

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



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SIMI VALLEY

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

svumc@pacbell.net

www.SimiValleyUMC.org

The 17th Annual Simi Valley CWS CROP Walk for Hunger
is coming Sunday, May 21st!

Join the fight against hunger here and around the world. You can help by signing up at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023>, and then inviting your friends and family to pledge.

The 5K Walk begins at 1:00 p.m. (registration is at 12:30 p.m.)

Be a Super Hero and join the Hunger Walkers today!

25% of all funds go The Samaritan Center of Simi Valley.
For more information, call Nancy Reyes or Jeff Brown.

*** If you would like to get in shape for the walk,
please join the Walking Group any/every morning at
7:30 a.m. through Saturday, May 20th.



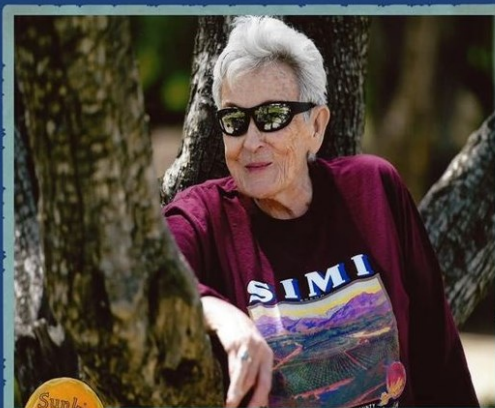
Join Us for A Pentecost Potluck Celebration



All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!
Acts 2.4

May 28th we will be celebrating Pentecost, the day the church was born and the Holy Spirit came upon all believers. Red is the traditional color of Pentecost, so wear your best red and bring a dish to share after service in Witman Hall. We will have music, games, and lots of good church fun.

PAT Simi History Rock Star



TAPO CITRUS ASSN.
SANTA SUSANA, CAL.
GROWN IN VENTURA COUNTY

Pat Havens, City Historian for Simi Valley
and treasured member of SVUMC
will be honored in a ceremony on

Saturday, May 20, 2023

11:00 am Gates Open

11:30 am Celebration of Pat Havens
at Strathearn Historical Park & Museum

This event is free to the community.
Hosted by Simi Valley Historical Society &
Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

10:00 a.m. *Worship with Chancel Choir*
Signing for Hearing Impaired
 Children's Sunday School
 Infant-Kinder in the Garden Room
 1st-5th Grade in the Fireside Room

11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

That's **NOT** in the Bible

Sermon Series

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

That's Not in the Bible

"God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

1 Corinthians 10:13 & Psalm 46:1-2

Communion served

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

That's Not in the Bible

"God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

Psalm 121

Mother's Day

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Youth Sunday

CROP WALK

Preaching: OUR UMYF

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

"Too Much Wine!"

Acts 2:1-13

Preaching: Rev. Stacy Brooks

I grew up playing sports, teams sports to be specific. Softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, and roller hockey in front of our house, I loved them all. I loved the sports and I loved when we won, but most of all, I just loved being part of a team. No matter our skill level or what position we played, we all were working towards the same goal of scoring runs, making goals, and winning the game.



Now that I am in ministry, being a part of a team is still one of my great loves. I see us all spread out around the baseball field, but instead of pitchers, catchers, and fielders, we have pastors, staff, and volunteers. We also have teachers and singers, ushers and handymen, not to leave out the sound booth operators and bulletin folders. I could go on and on, but the important point is not in labeling all the titles we have or the jobs that we do, but the importance comes in the goal that we share, following Christ and helping others to join us as Disciples of Christ.

Last night our Administrative Council met for the first time since I arrived here in Simi Valley and one of our first tasks is defining our mission here at this church. We need to consider who we are, where we come from, what we value, and who we want to be reaching. We need to wrap it all up in a bow, into a concise statement that we can all memorize and seek to live out. With this mission all our committees, ministry groups, and work can be focused on our shared goal and in such we can become a team instead of independently working players.

I am excited for the work that is ahead of us, the new people we are going to reach, the deeper our faith is going to grow, and for all the joy we will share through it all.

As a coach I love the moment at the end of practice when we all join our hands together and give a final cheer, so put your hand in and on three let's cheer together for God's Team. 1,2,3.... "God's Team!"

Pastor Stacy

Our next PARSONAGE DINNER will be on Friday, May 19th at 6:00pm. The menu will feature BBQ chicken sandwiches with some fun summer side dishes and ice cream sundaes for dessert. This meal will be served outside on the Parsonage lawn, so plan ahead.

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, May 17th to reserve your spot at the table.

