



February 2021

# The Federated Family

Life in God, Life with Others, Life for Others



## 7 SERVANT PARTNERS

Annika John is one of many Servant Partners team members who chose to “step into the suffering and joys of life at the margins” through her work in her neighborhood.

## 9 THE STRONGS

Learn more about Phil and Betsy Strong and their motivations to serve others through medical care.

## 11 GRIEF SHARE

Beginning February 22, the Care Ministry is sponsoring GriefShare, a seminar and support group for people dealing with loss of a loved one.



## 2 SERVE WEEK

Our next Serve Week is coming up. Join us as we help bring God's love, justice and beauty to our community.

# SERVE WEEK

BY JERRY BRUCE



Our spring Serve Week kicks off on Valentine's Day weekend, February 13, and runs through Sunday, February 21.

Do you realize you are helping bring God's love, justice and beauty to our neighbors when you perform acts of service? A synonym for justice is equitableness or fairness. Many of our projects are designed to serve those for whom life has not been fair. They have not received an equitable share of the world's resources. Sewing dresses, stuffing Easter eggs and working on Habitat for Humanity projects are acts of service that help provide gifts and necessities to someone who doesn't have much at all.

When you join us in placing yard signs at the homes of Night to Shine participants or help us prepare utility boxes around Saratoga for artists to paint you are bringing God's beauty to the lives of others in our community. Night to Shine is a time when neighbors with special needs are told they are beautiful. Many of them don't hear that message nearly often enough. And when you help us pack hygiene kits for the homeless, cook a meal to be distributed by our Care Deacons, help build playhouses to be given to other non-profits or literally any of our service projects, you are bringing God's love to your neighbors.

If you are physically limited in what you can do, for any reason, but want to have a large impact, you can join our prayer project. Through prayer you help bring God's love, justice and beauty to more lives than you could possibly touch on your own.

Please join us in February as we engage in various forms of service, and consider inviting a friend or neighbor to join you. All of our activities will be done with safe social distancing practices and many of the projects can be done from home.



Sign-ups are open now on our website at [www.saratogafederated.org](http://www.saratogafederated.org). Note that some projects will occur before February 13. If you are already serving somewhere else, please email [jerry@saratogafederated.org](mailto:jerry@saratogafederated.org) so that we can include the service you are already doing in our inventory of how our congregation is reaching out to bring God's love, justice and beauty to our community and the world.



# LOVE, JUSTICE & BEAUTY

BY SEAN MILLER

These days, as a church, we are praying for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done, *On Earth As it is in Heaven*. When we do, we acknowledge the challenge of living in a broken world filled with pain (have you watched the news lately?). However, we also trust in the biblical promise that one day "...the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14; Revelation 4:8). Until that day, we are called, as followers of Jesus, to "let our light shine...and glorify [our] Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). This is our mission. Below are just three of the many effective ways we are working to let our light shine and fill our world with God's glory.

First and foremost, there is love. When we speak of biblical love, we focus on "agapē" love (unconditional, pure, sacrificial love). Although we also recognize and need other kinds of love, agapē is a selfless love that is passionately committed to the well-being of others. Jesus was clear that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love people. He even commanded us to love our enemies and pray for them. Imagine that right now!

Next is justice. Justice is unavoidable because it flows out of God's love. When we speak of biblical justice, we don't simply think of punishment; we focus on what it means to "set things right" in our broken and sinful world, internally, externally, individually and relationally. The mission of Jesus was and is to bring justice (Isaiah 42:1-4). God's people are commanded to do justice (Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23). Through the power of the cross and resurrection, the time of setting things right has come and will lead to the new heaven and new earth when all will be set right (Revelation 22:1-5). We participate with the Holy Spirit to carry forward the work of Jesus here on earth until that day!

