

July 2023

Volume 23 No. 7

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



Lisa Wall-Urgero
Director of Music Ministry

Leslie Frank
Organist



Mike Seckman
Custodian



Cindie Stump-Gamboa
& Kelsey Rodriguez
Child Care Providers



Laura Hole
Wedding Coordinator

Mark Witman
Wedding Custodian



CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Michelle Gordon
Director
(805) 526-2887



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**Join us for all the great twists & turns that
have been prepared for you**

July 24th-28th.

**Kids and adults alike,
register through the Church Office TODAY!**

California-Pacific Annual Conference 2023

The meeting of our Annual Conference happened in Los Angeles June 14-17, with the theme: "Nourish."



One of the blessings of this meeting was the time we spent getting to know our new bishop, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank. She is compassionate, engaging, supportive of our pastors, believes in self-care, loves the beach and tacos, and showed strong leadership abilities during the conference.

During this meeting we celebrated the commissioning and ordination of clergy, the retirement of clergy, and the memorial of clergy who have passed away since our last meeting. Along with celebrations, we discussed and voted on the business of the conference and discussed important matters related to the work and witness we do as a church.

We give thanks for those who were there to represent our church, both as clergy (Pastors Stacy, Ed, and Lew) and as lay delegates (Martina McRae and Carol Conner). Our delegation has worked on a full report of the work of the conference. You will find the report included as an insert in this publication.

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

10:00 a.m. *Worship with Chancel Choir*
Signing for Hearing Impaired
Infant-Kinder in the Garden Room

11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

****During the month of July, we will not have Sunday school for children beyond kindergarten, but worship packets can be picked up in the Narthex each Sunday. This is an opportunity to help teach our children to love and understand our worship experience.**

Sunday, July 2, 2023

Communion Sunday

"Workers and Weeds"

Matthew 13:24-30 &

Matthew 20:1-16

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, July 9, 2023

"The Parable of the Sower"

Matthew 13:1-9

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, July 16, 2023

"Set Free"

Romans 8:1-8

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, July 23, 2023

VBS Commissioning Sunday

"The Games We Love to Play"

Psalms 25:1-7

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Vacation Bible School Sunday!

Hear the kids sing.

Listen to their stories.

See the pictures.

Celebrate what God has done!

Dear Church Family,

As we end the month of June, I complete my first year as your pastor. Boy, has it been a whirlwind of a first year. I still have many boxes at the parsonage to unpack, many of you to still meet, and much work to still do, but it has been a blessed first year in Simi Valley and in ministry with all of you. Thank you for the great amounts of patience and love that you have shown me and especially for the love and care that you have shown to my children in this year of transition for all of us.

As for me, much of the first year was spent in a learning mode. Learning who people are. Learning where things are. And learning how things are done here.

As I begin my second year, I am ready to move from a learning mode into an action mode in collaboration with our growing church leadership. In the past couple of months, the Administrative Council has met twice and will continue to meet every other month as the steering wheel of our church, helping me to know the direction that the church needs me to lead it. We have also revived the Membership Committee and the Worship Committee, with the intention of forming a Fellowship & Fun Committee as the next leadership body (consider if you might be called to serve in this capacity). These committees are a place of empowerment for the people of the church to have ownership of the ministry and the work that we do.

With the revival and focus on the committees and leadership of the church, we will strengthen the foundation and growth of the church while widening the reach of our ministry. I look forward to partnering with all of you in the work that God has called us to do together as the Body of Christ.

With blessings,

Pastor Stacy



Plan to Join Pastor Stacy on Our Church Holy Land Pilgrimage

February 20-March 1, 2024

Cost: \$3998 (all inclusive)

Brochures are available from Pastor Stacy.

