

November 2024

Volume 24 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



Lisa Wall-Urgero
Director of Music Ministries

Leslie Frank
Organist



Cindie Stump-Gamboa
& Kelsey Rodriguez
Child Care Providers



CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Michelle Gordon
Principal
(805) 526-2887



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SIMI VALLEY

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www.SimiValleyUMC.org

COMING SOON:
**Annual Christmas
Benefit Concert**

- Body Brain Train
- GiGi's Playhouse
- Samaritan Center
- Free Clinic of Simi Valley

Love!

A Gospel Christmas Celebration

Save the Date!
Sunday, December 8
4:00 pm

Free Will Offering

Choir | Live Band | Handbells

NOVEMBER WORSHIP

At a Glance

November 3rd

All Saints Sunday
Holy Communion
Joshua 4:4-7
"Leaving a Legacy"

November Sermon Series

Join us Nov. 10-24th for a series on togetherness, inspired by Bishop Will Willimon's book, "Don't Look Back."

November 10th

Luke 15:1-2
"Different but Together"

November 17th

John 17:21
"Coming Together"

November 24th

Mark 1:6-20
"Following Jesus Together"

From Pastor Stacy

The election is upon us and I am saddened once again to see work being done to divide us. Are you blue or red? Are you voting for him or her? Are you on my side or the other? This last one being the dangerous one. Christ only wants us to be on one side, His. Not defined by a color or a candidate, but by a Christ that we can all follow no matter how we vote on Election Day.

In our sermon series this month we will try to knit back together some of the tears that we experience as people. We will see how we can be different and yet of the same Body. We will celebrate that the Holy Spirit unites us and most importantly that God loves all of us.



UWF November ~ Looking Ahead

- ◆ Wednesday, November 6 @10 am: UWF Board Meeting in the Chapel
- ◆ Wednesday, November 6 @7 pm: Craft Night in the Chapel. Two crafts to choose from including Christmas table center pieces for our December 4th Installation of Officers event. \$5 donation fee to cover the cost of supplies.
- ◆ Wednesday, December 4 @6:30 pm: UWF Christmas meeting and installation of officers in Witman Hall. Dessert will be served.

UWF Circles

Circle of Joy will meet on Wednesday, November 13 at 12:30 at the home of Nancy Kinsinger, 341 Golden Vine Road.

Night Owls will meet Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 pm in the chapel.

Circle of Faith will meet on Wednesday, November 20 at noon at the home of Maria Reynolds, 613 Verdemont Circle.

Seekers Circle will meet at noon on Monday, November 18 in the chapel.

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



UWF President Christine Palotay presents the Quiet Disciple award to Dee Larkin-Tingstrom at SVUMC on September 29.

UWF 2024 Quiet Disciple: Dee Larkin-Tingstrom

On September 28 at Sherman Oaks United Methodist Church, the North District held their Annual Celebration and Recognition of Quiet Disciples.

The SVUMC UWF chose Dee Larkin-Tingstrom as our Quiet Disciple this year. She is a member of our Night Owls circle and has served as UWF Historian for at least seven years. Dee is active in the church as part of the Adult Handbell Choir and the Adult Handbell Ensemble.

Quiet Disciples are the ones who can be counted on to help, working faithfully and without fanfare wherever they are needed. Dee fits that description. We extend our congratulations to this very special lady!

Happy Thanksgiving

FROM CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES!

UMYF Weekly Schedule

November 3rd - Burger Bash after worship
- UMYF 6pm
November 10th - UMYF 6pm
November 17th - UMYF 6pm
November 24th - Recycle Sunday
No UMYF

Youth Program
Theme for November:



Truth is, we're too busy and fill our lives with so many clubs & activities, business and noise, but when do we schedule time to rest & refuel? So many things demand our attention, but when do we actually listen to the rhythms of our own heart and to hear God speak? This month, youth ministry will be focusing on just that and discover simple ways to refuel ourselves each day. This series ends with an event of Thankfulness which will engage your students through reflection stations that will help them reflect on their blessings and cultivate a heart of gratitude!

***Looking ahead... Save the date Jan 17-20th
Winter Retreat at Camp Wrightwood

relationship
encourage hope
responsible belief friends family
special
assurance enjoy
respect strength
freedom happy love believe
reliable treasure
determination
confidence
truth
faith

Children's Ministry



November Sunday School: Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)
Sometimes generosity doesn't come naturally to us. We want the newest and best things, or we want everyone to notice what we have. When we really enjoy the things we have, sometimes that makes it harder for us to be willing to share with others. However, with the help of God's Spirit, we can learn that HOW we give is more important than even WHAT we give. It's about our hearts. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. This month, we'll take a look at how we can respond by being generous to others by looking at stories from both the Old and New Testaments.
Memory Verse- "EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM GOD." JAMES 1:17A

Monthly Virtue- Generosity - Generosity is about making someone's day by giving something away



TNL - Thursday Night Live is our midweek kids' program.

Join us on Thursday Nights 5-6pm in the Fireside Room for games, crafts, fellowship, and fun!

***Looking ahead... is your child interested in playing a role in the Christmas Pageant? Ms. Becky is building the list of participants now to select the best option for this year!



November at CrossRoads

We are immensely grateful for the support CrossRoads receives. November is a time to reflect on our blessings and express gratitude.



I am grateful for our Butter Braid pastries! They will be delivered at the school's office on Thursday, November 21st. I will have church orders ready for pickup after church on Sunday, November 24th. 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



Appalachia Service Project Work Team Forms!