Finally, perhaps surprisingly, we choose beauty. The word beauty occurs very seldom in the Bible, yet beauty is everywhere in the Scriptures. Have



you ever noticed how much we love a sunset, admire a great painting, are in awe of our universe, or the design of the human body? "The creation speaks of the glory of God..." (Psalm 19). Beauty is one of the ways that God shows himself to us and how we can show God to the world (Romans 10:15). If the pinnacle of creation is humanity, how much more beautiful should our lives be? Our God is holy and infinite, yet he has revealed himself and invited humanity to connect with him (Psalm 27:4). When we understand beauty as God's voice, we are inspired to partner with the Spirit to create more beauty—inner and outer. Beauty is a pathway for relationship and a witness for God that brings him glory.

In 2020, the many ministries of Saratoga Federated Church filled the world with God's love, justice and beauty. Local businesses were supported, food banks were filled, children sang, front-line workers were fed, fire relief was given, folks were counseled, families cared for, benevolence was given, prayer was provided, local and global partners were supported, gifts were given, lights were shining, candles were glowing, art was made, Bridge Builder families were blessed, students served, parents were equipped, reconciliation was practiced, injustice was wrestled with, worship was offered...and the list goes on! It has actually been an amazing and transformational year. I am so delighted in you, my church family.

## **LOCAL OUTREACH TEAM: LENTEN OFFERING RECIPIENT**

BY BOB CONNORS

The Local Outreach Team has chosen CityTeam as the recipient of the 2021 Lenten offering. CityTeam's mission is to share Christ's unconditional and redemptive love by caring for immediate needs and enabling lasting solutions.

CityTeam is working tirelessly in the Bay Area to serve those most impacted by the COVID pandemic. As economic challenges continue to pressure many families, the requests for service at CityTeam have increased three-fold over the last year. This vital ministry addresses homelessness, hunger, poverty and addiction, all of which have increased during the pandemic. The Local Outreach Team is hoping to raise \$15,000 during the Lenten season to support this important ministry.

## **ADVENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Each year our Global and Local Outreach teams choose recipients for your Advent offerings. During the 2020 Advent season, Saratoga Federated raised \$20,000 to provide a mechanical rice dryer for Sola Gratia Ministries in the Philippines, providing additional income for the ministry and employment for local Christians. Your gift helps bring Sola Gratia one step closer to financial self-sufficiency.

Saratoga Federated also raised \$20,000 for our local recipient, Advent Ministries, which supports state-licensed residence and outpatient counseling programs for youth who are suffering from addiction. New, more stringent state licensing requirements, and the need to meet rigorous COVID operational changes, present significant challenges to the ministry. Your support enables the staff at Advent to continue to offer services with the love that comes through a Christ-centered program. The generosity of Saratoga Federated Church truly continues to fill the world with God's love, justice, and beauty.

## **GLOBAL OUTREACH TEAM: LENTEN OFFERING RECIPIENT**

BY SALLY BRYANT

An African proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child." Now imagine what a transformed village could mean in the lives of children. Our work in one village in Mulanje, Malawi, has already brought significant transformation through its Christian orphanage and pre-K through early elementary schooling. Now we are starting a high school for all the children in the village. Education transforms not only the community but also the country. It reduces poverty by raising average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Wages, agricultural income and productivity are higher where women involved in agriculture receive a better education. This school will be a light shining on a hill, providing access to education for those who otherwise would not have the opportunity, and will transform a village in a predominantly Muslim part of Malawi with the love of Jesus. We hope to raise \$15,000 to provide schooling for up to 100 children for two years.



## **LENT SOUP SUPPER**

In years past, we have gathered together to kick off Lent with a Soup Supper. This year, we will do the same, but virtually. On February 17, Adult Ministries will host a Zoom gathering to socialize and to pray together. Stay tuned for soup recipes and tips! For more information, contact Sally Bryant at [sally@saratogafederated.org](mailto:sally@saratogafederated.org).

