

March 2026

SIMI VALLEY

Volume 26 No. 3

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 Avesian
Choir Director



Cindie Stump-Gamboa
& Kelsey Rodriguez
Child Care Providers



CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Michelle Gordon
Principal
(805) 526-2887



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United Methodist Church
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WAYS TO WORSHIP DURING

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 29
PALM SUNDAY

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM
EGG HUNT & LUNCH TO FOLLOW

APRIL 2
MAUNDY THURSDAY

NOON IN THE CHAPEL: REMEMBERING THE
LAST SUPPER

APRIL 3
GOOD FRIDAY

10 AM: WALK TO THE CROSS AT MT. MCCOY
12 PM: SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL
7 PM: "THE SUFFERING OF MARY" CONCERT

APRIL 5
EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 AM: SUNRISE SERVICE IN THE
MEDITATION GARDEN
FOLLOWED BY SUNRISE BRUNCH

10 AM: CELEBRATION SERVICE IN THE
SANCTUARY



A Lenten Blessing

Blessed are you, ready to open yourself to a new joy, a doorway that until now has been hidden. In this culture of acquisition and gain, blessed are you who desire fresh ears to hear what might be a bit too loud. Who take the next step to turn it down a notch and make more space for God. Who discipline yourself, with time, intention, and hope, anticipating God to show up in your discomfort. Trusting that when we need God, God promises to be there.

God, give me courage, give me strength, give me hunger for You. Let this set time of less be a chance for more of You.

Let this fast be an entrance into the discernment I desire, the divine presence I'm longing for, and the hope to will what You will, oh God, to be who You've called me to be.

by Kate Bowler

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2nd at Noon in the Chapel



Meet in the Chapel to learn about the Passover customs that Jesus would have been honoring with His disciples on the night we call "The Last Supper." Taste some of the dishes (modified versions), pray, and share the Communion blessing.

A meal of love, a lesson of humility. 'Do this in remembrance of Me.' (Luke 22:19)

SUNDAY WORSHIP & TUESDAY STUDY

March 1st

"A Bird's Eye View"

John 3:1-17

Pastor Stacy Preaching
Holy Communion Served

March 8th

"Initial Cuts"

John 4:5-42

Pastor Stacy Preaching

March 15th

"Finding a Knot"

John 9:1-41

Pastor Stacy Preaching

March 22nd

"Refining the Shape"

John 11:1-45

Pastor Stacy Preaching

March 29th

Palm Sunday

"The Rough Edges"

Matthew 26:14-35

Bible Study each week will dig deeper into the previous Sunday's text.

TASTE & SEE *with Pastor Stacy*

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

Psalm 34:8



EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MARCH AT 7 PM



Pastor Stacy will be doing a hand-on cooking demo, then the group will taste the dish and have a time of devotion and prayer.

March 4th Homemade Pasta Noodles

March 11th Crepes

March 18th Scottish Pasties (beef & potato hand pies)

March 25th Creme Brûlée

PLEASE RSVP BY THE DAY BEFORE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Join us in the Sanctuary on Good Friday, April 3rd, at 7:00 pm for a concert featuring professional vocalists and musicians, directed by our own Garo Avesian.

Stabat Mater by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi is a musical expression of Mary’s suffering at the cross.

A freewill offering will be taken to help cover concert expenses.



EASTER LILIES & SPRING BLOOMS

See Juanita on the patio after worship on March 22nd or 29th to order.

LILIES: You may purchase a lily for \$10, honor a loved one by name in the bulletin, and take the lily home after Easter worship.

SPRING FLOWER DISPLAY: Our altar will also include colorful spring blooms along with lilies. You may honor a loved one in the bulletin with a freewill donation toward our flower display. This is a great option if you do not wish to take flowers home after our Easter worship.



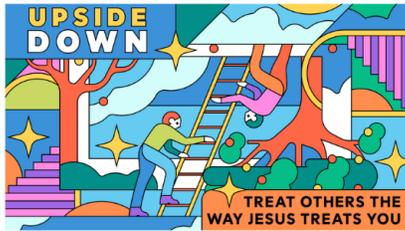
JOIN US IN THE CHAPEL FOR A

St. Patrick’s Day Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, March 17th at noon

Corned Beef & Cabbage!

Bible Study to follow at 1 pm. All are welcome whether or not in Bible Study!



Though Jesus is the King of Kings, He entered the world as a humble servant. Instead of demanding that others served Him, Jesus healed, listen to, and cared for the people considered unimportant or unworthy. Instead of living in a palace, Jesus walked the dusty miles on His own tired feet. Jesus turned things upside down.

Instead of status and riches, Jesus taught that success came from humility and service. Our Elementary class will focus on the lives of John the Baptist, the Roman Centurion, Mary & Martha, and Jesus Himself, as he made His humble entry into Jerusalem. Through all these stories, kids will discover that being first is less important than putting others first!

Our Pre-K class will be learning about how Jesus is the greatest All-Star of all time and everything He did shows us how amazing He is!

We are telling Preschoolers true stories from the Bible that teach this big truth: Jesus is amazing!



This month, at D&D, the youth will be learning about the woodcarving process with a hands-on project led by Chuck and about how we all need a little chiseling!

Blessings, Ms. Becky

Parents' Night Out!

Friday, March 20th
5:30-8:30 pm

Everyone wear green & orange, and join us for some St. Patrick's fun-dinner, crafts, games, and more!

*Ages 2 years - 5th grade

\$20 per child or \$50 per family

Confirm your child's attendance with

Ms. Becky via Procare or email by

Wednesday, March 18th



*All CrossRoads' students welcome!

