

March 2024

Volume 24 No. 3

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

2394 Erringer Road
Simi Valley, CA 93065-2296
(805) 526-6231

svumc@pacbell.net
facebook.com/SimiValleyUMC/
www.SimiValleyUMC.org

*Sunrise Service @ 6:30 am
in the Meditation Garden*

*Celebration Service @ 10am
in the Sanctuary*

JOIN US ON
EASTER SUNDAY

HOLY Week

March 24 Palm Sunday ~ Worship @ 10 am

*March 28 Maundy Thursday ~ Labyrinth open
in Witman Hall 10am-8pm*

March 29 Good Friday ~

Walk to the Cross at Mt. McCoy @ 10 am

Tenebrae Service @ 7 pm

March 31 Easter Sunday ~

*Sunrise Service in the Meditation
Garden @ 6:30 am*

*Celebration Service @ 10 am in
the Sanctuary*



11 am Saturday,
March 23 on the
East Property

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Childcare: For infants through kindergarten in the Garden Room (formerly the Nursery) throughout the worship service.

10:00 a.m. Worship including Chancel Choir

- ◆ ASL signing for Hearing Impaired
- ◆ Children's Sunday School (begin in sanctuary, then led to Fireside room)

11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship



WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

Communion Sunday

"Proclaiming the Kingdom"

Matthew 5:1-2a & 7:24-29

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

"Calming the Storm"

Mark 3:35-41

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, March 17th, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Sinners, Outcasts, & the Poor"

John 4:3-10

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, March 24th, 2024

Palm Sunday

**Witness the Palm Sunday through
Passion Week Story through the Youths'
Reenactment.**

Sunday, March 31st, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

6:30am Sunrise Service in the Garden

10:00am Celebration Worship

Dear Church,

As I look at both the secular calendar and the church calendar for the month of March, I recognize the term "March Madness" to be even more descriptive of the month of March this year.



I see that yes, the NCAA tournament is this month, the source of the name, but also I see Daylight Savings Time, St. Patrick's Day, and the first day of Spring. None of these are major events in my eyes, but then when we add the church calendar we see Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, only to be preceded by our first Burger Bash, our first Youth Craft Boutique, our second annual Pretzel Sunday, and our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

These are just the major events weaving through our calendar, which is already filled with our usual weekly and monthly activities. It is a reminder how we are continually moving away from pandemic ministry and back into the full life of the church. Praise the Lord! I pray that this is reflective of your life, not being full to the brim with activities and commitments, but moving back into a joy-filled time of friends, family, and your life as you knew it before the pandemic.

In all of this, I also pray that you will feel the Spirit of the Lord moving in and through you during our Lenten journey. Each week we creep closer to Holy Week and the mighty acts of Jesus Christ to be arrested, tried, crucified, and risen for us. Such acts are the pure love of God poured out upon us, not because we earned it or deserve it, but because of the nature of our Creator.

I look forward to seeing you more than usual in the month of March as we worship, eat, study, and celebrate together,

Pastor Stacy

Parsonage Brunch Sat., March 23rd @ Noon

Join Pastor Stacy at the Parsonage after the Egg Hunt on Sat., March 23rd for brunch and fellowship before heading out for the rest of your day. Families are encouraged to sign up for this family-friendly meal as a way to sit around a table to get to know each other better and allow the kids to play. RSVP by March 21st to reserve a spot or two.



Know any kids who love to sing?
Children's Choirs are in the works!
See page 5 for all the details!

~UWF Events~



- * **Wednesday, March 6**
UWF meeting at 10 am in the chapel.
- * **Wednesday, March 20** General Meeting at 10am in the Chapel (bring lunch). The program will be given by Ruth Dempsey. She will share her experience attending the Mission U study "Living the Kin-dom" in July 2023. It would be helpful to bring your Bible.
- * **Wednesday, April 3** Board Meeting 10 am in the Chapel.
- * **Saturday, April 13** UWF Retreat from 9:30 am to 4 pm in the chapel. Our guest speaker will be Marlene Funk and the theme is Loving Kindness. Charge is \$10 per person with a donation for food that is served (snacks and lunch).