## **LENTEN STUDY: OUR DASH MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

BY SALLY BRYANT

Lent invites us to purposefully companion Jesus in his ministry here on earth and as he goes to his death on Calvary. Walking with Jesus for the six weeks of Lent leads us into deeper intimacy with him, and prepares our heart to celebrate the glory of the resurrection. To journey with Jesus is to pay attention to what is most important in life. Our individual and collective lives change as we follow Jesus; the new life we have been given in Christ is designed to make a difference in the world around us and bring glory to God.

This Lent, we will look at what it means to live as followers of Jesus, participating with the Spirit to fill the world with God's love, God's justice and God's beauty. You may have heard the poem, "The Dash." It refers to the dash on every tombstone – the line separating birth from death. The "dash" is all we have because it is our life; it is what we do with our lives. This Lent, we will ask the question, what are you doing with your dash? Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." As we live out this prayer, we realize that our dash makes a difference.

We align ourselves with Jesus, participating with the Spirit to fill the world with God's love, justice and beauty. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to leave worry behind and live the Spirit-filled life every day. What if we really lived like this? What difference would it make in our friendships, marriages, families and community? What difference would it make in the Church—right here at Saratoga Federated? Let's discover the difference it makes this Lent. Join us for this Lenten study as we go deeper in reflecting on what it means to be a follower of Jesus, participating with the Spirit to fill the world with God's love, justice and beauty.

If you are not yet in a Life Group, contact Sally Bryant for more information at [sally@saratogafederated.org](mailto:sally@saratogafederated.org).

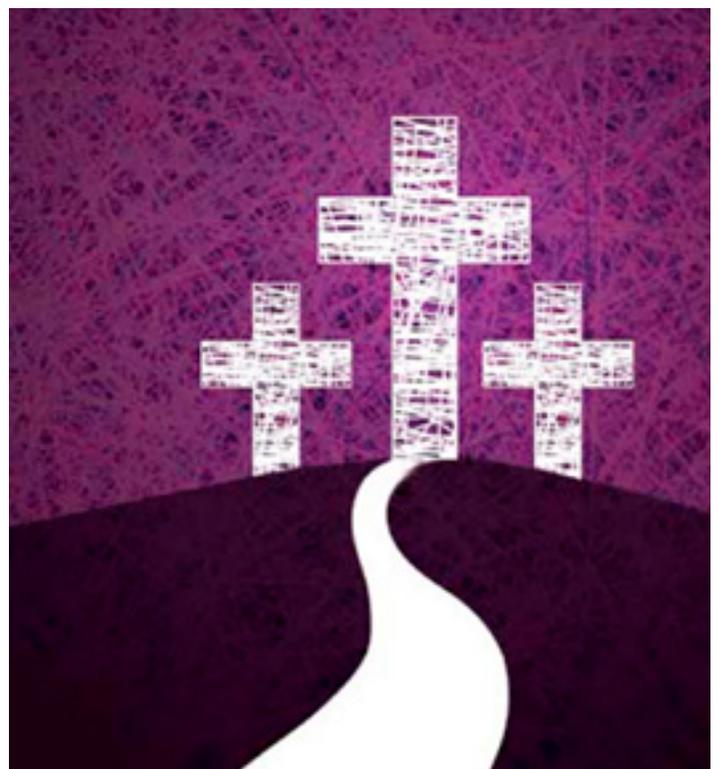
## **LENTEN PREVIEW**

BY KELLY BLOUGH

The Lenten season is already upon us. It feels like we just finished celebrating the coming of Jesus, and now we are preparing our hearts in expectation of his death and resurrection. Traditionally, Lent lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays, reminding us of the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Matthew 4:1-2 tells us, "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished."

We don't have a lot of information about how Jesus spent those 40 days and 40 nights, but that is a long time to fast, and a long time to be alone. We can assume that his time in the wilderness was lonely and difficult. Many of us have experienced difficulty and solitude in recent months, but we can glean hope from the words of Matthew when he says that Jesus was "led by the Spirit" through this lonely and difficult time.

