



# THE HERALD

## ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Rev. Stacy Brooks  
Senior Pastor

Becky Valenzuela  
Children, Youth & Family  
Ministries



Diane Freyling  
Office Administrator

Nancy Reyes  
Front Office Assistant

Erin Newman  
Communications Specialist



Leslie Frank  
Organist

Garo Avesian  
Choir Director



Cindie Stump-Gamboa  
& Kelsey Rodriguez  
Child Care Providers



### CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Michelle Gordon  
Principal  
(805) 526-2887



Simi Valley  
United Methodist Church  
2394 Erringer Road  
Simi Valley CA 93065  
(805) 526-6231  
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The basic concept behind wood carving and wood turning is to take away everything but what you plan to carve. Take away everything but the bowl, the figure, the candlestick, or the spoon. This Lent, we will explore how we carve away everything but the Christ in us. What is the excess? What is the unhealthy? For inside each of us is the image and example of Christ and everyday is an opportunity to grow closer to it.

### ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18TH

**10:45am in the Sanctuary** with the CrossRoads students. This will be a simple, child-friendly option for those who would like to receive their ashes in the morning.

**7:00pm in the Chapel** for our traditional service of readings, hymns, and ashes.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP & TUESDAY STUDY

Week 1: "The Tools We Choose" Matthew 4:1-11

Week 2: "A Bird's Eye View" John 3:1-17

Week 3: "Initial Cuts" John 4:5-42

Week 4: "Finding a Knot" John 9:1-41

Week 5: "Refining the Shape" John 11:1-45

Week 6: "The Rough Edges" Matthew 26:14-35

Everything but...  
*the Christ in Us*



Ephesians 2:10

### DAILY DEVOTIONS AND LENTEN DISCIPLINES



This Lent, daily devotion cards and challenges will be available on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Alongside this daily discipline, you are invited to consider looking at the physical excess around you. Consider this Lent as an opportunity to collect the excess and unnecessary. After Lent, we will be collecting all our excess for a mission-focused rummage sale to turn our excess and unnecessary "stuff" into the hands and feet of Christ for those in need. More information to come in the March Herald.

# OUR LEADERSHIP BOARD



## THE TEAM

The Board consists of 12 church members who were elected at Charge Conference. We worked to have an equal number of men to women and were intentional in electing a young adult. These members are divided into three classes, so that one-third of the Board will roll off and a new class of leaders will be elected each year.

## TASK FORCES

The Board will be the decision making body of the church, but will require standing and task-oriented Task Forces to complete all the administrative business of the church. These teams will research, assess, and bring proposals to the Single Board.

## THE MEETINGS

The Board will hold a monthly meeting, to be set each month by the Board and advertised to the church. Single Board meetings will be open meetings, where anyone may come and have ears and a voice, but only the elected members will have a vote. The final agenda item at each meeting will be SPRC business and will be a closed-door portion of the meeting to maintain confidentiality.

## YOUR ROLE

The Board is looking for Individuals who have passions and gifts that can help with the day-to-day as well as the one-time needs of our church work. Look for a table on the patio where you can add your passions and gifts to the Leadership Board's master list, including areas where you are willing to help.

## Worship This Month

### Sunday, February 1st

Holy Communion

"Where You Go, I Will Go"

Pastor Stacy Preaching

Ruth 1:1-18

### Sunday, February 8th

"Let It Out"

Pastor Stacy Preaching

Isaiah 58:1-9a



### Sunday, February 15th

Transfiguration Sunday

"Glory Revealed"

Pastor Stacy Preaching

Matthew 17:1-9

### Sunday, February 22nd

First Sunday in Lent

"The Tools We Choose"

Pastor Stacy Preaching

Matthew 4:1-11

# Experience the Meditation Garden Prayer Path

Thanks to Eagle Scout Candidate Braxton Marx, we have a 9-station Prayer Path in our Meditation Garden. Scan the QR code at each station for a guided meditation through the Lord's Prayer. Be looking to our Facebook page for a video tutorial on how to use QR codes.



