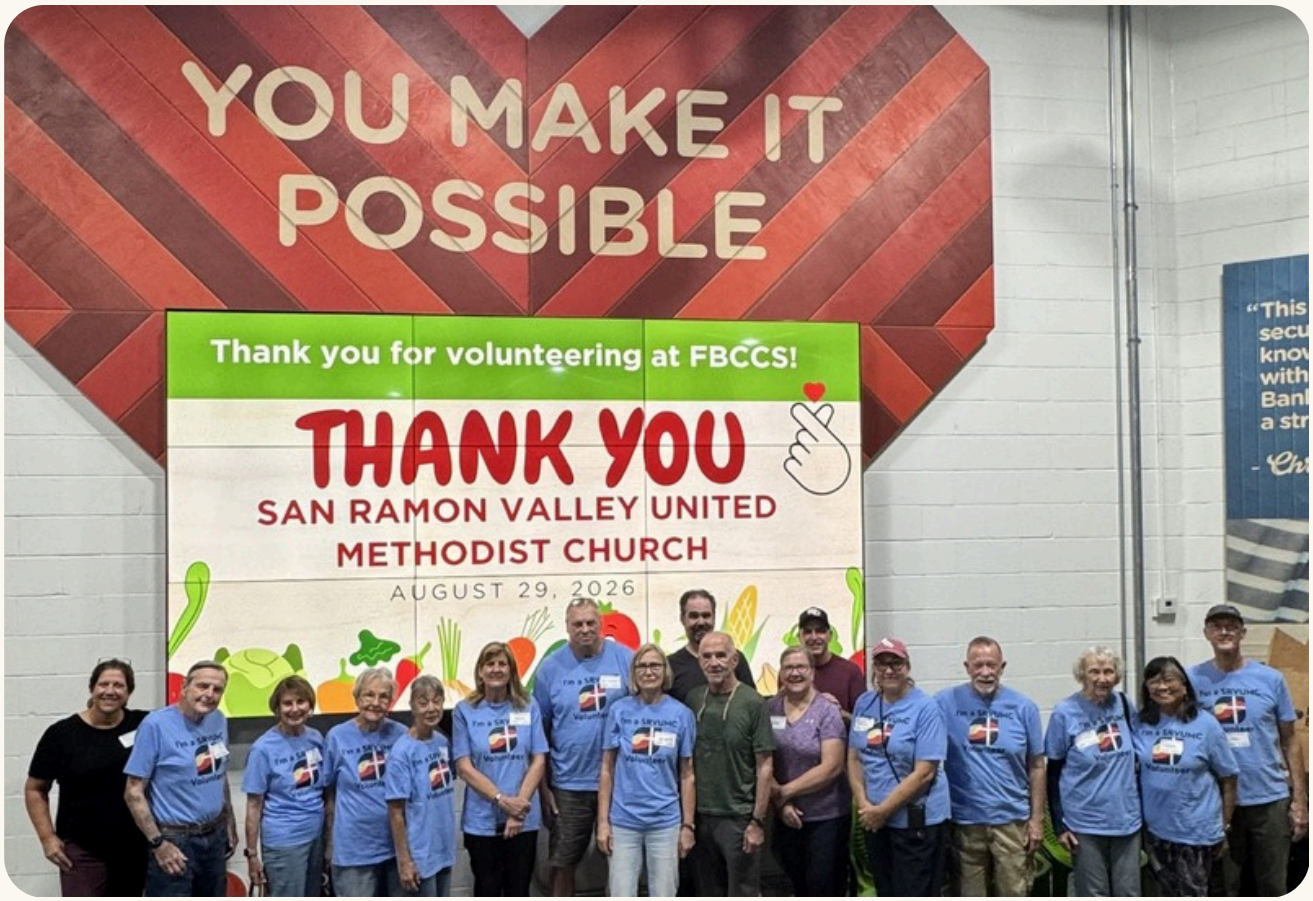
ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD BANK ON DECEMBER 12.

