

November 2025

Volume 25 No. 11

SIMI VALLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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 Avestian
Choir Director



Cindie Stump-Gamboa
& Kelsey Rodriguez
Child Care Providers



CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Michelle Gordon
Principal
(805) 526-2887



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Charge Conference

If you want to help decide the future of our ministry, attend Charge Conference on **November 18th** at 7 pm in the Chapel. (See page 3 for details on the two special agenda items that we will be voting on.) All members have a vote, so see Pastor Stacy if you'd like to find out how to become one! We will be welcoming new members in worship on November 16th.



LAITY SUNDAY 2025

What is Laity Sunday?

Laity Sunday celebrates the people of God and the spirit working through them. Everyone in worship who is not ordained clergy is considered the Laity of the church.

You may have noticed the words, "Ministers: All Members," on the back of the bulletin, which means we are *all* responsible for fulfilling the mission of the church.

Laity Sunday, normally held every third Sunday in October (we will celebrate it November 9 this year), honors the vital role of laypeople in the United Methodist Church and their contributions to ministry and service.

Lay Leader Carol Conner will lead an inspiring Laity Sunday with the message, "Persistent Faith" on November 9th. Join us!

PASTOR STACY'S PAGE

Worship & Study

November is an interesting month in our weekly worship. We begin with a Sunday celebrating both of our Sacraments (Baptism & Communion) while honoring All Saints Sunday. We then move into a Sunday to celebrate and recognize the Laity of the church – that's you! And then we welcome and bless new members into our church on November 16 before our annual Thanksgiving Sunday and the first Sunday of Advent. Wow! What a spiritual and celebratory month November will be!

I should mention that in the midst of all of this, I have two trips that will have me out of the office this month. Ms. Becky and I will be in North Carolina from Nov. 5-15 to help with the leadership of an interdenominational training conference for camp ministry leaders. Then, I will be out of the office for the two days before Thanksgiving for a multi-generational family Thanksgiving trip.

Nov. 2nd Baptism, Communion, & All Saints

Pastor Stacy Preaching
"Sacraments and Saints"
1 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Nov. 9th Laity Sunday

Carol Conner Preaching
"Persistent Faith"
Luke 18:1-8

Nov. 16th New Member Sunday

Pastor Stacy Preaching
"Rejoice Forever in Creation"
Isaiah 65:17-25

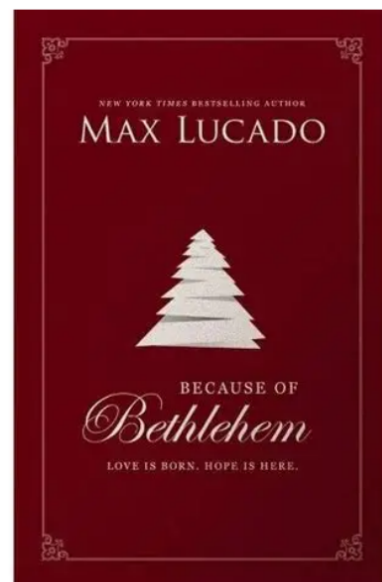
Nov. 23rd Thanksgiving Sunday

Pastor Stacy Preaching
"This is Our Faith"
Psalm 46

Nov. 30th Advent 1

Pastor Stacy Preaching
"God Has a Face"
John 1:1-5, 9-14

Our Advent Series will be based on Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem." This series will be the basis for our Sunday worship message and Pastor Stacy will offer study opportunities Tuesday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm (starting Dec. 2) and Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm (starting Dec. 3).



CHARGE CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18TH 7 PM



SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM #1: SINGLE BOARD GOVERNANCE

This agenda item is a proposal for the Administrative Board to move from a multi-committee system for our administrative leadership (Finance, Trustees, SPRC, and AdBoard) to a Single Board that would be responsible for the duties of all four of these committee. This model is a more effective and efficient model of leadership in today's church.



Scan for
more Single
Board info.

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM #2: EAST PROPERTY HOUSING

This agenda item DOES NOT APPROVE A PROJECT ON THE EAST PROPERTY; instead it would include the election of a Housing Task Force to do the necessary research to work on a "Request for Proposal." The team would work with the congregation, potential developers, and the Conference Office to determine what we would want in a project and what we would not allow in a project.



Scan for
updated
Housing
FAQs.

Meet Garo Avessian, Our New Choir Director

Garo arrives at SVUMC with master's degrees in Music Composition and Opera Symphonic Conducting. He has over 18 years of professional experience as a composer, conductor of both choirs and orchestras, and as a conducting lecturer at a theological school.

In addition to his new role at SVUMC, Garo is on the faculty of Lark Musical Society in Glendale and Knauer Music School in Tarzana.

Garo lives in Northridge with his wife and three sons.

Please give a warm SVUMC welcome to Garo!



HELLO November



Elementary kids will focus on building our trust in God brick by brick. Through stories of Elijah, Jonah, Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah we will see how making choices from a foundation of trust changes everything about the way you live.

“Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.”
Isaiah 40:31



This month's bottom line for our Pre-K - Kindergarten kids is “I can thank God for everything!” Old Testament heroes Ruth, Daniel, Elisha, & David will help show how God loves us and we can be thankful.

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.” Psalm 11:1

November Parents' Night Out

Friday, November 21st

5:30-8:30pm

How about a night off? All children from 2 years – 5th grade are invited to join us for a night of fun: dinner, games, crafts, & treats.

\$20 per child or \$50 per family

Christmas is coming!!!

Would you like help with your lights or decorations? Our youth would love to help!

Please contact
Becky Valenzuela or Peter Witman if you have questions or would like to schedule an install.



Thursday Evenings 6-7pm
All youth are invited to join us in Witman Hall for dinner & devotion!