Experience the places and people of the Holy Land



DEADLINE:

Newsletter Articles

JULY 14TH

No UWF Circle or Board Meetings in July or August



UWF PLANNING MEETING

**Wednesday, August 16th
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
in the Chapel**

**UWF BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, Sept. 6th
10:00 am in the Chapel**

MISSION u

**July 14th - July 16th
at Azusa Pacific University**



United
Women
in Faith



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

\$300 per person after June 1

**Registration forms are in the church office,
or you may contact Ruth Dempsey. Please
let Ruth know if you are registered,
and if you can travel together.**



All Women's Picnic at Lemon Park

**Wednesday, July 19th at 11:30 am
Bring your own lunch!**

**Sat. Sept. 23: North District
Annual Celebration**

Fri. Oct. 13 & Sat. Oct. 14: Annual Fall Boutique

**Sat. Feb. 17, 2024: UWF Retreat at Serra Retreat
Center in Malibu. Cost is \$45. Marline Urban-Funk
will be our speaker. Contact Ruth Dempsey for
more information.**



Men's Donut Fellowship

**Wednesdays, 8:00 am
Huddle Hall**

**Drop by and enjoy a cup of
coffee and fellowship
with the guys!**



Two of our church members were
recognized in the Simi Valley Acorn
on June 18, 2023 for their community service:

Dee Larkin Tingstrom

was awarded **Volunteer of the Year**
for her work for Sarah's House,

and **Joel Mueller** was recognized for his service to
Simi Valley Recreation and Park District.

Congratulations to them both!

Summer Sunday Childcare

The Garden (formerly the Nursery) will be open during Summer months for children up to 6 years old during worship. The Garden will open by 9:45am and will continue to be staffed by Ms. Cindie and Ms. Kelsey.

Kids in Worship

During the month of July and first week of August, we will not have Sunday school for elementary-aged children. We will have worship packets and activities available in the Narthex each Sunday.

RECYCLE SUNDAY

Sunday, July 23rd

Bring in your aluminum & glass items for our youth to recycle on the 4th Sunday of each month.



UMYF July Dates

- ◇ July 2nd - No UMYF- Happy 4th of July!
- ◇ July 9th - Lunch & Water Kickball 12pm
- ◇ July 15-16th - Mario Kart Lock-in
Saturday 5pm—Sunday 1pm
- ◇ July 23rd - Lunch & Messy Games 12pm
- ◇ July 30th - Movie Night 6pm

***Please note timing for summer events!**



CAMP SEE ME!

SIMI VALLEY UMC

"Camp See Me" is in full swing, providing a fun and safe program for elementary-aged children from June 5-August 4. Camp includes age-appropriate daily biblical-based teaching that is reinforced through activities, games, science experiments and crafts, on-site "field trips" with special visitors, and fun thematic weeks to keep your child engaged and entertained all summer long!

"Camp See Me" is a full-day program from 8am-3pm, Monday - Friday. The weekly camp cost of \$200 includes all field trips, morning and afternoon snack, a camp t-shirt, and a summer of safe, fun, and exciting activities. Sibling discount available. Registration forms are available through the church office or contact Ms. Becky. Upcoming themes for camp include Red, White, & Blue; Crazy, Messy Science; Disney Adventure; & Superheroes.

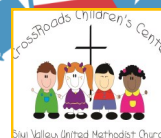


Did you know that you can help our youth program by shopping at Ralphs?

You can sign in to your Ralphs account and, under My Account, click on the Community Contributions tile. There you can link your Ralphs card number to:

account #ER368 Simi Valley United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

You may have signed up for this in the past. If so, please double-check to ensure your account is still linked, as it appears that Ralphs processes have changed over the years. Every bit helps!



We are having lots of fun
at CrossRoads this summer.
We hope you are, too!

Mrs. Michelle Gordon, Principal

MUSIC SUNDAY THANK YOU'S

As we look in the rearview mirror to June 11th and Music Sunday, this Director of Music Ministries wishes to convey humble and heartfelt thanks to all of our singers and ringers, and especially to our leadership and partners:



To Stu Thomson for many hours spent researching, arranging, organizing and preparing handbell music for Kidz Bells, Youth Handbells, Adult Handbell Ensemble and Adult Handbell Choir; to Diane Thomson for being not only Stu's right hand, but also the best handbell choir cheerleader!

To Leslie Frank, for being willing to play whatever I throw her way; for thoughtfully selecting, preparing and presenting music for the choir and congregation to sing to and to listen to, for setting the mood and tone for all parts of worship, and especially for being my partner, adviser and supporter.