Thirteen enthusiastic people from our congregation are now planning on, working toward, learning about, praying for, and fund-raising toward a mission trip to Appalachia in June of 2025.

The youthful team members include: Morgan Horney, Shaila Horney, Kalani Horney, Madison Dickson, Katie Comparato, and Mya Sanchez.

The adult team members include: Chuck McKee, Becky Valenzuela, Julie Brennan, Mark Witman, Paul Witman, Peter Witman, and Barbara Witman.

The group covets your prayers for their efforts, especially for the safety and health of the team and the families we will serve.



New Things Happening Through the Outreach Committee!

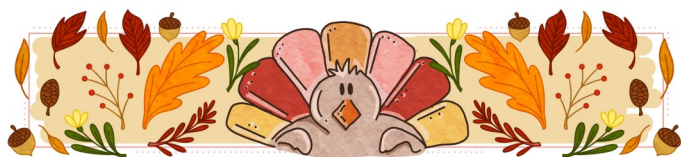
Our monthly Dinner/Feeding Church will be going through a name change to become (drum roll please!) OUTREACH DINNER!

Also, the committee is in the process of developing a new outreach program, a shower ministry to work in conjunction with our Outreach Dinner.

Be looking in upcoming Heralds for more information and ways that you can be in support of this fresh and clean new ministry.

For those reading "Love is the Way" by Bishop Michael Curry, Pastor Stacy will hold a discussion on Sunday, November 3rd at 4 pm in the chapel.

***Weekday
Lunch Bunch
Thanksgiving Potluck!***
**Thursday, November 14th
@12pm in the chapel**



The Appalachia Service Project Work Team will hold its traditional Pie Sale on Sunday, November 24 following worship!

- * Enjoy homemade pies baked by the youth and adults on the team.
- * All the funds raised will go toward paying the cost of their trip to Appalachia to make homes warmer, safer, and drier.
- * Check baking off your list for Thanksgiving and support the youth at the same time!

Questions or special requests? Contact Barbara Witman at 805-428-6998.

BANNERS IN WORSHIP

Did you know that we have a church calendar that designates a liturgical (worship) color for each Sunday of the year?

The liturgical colors are white for the celebration of Christ, purple for Advent and Lent, red for Pentecost, and green for ordinary time. These colors are used in churches around the country, and not just United Methodist Churches, but many denominations.

Beginning in November, be looking in your Sunday bulletin for the color of the day.



11/2 Audrey Kelley
 11/3 Matthew Allison
 11/4 Jasmine Austria
 Soloi Inoke
 11/9 Nancy Kinsinger
 11/12 Julie Brennan
 11/14 Maribel Gabriel
 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 Hayes
 11/25 David Stephens
 11/28 Barbara Mueller



11/1 Nacho & Lynn Lopez
 11/17 Melvin & Marni Brown
 11/25 David & Sandy Stephens
 11/26 Con & Cheryl Williams



~ Attendance ~
In Church Online

9/29	92	42
10/6	109	28
10/13	123	22
10/20	110	39



Committee Meetings

Youth Leaders: Tuesday, November 12th @ 7:00 pm, Jr. High room

CrossRoads Advisory: Tuesday, November 19th @ 5:30 pm, Chapel

Administrative Council: Tuesday, November 19th @ 6:00 pm, Little Witman Hall

Outreach: Wednesday, November 20th @ 1:00 pm, Chapel



Prayer Requests

Please submit prayer requests via phone call or email to the church office: (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



Vitalant Blood Drive

Monday, November 18
starting at 11:30 am.



United
 Methodist
 Men

Sunday, November 10 at
11:30 am: Monthly meeting in
Little Witman Hall.

Newsletter
 Deadline

November 8th

JOIN US FOR
1ST SUNDAY
BURGER BASH
NOVEMBER 3
 IN WITMAN HALL
 AFTER WORSHIP

DONATIONS
 gratefully accepted
 TO BENEFIT YOUTH
 MISSIONS!

~Thanksgiving Holiday Hours~

The Church Office will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 28th & 29th.

CrossRoads Children's Center will be closed Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, November 27th, 28th & 29th.



THE

HERALD

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New Opportunities!

Prayer Ministry Would you be available to receive and lift prayers that come in during weekdays? Call or email the church office if you can help.

Greeters We are looking for folks willing to greet guests coming in the doors on Sundays. Nancy Reyes is our greeter wrangler, so let her know if you'd like to sign up!

SVUMC Annual Angel Tree

Hi everyone—my family and I will be collecting gifts again this year for our angels in the foster care system. James Storehouse in Newbury Park is an incredible nonprofit who serves the children and families while in the Ventura County foster care system as well as after they age out. At Christmas we have the opportunity to make these children's lives a little brighter.

I will be collecting gifts at church to take to James Storehouse the **first two Sundays in December, December 1st and 8th**. We need gifts for infants to 19 years old. Some suggestions are toys, books, gift cards, sports equipment, cosmetics, dolls, cars, clothes, LEGO, games, jewelry, remote control cars, and art/crafting supplies. We also need gift wrap and gift bags.

We are so grateful for you helping us to make this happen. Packing the car full of gifts every year is so exciting, and the volunteers at James Storehouse are always so happy to get the gifts. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 404-8329. Thank you!

—Rebecca Sandoval



Hanging of the Greens

Tuesday, November 26th at 6:00 pm

Join your church family for this festive evening as we decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season.

All ages are invited to help!