RSVP

DEADLINE:

**Newsletter Articles
MAY 12**

May Circle Meetings



Circle of Joy - Wednesday, May 10 - 12:30 pm @ Sandy Stephens

Chair: Sharlene Petersen - 805-527-0611

Seekers Circle - Monday, May 15 - 12:00 pm @ Chapel

Chair: Joyce Harding - 805-522-1150

Night Owls Circle - Tuesday, May 16 - 7:00 pm @ Chapel

Chair: Laura Jean Hole - 805-522-3756

Circle of Faith - Wednesday, May 17 - 12:00 am @ Maria Reynolds

Co-Chairs: Valerie Bergh - 805-526-8836 & Nancy Miller - 661-303-0524

We welcome guest speaker Zarisbeth Soto from Action VC, a non-profit from Camarillo.

Teresa Circle - Meets each month to visit those who are homebound.

Co-Chairs: Bonnie Bastian - 805-526-6636 & Ruth Dempsey - 805-501-5874.



UMW BOARD MEETING

***All officers and circle chairs
are asked to attend***

Wednesday, May 3rd

at 10:00 am in the Chapel

***ALL WOMEN of the church
are invited to attend
ANY and ALL UWIF meetings.***



Potluck Salad Luncheon

Saturday, May 13th

12:00 pm in Witman Hall

Please bring a salad of your choice to share.

**RSVP with Ruth Dempsey on the patio on May 7th
to help us plan tables and seating.**



United
Women
in Faith

**It's coming....The 2023
MISSION u**

July 14th - July 16th at Azusa Pacific University



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

\$275 per person before June 1

\$300 per person after June 1

**Registration forms will be in the church office,
or you may contact Ruth Dempsey.**

Sunday School

Toddlers - Room 3

In an effort to best serve all our children, we have made an adjustment to our Sunday morning age/room assignments.

- Toddlers-Kindergarten will be with Ms. Cindie and Ms. Kelsey in the Garden Room (formerly the Nursery) for an age-appropriate lesson.
- First-Fifth Grade will be with in the Fireside Room for their age-appropriate lesson.

The Garden Room will be open by 9:45am each Sunday for drop-off,

Important Youth Related Dates:

YOUTH SUNDAY
May 21st —
"Famished to Filled"

RECYCLING

Sunday, May 21

Drop off clean plastic, aluminum & glass items for our youth to recycle on the 4th Sunday monthly.



UMYF Calendar

May 7: UMYF

May 14: NO UMYF - Mother's Day

May 21: Youth Sunday followed by Crop Walk

No regular UMYF Meeting

May 28: No UMYF - Memorial Day

Wonderful Wednesdays - children from 4 years-5th grade

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by a program from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Regular Meetings May 3, 10, 17, & 24 We will celebrate our final meeting for this school year on May 31st with a Messy game night!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 24-28th

Are you ready for an exciting week of Twists and Turns! Our VBS 2023 leaders are now assembling a team of volunteers to help lead our VBS celebration of games & lessons about how Jesus leads us through all the Twists & Turns of life. Registration & volunteer forms are now available at Sunday worship services and in the church office. Adult interest forms are also available!



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!!!



Do you have about an hour, once a month to help with our Sunday School class? That is all that it takes! Teachers and helpers are needed for our Sunday morning class. Ms. Becky is looking to build a fantastic team to work with our amazing children. All lessons and needed materials will be prepped and provided. Our May curriculum will be lessons about the Fruit of the Spirit.



We are excited to announce the creation of "Camp See Me"! This summer, we will offer a fun and safe program for elementary aged children from June 5-August 4. Camp will provide age-appropriate daily biblical based teaching that will be reinforced through activities, games, science experiments and crafts; on-site field trips and special visitors; fun thematic weeks to keep your child engaged and entertained all summer long!

"Camp See Me" is a full-day summer program from 8am-3pm, Monday - Friday. 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. Participation in all 9 weeks of camp is not required, but for proper staffing purposes, we are asking for a minimum commitment of 5 weeks for each child attending camp. Sibling discount available. Registration forms are available through the church office.



The Anatomy of Your Chancel Choir

Have you ever wondered how our church choir works to create such wonderful music? If you didn't sing in your high school choir or if you're new to choral singing in general, here's a little tutorial to explain what makes up a typical church choir.

Most choirs are made up of four voice parts: soprano (S), alto (A), tenor (T), and bass (B). These parts can also be subdivided if needed, but we'll stick to the basic SATB model for the purpose of this article.

Soprano

These are the highest, typically female, voices. More than any other part, sopranos usually get to sing the melody, the recognizable tune, to a song. On occasion, sopranos get to sing lovely soaring descants on hymns.