For more information about Parents' Night Out! or Children's Ministry at SVUMC, contact

Ms. Becky at freedomtake2@gmail.com

SVUMC

EGG HUNT & BURGER BASH

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

After Palm Sunday Worship and Sunday School, come on over to Witman Hall for lunch. After the meal, kids will be invited to the playground to hunt for Easter eggs.

Don't forget to bring your baskets!

WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF
Sonny Andreas Martinez, born February 15th
 7 lbs., 8 oz. 20½ inches

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROUD PARENTS
 MARLEY & DIEGO MARTINEZ AND
 THE GORDON FAMILY!



*March at CrossRoads
 Children's Center*

Spring is almost here! We will kick off this month with a themed week filled with Dr. Seuss, dress-up days, and special snacks—even green eggs and ham! Many fun and exciting activities are planned for this week!

We will also have our Spring Open House on Tuesday, March 10th, along with our Slice House fundraiser from 11 am to 9 pm. As always, thank you for your support!

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



SLICE HOUSE WILL DONATE
**20% EVENT OF SALES TO
 CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S
 CENTER**

March 10, 2026
 2916 Tapo Canyon Rd B
 Simi Valley, CA 93063

Please enter the coupon code **GIVEBACK** upon ordering online through the Slice House mobile app or website or in Slice House on March 10. By applying this code, Slice House will contribute **20%** of your order to support our community.

Offer valid only on select date(s). Only approved non-profit organizations and tax-exempt organizations are eligible to participate in the fundraising program. Restaurant will donate 20% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gift cards, catering, delivery, and alcohol are excluded from the donation. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant. For more information about fundraising, visit <https://slicehouse.force4good.com>.



United
 Women
 in Faith

~ Coming Up ~

Wednesday, 3/4: UWF Board meeting in the Chapel at 10 am.

**Saturday, 4/18: Women's Retreat from 9 am to 3 pm
 in the Chapel. Pastor Stacy will be our speaker.**

Circles

Circle of Joy: Wednesday, 3/11 at 12:30 pm in the Chapel

Seekers Circle: Monday, 3/16 at noon in the Chapel.

Night Owls: Tuesday, 3/17 at 7 pm in the Chapel.

Circle of Faith: Wednesday, 3/18 at noon at the home of Jeanne Corr, 6441 Almar St.

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

WHAT'S COOKIN'

in the Witman Hall Kitchen

SVUMC has some new volunteer helpers! Michael, Aryona & Calvin help Ms. Sharon on weekdays with lunches and snacks for CrossRoads, and in exchange they receive valuable work experience.

Ms. Sharon has also been working with Pastor Stacy on some new healthy menu items including chicken & broccoli meatballs, homemade mac n cheese, morning egg bites and applesauce donuts.



CROSSROADS KITCHEN



Ms. Sharon with Michael, Aryona, & Calvin



OUTREACH DINNER KITCHEN

Our organized and energetic Outreach Team plans, preps and serves dinner to those in need in the community every third Saturday evening. Healthy, creative meals are made by our volunteers from scratch on site and are served with a smile.





- 3/1 Jim Kokotos
Gary Scott
- 3/3 Elizabeth Lopez
- 3/5 Laura McInnis
Ellen Sears
- 3/6 Mateo Sandoval
- 3/8 Bonnie Bastian
- 3/11 Sally Kitzmann
- 3/12 Karen Greene
- 3/14 Marley Gordon
Renaë Hayden
- 3/16 Diane Alexander
Gail Pyfrom
- 3/18 Rider Gordon
Helen Jones
Chris Reyes
- 3/21 Claire Newman
- 3/24 Albert Aragones
- 3/25 Maya Juliet Austria
- 3/26 Laura Hole
- 3/27 Becca Greene
- 3/28 Amanda Bastian
- 3/31 Lori Ann Glover
Annette Haag



- 3/12 Barbara & Tom
Mueller
- 3/18 Jerry & Kathleen
Motzel



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

Newsletter Deadline **Friday March 13**

Worship Attendance

	In Church	Online
1/25	116	24
2/1	117	24
2/8	110	26
2/15	95	44

Marni Brown would love to stay in touch:
10928 S. Wood Stone Circle, South Jordan, UT 84095

Recycle Sunday: March 22

Look for Ken Gordon in the parking lot near the walkway to the East Property before worship!

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!

We mourn the loss of
Leslie Frank's husband,
Steve, on February 9th.

A Memorial Service was held
on February 13th.

THE

HERALD

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SVUMC

Assisted

Listening System

In the recent months, we have installed a new Assisted Listening System that connects your cell phone and your hearing aids directly to the Sanctuary sound system.



➔ Sanctuary Wifi
*required to connect



➔ Listening App
*to run the program

These QR codes will help connect your phone to the WiFi in the Sanctuary, allowing you to download the app that runs the listening program.

To connect, please see Todd Goldman on a Sunday morning. He will work to connect you in.

If you do not have a smart phone, or hearing aids that connect to a phone, we have other devices available to help link you into the sound system.

OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

Outreach Meeting:

Wednesday, 3/18 at 2 pm in the Chapel

Outreach Dinner: Saturday, 3/21. Can you provide dessert or key ingredients for desserts?

See Barbara Bagwell!

Recycling Sunday: 3/22



The Blessing Bag Item Drive continues! Each month, Outreach collects specific items for the Blessing Bags they'll distribute at the end of the year.

FOR MARCH: travel-size toothpaste, toothbrushes & floss.

Please place items in the labeled baskets in the Narthex. Your donations are appreciated!