## OUTREACH IS GOING "HEAD TO TOE"

At our December Outreach Dinner, we were able to give away more than 25 Blessing Bags to our guests with toiletries, socks, snacks, support organization info, and a Christmas greeting. Our thanks to the Youth for collecting many of these items. We will be collecting donations for these bags throughout the year, with a different featured item each month.

**In February, we are asking for new socks (men's and women's) and new warm stocking caps or beanies. Items may be dropped off in the baskets in the Narthex.**

***We appreciate your help!***

**Want to help in other ways?  
Here's how!**

- Outreach Meeting: 2/18 @2 pm in the chapel. Come help us do good things!
- Outreach Dinner: Saturday 2/21. Prep at 4 pm, serve at 5. Contact Barbara Bagwell to donate or help cook.
- Recyclables! Details on p. 7.



## IT'S A "MARDI GRAS meets FAT TUESDAY" LUNCH BUNCH!

Join us for pancakes and jambalaya in the Chapel

Tuesday, February 17th at noon. All are welcome!



All through the ups and downs of God's Big Story, we are told of God's love for creation. February is all about love, and there's nothing sweeter than knowing that Jesus loves you. It's the sweetest treat we could ever receive, and it's for every single one of us! His love brings joy to our hearts, peace to our minds, and reminds us that we are never alone. All month long, our Pre-K friends will learn from Bible stories that show them how much Jesus loves them.

In John 13:34, Jesus says to His disciples, "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." Our Elementary crew will learn from the stories of Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, and Jairus' daughter that God loves the whole world, Jesus' love changes people, and how we can be like Jesus and show love to others.



This month, at D&D, the tweens and teens will be learning about how the love of God helps us put on our "Inner Armor." No matter the giants we face in our lives, our identity and character empower us to live boldly!

*Blessings, Ms. Becky*



**TWEEN SCENE LASER TAG SHOWDOWN**

BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF LASER TAG FUN!

SAVE THE DATE!!!  
MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON REGARDING TIME AND COST OF THE EVENT.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND**

*Valentine's Parents' Night Out*

FEBRUARY

FRIDAY **13** 5:30-8:30PM

Children ages 2 years - 5th grade  
Join us for a night of games, crafts, friends, dinner, and fun

Registration forms available in the church & CrossRoads offices  
Only one form per year is needed!  
confirm attendance with Ms. Becky via Procure or email.

\$20 per child or \$50 per family  
Register by Wednesday, February 11th

MAIL  
POST OFFICE

# FEBRUARY AT CROSSROADS

## DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR

### CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH | 4-8PM  
1263 SIMI TOWN CENTER WAY STE H2, SIMI VALLEY, CA, 93065

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **RNGCABN**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$50 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



February is one of my favorite months because it's a time to celebrate Friendship Day (Valentine's Day) at CrossRoads.

It's great to see the children learning and growing while building friendships at school.

I feel blessed to hear that many former students and their families maintain friendships even after leaving CrossRoads. It's a beautiful thing!

*Mrs. Michelle Gordon, Principal  
CrossRoads Children's Center*



P.S. Thank you as always for your support! Be sure to catch our latest fundraiser at the Chipotle on Simi Town Center Way on Tuesday, February 10th!



## SVUMC NOW HAS ITS OWN LITTLE FREE LIBRARY!

**BOOKS FOR KIDS & ADULTS**  
LOCATED BETWEEN  
WITMAN HALL & THE EAST  
EDUCATION BUILDING  
**IN MEMORY OF LYNNE  
O'HANLON**

THANKS TO PETER WITMAN  
FOR CONSTRUCTING IT!