Lent begins on February 17. Allow the Spirit to lead you through difficulty and into the joy of life in Jesus.



# MINISTRY UPDATE: FAMILY ADVENTURE DAYS!

BY SAVOY STEVENS

You've heard it many times, "I feel closer to God when I am in nature." Perhaps you've even said that phrase yourself! I know that I have. I often find myself surprised by God's presence when I am on an outdoor adventure. I have lost count of the times that God's power, beauty and presence in creation have stopped me in my tracks, revealing to me a new sense of who and how God is.

There's a reason this comment resonates with us. God designed us to respond to the beauty of creation with awe and wonder. Creation provides a tangible space for us to engage with God. Studies have shown that when children explore creation with a caregiver, or with other children, an important social bond and connection is formed. Empathy increases, as does a sense of oneness with God as the beauty of God's creation inspires a sense of awe, intrigue and wonder. Repeated interactions with creation strengthen our sense of connection to each other and to God.

We have been meeting online for virtual Sunday School since the lockdown began. This has been a wonderful way to stay connected, engage with the Bible and have fun together safely. We meet online via Zoom - a video conferencing platform that most of you have heard of by now. Every Sunday we get a glimpse of each other's faces, and into each other's homes, through small squares on a computer screen. This has been a great workaround while we can't meet in person, but we need to get outside! We need real experiences!

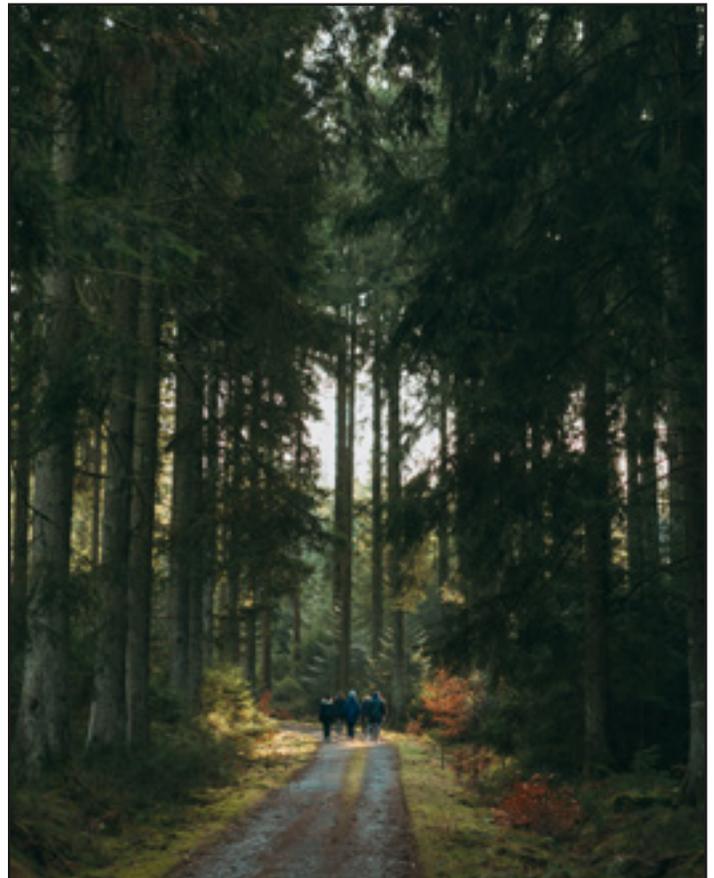
In January, we hosted our first Family Adventure Day. The pandemic is opening the door for us to experiment with different ways of ministering to children and families. Family Adventure Day is one of those experiments, and we are excited to do it again! Our next Family Adventure Day is Sunday, February 28, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Natural Bridges State Park. Meet Savoy Stevens in the parking lot near the visitor's center to pick up your adventure guide with prompts for you and

your family such as "What did you find in a tidepool today that reminded you of God's love?" and "When you stand by the ocean, close your eyes and listen. What do you hear God saying to you?" Consider it a form of "spiritual geo-caching."