March Circle Meetings

Circle of Joy will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 12:30 pm at the home of Maria Reynolds, 613 Verdemont Circle.

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

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

Circle of Faith will meet on Wednesday, March 20 at 10:00 am in the chapel for the general meeting.

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



New! College-Aged Ministry

Sunday, March 17th

6:00 pm Dinner w/ youth

6:30 pm Game Night with Pastor Stacy. Includes planning for future meetings!

Wayne and Eleanor Montgomery Scholarship

The Montgomery Scholarship is awarded to deserving high school seniors by UWF (United Women in Faith). It is open to SVUMC members, children and grandchildren of members, or regular attendees who will be Fall 2024 college freshman.

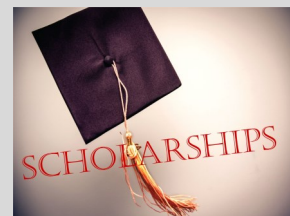
Award recipients attending four-year college will receive \$1,000. Community college, adult education, technical trade school, and occupational training program recipients attendees will receive \$500.

March 1-April 15: Applications available in the Church Office or by emailing Bridget Elliott at bridgetdhe@gmail.com.

May 3, 2024: Deadline for applications. Return via email to bridgetdhe@gmail.com or U.S. mail to Bridget Elliott, 2478 N. Greensward Street, Simi Valley, CA 93065. Scholarships will be awarded in June, and paid in July. Got questions? Email Bridget!

Arlen Petersen Scholarship

The Arlen Petersen scholarship is open to High School seniors preparing for college in Fall 2024 who are actively involved at SVUMC. Applications are in the church office and due by May 3.





Meet the Lenten Lambs

Each week during the month of March as part of Lent, our Sunday School children will be meeting a different lamb character to help learn about Biblical concepts such as praying, praising, fasting, confessing, and preparing.

Children & Family Ministries



March 10th—Pretzel Sunday—after worship in Witman Hall. Join us to make a soft-baked pretzel and learn about the history of pretzel Sunday.

March 23rd—Easter Egg Hunt 11am- 12pm Join us for an afternoon of crafts, fun, and fellowship! Donations of plastic eggs, individually wrapped candies and small toy items are needed and greatly appreciated!



“Camp See Me” is now accepting registrations! Our summer day-camp will run from June 10th -



August 14th. “Camp See Me” is a full-day summer program from 7:30am-5pm, Monday - Friday. Weekly camp cost of \$200 includes all activities, morning and afternoon snack, camp T-shirt, and a summer of safe, fun and exciting activities. Registration forms now available in Mrs. Gordon’s office at CrossRoads or the church office.

Vacation Bible School 2024

Bottom Line:

Everyone is invited to the party!

Volunteers Needed:

Adult class teachers

Station leaders

Crew leaders

*contact Ms Becky or Ms Lisa for more info



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

FRI

15

MAR

5:30-8:30 pm

Everyone wear green and join us for some leprechaun fun

Ages 2 years - 5th grade

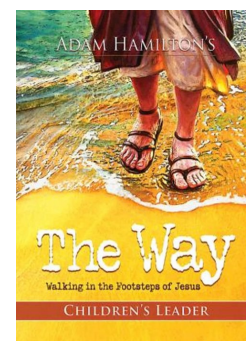
\$15 per child or \$40 per family

Registration Forms available in the Church office



Thursday Night Live!

Children from TK—5th grade are invited to join us from 5-6pm on Thursday nights in the Fireside Room. For March, we will continue exploring “The Way” by Adam Hamilton, through crafts, games, snacks, and more.