Alto

The altos are the lower, typically female, voices. Altos most often sing a harmony part just below the sopranos. While their parts are sometimes repetitive and could be thought of as uninteresting, singing the harmony and staying in tune is a fun challenge! (Just ask our altos!)

Tenor

Tenors are the higher, typically male, voices. Incidentally, our Chancel Choir has two female tenors! The tenors and the altos, having the middle-of-the-choir position, often get fun moving parts that sopranos and basses don't.

Bass

Basses are, as their name implies, the "base" of the choir, the harmonic anchor. Basses often sing the root of chords, so it's especially important for basses to be in tune, as the choir builds their harmonies above them.

Want to know more about singing in choir? Think you might like to give it a try? Now that Holy Week is behind us and there are only a couple of months left in the choir season, this is a great time to jump in and join the choir! If you're interested in knowing more, reach out to Lisa Wall-Urgero at vocalisa@live.com or simply see her after worship any Sunday.

Lisa Wall-Urgero

Director of Music Ministries



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

Saturday, May 13th
8:00 am



**All-Church Brunch
& CROP Walk Kick-Off**

**Sunday, May 21st
following the Worship Service**

*Stop by Witman Hall AFTER church
and enjoy a delicious breakfast!*

Suggested donation: \$5.00 / person

Men's Donut Fellowship

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

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



Yay for May! This month is filled with lots of activities and events.

We are giving thanks to our staff the first week of May for Staff Appreciation Week. This week is filled with thank yous, food and gifts. CrossRoads is very blessed to have an amazing staff!

CrossRoads is hosting a Muffins in the Morning for our families on Friday, May 12th, on the playground. The students invite a loved one to enjoy snack with them.

On Friday, May 26th, is our Promotional Celebrating for our Kindergarteners and TK students. They will end their school year with songs, praises and awards. As this school year comes to an end, I find my heart is filled with joy and appreciation! Each day is different and unique, with that brings excitement and new adventures. I am grateful for all the love, support and prayers I have received! THANK YOU!

Mrs. Michelle Gordon, Principal



May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Sunday Schedule: 9:45am Childcare Open 10:00am Worship with Sunday School for kids 11:00am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Youth Group</div>						
7	1	2	3	4	5	6
		1:00 pm Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00 pm SPRC (Chapel)	10:00 am UWF Board Mtg (Chapel)			
	8	9	10	11	12	13
		1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Finance (Chpl) 7:00 pm Youth Leaders (Sr. High Rm)	12:30 pm Circle of Joy @ Sandy Stephens 1:00 MEOW (Rm. 12) 7:00 pm Trustees (Chapel)			8:00 am All-Church Work Day & Garden 12:00 pm UWF Mothers' Day Potluck
14 Mother's Day No UMYF	15	16	17	18	19	20
	12:00 pm Seekers Circle (Chapel)	1:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm CrossRoads Advisory (Chapel) 7:00 pm Night Owls	12:00 pm Circle of Faith @ Maria Reynolds		6:00 pm Parsonage Dinner	Dinner Church provided by SVUMC Set up 4:00 pm Serving 5:00 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11:15 am UMM All - Church Brunch 1:00 pm CROP Walk		1:00 pm Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00 pm SPRC (Chapel)	11:00 Book Club (Chapel)			8:00 am Garden Work Day
28 Recycle Sunday No UMYF All-Church Pentecost Potluck following worship	29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	30	31	Thursday Schedule: 5:30pm Adult Handbell Ensemble 6:00pm Adult Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:15pm Youth Bells		
		1:00 pm Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00 pm SPRC (Chapel)	8:00 am UMM Donut Meet Up (Huddle Hall) 5:00pm Kidz Bells 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Children's Program	Wednesday Schedule: 8:00 am UMM Donut Meet Up (Huddle Hall) 5:00pm Kidz Bells 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Children's Program		

MAY

Birthdays

5/1 Jason Farr
 5/4 Kate Horowitz
 5/6 Emily Yates
 5/7 Michele Perry
 5/8 Melissa Carter
 Justin Ross
 5/10 Emily Burdine
 5/13 Henry Moyer
 5/14 Christina Foster
 5/15 Kalani Horney
 5/16 Jerry Motzel
 Knox Sponable
 5/17 Carol Conner
 5/18 Becca Hughes
 5/19 Linda Lange
 5/21 Sean Brennan
 Kathleen Motzel
 5/24 Theo Dickson
 Wyatt Garbo
 5/25 Morgan Horney
 5/27 Madison Dickson
 5/28 Ellen Gambino
 5/29 Christine Palotay

MAY

Anniversaries

5/1 Henry & Paul Moyer
 5/6 Nick & Rebecca Sandoval
 5/11 Kathy & Cal Medley
 5/16 Becca & Sam Hughes
 5/17 David & Julie Brennan
 5/22 Mark & Kate Horowitz
 5/26 Mike & Lori Pahl
 5/27 Bonnie & Rob Bastian
 5/31 Mark & Luene Witman



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.

