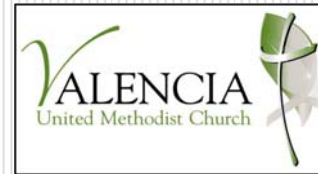


The Messenger



Sunday
May 8th:



Confirmation
Sunday

**Photos For New
VUMC Church
Directory**

Plan now for having your family portrait taken by Olan Mills here at the church for our new 2011 Directory. No purchase required, and everyone will receive a FREE 8x10. The first photo sessions take place June 2—5. Sign-ups begin after worship on Sunday, May 8th. If you can not make the June schedule, the next one will be August 4—7.

To set your own appointment now, go to umcv.org and look for the link—you may need to en-

40 Days Follow-Up

"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly before your God." Micah 6.8

What a wonderful time we had on April 17th as we celebrated the end of our 40 Days study. There was great excitement and momentum as we shared together some of the ways that VUMC worked to fill holes in our community and in the world. Some of the highlights:

- \$2553.97 was collected for SCV Million Meals Marathon, which will provide 10,000 meals
- \$7464.66 was collected for Living Water, which will be used to build several wells in Central America

Some of the ways that we worked together to fill holes around us: we gave time, blood, clothing, food, assistance and gifts to single moms, shoes, supplies for Family Promise, and one of the small groups gave enough money to provide a well in Haiti.

2011 Confirmation Class

Katie Andrews
Padraic Donahue
Reid Bowman
Davis Ender
Jared Brosnan
Christina Ewart
Livia Buckley
Brandon Fagan
Claire Cansler
Sydney Hild

Kaitlyn Cavataio
Max Malchus
Patrick Clemena
James Meske
Eddie Cope
Jeffrey Taylor
Amanda Dal Soglio
Kelsey Taylor
Madison Dobson

**CHANGE
THE WORLD**

Saturday—May 14

"Change the World" is a global movement of United Methodists doing what we can to improve lives and community. Our church will be participating by taking on several projects in our area.

One of our projects will be to install playground equipment and to do grounds clean-up at the Family Promise Resource Center. Family Promise, a temporary housing program for families, is the Santa Clarita Valley's newest community outreach program. In addition, we will be making repairs at the Santa Clarita Winter Shelter.

Off the Blocks with Pastor John

Building hope in the Santa Clarita valley



We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds. Psalm 75:1

Dear VUMC Family, I was looking through a high school year book for a picture to use in church and became filled with memories. One of those memories was being in the play *Our Town* my senior year in high school. This brought about some thoughts I want to share as I remember our 40 day journey and Easter Sunday... Thornton Wilder tells the fictional story of George Webb and Emily Gibbs in the play. They grew up together in Grover's Corner, fell in love and married. Emily dies and is granted a wish to return as an invisible guest to experience one day of her previous life. She chooses the cherished occasion of one of her childhood birthdays. As the day progresses, Emily is deeply saddened by people's distractions and inattentiveness to each other. The opportunity to return for one more precious day of life becomes a painful reminder of what so many miss as we fail to live each moment. Her words as she leaves the day are prophetic as I think about a thankful heart. "It goes so fast. We don't have time to look at one another anymore. Do any human beings ever realize life while they have it--every, every minute?"

As I think about our 40 Days journey and an incredible Easter Sunday I am filled with thanksgiving for all the "minutes" so many of you served! I still cannot believe the grace that God has demonstrated toward me in the privilege to serve with you all for almost 3 years!

I also am giving great thanks to God for the way you all responded to the challenges during the 40 days...three wells will be given to communities who don't have clean water and we have joined with other churches in the SCV to feed 1,000,000 meals to the poorest in this world (and to provide many supplies for the opening of Family Promise). I hope you see the joy and the miracles in what our "corner of hope" can do!

Life is an incredible gift that finds fulfillment in Jesus and joy in serving others. At the close of the play, the narrator, while walking through the cemetery, says, "Now there are some things we all know, but we don't take them out and look at them very often. And it ain't houses and names, and it ain't earth and the stars. The greatest people that ever lived have been telling us that for years, yet you'd be surprised how people are always losing hold of it."

Don't lose hold--be thankful! ...I can't wait to see what God has planned for VUMC next! Have a blessed May and I am giving thanks for each of you!

Grace and Peace,
John
(jshaver@umcv.org)

Senior service Ministry Spring Luncheon

- Saturday, May 28, 11:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Hall
- Please join us for lunch, fellowship, and entertainment provided by the Blue Plate Special Quartet
- Sign up on the patio after worship on 5/12 and 5/22 or call Ron Kari at 661-799-3808.

Contemplative Worship

May 5th 7:00 p.m.

Since 1952 there has been an annual observance of *National Day of Prayer*. We will have Contemplative Worship at 7:00 pm this Thursday to mark this special day. Contemplative Worship is a style of worship that uses congregational singing, scripture readings, prayer and meditation as the main elements of worship. You are encouraged to invite your friends to this observance. Nursery care will be provided.



Welcome to:

Reagan Grace Solomon

Born: April 11, 2011

Weight: 6lb. 6oz.

Parents: Drew and Melissa Solomon

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Habit Sunday on May 1

Support our Pioneer Clubs Program by having lunch or dinner at the Habit (located in Granary Square). Just present your Sunday bulletin to the cashier when you place your order and a portion of your total bill will be returned in support of our children's program.



Humor Helps is a family-friendly, comedy show that will raise money for the Santa Clarita Valley Emergency Winter Shelter. It will take place May 15th, 3:30 to 6:30 at Blessed Kateri Church. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.santaclaritashelter.com. They are also available in our church office during regular office hours.



Donald R. Klahs, Esq.
Attorney at Law
25152 Springfield Court, Ste. 100
Valencia, CA 91355
Phone: 661-287-1511
Fax: 661-287-9217
E-mail: dklahs@klahslaw.com

Andrew Good
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- Give it



25718 McBean Parkway
Valencia CA 91355-2008

Phone: 661-255-1301
Fax: 661-255-0119
Email: umcv@umcv.org



Youth Sunday—May 29

Please join us on youth Sunday, May 29th. The Youth Praise Band, Fire In The Soul, and youth speakers will lead in Worship. They will be sharing their gifts, talents and stories. In addition, we will celebrate and recognize our 2011 graduates. You won't want to miss what is to be sure to be an inspiring worship experience.

Children's Musical—*The Old Testament Fast Forward*

On Sunday, May 22, our Children's Choir will present its annual musical. *The Old Testament Fast Forward* begins with the comic notion that this epic history can be recounted in ten minutes. In fact, the musical presents many of our foundational faith stories in a light hearted way. It will take longer than ten minutes but we're sure you will enjoy hearing the great themes of our history - God's unending love for us and God's covenant with a Chosen People - ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. The musical will be presented at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a reception to follow.

Vacation Bible School - July 18-22

- "Pandamania" - *Where God Is Wild About You!*
- 9 a.m.—noon
- Ages 3yrs.—6th grade
- More Info—Contact Michelle at mandrews@umcv.org