March UMYF

3rd - UMYF @6pm
 10th - UMYF @6pm
 17th - UMYF @6pm
 24th - Palm Sunday
 Youth in worship
 Lunch & UMYF
 after church
 31st - Easter
 Sunday No UMYF



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

MONTHLY BURGER BASH
 BEGINNING MARCH 3RD, JOIN US
 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH
 MONTH IN WITMAN HALL AFTER
 WORSHIP FOR A BURGER LUNCH
 AND FELLOWSHIP.



Confirmation

classes continue
 Sunday evenings
 from 5-6pm and
 will run weekly
 until Pentecost

Sunday in May when youth will have the
 opportunity to be confirmed.

P.S. Instagram Account- [@simiumyf](#)

This is a private account for us to share youth-
 related news and photos from events.



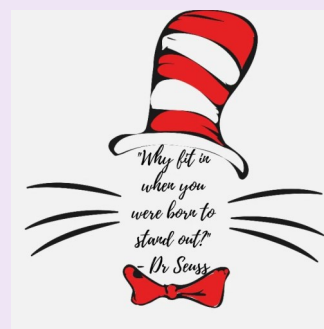
March at CrossRoads Children's Center

Spring is almost here! The weather is starting to change, and the sun is staying out longer. The staff and I are very excited about Spring, and so are the students! During this season, we have baby caterpillars in each classroom, and the children observe the life cycle. Once the butterflies hatch, we let them go. The whole process moves the children.

We will start this month with a themed week filled with Dr. Seuss, with dress-up and special snacks—even green eggs & ham! Lots of fun and exciting activities are planned for this week!

Happy Spring!

Mrs. Michelle Gordon, Principal





Sat

<div>Easter Sunday, March 31st</div> <div>6:30 AM EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE IN THE MEDITATION GARDEN. REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING IN WITMAN HALL</div> <div>10:00 AM CELEBRATION SERVICE. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. CHILDREN REMAIN WITH THEIR PARENTS IN WORSHIP</div> <div>11:00 AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR</div>												
3	10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Burger Bash 11:30 am Children's Choirs 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (after Burger Bash) 5:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm UMYF	4	5	8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study	6	8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 10:00 am UWF Board Mtg. 5:00 pm Kidz Bells	7	8:00 am Walking Group 5:00 pm Thursday Night Live 5:30 pm Adult Ensemble Bells 6:00 pm Adult Bells 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:15 pm Youth Bells	8	Church Office closes at Noon	9	8:00 am Giving Garden Work Day 10:00 Youth Craft Boutique
10	UMCOR Sunday Pretzel Sunday Daylight Saving Time begins 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Children's Choirs 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (after Pretzel Sunday) 5:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm UMYF	11	12	8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Youth Leaders	13	8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 12:30 am Circle of Joy 5:00 pm Kidz Bells	14	8:00 am Walking Group 5:00 pm Thursday Night Live 5:30 pm Adult Ensemble Bells 6:00 pm Adult Bells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:15 pm Youth Bells	15	Church Office closes at Noon 5:30 pm Parents Night Out	16	4:00 pm Dinner Church Set-Up 5:00 pm Dinner Church Serving
17	St. Patrick's Day 8:45 am UMM Pancake Breakfast 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Children's Choirs 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm UMYF 6:00 pm College-Aged Ministry	18	19	8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Night Owls	20	8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 10:00 am UWF General Mtg. (w/Circle of Faith) 1:00 pm Outreach Comm. 5:00 pm Kidz Bells	21	8:00 am Walking Group 5:00 pm Thursday Night Live 5:30 pm Adult Ensemble Bells 6:00 pm Adult Bells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:15 pm Youth Bells	22	Church Office closes at Noon	23	8:00 am Giving Garden Work Day 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
24	Recycle Sunday Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 11:30am UMYF Lunch TBD Confirmation Class 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	25	26	8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Admin Council	27	8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 12:30 pm Movie and Lunch	28	Maundy Thursday 8:00 am Walking Group 10:00 am Labyrinth open (until 8 pm) 5:00 pm Thursday Night Live 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	29	Good Friday Church Office closes at Noon 10:00 am Hike to the Cross @ Mt. McCoy 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service	30 / 31	Easter See Easter Schedule at top of Calendar



