

October 2025

Volume 25 No. 10



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



Cindie Stump-Gamboa
& **Kelsey Rodriguez**
Child Care Providers



CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Michelle Gordon
Principal
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- Cleaned up and beautiful
- Vespers Prayer Service in the garden
- Eagle Scout project in the works

ATTENTION PARENTS

- What is God's big story for your kids in October?
- Plus Fall Fun

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Worship This Month:

The Parable of the Talents reminds us that who we are and what we have are gifts from God and we are called to be stewards of them. This month we will look at what God has ENTRUSTED into our care and how we are caring for them.



October 5th:

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

ENTRUSTED: Our Time
Based on Matthew 25:14-30

October 12th:

ENTRUSTED: Our Treasure
Based on Matthew 6:19-21

October 19th:

ENTRUSTED: Our Talents
Based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

October 26th:

ENTRUSTED: Our Hearts
Based on Mark 7:1-15

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND GET TO KNOW YOU LUNCH

At the Parsonage

THIS WILL BE A GET TO KNOW YOU TIME, A TIME TO INQUIRE ABOUT BEING A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH, AND A TIME TO SHARE A MEAL TOGETHER.

	OCT	
SUN	26	11.30 AM
	2025	

RSVP by Friday, Oct. 24th
at Noon



DID YOU KNOW THAT KIDS FROM CROSSROADS ATTEND CHAPEL WITH PASTOR STACY & MS. BECKY?



Once a week, all the children from CrossRoads Children's Center are led to the Sanctuary for a time of lessons, singing, movement, prayer, and most of all, learning about God's love for them.



CROSSROADS KIDS ARE AGES 18 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS!



EAST PROPERTY

LUNCH & INFO MEETING

SUNDAY
OCT. 12TH
AFTER WORSHIP

Sandee Furuta from the Cal-Pac Conference Office will join us to talk about the process of building on the East Property, if that is the direction we choose to go.

Vespers Prayer Service

Join Pastor Stacy for a Vespers Prayer Service in the Meditation Garden on Sunday, October 5th at 5 pm.

This will be a time to pray for our loved ones, our community, our country, and our world. We will ask for healing and understanding of our part in being God's healing hands.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month, we continue on in our journey through God's big story. Elementary grades will learn about wisdom through the lives of David, Solomon, and other kings of Israel and Judah. Our PreK through K children will be learning about being brave through the stories of Esther, David, Gideon, & Abigail.



1ST - 5TH GRADE



"It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver."
Proverbs 16:16

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT PAJAMA PARTY OCT 17TH 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Hey kids! Put on your favorite PJs and join us for a night of fun: dinner, games, crafts, and treats!

Ages 2 years - 5th grade



\$20 per child or \$50 per family
Register by Wednesday, October 15th

PRE K - K



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. . . for the Lord your God goes with you." Deuteronomy 31:6

FALL Festival



Sunday, October 19th 11am-12pm
Join us after church for some fall fun -
chili cook off & hotdogs, crafts, & treats!



It's Butter Braid Time! Michelle Gordon will be on the church patio after worship on **October 26** taking orders for Butter Braid breads in support of CrossRoads Children's Center. As early as October 13, you may email your orders to her instead at crossroadscddirector@gmail.com.

Each pastry is \$16, and year's flavors include Apple, Bavarian Cream, Cinnamon, Four-cheese w/herb, Raspberry, & Strawberry w/cream cheese. The frozen Butter Braid orders will be distributed after church on **November 23rd**, just in time for Thanksgiving gatherings!

P.S. CrossRoads will also be doing a Toppers Fundraiser on October 8. Watch for the flyer!



CONGRATULATIONS TO SOLOI INOKE — UWF QUIET DISCIPLE!

On September 20th, Soloi Inoke was recognized at the Cal-Pac North District United Women in Faiths annual celebration with the Quiet Disciple award. Soloi is the epitome of a “Quiet Disciple.” She is happy performing the Lord’s work in any capacity as humbly as possible. Her son Tevita refers to his mother as a “Silent Servant.” Soloi’s dedication to the Lord is unwavering as she gives all her praise to Him! Most Sundays, Soloi is busy



coordinating Coffee Hour. You may also see her addressing the congregation as a worship leader. Soloi is also Worship Committee member and a longtime participant in the UWF’s Night Owls Circle. Additionally, Soloi is musically inclined as she’s been an integral member of the Adult Handbell Choir since 2018. Soloi is also a lifelong Methodist! She officially joined SVUMC on March 19, 2006.

We are so grateful for Soloi’s steadfast dedication to the Lord and in particular, to the Simi Valley United Methodist Church. Soloi celebrated her award with her son Tevita, daughters Kalo and Lily, sisters Tapa Maka, Meliame Maka, and nephew Matthew Cowden. Soloi is very deserving of this award and we are all very proud of her!



United
Women
in Faith

COMING UP

Wednesday, Oct. 1: Board meeting at 10 am in the Chapel

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 10-11: **Fall Boutique**

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

Wednesday, November 12: Craft Night at 6:30 pm in the Chapel

CIRCLES

Circle of Joy: Wednesday, October 8 at 12:30 pm at the home of Debbie Costello, 1077 Hillview Ln.