Nature is not God, but it speaks to us of God. St. Augustine considered it "God's other book." What better way to learn about the creator than through creation. What treasures does God have waiting for you to discover?

This is a self-guided experience for you and your family to enjoy. We are not gathering as a group. Please wear your mask and avoid close contact with those outside your immediate household.

Let us know you are coming, register at [www.saratogafederated.org](http://www.saratogafederated.org). For more information email Savoy Stevens at [savoy@saratogafederated.org](mailto:savoy@saratogafederated.org) or Robyn Swan at [robyn@saratogafederated.org](mailto:robyn@saratogafederated.org).



# GOD'S LOVE, JUSTICE AND BEAUTY IN LIFE AT THE MARGINS

BY KELLY BLOUGH

One of our 2020 Giving Tree recipient organizations was Servant Partners, San Jose. Servant Partners is an international organization that works through teams that live and work in low-income, inner-city communities. These teams share their lives with the urban poor and live out the Gospel among their neighbors, partnering with local churches whenever possible, and planting churches where there are none.

Servant Partners' San Jose staff work and live in both the Washington-Guadalupe neighborhood and the Mayfair neighborhood, among many undocumented, low-income neighbors.

The Washington-Guadalupe Neighborhood includes approximately 12,000 residents and is about 85% Latino, including a large number of recent immigrants. The Mayfair neighborhood, located three and a half miles from Washington, hosts a very similar demographic with a more varied ethnic makeup. Mayfair is home to a significant Filipino elder and Vietnamese immigrant community and nearly 80% of residents speak a language other than English in the home.

Servant Partners staff planted a church to serve these communities, affiliated with the Evangelical Covenant, Shalom Iglesia del Pacto. The church offers weekly neighborhood Bible studies, programs for youth such as tutoring and music lessons, English classes, legal counseling with local lawyers and pastoral counseling.

Servant Partners staff engage in direct ministry with their neighbors, mostly around the theme of building friendships of mutual blessing between the materially rich and poor.

Annika John is one of the many Servant Partner team members who have chosen, in her words, to “step into the suffering and joys of life at the margins” through her work and life in her San Jose

neighborhood. Annika, formerly Annika Awbrey, grew up at Saratoga Federated Church and helped to connect the church with Servant Partners.

Last summer, as part of Saratoga Federated's Serve Week, a team from the church responded to the need of one of the families connected with Servant Partners, San Jose. The mother, Annabel, had always dreamed of having a little space to garden in her backyard, and her daughter, Emily, is an incredibly talented artist who had limited space in her small home to express herself. With that in mind, volunteers from SFC built a small planter for Annabel and a small art space for Emily in the side yard of their house.

"I can sometimes feel lonely, having chosen this unique path for my life," Annika says. "But there's a sense of rest that comes, almost like a sigh of relief, knowing that I have a church community doing the work alongside me, advocating for my neighbors, and encouraging me along the way."

More stories about how Servant Partners is changing lives in San Jose can be found at [www.servantpartners.org/sanjose](http://www.servantpartners.org/sanjose). For more information on how you can become more involved in their ministry, contact Sally Bryant at [sally@saratogafederated.org](mailto:sally@saratogafederated.org).



# COMMITTED TO SERVING MEXICO WITH AMOR MINISTRIES

BY MATT HALL

For twenty of the past 22 years, we have sent a team down to Mexico in the Spring to build houses with Amor Ministries. Last year we were weeks away from our trip when we had to postpone due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, circumstances continue to dictate that we remain at home again this year. But in an era of virtual and social distance gatherings, we know we can do a lot from here.