Our next scheduled shift is **December 12th, from 1:30 to 3:30PM (note the time change!),** and we can take 18 people on this shift. In August, we packed thousands of individual packages of fruits and vegetables for needy families, and those who went had a wonderful experience. It's such a meaningful way to contribute to a significant need right now.

Learn more about the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano here or visit https://www.foodbankccs.org.

Click here to register or visit https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3902186.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT: DECEMBER 13.

Join us as our church community musicians share the joy of the season on **December 13th at 4 PM** in the sanctuary. Experience the meaning of the season with joyful Christmas music from SRVUMC's music ensembles, including the Chancel Choir, Carillon Bell Choir, and the String Alongs.

This free Christmas concert is open to all. Bring a friend!

CHRISTMAS EVE: DECEMBER 24.



SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING: THE ANGEL TREE.

Your Special Mission Offering this quarter will go towards supporting the Angel Tree which benefits four nonprofit organizations including Trinity Center, Hope Solutions, and more.

There are two ways you can donate to the Angel Tree. You can pick a tag off the Angel Tree and drop off the requested unwrapped gift between November 15 to December 7. If you'd rather us do the shopping for you, make your monetary donation to SRVUMC's Special Mission Offering here (https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/special-missions-offering). Thank you for making Christmas bright and cheerful for everyone!

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING THIS JANUARY.

SRVUMC will once again join with other area churches starting a new Stephen Minister training class in January. Weekly classes will run through April, mostly on Tuesday nights via Zoom (also three in-person Saturday sessions).

If you're interested in learning more or discussing the possibility of training, please reach out to Pastor Sam (syun@srvumc.org) or Stephen Leader, Al Banisch (albanisch@comcast.net).

stephen MINISTRY®

LOVE GARDENING? THE SODBUSTERS NEED YOU!



The Sodbusters are short on workers and would love to encourage other outdoor garden lovers to join us. We're looking for someone to help out **one Friday a month from 7:30-9AM.** We maintain the church garden by mowing lawns, pruning, pulling weeds, planting, and blowing leaves to keep the parking lot clear.

Interested? Contact Ken Studer at klstuder1161@gmail.com for more information.

UPDATE ON THE WINTER NIGHTS PROGRAM.



We are sorry to report that the Winter Nights program is in transition. The Winter Nights Board recently made the difficult decision to cease operations. A group of leaders from faith communities who have supported this program are exploring ways to start a new nonprofit to take its place. Thank you very much for your generous support, both financially and by volunteering, in past years. We will keep you updated on any future developments.

Nancy Garnick and Kal Peters

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/.

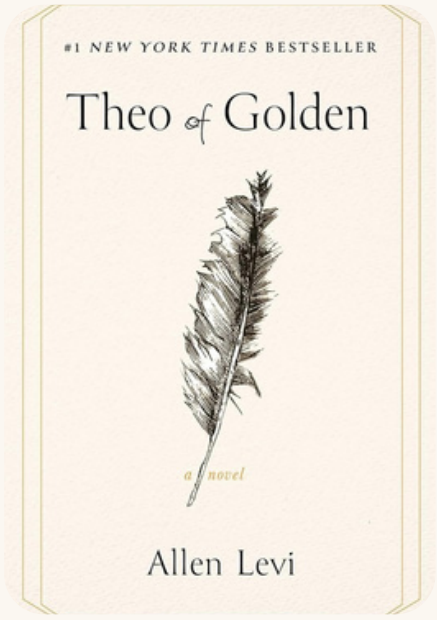
Contact Rob Rudow, at robert_d_rudow@yahoo.com for more information.



BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS.



The month of **November** brings out different colors with fall flowers like pansies, dahlias and mums adorning landscapes and pots. Leaves dropping from trees add to the lovely hues on the ground. November is also a time to celebrate Thanksgiving with the gathering of family and friends. Tables are made larger and wider to accommodate all at any time. It is truly a blessed time of year. This is also a time to introduce a new book about caring and kindness which will be found on the library cart.



