

February 2024

Volume 24 No. 2

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



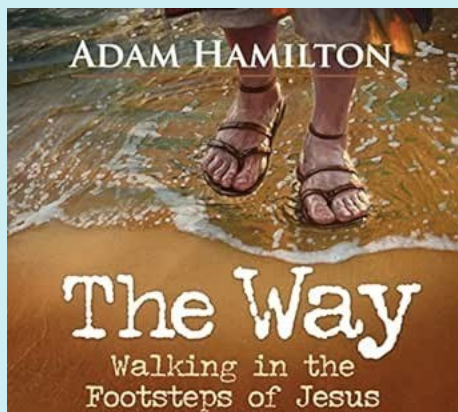
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SIMI VALLEY

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facebook.com/SimiValleyUMC/

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Our 2024 Lenten Journey

Our Lenten journey will use Rev. Adam Hamilton's "The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" as our foundation for weekly worship, for weekly Bible study opportunities, and Sunday evening youth programs.

Sunday mornings after church, join Pastor Stacy for a Lenten "Soup & Study" in Witman Hall from 11:30am-12:30pm as we eat a simple lunch and talk through the Bible story of the week. No RSVPs will be needed for this study.

Burger Bash (March 3rd) and Pretzel Sunday (March 10th) mean we'll start at noon instead (and burgers will take the place of soup on the 3rd).

Ash Wednesday February 14th

9am-10am: Drive-Thru/Walk-Up Ashes in front of the Sanctuary by Pastor Stacy. Receive your ashes and a blessing.

7 pm: Ash Wednesday Worship Experience: Join us to sing, pray, hear the choir, and receive our ashes. The service is for all ages.



Ash
WEDNESDAY

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, February 4th, 2024

Communion Sunday

"Paying Attention"

Mark 1:29-39

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, February 11th, 2024

Transfiguration Sunday

"Full of Glory"

Mark 9:2-9

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Ash Wednesday is

Wednesday, February 14th.

Drive-thru ashes in front of the

Sanctuary from 9am-10am.

Worship service at 7pm.

Sunday, February 18th, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

"Wilderness Temptation"

Matthew 4:1-11

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, February 25th, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

"The Healing Ministry"

Mark 1:21-28

Preaching: Pastor Stacy Brooks



The church office and CrossRoads will be closed

Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents Day.

Dear Church,

I write this article in the wake of our most recent Administrative Council meeting. The last item on the agenda was a time for brainstorming goals. I would like to turn the brainstorming over to you to help us direct our ministry over the next year.

First, consider our current ministry and congregation. Think about what our strengths are and what makes us a place that others should desire to be a part of. This is not about the past, but about who we are and what we are doing right now.

Second, I would like you to consider who in our community needs to be walking onto our property and into our doors. Think about what they might be needing in their lives or what they might be searching for as they look for a church home. You might consider what you were searching for when you first came to our church.

Finally, how can we utilize our strengths to fill the needs of those who are looking for a church home? This is where our goals should be rooted, in finding out how we can fill needs to reach new people in our community by filling a void.

If you would like a deeper challenge, spend some time looking for the strengths of our church that you do not connect into. It is easy to recognize the strengths that reach us and we are a part of, it is more challenging to see what is reaching other people.

For an even deeper challenge, consider the words of Christ that calls us in the final chapter of Matthew to go into the world to make disciples. Christ does not invite us to wait for new disciples to walk into our church, but to go to them and invite them to walk with Christ. Considering this, where might we be called to go in our community to share the Good News and invite people to come and sit beside us in a worship service, Bible study, or at the table for a meal?

I would like to invite you to send me your thoughts and dreams for our church to stacydickson@me.com.

With blessings,

Pastor Stacy

Parsonage Dinner Tues., Feb. 27th 6:00pm

Join Pastor Stacy and her family for the next parsonage dinner featuring a menu of roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and apple cobbler.

Seats will be limited, so RSVP by end of day on February 25th to reserve your place at the table.



For the Need Foundation Check Presentation

Director of Music Ministries Lisa Wall-Urgero and Organist Leslie Frank dropped by the Simi Valley offices of the *For the Need Foundation* to present them with a check from SVUMC totaling \$3,445 — the results of the freewill offering from the December 10th Christmas Benefit Concert!

For the Need staffers including many members of the Spaccarelli family, who founded the nonprofit, were presented with the check. Thank you, Simi United Methodist Church community, for your generous donations!



Help get our church campus ready for **Easter Sunday!**

Two Saturdays: February 3rd & March 2nd, we'll work for a few hours starting at 8:00 am. The goal: Cleaning up the Meditation Garden so it will be ready for Sunrise Service on Easter! Whatever amount of time you can spare is a great help—no experience necessary! Drop by anytime those mornings to pitch in with other volunteers to work on *your* church property.