First, I want to share with you and celebrate what Amor has continued to do without American teams crossing the border. For several years, Amor Ministries has been using Mexican teams to build homes to supplement the building done by American churches. Through fundraising efforts, they have continued to provide homes for families who need them, while also providing jobs for workers in Mexico who build the homes. In 2020, they built 55 houses in Tecate, Tijuana, and Puerto Peñasco.

From its inception, Amor has always been a partnership with local pastors. This intention is captured in one of their value statements, "Local leaders have to invite Amor into the local context and drive the ministry that happens there." This collaboration between Mexican Pastors and Amor has led to many other services to the local communities, including a food bank. With support from Amor, the pastors provided meals for 300



families in 2020. Amor is a ministry that builds houses, but so much more.

We are sad that we cannot build with our friends in Mexico this year, but we are grateful for their continued ministry. As we look to sustain our long partnership with Amor, our Mexico trip leadership team has committed to fundraising so their teams can continue to minister through housing and meals.

We know that we also benefit from the trip. Serving facilitates a transformation within us as we partner with God in bringing his love, justice and beauty to the world. House building in Mexico has also been an important outreach to our neighbors as many have joined with us in serving. We hope to continue to facilitate service and transformation through a series of projects during our regular Mexico week, April 7 through 10. Please stay tuned for information on both Amor Fundraisers and local service projects.



## MEXICO FUNDRAISER

WILLOW STREET PIZZA  
MAIN ST. BURGER

FEBRUARY 22 - NOON TO 9:00 PM

Be sure to visit our [website for the flyer!](#)

# PHIL & BETSY STRONG

BY ARVIN ENGELSON

Once upon a time, a young man and woman chose careers in medicine. Why? While in full-time practice, Phil and Betsy made a dozen overseas medical trips to provide health care to underserved people. Why? Their three children are in service roles and think globally as well. Why? When the COVID pandemic appeared during their early retirement, they found roles in emergency support and public health. Why have they lived lives of caring engagement?

I asked them about their life motivations. First, let me introduce them more fully. They have been active in our church for 25+ years. In our company, they raised three children: Ben, Tim and Kit. This family thinks globally for good reason. Betsy was born in Shanghai, China. At age 5, she immigrated to Hong Kong, and at age 10, she immigrated to the U.S. Phil has always been interested in the concept of ending extreme poverty. The kids were mentored by many globally-minded and caring individuals at SFC.

Our dialog about motivation revealed life-ordering convictions. Betsy, who tries to stay well informed about international events, says she can easily envision being a victim of circumstance in another land. Were this true for her, she hopes her plight would not go unnoticed. She often prays for those most vulnerable in the world. She says that her father always prayed fervently. Since medical school, colleagues of faith have been praying for and motivating them.

Phil says the practice of medicine is complex, but the motivation to live for others is simple. If one is a person of faith, compassion is essential. He finds these virtues to be very clear guidance: faith, hope and love are to be above other interests and ambitions (1 Corinthians 13:13). For him, a companion virtue essential in the art of medicine is humility.

Their apples don't fall far from the tree. All three children are in service roles: Ben is a vocational

rehab counselor; Tim directs agriculture finance for Opportunity International in Malawi; Kit is a MSW working with young moms at risk.

Phil and Betsy add "we are grateful for our small groups and the larger SFC community, which have been an inspiration and bedrock of support for our family."



## CARE MINISTRY: CAREGIVER PANEL

BY STEPHANIE GIAMANCO

As a follow up to our Invisible Disabilities awareness-building efforts, the Care Ministry hosted a Caregiver Panel Zoom Event on December 9. The inspirational event included the insights of five caregiver panelists: Holly Miller, Nancy Kamalski, Bruce McFarling, Erin Watts and David Akers. The panelists offered helpful advice, including: set limits on your availability to care for yourself; be ready to provide medical history including meds, quickly and concisely; know what's helpful for your specific situation and don't be shy about asking for it; and build a support system of people who are going through or have gone through similar caregiving experiences.

If you would like to see the recorded zoom event, please contact the Care Ministry at [care@saratogafederated.org](mailto:care@saratogafederated.org).

# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES

BY SALLY BRYANT

First Corinthians 13 tells us, "love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end." (The MSG).

Too often, we relegate this passage to weddings. But this passage is written to all believers. Paul wrote it specifically to the early church in Corinth – a divided church, a quarrelsome church, a church arguing over who was better. This passage speaks to our lives today by giving us guidelines as we seek to love our neighbor as ourselves. It's a call to hold love as the highest virtue, and to practice this kind of self-sacrificial love. It is this kind of love that builds up Christ's church. Without love, we are bankrupt, as The Message version tells us.

The summer of 2020 was heartbreaking as we witnessed the death of George Floyd, and responded to the deaths of so many other men and women of color. For many of us who are white, it may have been the first time we experienced in a visceral way the kind of racial hatred endured by our Black brothers and sisters. For many of us who are Black, this summer laid bare lifetimes of wounds that remain unhealed. For me, it was a reckoning; too often, the love we show to the world is not a 1 Corinthians 13 kind of love. Without that, like The Message says, we are bankrupt.

As a church, we must respond with love and wisdom as we address this centuries-old issue of racism and racial injustice. Our response is based in the fundamental tenet of scripture; we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves, as Jesus commanded us to do. And we yearn to be good disciples, following Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind and

strength, obeying him, and being obedient to the Spirit's leading.

We've put together a team to guide and direct our response to racial justice. Team members include Glenn Aby, Carl Agers, Sally Bryant, Jeff Cherniss and Matt Hall. Carl, Jeff and Glenn are former or current elders; Matt and Sally are on the ministerial staff.

Since the creation of this team last summer, we have organized a prayer vigil; offered a four-week parenting workshop on raising peacemakers; led book discussion groups. Currently, we are building partnerships with other churches to expand our response to the larger community of faith; offering more prayer opportunities; and discerning ways to provide tangible and practical support to youth of color in our community. In the coming weeks, we will be developing more opportunities for the congregation to get involved including prayer gatherings and prayer guides for individuals and small groups. We also are looking to develop connections with community-based organizations that are focused on breaking the cycles of under-representation in education and employment.

It was 1 Corinthians 13-type love that caused the pagan world to marvel at the early Christians. We seek to create a faith community where the world marvels at the love of SFC. Won't you join us on this journey? At SFC, we are followers of Jesus, participating with the Spirit to fill the world with God's love, justice and beauty. Let's show the world what real love looks like as we love our neighbors as ourselves.

**Resources for  
Racial Reconciliation  
are available on our website at  
[www.saratogafederated.org](http://www.saratogafederated.org).**

## ANNIVERSARIES

John & Barbara Cellar	Feb 2	64 years
Bill & Jill Rollinson	Feb 2	36 years
Ron & Karen Cassel	Feb 3	59 years
Jim & Mary Ann Aanenson	Feb 3	56 years
Dick & Sybil Wolden	Feb 10	53 years
Mark & Michele Brading	Feb 14	33 years
Dan & Pam Johnson	Feb 15	35 years
Russ & Linda Ikeda	Feb 25	43 years
John & Karen Lekashman	Feb 26	32 years

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Patty Weber  
800 Blossom Hill Road, Apt D125  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

## BIRTHS

No new bundles of love were born in January, but we know of some who are cooking! We look forward to celebrating their arrival soon.

## BEREAVEMENTS

We celebrate the life of **Jane Kennedy Anderson** who died on December 15.  
Jim Anderson (husband)  
Gordon & Andrea Anderson (son & daughter-in-law)  
Max, Julius, and Victoria Anderson (grandchildren)

We celebrate the life of **Peggy Johnson** who died on December 22.

We celebrate the life of **Barbara Frutche** who died on December 23.

We celebrate the life of **William Thomas** who died on December 30.  
Martha Thomas (wife)

Do you attend SFC and have an anniversary, birth or wedding you would like to celebrate in an upcoming issue? Please email Kelly Blough at [kelly@saratogafederated.org](mailto:kelly@saratogafederated.org).

## GRIEF SHARE SEMINAR AND SUPPORT GROUP BY PEGGY BECK

Have you lost someone close to you? No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. The Care Ministry is sponsoring GriefShare, a seminar and support group for people dealing with the loss of a loved one.

GriefShare is a weekly video seminar featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. Topics include "Is This Normal?" "Grief and Your Relationships," "Why?" and "Guilt and Anger."

The teaching portion is online and easy to access at your convenience. The group, along with caring facilitators, convenes on Zoom to discuss the material and share stories about their grief journey. Several in our church have benefitted from this program, including me. Sandra Tang wrote, "I got so much out of the GriefShare class when I took it after my mother passed."

We hope you will join us on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm starting February 22. Register at [www.saratogafederated.org/grief-ministry](http://www.saratogafederated.org/grief-ministry). For more information about GriefShare, go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

# UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](http://WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 - 7:00 - 9:00 PM BOOK CLUB

CONTACT: SALLY BRYANT - (408) 867-1000 EXT. 233

[SALLY@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](mailto:SALLY@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

LOCATION: VIRTUAL GATHERING

REGISTER: [WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](http://WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

Discussing *Be the Bridge* by Latasha Morrison.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 TO 21 SERVE WEEK

CONTACT: JERRY BRUCE - (408) 867-1000 EXT. 249

[JERRY@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](mailto:JERRY@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

REGISTER: [WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG/SERVE](http://WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG/SERVE)

Help to serve our community.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - 7:00 PM GRIEF SHARE

CONTACT: PEGGY BECK - (408) 867-1000 EXT. 256

[PEGGY.BECK@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](mailto:PEGGY.BECK@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

LOCATION: VIRTUAL GATHERING

REGISTER: [WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG/GRIEF-MINISTRY](http://WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG/GRIEF-MINISTRY)

This is a seminar and support group for people dealing with loss of a loved one.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - 7:00 PM VILLAGE FORUM

CONTACT: BOB CONNORS - (408) 867-1000

[THEVILLAGEFORUM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THEVILLAGEFORUM@GMAIL.COM)

LOCATION: VIRTUAL GATHERING

*God, Blackholes and the End of the Universe* with Astrophysicist Dr. Sarah Salviander.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - 7:00 PM SELF-CARE IN 2021: TALKS WITH GOD

CONTACT: CARE MINISTRY - (408) 867-1000 EXT. 239

[CARE@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](mailto:CARE@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

LOCATION: VIRTUAL GATHERING

REGISTER: [WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG/CARE-EVENT-REGISTRATION](http://WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG/CARE-EVENT-REGISTRATION)

Learn ways God speaks to us to deepen our connection with the one who loves us most.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - 12:00 PM WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

CONTACT: JEANNIE HILT - (408) 858-8623

[JEANNIEHILT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JEANNIEHILT@GMAIL.COM)

LOCATION: VIRTUAL GATHERING

Discussing *The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - 11:30 AM - 8:00 PM MEXICO FUNDRAISER

CONTACT: DEBBIE STURM - (408) 867-1000 EXT. 240

[DEBBIE@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](mailto:DEBBIE@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

FLYER: [WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](http://WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

Help support Amor Ministries by eating at WillowStreet Pizza and Main Street Burgers.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY

CONTACT: SAVOY STEVENS - (408) 867-1000 EXT. 251

[SAVOY@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](mailto:SAVOY@SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

LOCATION: NATURAL BRIDGES

REGISTER: [WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG](http://WWW.SARATOGAFEDERATED.ORG)

Meet Savoy to pick up your adventure guide. Consider it a form of "spiritual geo-caching."

**Saratoga Federated Church**  
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(408) 867-1000