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY.ORG®  
TAKE A BOOK • RETURN A BOOK



### Coming Up

**Wednesday, 2/4: UWF Board meeting in the Chapel at 10 am.**



United Women in Faith

**Saturday, 2/7: Sweetheart Lunch (See details below). Join us at Yolanda's for lunch plus Valentine Bingo and the opportunity to write valentines to those in the congregation who are mostly housebound.**

### Circles

**Seekers Circle: Monday, 2/9 at noon in the Chapel.**

**Circle of Joy: Wednesday, 2/11 at 12:30 pm at the home of Judy Thomson, 2252 Larch St.**

**Night Owls: Tuesday, 2/17 at 7 pm in the Chapel.**

**Circle of Faith: Wednesday, 2/18 at noon at the home of Laura Hole, 2848 Waterfall Ln.**

**Teresa Circle will meet each month to visit those who are homebound.**

A big thank you to those who filled in when needed for ushering:

Todd Goldman

Laura Hole

Ken Gordon

Kathryn McKee

Maria Simon

Juan Simon

Jake Scott

And an extra thank you to our standard ushers:

Ildiko Scott

Gary Scott

Ken Hayes

Marilyn McFarren

*If you are interested in ushering, please contact the church office or simply talk to one of the ushers!*

**UWF Sweetheart Lunch**

Saturday, February 7, at 11 am

Yolanda's Mexican Cafe

Price per person: \$32 Includes meal, drink, tax & tip.

Maria Reynolds will take signups on the patio 1/25 & 2/1 or contact her at 818-590-8289 to RSVP.



*All women of the church invited!*

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF

*Joye Grove*

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

A memorial service for Joye will be held on Saturday, January 31 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow in Witman Hall. All are welcome.





# FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Marilyn McFarren
- 2/3 Mylene Goldman
- 2/5 Sondra Adair
- 2/9 Gary Barbour  
Robert Benson  
Wesley Miller  
Barbara Witman
- 2/10 Juanita Ward
- 2/11 Brandall Horney
- 2/14 Paula Lightfoot  
Kinsley McAlister  
Sharon Romano
- 2/15 Valerie Bergh
- 2/17 Stella Zinto
- 2/18 Marge Bartholomew  
Shaila Horney
- 2/19 Kayla Sponable
- 2/22 Paul West
- 2/23 David Brennan  
Hazel Hird  
Olivia Sandoval
- 2/25 Jayden Baltazar
- 2/27 Lili Inoke  
Peggy Spellman



# FEBRUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/3 Thomas & Lauren Ortiz



**NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

**Monday, February 9**



Mon-Thurs:  
9 am - 4 pm  
Fridays:  
9 am - Noon

Please note:  
The church  
office will be  
closed in honor  
of Presidents'  
Day,  
**Monday,  
February 16.**



## Worship Attendance

	In Church	Online
12/21	123	26
Christmas Eve 5:30 pm	86	14
Christmas Eve 7 pm	150	10
12/28	86	30
1/4	113	42
1/11	111	28
1/18	98	30



**Recycle Sunday: February 22**  
**Drop off before worship by the Cochran entrance to the parking lot.**

Please bring your CA-CRV plastic and glass bottles, aluminum cans and opaque HDPE milk jugs for recycling. Please, only recyclables labeled CA-CRV can be accepted. Other plastics should be recycled in your household recycling bin.

*Proceeds help fund Outreach Dinners—Thank you!*

In need of prayer? Please submit prayer requests to the church office via phone or email (svumcinfo@pacbell.net) or by text to Pastor Stacy.

Be sure to include which ways you would like your prayer lifted:

1. In the Friday e-mail
2. During Joys & Concerns in worship
3. In Pastor Stacy's daily prayers



THE

# HERALD

Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road, Simi Valley CA 93065

(805) 526-6231 [www.simivalleyumc.org](http://www.simivalleyumc.org)

JOIN US FOR

## *Valentines Brunch*

COOKED BY THE UNITED METHODIST MEN!

AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

COME CELEBRATE WITH  
CHURCH FRIENDS AND ENJOY  
A DELICIOUS BRUNCH  
PREPARED BY THE UMM.  
\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION.



## *ALL-CHURCH Super Bowling*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

12:30-2 PM

**ALL AGES & ABILITIES  
WELCOME!**

**@ Harley's Valley Bowl  
5255 Cochran Street  
(at Stearns)**

**Bowling fees covered!  
Bring or rent shoes**