We will all reap the benefits on Easter Morning!

Contact Chuck McKee for more info: (805)404-0659



New!
Starting
March 3rd

First Sunday Burger Bash

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

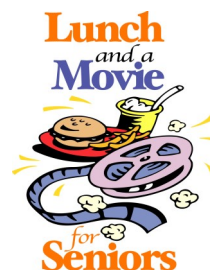
Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks will be served up at Witman Hall along with good fellowship!

Calling All Seniors!

Join Pastor Stacy & Carol Conner on Wednesday, February 28th in the Chapel for fun and fellowship!

⇒ Lunch at 12:30 (please RSVP to the church office by end of day February 26th)

⇒ Movie at 1:00:
"Ordinary Angels"



Sunday School News—We are still needing at least two volunteers to complete our Sunday School team. Two teachers are needed every Sunday to stay in compliance with Ministry Safe guidelines for Children's Ministry. If you can volunteer one Sunday a month, or even every other month, your help is greatly needed and appreciated!

February's Bible Point -

"God takes care of us..."

Unit Theme - "The Exodus"

Bible Verse - Romans 8:31



Bottom Line:

Jesus is a good reason to have a party!

"Start the Party"
VBS - June 24-28



CAMP SEE ME!

"Camp See Me" is returning for Summer 2024. Camp will provide age-appropriate daily Biblical based teaching that will be reinforced through activities, games, science experiments and crafts; special visitors; and fun thematic weeks to keep your child engaged and entertained all summer long 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. Six confirmed registrations will be required one week in advance for camp to be provided each week to cover staffing costs.

Our mid-week children's program is back! TNL will include seasonal programming and arts based activities such as



drama, music, crafts, and more. Children from TK—5th grade are invited to join us from 5-6pm on Thursday nights in the Fireside Room.

February 18th

PARENTS'
Night Out!

Sun **18** Feb

NEW NIGHT... SAME FUN!!!

Drop off your kids
ages 2 years - 5th grade
for a night of games, crafts, friends,
dinner, and fun

Registration forms available in Mrs. Gordon's office
\$15 per child or \$40 per family
Register by Friday, February 16th

February at CrossRoads Children's Center

February is one of my favorite months because it's a time to celebrate Friendship Day (Valentine's Day) at CrossRoads. It's great to see the children learning and growing while also building friendships at school. I feel blessed to hear that many students and their families continue to maintain their friendships even after they leave CrossRoads. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, so Pastor Stacy, Ms. Becky and I are planning a special Ash Wednesday Chapel for the students of CrossRoads, which will be an exciting day!

In addition, this month we will learn about dental health and how to take care of our teeth. At the end of the month, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss with many activities, including special snacks, dress-up days and art activities. It's going to be a fun-filled month!

Mrs. Michelle Gordon, Principal
CrossRoads Children's Center



Friends are like a box of crayons.

Each one is different
from the others separately,
but put them together
and they make your

RAINBOW!

<http://lusinet3.blogspot.com>

February UMYF

Feb 4th—UMYF @ 6pm

**Feb 11th—UMYF Bowling @
Noon**

Feb 18th—NO UMYF



Feb 25th—UMYF @ 6pm

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Confirmation is set to begin this month! If your youth-aged child is interested in taking part, please contact Ms. Becky. Classes will begin Sunday, Feb. 4th from 5-6pm and will run weekly until Pentecost Sunday in May when youth will have the opportunity to be confirmed.

P.S. We have a new Instagram Account! **@simiumyf**

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



United Women in Faith

Wednesday, February 7:

Board Meeting at 10 am in the Chapel

Saturday, February 17:

**California-Pacific Conference Mid-Winter Event
"Healing Community in a Hurting World"**

10am-2:30pm, Redlands First UMC

**Registration due Monday, February 7. Register at
www.calpacumc.org/UWFmidwinter2024 or pick up
an application in the Narthex or church office.
Questions? Contact Ruth Dempsey.**

February Circle Meetings

**Circle of Joy will meet on Wednesday,
February 14, at 12:30, at the home of
Linda Elston, 13050 Sunny Lane,
Santa Rosa.**

**Seekers Circle will meet on Monday,
February 19 at noon in the chapel.**

**Night Owls Circle will meet Tuesday,
February 20, at 7:00 in the chapel.**

**Circle of Faith will meet on
Wednesday, February 21, at 11:30 at
the home of Joyce Martin, 891 Talbert.**

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



February 2024



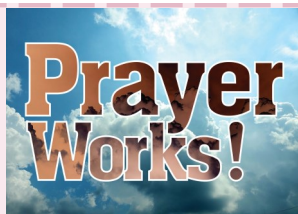
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Communion Sunday 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 5:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm UMYF 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	5	6 8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study	7 8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 10:00 am UWF Board Mtg. 5:00 pm Kidz Bells	1 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	2 Church Office closes at Noon	3 8:00 am All Church Work Day
11 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm UMYF Bowling	12 12:00 pm Seekers Circle	13 8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm Youth Leaders	14 Ash Wednesday 8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 9:00 am Drive-thru Ashes 12:30 am Circle of Joy 5:00 pm Kidz Bells 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 8:00 am Walking Group 5:00 pm Thursday Night Live 5:30 pm Adult Ensemble Bells 6:00 pm Adult Bells 7:15 pm Youth Bells	16 Church Office closes at Noon	17 4:00 pm Dinner Church Set-Up 5:00 pm Dinner Church Serving
18 8:45 am UMM Pancake Breakfast 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 5:30 pm Parents' Night Out	19 Presidents Day Church Office closed CrossRoads closed	20 8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm CrossRoads Advisory 7:00 pm Night Owls	21 8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 11:30 am Circle of Faith 1:00 pm Outreach Comm. 5:00 pm Kidz Bells 7:00 pm SPRC	22 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	23 Church Office closes at Noon	24 8:00 am Giving Garden Work Day
25 Recycle Sunday 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Hour 6:00 pm UMYF	26	27 8:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Parsonage Dinner	28 8:00 am UMM Donut Meet-Up 12:30 pm Movie and Lunch 5:00 pm Kidz Bells	29 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		

FEBRUARY Birthdays

2/1 Marilyn McFarren
 2/5 Sondra Adair
 2/9 Robert Benson
 Wesley Miller
 Barbara Witman
 2/10 Vicky Laier
 Juanita Ward
 2/11 Brandall Horney
 2/14 Paula Lightfoot
 Sharon Romano
 Kinsley McAlister
 2/15 Valerie Bergh
 2/17 Stella Zinto
 2/18 Marge Bartholomew
 Ronda Farr
 Shaila Horney
 2/19 Kayla Sponable
 2/20 Jacob Paz
 2/22 Paul West
 2/23 David Brennan
 Hazel Hird
 Olivia Sandoval
 2/25 Jayden Baltazar
 2/26 Mike Pahls
 2/27 Lili Inoke
 Peggy Spellman

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

2/3 Lauren & Thomas Ortiz



We Support Our Church by Our PRAYERS

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
12/31	75	44
1/7	114	46
1/14	96	52
1/21	122	42

NewsLetter
DEADLine March 8



All-Church Pancake Breakfast

**Come by anytime
 between 8:45-9:45 am
 Sunday, February 18th
 Join us for a tasty hot
 breakfast with all the
 fixin's cooked by the
 United Methodist
 Men!
 Suggested \$5
 donation**

February Committees

Finance: Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 pm (Chapel)

Youth Leaders: Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 pm (Jr. High Room)

CrossRoads Advisory: Tuesday, February 20, 5:30 pm (Chapel)

Outreach (formerly MEOW) Wednesday, February 21, 1:00 pm (Room 12)

Worship Team: Tuesday, February 27, 6:00 pm (Chapel)

We mourn the passing of **Ray Dempsey** on January 23rd.

Ray's Memorial Service will be held
 Saturday, March 2nd.



THE

HERALD



Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road, Simi Valley CA 93065

(805) 526-6231 www.simivalleyumc.org

We're Looking for a Few Good Men!

Check out the United Methodist Men for a mix of comradery, fun and service projects!

Help with (and enjoy) pancake breakfasts, the occasional BBQ, nonprofit support and help, and much more!

Men of all ages are welcome.

Contact Chuck McKee for more info: (805) 404-0659

SVUMC Christmas Benefit Concert awarded Grant funding

The Simi Valley City Council has chosen SVUMC as one of the 14 nonprofits in the city to receive special event funding this year.

The church will receive \$1,000 toward the production of the annual Christmas Benefit Concert, which will help offset production costs and enable the church to donate more toward its chosen nonprofit.

Thank you Simi Valley City Council!

"MEOW" is now "Outreach"

With the new year comes a new name for the Mission, Outreach, Evangelism and Worship committee, or MEOW. As catchy as the MEOW name was, we have now chosen a new name that better reflects our priority: *Outreach*.

"Outreach" means communication, involvement and action. It means working to create opportunities for members of the church and community to share their gifts and talents in order to make a difference in the lives of others.

We coordinate Dinner Church meals at least once a month. We organize drives to collect food and other items for those in need in our area. We sponsor talks on social issues of local or global concern. We host Alternative Christmas. We are reaching out to our community with God's love and compassion.

If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact any of the members for more information or answers to questions. Our meeting this month is Wednesday, February 21st at 1:00 pm in Room 12. Together, we can make a difference.

Linda Seck, chairperson: (805) 573-5062 or vcas1@aol.com.

Other committee members include Ken Gordon, Ed Tingstrom, Martina McRae, and Ildiko & Gary Scott.