Circle of Faith: Wednesday, October 15 at noon at the home of Laura Hole, 2848 Waterfall Ln.

Seekers Circle: Monday, October 20 at noon in the Chapel.

Night Owls: Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

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

THE 2025
**FALL HOLIDAY
BOUTIQUE**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10:
10 AM-5PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11:
10 AM-3PM

**HANDMADE CRAFTS
LUNCH
BAKE SALE**

Simi Valley United Methodist Church
2394 Erringer Road
Simi Valley, CA

Sponsored by United
Women in Faith

THE SVUMC MEDITATION GARDEN



Come visit our lovely Meditation Garden on the East Property!

Special thanks to Chuck, Mike and Russ and the Gordon and Martinez families for their work beautifying the garden in preparation for Marley & Diego's wedding!



**TROOP 642
OF SIMI
VALLEY
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



**BURGER BASH
OCTOBER 5
AFTER WORSHIP, WITMAN HALL**

✓ ALL DONATIONS HELP BRAXTON MARX RAISE FUNDS FOR HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT!

Braxton will be improving the SVUMC Meditation Garden by creating an engaging and inspirational self-guided tour. Come learn more about Braxton's plan, enjoy lunch, and support a great cause with your freewill donation.



10/3 Barbara Brown
Dillon Stites
Ayden & Preston Sua
10/4 Nancy Reyes
10/6 Jill Fernando
10/7 Braxton McAlister
Debbie Post
10/8 Wesson Garbo
Laura Jean Hole
Wesley Sandoval
Stu Thomson
10/9 Patrick Brennan
10/10 Alexandra Keene
Jessica Ross
10/15 Josh Gordon
10/16 Carolyn Hoffman
10/17 Carol Walden
10/18 Susan Heteniak
Ardis Jay
10/20 Gary Bodkins
Kathy Hobiger
10/22 David Waye, Jr.
Jivankumar Zinto
10/23 Sam Allison
Astrid Aragoness
JJ Waye
10/25 Melissa Allison
10/26 Kaelyn Motzel
Judy Orozco
10/27 Cheryl Williams
10/28 Joshua Greene
King Jimenez
10/29 Mele Maka
10/30 Dee Tingstrom



10/10 Diane & Robert
Alexander
10/11 Gary & Pam Keene
10/12 Corrine Lightfoot &
Dylan Dutka

We celebrated the baptism of
McKenna Ruth Barnard on
September 14. Proud parents
are **Samantha & Evan
Barnard**.

Congratulations to **Marley
Gordon & Diego Martinez**,
who were married September
13th at the SVUMC Meditation
Garden.

We mourn the passing of
Galen Hokama on September
2. Please contact the church
office for Elizabeth's address.

We mourn the passing of
Ronda Farr on July 27, and
look forward to celebrating her
life on October 4.



A Celebration of Life for Ronda will be
held in the Sanctuary on Saturday,
October 4th at 11:00am with a
reception to follow in Witman Hall.



Worship Attendance

	In Church	Online
8/31	108	20
9/7	144	20
9/14	127	32
9/21	61	28

**OUR CHURCH FUNDRAISER AT
TOPPERS PIZZA ON AUGUST 12
RAISED \$189.26 FOR OUR
SANCTUARY REFRESH FUND!**

Outreach Update

The next Outreach meeting
is Wednesday, **October 15**
at 1 pm in the chapel.
They'll be serving Outreach
Dinner to the community
in need on Saturday,
October 18. Preparation at
4:00 pm; dinner served at
5:00 pm. Contact Barbara
Bagwell if you'd like to
help!

Recycle Sunday is **October
26**. Bring in your CA
Redemption-value plastic
water bottles and
aluminum drink cans to
help with the costs of
Outreach Dinner.

Thank you!

Newsletter

October

10

Deadline

Save the Date for Charge Conference



Charge
Conference

**Tuesday,
November 18
@ 7 pm**

THE

HERALD

Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road, Simi Valley CA 93065

(805) 526-6231 www.simivalleyumc.org

Happy 30th Anniversary, SVUMC Handbells!

Simi Valley United Methodist Church has had one or more handbell choirs continuously since 1995. The delivery of the bells and equipment on September 29th, 1995 marked the official beginning. Ringers had practiced the motions using cooking spoons prior to the arrival of the bells!



There were two early handbell choirs: youth and adult, both under the direction of Ronda Powell, an experienced ringer. The first Adult bell choir consisted of Laura Jean Hole, Lynne O'Hanlon, Jeanette and Virgil Stites, Stu Thomson, Barbara Brown, Carole Collins, Kathleen Motzel, Laura Hole and Jennifer Herman. Laura Jean Hole and Stu Thomson are still ringing to this day, with Stu as the director of all bell choirs.

Two more choirs have since been added: Adult Ensemble Handbells and KidzBells. Congrats to all ringers throughout the past three decades, and thank you to our volunteer director, Stu Thomson!



AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

SVUMC

Fall Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
AFTER WORSHIP

CHILI COOK-OFF & HOT DOGS
CRAFTS & TREATS FOR THE KIDS



*Pumpkins and supplies will be provided.