

The Vision

Volume 15, Issue 2

"For the VISION is for the days yet to come." *Daniel 10:14*

February 2022

Devoted to Generosity!

By Pastor Larry

As we enter the month of February, our congregational hearts and minds turn to stewardship. The first half of the month will focus on the theme, "*Devoted to Generosity*," and the scriptural emphasis will come from Acts 9:36-42. This passage focuses on the story of Tabitha, also known by many as Dorcas. This may seem like a strange theme for stewardship, yet the story of Tabitha is a wonderfully triumphant reaffirmation of any church or individual enduring challenging times.

However, "crisis" may be a more accurate word than "challenging," and one that we can relate to the past year. The story of Tabitha is a reminder that in any circumstance of life God can empower us to find ways to be devoted to generous hearts and deeds.

The story of Tabitha in Acts 9:36-42 is a passage that seeks to reassure the faith community that while Jesus may have left the building (at the Ascension in chapter 1), his power is still at work in the church through the teachings of the Apostles and the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is important to

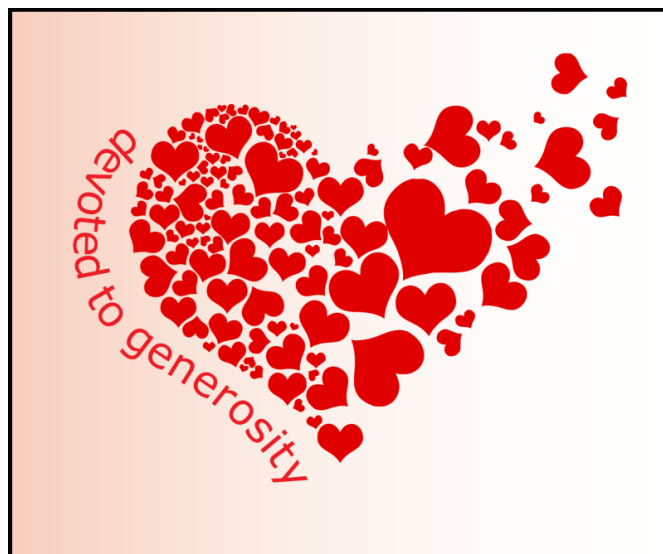
note that Tabitha, given the designation as disciple, was dedicated to good works and acts of charity.

There is a back story that is critical to our understanding of this text. Tabitha has a particular ministry to the widows in her community, and when she dies, the church—

especially the widows, experience a crisis. Now what? We know that the Apostle Peter is summoned to come at once. He prays for the dead woman. When he finishes, he looks at the body and says, "Tabitha, get up!", and she does!

The resurrection power of Jesus is at work in the church, and it is the main point

of the story. Yet to the careful reader, there is more. If proving the power of Jesus was still at work through the resurrection of a dead body, well most any "body" would do just fine. Yet it is not just any "body," it is Tabitha's life that is restored—the one who was dedicated to generosity! One can argue that her ministry was so important that the church could not afford to have it stopped by her physical death. Tabitha continues her acts of charity when she is raised to life!



(Continued on page 2)

Devoted to Generosity! continued

One can also see that Tabitha's life is a metaphor for the church. We can see generosity as life giving, but even beyond that, we can see that for the church to be the church, it has to be like Tabitha: devoted to caring generosity. In the Old Testament, God's prophets indicated that the community should care for the widow, the orphan, and the disenfranchised. In the New Testament, the church is the new community of caring.

Today, the church is at its best when it practices the life-giving practices of caring, sharing, and generosity. The real issue is moving from the transactional to the relational. Such a move is at the core of stewardship. Tabitha had a relationship with the widows and the garments she made were beautiful, which is a way of saying they gave dignity to the one who wore them.

Stewardship is about more than the transactions we make with our money. It is a whole-life, relational response to God and God's abundant generosity. It is intentional and impactful deployment of all our spiritual gifts. It is a way of giving that flows from the heart in concrete ways in response to what God has already done. Being devoted to generosity is life giving for both the practitioner of generosity and the recipient.

Lest we forget, the Bible is concerned about money at two basic levels: first, what money can provide and how we relate to its use; and second, how we use what moves through our sphere of influence toward advancing the principles of the Kingdom of God. Do we use what has been shared with

us to make a difference or to make ourselves more comfortable? Do we own our stuff, or is it the other way around? Yes, we need to ask people to support the mission and ministry of our congregation. Yet will we have only talked about money and the need of the church to receive it, or will we take a holistic approach and invite persons to give from a deeper, more spiritual place?

Join us in our spiritual quest! We will focus on stewardship on February 6th and 13th. Our Commitment Sunday will be February 13th, and we will celebrate with the presentation of our Commitment Cards, and also a time of fellowship around a delicious brunch. Stewardship materials will be sent to you the last week of January. See you in church!