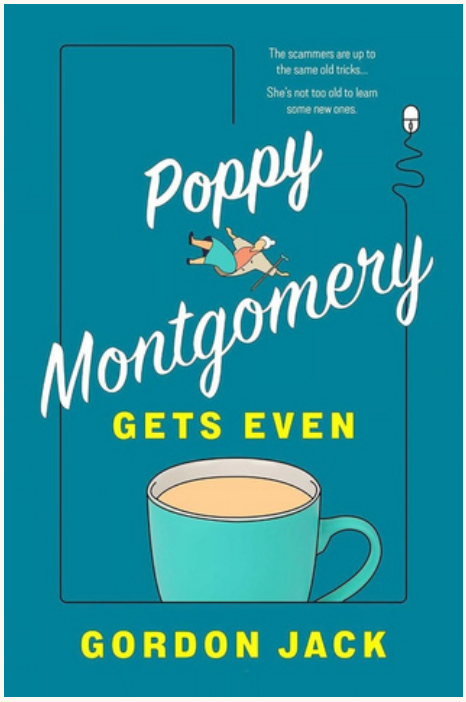
It will be difficult for a reader to believe that Theo of Golden is Allen Levi's first novel. He expresses the observations and feelings of Theo as he is studying the sketches of individuals who live in the community of Golden. Theo has just arrived and is strolling around the town when he stops at a coffee shop for a rest. He is intrigued by these portrait sketches. Upon asking the barista, who is the owner of the shop, what he knows about all these drawings, Theo learns that the artist lives nearby and he likes to snap pictures of residents and creates these black and white portraits. The artist signs each one and writes the name of the person on back. What would make this elderly visitor become so intrigued with drawings? What is it that so arouses his interest to purchase several at first? Is it what he sees in the artist's work to not only purchase but also to give each portrait to the person drawn? And, how should he do that? The reader will be fascinated to learn Theo's real identity and his purpose in doing all that he has done. This novel will most certainly be unforgettable to any reader.

If you have books that you would like to donate, please consider taking them to the public library for the sale which they have to raise money for new books.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP.

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



NEXT BOOK SELECTION: POPPY MONTGOMERY GETS EVEN

Our **November** choice is Poppy Montgomery Gets Even by Gordon Jackson.
Meeting date: TBD.

Click here to buy the book or go to https://www.amazon.com/Poppy-Montgomery-Gets-Even-Gordon/dp/1613167741.

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



UMeUs

YOU/ME/US



Don't miss the cozy sit-down lunch with Danville bookshop, Rakestraw Books!

POTLUCK & PRESENTATION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 11:45AM, FIRESIDE ROOM

Due to the election, we'll be gathering in the Fireside Room this time. As always, we'd love for you to bring a dish to share and join us for a cozy sit-down while we welcome back Rakestraw Books for a very special presentation. Everyone is welcome—there's always plenty of food, and it's your company we cherish most!



The annual Thanksgiving/Christmas feast will feature turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and fruit crumblle!

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

Please join us for our combined Thanksgiving/Christmas Lunch with Friends! All the traditional holiday treats: Roasted turkey, bread stuffing, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls, cranberry sauce and fruit crumble for dessert! All are welcome.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA - DECEMBER 5TH, 11 AM TO 1 PM

Join us Saturday, **December 5th, from 11 AM to 1 PM in Wesley Center** for our special Women's Christmas Tea! This intergenerational gathering celebrates friendship, connection and women of all ages. Come on your own, bring a friend, and make new friends along the way. Come to enjoy the company. All women are welcome!

Register here or visit https://srvumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3919545.

UMeUs
YOU, ME, US

Women's Tea

Saturday, December 5th, 2026

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

An Intergenerational Delight!

This is one of our most special intergenerational events.
Mothers and Daughters, Grandmothers and their Granddaughters!
Or just friends! All women are welcome!