November at CrossRoads

In this season of gratitude, we are so grateful for the support CrossRoads receives. I am also grateful for our Butter Braid pastries! They will be delivered to the school's office on Thursday, November 20th. I will have church orders ready for pickup after church on Sunday November 23rd. Thank you again for all your support!

At CrossRoads, we celebrate Friendsgiving, as we believe that being at school is not just about learning, but also about building lasting friendships.

Mrs. Michelle Gordon, Principal
CrossRoads Children's Center



Thankful for Friendsgiving



Regular Sunday Schedule

9:45 AM CHILDCARE OPENS * **10:00 AM** WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL (CHILDREN BEGIN IN THE SANCTUARY, THEN ARE LED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AFTER CHILDREN'S TIME) * **11:00 AM** COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR



United
Women
in Faith

Coming
Up

Wednesday, November 5: Board meeting at 10 am in the Chapel

Wednesday, November 12: Craft Night at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. Join in to make centerpieces for the Christmas Meeting.

Wednesday, December 3: Christmas Meeting with dessert, entertainment and installation of UWF officers.

CIRCLES

Circle of Joy: Wednesday, November 12 at 12:30 pm at the home of Nancy Kinsinger, 341 Golden Vine Court.

Night Owls: Tuesday, November 11 at 7 pm in the Chapel.

Seekers Circle: Monday, November 17 at noon in the Chapel.

Circle of Faith: Wednesday, November 19 at noon at the home of Audrey Kelley, 2362 Hampton Avenue.

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

Clothing Alterations Ministry

Ruth Dempsey, Bonnie Bastian & Juanita Ward would like to donate their time to do simple alterations for our congregation.

If you need hemming, sewing buttons, or other simple repairs, contact Ruth to arrange services!

faith

action

sisterhood

Thanks to all the ladies who worked at the Bake Sale for the UWF Boutique. Also a big thank you to everyone who donated food items for us to sell!

It was a huge success and we appreciate all of you who participated.

Love and
thanks, Joyce
and Nancy.

I would like to thank the many lovely ladies of the SVUMC Chapter of the United Women in Faith for their support and commitment toward the success of this year's boutique!

The Bake Sale was headed by Nancy Kinsinger and Joyce Martin with an incredible team of ladies who baked delicious desserts for sale and others who worked the table.

The Greeters' table coordinator was Sandy Stephens. Her team of greeters did an amazing job welcoming approximately 300 customers to our boutique.

I am also grateful to the United Methodist Men's group, headed by Rich Reynolds and Chuck McKee, for the delicious barbecue lunch their team provided both days.

Lastly, thank you to my invaluable assistant, Ruth Dempsey, and to Pastor Stacy, Erin and Diane for their incredible support and service toward the success of the Boutique.

Maria Reynolds, 2025 Boutique Chair



11/2 Audrey Kelley
 11/3 Matthew Allison
 11/4 Jasmine Austria
 Bridget Elliott
 Rebecca Heteniak
 Soloi Inoke
 11/5 Bong Baltazar III
 11/9 Nancy Kinsinger
 11/12 Julie Brennan
 11/14 Sam Goldman
 Nathan McAlister
 11/15 Clayton Elliott
 11/16 Elizabeth Bergstrom
 11/18 Rebecca Sandoval
 11/19 Hilda Knapton
 11/20 Andrew Shuster
 11/21 Brian Austria
 11/23 Ken "Gabby" Hayes
 11/25 David Stephens
 11/28 Barbara Mueller
 11/29 Paula Moya



11/1 Nacho & Lynn Lopez
 11/25 David & Sandy Stephens
 11/26 Con & Cheryl Williams



Fall back, not behind!
 CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS
 the night of November 1st

The Walking Group meets
 every Tuesday & Thursday
 to head out on a 3k walk.
 They'll be shifting their
 start time to 8 am starting
 in November.



Worship Attendance

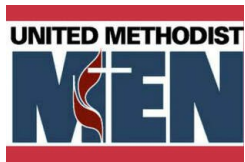
	In Church	Online
9/28	96	119
10/5	112	20
10/12	98	30
10/19	111	28

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12



★ **Veterans Day:** ★
 Thank You for Your Service!



The UMM will be providing a
 delicious brunch after worship on
 November 2. Thank you, United
 Methodist Men!

THANK YOU
 NATE & AYL A DIXON!

Nate & Ayla volunteered their time and
 materials to greatly improve the
 conference room in the church office,
 which now has fresh periwinkle blue paint
 and a new table and chairs.
 More improvements to come. Stay tuned!



United Methodist Church Simi Valley

Date: Monday, November 17, 2025

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Location: 2394 Erringer Road
 Simi Valley, CA 93065



GIVE BLOOD

vitalant.
 Blood Donation

THE

HERALD

Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road, Simi Valley CA 93065

(805) 526-6231 www.simivalleyumc.org

FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 21
11:30 AM



Lunch
Bunch

THANKSGIVING
POTLUCK

Turkey provided



Join us for our
festive, traditional

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 23
after church

Come help decorate our sanctuary for
the Christmas season! Snacks provided.
All ages are invited to help!

Outreach Update

Monthly Outreach Committee meeting:

Wednesday November 19 at 1 pm in the Chapel.

Saturday Outreach Dinners:

November 15 and 29.

Contact Barbara Bagwell if you'd like to donate supplies or lend a hand.

Recycling Sunday:

November 23 *all* CRV beverage containers including glass accepted.

Save the date for Alternative Christmas:

Sunday, December 14, on the patio after church. Numerous nonprofits will be present, and you can make a donation in the name of someone as their Christmas present – an excellent way to help our local charities and score the perfect gift. More info in the December Herald.