February's Online Messages & Meditations

Sunday Services

February 6: Communion Sunday **In-person & Online at 9:30 AM**

What Are We Cooking?
Philippians 4:1-9; Luke 5:1-11
Pastor Larry

February 13: Stewardship **Commitment Sunday** **In-person & Online at 9:30 AM**

Creating a Legacy that is Alive
Acts 9:36-42; Luke 6:17-26
Pastor Larry

February 20: **In-person & Online at 9:30 AM**

What Is a Good Measure?
Psalm 37:1-11 & Luke 6:27-38
Pastor Daniel

February 27: **In-person & Online at 9:30 AM**

Can We Stay Here....Forever?
Psalm 99 & Luke 9:28-36
Pastor Daniel



In-Person & Online
March 2
12:00pm & 5:00pm

Watch live on Facebook at facebook.com/VeldaRoseUMC
Services will be available to view later on Veldarose.org

Wednesday Online Meditations

February 2 at 10:00 AM

Follow Jesus and Discover Abundance!
Luke 5:1-11
Pastors Larry and Daniel

February 9 at 10:00 AM

Nurtured in the Waters of Life
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; Luke 6:17-26
Pastors Larry and Daniel

February 16 at 10:00 AM

In the Midst of Difficult Years
Genesis 45:3-15
Pastors Daniel and Larry

February 23 at 10:00 AM

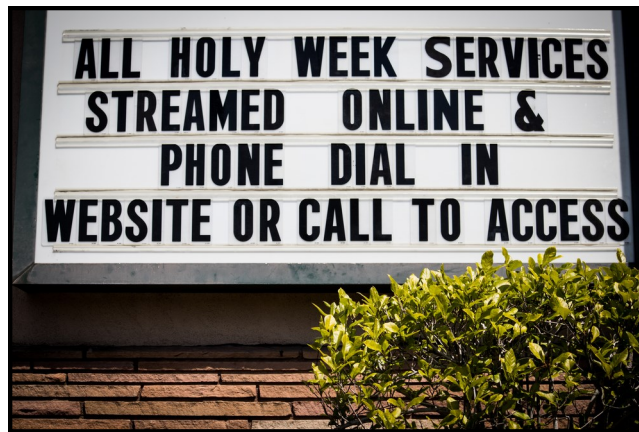
Whispering Behind a Veil
Exodus 34:29-35 & II Cor. 3:12-18
Pastors Daniel and Larry

Lent is often framed as an experience or season of self-denial, as we come to terms with our selfish desires and mortality. We are always summoned during Lent to change our hearts and lives. We have a few weeks of worship to prepare before the season of Lent is upon us. We are already planning what small groups might study in this season of Lent. Likewise, we are well underway preparing the sermons and worship music for Lent. Considering that we will journey through Lent and celebrate Easter for the third time during a pandemic, we have a lot of work to do to truly be ready to rise at Easter.

We know too well that much has changed already. We've missed celebrating birthday parties, graduations, wedding anniversaries, even weddings themselves. We've watched as people turned on each other in church and society, and we experience heartache as friendships are lost, damaged, even destroyed. The whole matter of loved ones dying and family and friends not being able to grieve in the usual ways, to mourn communally, has slowed down people's ability to rebound. Nevertheless, as a community of faith-we continue to gather.

But, new ways to gather were introduced to us in the midst of a global crisis. Technology is something we are still learning to use as

an additional tool that allows us to stay engaged with one another, and what we've learned in the last 2 years... is that technology is our new frontier and it's here to stay. I am in no way suggesting that technology will ever replace the gathering of the church-in person. However, this is the best way to encourage more people to see the fullness of the Kingdom of God. What we have gained since going online will be lost if we do not continue to strive to tell the old story for both in-person audiences, and for those who choose to join online.



What led you to visit our church? The question we ask of those that are visiting our church for the first time. About 20 years ago, the answers which were most common were "*my neighbor invited me*" or *my friend at work invited me.*" Ten years ago, the answer became "*We visited the church's website.*" They saw the church sign driving by, and decided to look up the website. They heard a conversation about the church, and decided to visit the website. Now, because of the pandemic, many people are asking about our church's online worship services. Let's pause for a moment, take in the reality of how technology is ushering new opportunities for today's church to continue to "offer them Christ".

Devoted to Generosity: Velda Rose Stewardship 2022



Velda Rose Stewardship 2022

Theme: "Devoted to Generosity"

Sunday, February 6 – Sunday, February 13, 2022

- You will receive a packet in the mail near the end of January. This packet will also be available at Sunday's Worship Service, and at the Church Office.
- It will contain an invitation to participate, information about our theme, the budget for 2022, and a Commitment Card.
- Mail your Commitment Card in the postage paid envelope or bring your Commitment Card to the 9:30 A.M. worship service on Sunday, February 13.
- There will be a special time during the service when we collect the cards, and thank God for His abundance.
- We will celebrate together after worship with a delicious brunch provided by Robert Richter.