To our Pastor Stacy for her planning partnership; our tech team of Todd Goldman, Zack and Sam Goldman and Justin Copen, who made us look and sound wonderful both in the sanctuary and online for folks who could not attend; our usher team led by Barbara Modlin, and all those unnamed helpers who made the day run smoothly.

Finally to all of you – we do this because we have a heart for service and we love music; your expressions of appreciation and financial support mean so much. We literally couldn't do this without you! In case you are wondering, Music Sunday donations, to date, total \$967. If you would still like to financially support the music program, it isn't too late. We gratefully accept contributions year-round.

SUMMER CHOIR - STARTS JULY 9

Summer Choir is a summer-friendly model! No Thursday rehearsals; just show up in the chapel any Sunday morning at 9am – we'll learn a simple anthem, and robe-free, present it in worship. No long-term commitment, come when you can. Contact Carol Conner (ctconner@sbcglobal.net) or yours truly (vocalisa@live.com) for more information – or pull aside any choir member and ask them after worship!

Lisa Wall-Urgero

Director of Music Ministries



SVUMC is hosting a UCLA Blood Drive
Monday, July 31, 2023
10:45 am to 3:45 pm in the Chapel.

Look for sign-up details in the Sunday bulletin, eHerald, or call the church office at (805) 526-6231.

Job Openings

**CrossRoads Children's Center is currently seeking:
 Part & Full-Time Early Childhood Educators
 (12 units in Early Childhood Education)**

- Creating and implementing lesson plans
- Teaching children 2-6 years old
- Flexible, loving, caring environment

**Contact CrossRoads Principal, Michelle Gordon
 at (805) 526-2887**

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Sunday Schedule:</u> 9:45 am Childcare Open 10:00 am Worship (incl. kids 1st grade & older) 11:00 am Coffee Hour						1
2	3	4 Church Office Closed Walking Group 7:30 am	5 UMM Donut Meet-Up (Huddle Hall)	6 Walking Group 7:30 am Dessert Discussion 7pm	7 Church Office closes at 12:00 pm	8 Nancy Miller Memorial Service 1:00 pm All-Church & Garden Workday 8-noon
NO UMYF						
9 Youth Group lunch & water kickball 12pm	10	11 Walking Group 7:30 am Bible Study 1:00pm Youth Leaders 7:00 pm	12 UMM Donut Meet-Up (Huddle Hall) MEOW 1:00 pm	13 Walking Group 7:30 am Dessert Discussion 7pm	14 Church Office closes at 12:00 pm	15 Dinner Church SVUMC hosts 4:00 pm—set up 5:00 pm – serving 5:00 pm – Youth
16 Youth Group lock-in ends at 1pm	17	18 Walking Group 7:30 am Bible Study 1:00pm CrossRoads Adv.5:00 pm Admin Council 6:00 pm	19 UMM Donut Meet-Up (Huddle Hall) All-Women's Picnic 11:30 Lemon Park	20 Walking Group 7:30 am Dessert Discussion 7pm	21 Church Office closes at 12:00 pm	22 Garden Workday 8-noon
23 Recycle Sunday Youth lunch & Messy Games 12pm	24 VBS 5-8 pm	25 VBS 5-8 pm Walking Group 7:30 am	26 VBS 5-8 pm UMM Donut Meet-Up (Huddle Hall)	27 VBS 5-8 pm Walking Group 7:30 am	28 VBS 5-8 pm Church Office closes at 12:00 pm	29
30 Youth Group Movie Night 6pm	31 UCLA Blood Drive 10:45 am—3:45 pm					