Sponsor a Table

Decorate your table with your favorite china or a holiday theme.
Invite five friends.

Scan QR Code to Register Now

Bring a Dish

- Appetizer
- Savory Nibbles
- Fruit or Vegetables
- Sweet Treat

Church Center or Debbie Byers
byers1860@gmail.com

If you have a very special Nativity Set, from a special time, special person or special place-please share it at our Nativity table near the stage.

OUT INTO THE WORLD

THE PASTA FEED AND AUCTION.

At last month's Pasta Feed and Auction, SRVUMC smashed its goal of raising $12,000 Together, our church family raised approximately $20,000!

Thank you to everyone who made this evening so successful—from volunteers who prepared the authentic Italian dinner, to those who donated auction items, and auction participants. Donations will go towards restoring the courtyard shades and maintaining the church kitchen.













OUT INTO THE WORLD

TRUNK OR TREAT.

SRVUMC's annual Trunk or Treat was a great success! Many families with young children visited our church campus to trick or treat! There was spooky Halloween music, costumes, decorated trunks, a bouncy house, fun games, and even a popcorn and snow cone machine!

Special thanks to all the volunteers who brought their trunks and dressed the part! You help this faith community thrive!













PRESCHOOL

ART ISN'T A PIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION!



Preschool art comes in many different forms, from painting and drawing to collage, sculpting, and sensory art. Through these creative experiences, children explore colors, textures, shapes, and materials while expressing their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Art encourages imagination, builds fine motor skills, and supports problem-solving and self-confidence. Most importantly, it allows children the freedom to explore, experiment, and express themselves in their own unique ways. Our creative preschool teachers offer our children many different opportunities for exploring art. Here are a few of our favorite forms of expression!





CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Rob Rudow
Connie Winter
2 Kathy Hymes
3 Myla Clark
John Jancarik
4 Jet McWilliams
7 Joan Morris
8 John Byers
Jung Park
9 Lara Mays
10 Gay Scott
11 Kelton Lowther
Bob Sinclair
13 Sandy Greenwood-Davidson
Dick Lam
14 Suzan Rowland
15 Barbara Valdriz
16 Lael Takiguchi
17 Jack Robertson
18 John Coombs
21 Alex Gross
22 Jacci Osborn
Karolyn Stopper
23 George Clarke
23 John Sayers
25 Jackie Riedel
26 Monica Albertoni
Jessica Merchant
Eric Newburn
Rachell Newburn
Annemarie Warwick
27 Margo Cefalo
27 Krystelle Frederick
29 Paul Kuelz
Spencer Lang
30 Elke Torgersen

ANNIVERSARIES

8 Deirdree Walsh-Krumrei & Gary Krumrei
11 Catharine & Dan Baker
13 Saba & Shadaab Kanwal
Tamra & Kevin Keen
17 Shannon & Bill Dever
21 Rochelle & Chris Hoff
Dory & Tom Schramm
27 Lynne & Larry Henderson **(61)**
Priscilla & Ted Wolfram



AMONG OURSELVES.



HEALTH CONCERNS

Jeff Lang, Melanie and Boyd Hasik, Lonnie Bristow, Carol Fhlug, Julie Klug's nephew Taylor, Gerry Carothers, Wendy Cooper, Linda Green, Chris Hoff, ClaudeC Johannesen, Bart Jacobi, Pastor Sam's parents, Bill Sabin, Jim Bunker, Mike Henderson, Jess Erickson, Flo Spanier, Bill Foulds, and Jim Burk.



CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR

All those who live with long-term illness, those recovering from unemployment, life decisions, homelessness, and sickness in their families, peace in the world, and peace in our country, the community of Bend, Oregon, areas devastated by earthquakes and wildfires



OUR SYMPATHY

To Brenda Domergue and her family on the passing of her husband, Doug.
To the family of Kay Jones on her passing.
To the family of Bennett Cale on his passing.
To Bill Dastic and his family on the passing of his wife, Julie.

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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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH