



The Herald

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Rev. Stacy Brooks
Senior Pastor

Becky Valenzuela
Director of Children, Youth &
Family Ministries



Diane Freyling
Administrative Assistant

Nancy Reyes
Front Office Assistant



Lisa Wall-Urgero
Director of Music Ministry

Leslie Frank
Organist



Mike Seckman
Custodian



Susie Strombotne
Child Care Provider



Laura Hole
Wedding Coordinator

Mark Witman
Wedding Custodian



CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Michelle Gordon
Principal
(805) 526-2887



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SIMI VALLEY

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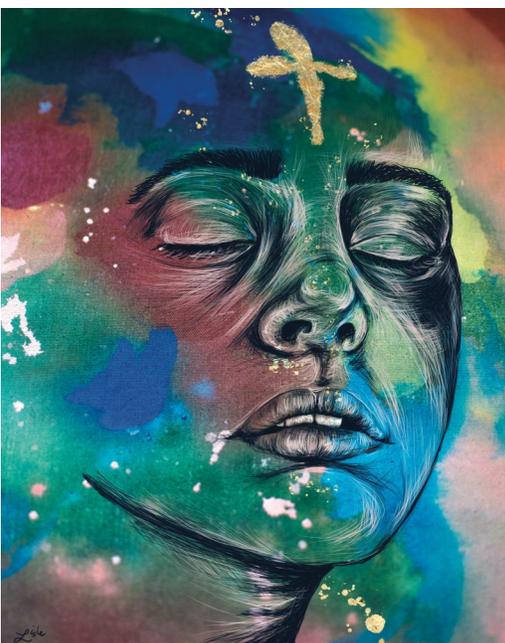
www.SimiValleyUMC.org

"Full to the Brim" Lenten Program

The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise — these sacred texts are

brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

We recognize that traditional iterations of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, Full to the Brim trusts the promise of our baptisms—God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing



we can do will ever change or erase that. Full to the Brim doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

**Plan to attend our Ash Wednesday
Worship Experience on Wed., Feb. 22nd at
7:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will sing,
pray, hear the choir, and receive our ashes.
This service is for all ages.**

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 a.m. Childcare: For Infants – Kindergarten in the Nursery during the worship service.

10:00 a.m. Worship with Chancel Choir, Signing for Hearing Impaired, & Children's Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Stewardship Commitment Sunday
"We are the People of God"

1 Peter 2:9-10

Communion served

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Lunch with Entertainment to Follow

Sunday, February 12, 2023

"Critical Connections"

John 15:9-17

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

"Make Three Dwellings"

Matthew 17:1-9

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

"Even in the Desert"

Luke 4:1-13 & Deut. 26:1-11

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

From Pastor Stacy...

On the first Sunday of this month, you will be asked about making a commitment. For me, I weigh the level of commitment that I am willing to make when the offer comes. Take subscription services for instance. They usually ask if I want a month-to-month commitment, that gives me the opportunity to back out at anytime, or to pay for a year up front, which requires me to go all in for the year, but often they offer a discount if you pay up front. Do I want the discount? Or do I want to have the flexibility to say I am done at anytime?

As we look at our pledge card for the church year, we are not looking at discounts, but we are weighing what commitment we can make to the church, if we are able to make a commitment. I cannot offer you a free t-shirt or coffee mug if you turn in a pledge. I cannot give you backstage access or unlimited visits during the year if you sign a card. These are not the gifts and advantages to a yearlong commitment here. Instead, a commitment is the ability to become an "owner-builder," as Nancy Chapman put it.

Owner designates each of us as one who claims this place and this ministry as ours, being an investor who cares deeply for the mission that is being accomplished.

Builder implies that we do not see our church or ministry as static, but as one that is continually growing in love through the people we minister to and with and in the work that we do in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Are you ready to make a commitment? Not the kind that allows us to back out at anytime, but the kind that says, "I am all in, where can I sign?" All in, giving what we have of our time, our treasures, and our hearts for the manifestation of the Kingdom that is here on Earth through each of us and through the critical work we are called to.

Pastor Stacy

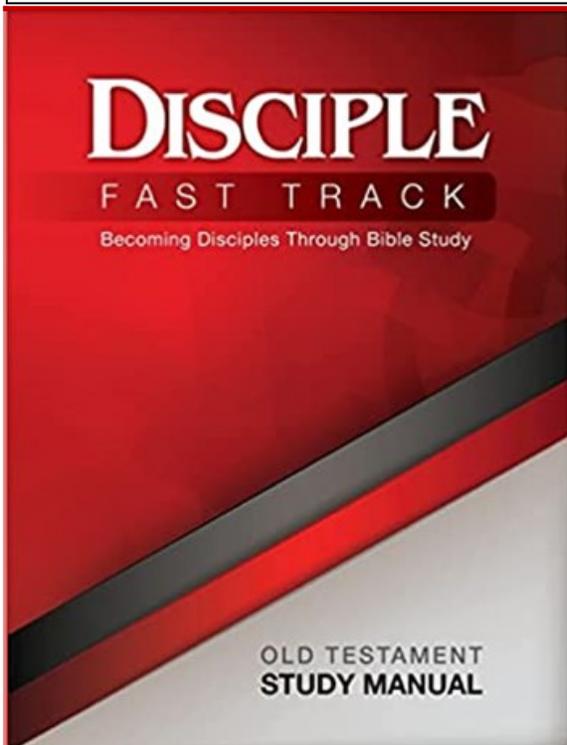
Plan to Join Pastor Stacy on Our Church Holy Land Pilgrimage February 20-March 1, 2024

This is an experience that you will not want to pass up as we prepare to walk, pray, worship, eat, and sleep in the footsteps of Jesus. We will visit Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee, Nazareth, and so much more!

The trip will be coordinated through Educational Opportunities and the cost will be approximately \$4000 with an installment plan available. Brochures are available with all the details of the trip and we will have an informational meeting after church on Sunday, February 19th (11:30-Noon in the Chapel).

Experience the places and people of the Holy Land





Disciple Fast Track Bible Study

Are you ready to make a weekly commitment to studying the Bible with fellow disciples from our church?

If so, Pastor Stacy will be offering a Disciple Fast Track study on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-2:30 pm in the Chapel, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 7th.

You can be “all in” by purchasing the study guide, reading the daily readings, and attending the weekly class. You can also be “as in as possible” by just attending the classes to benefit from the study. Or, you can be anywhere in between.

The study guide is \$16.99 for the first 12 weeks on Amazon, or you can talk to Pastor Stacy to purchase a copy through the church office. You can also request a list of daily readings from Pastor Stacy.

Talk on Race and Racism

Sunday, February 19th

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm in the Chapel

In awareness of Black History Month, please join Ed Tingstrom as he discusses the history and reality of race and racism in America.



Wonderful Wednesdays

Weekly Schedule:

4:00 pm	Adult Program
5:00 pm	Kidz Bells
5-6 pm	Dinner for All
6:00 pm	Kids' Program

February Schedule for the 4:00pm Adult Program

February 1st: Protestant Prayer Beads & How They Can Help Us in Our Relationship with God.

February 8th: Game Night for ALL AGES!

February 15th: What Is Lent?

February 22nd: Ash Wednesday, No Class

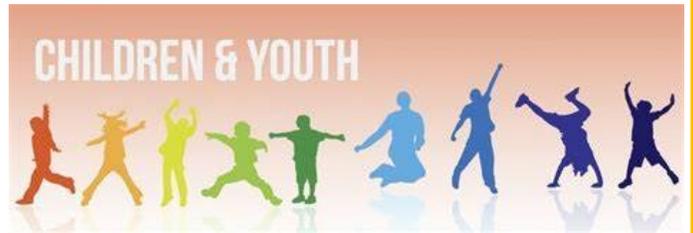


Greetings Church Family!

February is the shortest month, but it is no less active! In addition to the annual holidays we celebrate, this year, we also celebrate Stewardship Sunday and our life together as the family of Simi Valley UMC. Our Sunday school program this month will focus on Jesus' first disciples and what it means to be a disciple today as we work together to better our church, community, and world. February 26th, we will shift into our Lenten study "Full to the Brim." This church-wide curriculum will have children learning about the same themes as the rest of the church family. If you would like to join the Children's ministry team, we are always thankful for volunteers who can help. Whether it is a one time thing or once a month, we need you! Please let me know if this is something that you might be interested in doing.

Blessings,

Becky



Youth Calendar:

February 5th: UMYF 6:00 pm

February 12th: Superbowl Party 3:00 pm (Witman Hall)

February 19th: President's Day, no meeting

February 26th: UMYF 6:00 pm

Children's Calendar:

Weekly Sunday School: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Wonderful Wednesdays

Dinner 5:00 - 6:00 pm, program 6:00 - 7:00 pm

*No Meeting Wednesday, February 22nd.

Ash Wednesday Family Worship Service at 7:00 pm

Sunday School

Elementary age children will start their Sunday in the Sanctuary with their parents, and, following the Children's Message, they will be dismissed with their teachers to Sunday School.

The nursery will be open at 9:45 am for children 5 years and under to participate in an age-appropriate lesson.

All children and youth, regardless of age (or noise!) are welcome to stay with their families in worship.

The month of February helps us spread "love and kindness." At CrossRoads, we celebrate Friendship Day on February 14th. Lots of friendships have and will continue to develop through the hearts of our students. It is a blessing to hear about the friendships that have evolved here.

February is also National Children's Dental Health Month. We will have a special guest speaker come and talk to the children about good habits to keep their teeth healthy. The students will also receive a free toothbrush!

Mrs. Michelle Gordon, Principal



Simi Valley United Methodist Church

UWF Circles

Circle of Joy will meet on Wednesday, February 8, at 12:30, at the home of Linda Elston.

Seekers Circle will meet on Monday, February 20, at noon in the Chapel.

Night Owls Circle will meet Tuesday, February 21, in the Chapel at 7pm.

Circle of Faith will meet on Wednesday, February 15, the Chapel at 11:30 am.

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

UWF Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 1 @ 10:00 am in the Chapel

All officers & Circle Chairs are asked to attend.



California-Pacific Conference Mid-Winter Event

When: Saturday, February 18th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Camarillo UMC, 291 Anacapa Dr., Camarillo, CA 93010

What: "Living the Kin-dom: Connection and Relationships"

How: Registration is due by Monday, February 13, 2023.

Register & pay online: <https://www.calpacumc.org/uwfaith/>

-or- by mail. You can pick up an application in the Narthex or the church office.



Men's Donut Fellowship

**Wednesdays at 8 am
in front of Huddle Hall.**

Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Feb. 19th 8:45-9:45am

Plan to join us for breakfast before worship.



Mark Your Calendars for Our

All-Church Work Day

Saturday Feb. 4

7 am - Noon

Some tasks on the to do list include:

Washing the Witman Hall windows, prepping the Little House for exterior paint, painting curbs, fixing rain gutters, weeding, mowing, and general cleaning. Join us for some or all of the morning, lunch will be provided at noon.

All-Church Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 12th at 3:00 pm

You are invited to join your church family in Witman Hall to watch (or not watch) the Super Bowl on the big screen this year. Bring a dish or snack to share, enjoy the football

game or some card/board games, join in some cornhole, or just enjoy each other's company. All ages are invited to this fun afternoon.



We Are Excited About Our New Program for Infant-Kindergarten Children!

The SPRC Committee has began a new partnership with CrossRoads School to provide CrossRoads teachers for our youngest Sunday School children. They will be providing excellent care along with a curriculum based program that Ms. Becky is providing. This will include stories, crafts, and activities designed just for pre-readers and toddlers. Come by one Sunday and give a big Simi Valley UMC welcome to Ms. Cindie and Ms. Kelsey.

Ms. Cindie has been teaching children since she was eighteen years old. She has three children and two grandchildren (her 2nd grandchild is due at the end of this summer). Ms. Cindie is an animal lover! She has baby tortoises in her classroom (when they are not hibernating), that she inherited from her parents and they have had many babies! Some of the animals she had were birds, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and reptiles. To say she is an animal lover is an understatement! In her spare time, she is taking guitar lessons. This July, it will be two years Ms. Cindie has been working at CrossRoads. She has been a blessing to all the staff and families!



Ms. Kelsey is a mother of two, a daughter who is four and a son who is five months, with two bonus children. Ms. Kelsey comes from a long line of CrossRoads alumni; her siblings, nephew and cousin. She has been working with children since 2013. Some of her hobbies include reading and shopping at Target. This February, Ms. Kelsey will celebrate her 2nd anniversary with CrossRoads. She has been a fantastic addition to our school and church!

Weekly Music Schedule:

Wednesdays: Kidz Bells at 5:00pm (Chapel)

Thursdays: Adult Bell Ensemble at 5:30pm (Chapel)

Adult Handbell Choir at 6:00pm (Chapel)

Chancel Choir at 7:00pm (Sanctuary)

Youth Bells at 7:15pm (Chapel)



The MEOW Committee will meet
Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 1:00 pm in the Chapel.

-also-

New scholarship available!

The MEOW committee will be granting scholarships to high school seniors for the first time this year.

Applications can be picked up in the church office starting February 1, 2023. The deadline for submission will be April 1, 2023.

Please contact Ed Tingstrom at edtingstrom@yahoo.com for information.



“ -able”

As we move into Black History Month, I want to shed some light on a composer whose music has left an impression on SVUMC – Mark A. Miller. We’ve enjoyed his setting of the communion liturgy for the last few years. His upbeat, modern setting of *Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing* gave Charles Wesley’s text new life in our worship. The Chancel Choir has sung several of his powerful and poignant sacred and social justice songs. The anthem that moved this music director more than any other didn’t mince any words – but spoke to the heart of who we are as Christians, who we profess to be as Methodists and became the theme for Reverend Ed McRae’s rousing sermon on January 15, 2023: *God Has Work for Us to Do*.

Mark A. Miller is a lifelong Methodist whose family tree branches are loaded with clergy. He has a heart for service and a passion for justice – and it shows in his work. Want to know more? Check him out.