Birthdays

- 7/2 Allie Quina
 7/3 Joshua Austria
 Chuck McKee
 Jessica Shamam
 7/4 Ammie Kahl
 7/5 Charles Cockrill
 Tina Garcia
 Linda Seck
 7/6 Nicole Whaley
 7/7 Cathy Allison
 7/9 Cal Medley
 7/10 Gel Austria
 Steve Burroughs
 7/11 Marni Brown
 Joyce Harding
 Casey Hayden
 7/12 Linda Blakeslee
 7/13 Laura Ramos
 7/14 Hannah McKee
 7/15 Matt Cowden
 Anna McAlister
 7/16 Jake Tignac
 7/17 Nacho Lopez
 Mary Patch
 7/18 Joel McManus
 7/19 Elizabeth Preston
 7/20 Dennis O'Hanlon
 Sandy Stephens
 Paul Witman
 7/21 Lauren Freyling
 Nick Sandoval
 7/25 Shalini Zinto
 7/26 Victoria Lopez
 7/27 Colin Lightfoot
 7/29 Sharon Harmon
 7/30 Rochelle Hill
 7/31 Becky Valenzuela



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 via 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.



May
 5/28 119

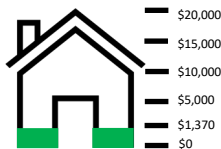
June
 6/04 95
 6/11 138
 6/18 92

Finance Update:

We give thanks for faithful giving this Spring that has enabled us to pay all our bills and hopefully have enough income to help us through the Summer months, which are traditionally the most difficult financial months.

Matching Donation Challenge:

We also give thanks for those who have contributed to our matching donation challenge. To date we have raised \$1,370 of the \$20,000 needed to cover the cost of remodeling the Little House and creating our new Music Office.



July Committee Meetings

MEOW

July 12, 1:00 pm (Chapel)

CrossRoads Advisory

July 18, 5:00 pm (Chapel)

Administrative Council

July 18, 6:00 pm (WH)



Anniversaries

- 7/5 Gel & Dolly Austria
 Gary & Ildiko Scott
 7/11 Erin & Dave Newman
 7/14 Jeff & Debi Jewell
 7/17 Emily & Michael Burdine
 7/21 Michelle & Josh Gordon
 7/22 Mike & Kimi Garbo
 7/27 Chris & Marcia Reyes



With Deepest Sympathy

We mourn the passing of
 Nancy Miller
 on June 17, 2023.
 The memorial service for
 Nancy will be held on
 Saturday, July 8th at 1:00 pm
 in the Sanctuary. A reception
 will follow in Witman Hall.



All-Church Work Day

Join with other volunteers
 and help beautify our
 church campus.
**No experience
 necessary!**

**Saturday, July 8th
 8:00 am**



**Garden Work Days
 July 8th and 22nd
 8:00–noon
 on the East Property.**

The

Herald

Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road Simi Valley CA 93065

805-526-6231 www.simivalleyumc.org

Spotlight on

MEOW (Missions, Evangelism, Outreach, Witness) Committee

MEOW is a lighthearted name for a team that has a big impact in our community. Currently the group is chaired by Ed Tingstrom, with members Ken Gordon, Martina McRae, Linda Seck, and Steve Thomson.

MEOW is responsible for delivering the items dropped off in the Narthex baskets to the Samaritan Center each month. They host the Alternative Christmas event in early December, organize warm clothes and sock drives, and sponsor talks from various mission groups.

They have recently taken on the job of overseeing the Dinner Church program. Currently SVUMC is responsible for the dinner on the third Saturday each month. Volunteers are needed to help with meal preparation, serving and clean-up. They have a wonderful core group of volunteers, but always welcome additional help! It's a great way to meet people in the church and help those in need in our community.

The Committee also supports the following organizations on behalf of our church:



MEOW welcomes new members - please join them on the third Wednesday of each month in the Chapel. They meet at 1:00 pm to plan ways to enrich our church, help our community and support missions at home and abroad.



Dessert Discussions @ The Parsonage

Join Pastor Stacy in her Family Room for homemade dessert and real life conversation. Gatherings will begin at 7:00pm for each meeting, no RSVP needed.



July 6th– Q&A with Pastor Stacy (bring any church/faith/Bible questions that you would like Pastor Stacy to answer)

July 13– The United Methodist Church (why are we splitting?)

July 20– Handling Tough Conversations in a World of Conflict

If you have a topic that you would like to discuss at a future meeting, let Pastor Stacy know.