OUR



ATTENDANCE

March 2023

3/26 96

April 2023

4/2	155	Palm Sunday
4/7	83	Good Friday
4/9	48	Easter Sunrise
	256	Easter 10:00 am
4/16	116	
4/23	107	

Our Gifts

We have tallied our pledge cards from our 2023 campaign and we give thanks that 84 pledge cards came in with a total of \$354,844 towards this year of ministry. Thank you to everyone who stepped up and made a pledge.



SVUMC Giving Garden

Come on over to the East Property where we have set up a small giving garden. The garden consists of six raised beds and has been established to give life, love, happiness and food to others.

Last year, CrossRoads Children's Center planted sweet potato slips. In the fall, they harvested over 40 pounds of sweet potatoes and donated them to the Samaritan Center! The harvests will also help our feeding church.

If you are looking for some fun, come by on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 8 am–12 noon, and if you have time to water or weed during the week, or if you just want to get out and relax, come on over! You are all invited.



The

Herald

Simi Valley United Methodist Church

2394 Erringer Road Simi Valley CA 93065

805-526-6231 www.simivalleyumc.org



Our church office is a very busy place with a significant amount of work required to run smoothly. The volunteers that are here every week, working behind the scenes, are incredibly special.

Thank you to **Marilyn McFarren**, who comes to the office every Tuesday to ensure our tithes and offerings are recorded. When you receive your statement of giving, you have Marilyn to thank! Her thoroughness and attention to detail is exactly what is needed for this work. Marilyn has been instrumental in helping Diane understand all of the ins and outs of the system. Her patience and the extra time she gives is truly a gift.

Thank you to **Debbie Post** for always taking Diane's distress calls and providing desperately needed guidance.

Thank you to **Joy Bunya**, who is, indeed, a joy and a gift to the office. Joy has streamlined the Herald distribution process for us. She has made it easy for you to pick up your Herald from the Narthex each month from her efficiently-labeled basket with alphabetized tabs. She follows-up and preps the Heralds that require mailing. Joy files our bills and other documentation, and has beautifully restyled the filing system for these documents. Joy also has been helping us maintain our database of Sunday worship attendees. Without a doubt, if something in the office needs organizing, Joy is there for us!

Thank you **Kathy Hobiger**, **Debbie Kruetzfeldt**, and **Ken Hayes** for faithfully, faithfully, faithfully folding the bulletins and adding inserts for Sunday Worship every single Friday, as well as folding the monthly Herald whenever needed with truly remarkable speed and efficiency.

Ken is one of the two people in the office (or maybe on the whole planet) that knows how to set up the paper folding machine. (Pastor Stacy is the other.) He also takes the time to clean it carefully and give it all the attention it needs to keep it running for, hopefully, years to come. We are so fortunate to have these three helping out!

Thank you to **Julie Brennan** and **Barbara Witman** who come in every Wednesday to sign the checks to pay our vendors. Julie reviews all of the documentation to ensure everything is correct before the checks are signed, and her eye for detail is outstanding! **Julie** also manages one aspect of our electronic giving, and comes in twice per month to manage the banking and run the report. **Barbara** has graciously cleaned out and reorganized cupboards, sorted through an entire storage unit of old documents (including creating an album of the photos found,) taken our old electronics in for recycling and has shredded pounds of documents. We are so blessed by these two!

Thank you to **Judy Thomson**, **Juanita Ward**, **Cheryl West**, **Peggy Spellman**, **Luene Witman**, **Sheila Millard**, and **Sharlene Petersen** for coming three at a time every week to manage the tithes and offerings. This job is not for the faint-hearted. There are a lot of little details and special circumstances to understand in order to do this correctly, and they, too, have provided Diane with a lot of training. We are very grateful for this team!

Additional shout-outs to **Luene** for filing our historical bulletins and Heralds, and for kindly taking 46 cases of donated Ramen Noodles to the Samaritan Center so that we could free up space in the office, and to **Cheryl** for managing our official church membership and providing Diane with training to ensure the office is handling related activities correctly. Much appreciated!

Thank you to **Chuck McKee** who stops by the office most every day to check on what is needed. There is almost ALWAYS something needed. Lights out, toilet handles broken, leaky faucets, gushing water heaters, locks that don't work, walls that need prep for painting, bulletin boards that need hanging...you get the idea. We so appreciate Chuck for always being there for this office!