3/1 Jim Kokotos
Gary Scott
Jim Stewart
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
Renae Hayden
3/16 Gail Pyfrom
3/18 Ryder Gordon
Helen Jones
Chris Reyes
3/21 Claire Newman
3/24 Albert Aragones
3/26 Laura Hole
Elias Penrod
3/27 Becca Greene
3/31 Lori Ann Glover



3/12 Barbara & Tom Mueller
3/18 Jerry & Kathleen Motzel
3/22 Tony & Nancy Reyes



Prayer requests may be submitted via email to the church office, by phone call to the church office, or by text to Pastor Stacy. When submitting a prayer request please include how you would like your prayer lifted:

- in the weekly prayer e-mail
- during Joys and Concerns in worship
- in Pastor Stacy's daily prayers

Our Attendance

	In Church	Online
1/28	117	42
2/4	89	36
2/11	99	42
2/18	103	32

NewsLetter
DEADLine

**Monday,
March
11th**

HOSTING A MEETING?

**Please leave the room
as you found it: heat/
AC off, lights off, trash
out.**

Thank you!

Pancake Breakfast



**All-
Church
Pancake
Breakfast**

**Come by
anytime between 8:45-
9:45 am
Sunday, March 17th
Join us for a tasty hot
breakfast with all the
fixin's cooked by the
United Methodist Men!
Suggested \$5 donation**

March Committees

Youth Leaders: Tues., March 12,
7:00 pm (Jr. High Rm)

Outreach Wed., March 20, 1:00
pm (Room 12)

Admin Council: Tues., March 26,
6:00 pm (Witman Hall)

Weekday Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, March 27

12:30 Lunch

(RSVP by 3/25)

1:00 Table Games



We mourn the passing of **Ray Dempsey** on January 23rd.
Ray's Memorial Service will be
held Saturday, March 2nd at 11
am. Reception to follow in
Witman Hall. All are welcome.

THE

HERALD

Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road, Simi Valley CA 93065

(805) 526-6231 www.simivalleyumc.org

Flowering Cross

Easter morning, please bring fresh flowers to show signs of the resurrection life for our flowering cross. You may place the flowers in the cross as you enter worship.



Easter Lily orders will be taken by Juanita after church March 17th and 24th on the patio.

Donations of individually wrapped candies, plastic eggs, and small toy items are needed and would be greatly appreciated for our **Easter Egg Hunt** on March 23rd. Please drop them by the church office.



UMCOR
Sunday
March
10th

This special Sunday is designated to raise awareness and support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites their administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need.

These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable. This includes international and domestic aid as well as food and other relief supplies.

Please bring your donation to church on **March 10th**. Checks may be made out to SVUMC (note UMCOR in the memo line) and the funds will be forwarded to UMCOR.

Help is needed today, more than ever. Together we can make a difference.

Blessing Bag Food Drive

Our Feeding Church Program provides a meal for the needy each month, and we plan to provide "Blessing Bags" with additional food for our guests to take with them.

Can you help? Suggested items: Granola bars, fruit cups, trail mix, beef jerky, cheese & crackers, pop-top tuna or other meats, peanut butter, cookies, pop-top cans of soups/beans/veggies, brown and Ziploc bags.

We will be collecting these items in one of the baskets in the Narthex through the month of March. Contact Linda Seck at vcas1@aol.com with any questions. Please help us give a little extra food, a little extra help, and a little of God's love to our local needy. Thank you.

New! Starting March 3rd

First Sunday
Burger Bash



The grill will be sizzling after church on the first Sunday of each month!

Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks (and this Sunday, mac n cheese!) will be served up at Witman Hall along with good fellowship!

Donations are appreciated. All donations help support youth missions!