Audio link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRQdCyvm30E>

Bio: <https://www.ecspublishing.com/composers/m/mark-a-miller.html>

Lisa Wall-Urgero
Director of Music



February Birthdays

- 2/1 Marilyn McFarren
- 2/2 Dan Hoffman
- 2/5 Sondra Adair
- 2/6 Ada Jean Hautzenroeder
- 2/7 Carolyn Hunter
- 2/8 Nancy Interior
- 2/9 Robert Benson
Wes Miller
Barbara Witman
- 2/10 Vicky Laier
Juanita Ward
Nadel Interior
- 2/11 Brandall Horney
- 2/14 Paula Lightfoot
Sharon Romano,
Kinsley McAlister
- 2/15 Valerie Bergh
Rikka Tignac
- 2/17 Stella Zinto
- 2/18 Ronda Farr
May Hicks
Shaila Horney
Marge Bartholomew
- 2/19 Kayla Sponable
Maiah Interior
- 2/20 Jacob Paz
- 2/22 Clara Novak, Paul West
- 2/23 David Brennan
Hazel Hird
Olivia Sandoval
- 2/25 Jayden Baltazar
Bonnie Shaw
- 2/26 Mike Pahls
Glenn Hunter
- 2/27 Lili Inoke
Peggy Spellman

February Anniversaries

- 2/3 Lauren & Thomas Ortiz

WE SUPPORT OUR CHURCH...

WITH OUR PRAYERS



If you have prayer requests, please let the office know. Also, please let us know if you would like your request lifted by Pastor Stacy in worship, if you would like to request a pastoral visit, and/or if you would like your request added to the weekly prayer e-mail.

With Our Gifts



For the year 2023, we have approved a budget of \$604,427 to be spent on staffing, property maintenance and upkeep, program supplies, worship, outreach, apportionments and our administration costs.

WITH OUR PRESENCE



January 2023

1st	84
8th	97
15th	98
22nd	104

WITH OUR SERVICE

Dinner Church: Dinner is served to the hungry every Saturday and we are responsible for the meal on the third Saturday.

To help with this ministry call the church office at 805-526-6231.

Samaritan Center: Local resource center for the homeless is always in need of personal care items, coffee supplies, non-perishable food items, etc. Donation baskets in the Narthex Call 805-579-9166.



P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter): We house the homeless overnight every Saturday and Wednesday, *Nov. 1 - March 31*, through this local church sponsored program. If you are interested in staying overnight as a monitor or to provide breakfast in the morning, contact Chuck McKee or Rich Reynolds.

AND WITH OUR TIME, TALENTS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

Coffee Hour

Volunteers are needed to help set-up, clean-up, make coffee and bring goodies (if you wish).



You'll find the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

For questions, contact Soloi Inoke (805) 441-8029

Ushers Needed

Responsibilities include:
 Arrive 30 min. before services. pass offering plates, and warmly greet friends and newcomers.
 Please contact Barbara Modlin at (805) 526-7969.

2023 Flower Calendar



Available now in the Narthex.

For questions, please contact Juanita Ward.

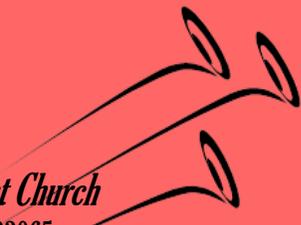
The

Herald

Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road Simi Valley CA 93065

805-526-6231 www.simivalleyumc.org



Update Your information



Please help us get it right!

Some of you have provided information, but we could still use your input. Does the church office have your correct mailing information?

Do we have your correct email address and phone number? Would you prefer to receive the Herald electronically? Would you like to receive the weekly eHerald and ePrayers emails? Would you like to receive weekly offering envelopes, or do you prefer to give electronically? Do we have your birthday and/or anniversary listed, and is it correct?

Remember, no update is too small!

Please email Diane at svumc@pacbell.net, or call Diane or Nancy at (805) 526-6231.

Newsletter DEADLINE

**PLEASE NOTE:
The deadline for the March Herald will be Friday, Feb. 10th**



The church office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20th

Bottles for Garden Needed!

Colored bottles of all shapes, sizes, and types (wine, beer, soda, tea, liqueurs, etc.) are requested for a special project for the garden.



Kindly leave them near the picnic table (from the east parking lot, take the path near the recycle bin and leave at the table to the right.)

Thank you!

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday:

9:00am-4:00pm

Fridays:

9:00am-Noon

Calendar and Room Requests

If you are needing to calendar an event or meeting, change the date of an event or meeting, or request to use a space at the church...

Please contact Nancy in the front office.

This will ensure that our published calendars are up-to-date, that the office is aware of what is happening and when, and to ensure that we do not have any conflicts on the calendars or in rooms.