Please call the church office at 480-832-2111, if you have any questions.

United Methodist Women



United
Methodist
Women

UNIT MEETING WITH INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Our installation of UMW
Officers for 2022 was held on

Jan. 6th conducted by our guest speaker Dian Capen, East District Mentor. We concluded the program with a Devotion presented by eight officers. On Jan. 15th, 2022, all the officers (Billie Larime, K Roemmich, Pat Nixon, Mary Killgrove, Arlene Oisten, Tish Roberts, Kathy Kolbo, and Grace Van Brunt,) attended our annual Leadership Training at St. Matthew UMC.

Our February 3rd Unit Meeting will be held at a **new time** 1:00 p.m. in Moore Hall with a guest speaker from Justa Center (one of our many mission projects.) All women are welcome to attend. Please bring a refillable drink cup. Masking and social distancing are encouraged.

Our combined Naomi and Esther circle meeting will also be held at 1:00 p.m. in Moore Hall on February 17th. All women are welcome to attend.

MISSION RECOGNITION PIN HONOREES AT 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

The UMW at Velda Rose yearly honor members of our Velda Rose Congregation that have significantly served God and the Church. Bille Larime and K Roemmich (CO-Presidents) formally presented the pins to the following four Honorees on Jan. 30th in front of the congregation. Marcus Bentley, Jim Kenyon, Geri Edson and Ron Boysen were the Honorees. Please give them your congratulations when you see them.

RESPONSE (the magazine of women in mission) by Mary Killgrove

An article in the November/December 2021 issue of the Response magazine entitled "A Legacy of Love" discusses the role that UMW played in helping people of India when a more highly contagious variant of Covid-19 took hold in that country in the early summer of 2021. UMW quickly partnered with many long-term community, hospital and

educational centers to support women and children that were underserved in the community. Chandran Nair, a former executive at UMW, said that "Everything shut down" and "We were not allowed to go out, confined to homes except to buy groceries and medicines." UMW stepped in to offer short-term aid to our partner Imayam Social Welfare Association, supporting women and children with dry goods, masks and sanitary items. The UMW is still distributing food in India today and continues to work together with other organizations to lessen global suffering.

UMW READING PROGRAM by Billie Larime

I recommend this book. *No Justice: One White Police Officer by Robbie Tolan*. This is a helpful book to understanding the systemic racism that may occur when police officers encounter a suspect in a crime. This is a true story of Robbie Tolan, a young male African American accused of stealing his own car at his own house. A case of incorrect information from the police department led to a white police officer shooting an unarmed innocent person. The police officer was found not guilty of manslaughter in a trial. Hopefully this case will give us reason to promote police reform. This chilling true story has racial implications for when police make a mistaken arrest that results in injury or death on an innocent person. Is an innocent person entitled to civil restitution for the mistake, or do police have rights to immunity? This is a serious question.

WELCOME TO THRIVE, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Putting love in action every day can wear you down. A little self-care goes a long way to recharge your batteries and support you as you work to help others. Here are a few easy, inspiring ways for change makers. 1. Stress Less (We need downtime and rest to perform our best.) (Focus on your immediate needs.) 2. Pause and Be Present (Journaling helps us reflect.) (Consider keeping a spiritual journal to help you find balance and build your capacity for gratitude.) 3. Give Thanks (Giving

(Continued on page 7)

Church News

Lessons from the Library



“Waste no more time talking about great souls and how they should be... Become one yourself!”
- Roman Emperor

“Anyone who keeps on learning not only remains young, but becomes constantly more valuable, regardless of physical capacity.”
- Henry Ford

“The value of consistent prayer is not that he will hear us, but that we will hear him.” - William McGill

Environmental Concerns Committee



The Green Team is going **RED** this month because we love, love, love the Earth.



We love to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Restyle Remodel, Remove, Revive, Rethink, Repair and... Reward yourself or (pat yourself on the back) if you have done all of these “R’s”. “Remember” them... because they might come in handy at a later date.

Speaking of dates; **SAVE THE DATE**, the Green Team will again (hopefully) be hosting another Earth Day celebration. This year it will be on April 24th, 2022 from 9:00 – 12:00. More details to follow. Hope to see you there.

Velda Rose Food Pantry

The Food Pantry at Velda Rose UMC provides non-perishable food to those who come seeking assistance. Items include peanut butter, cereal, canned vegetables, pasta, tuna, and spaghetti sauce. If you can donate some of the following items, we would greatly appreciate it:

- * 16oz jars of peanut butter
- * Spaghetti pasta
- * Spaghetti sauce
- * Cans of tuna
- * Mac & Cheese (boxes)



Donations can be brought to the church office, or put in the Food Pantry Baskets in front of the Sanctuary.

United Methodist Women, continued

thanks expresses trust in God and God’s good purposes.)

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES (words to live by)

“Happiness is as a butterfly, which when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.” Hawthorne

The Rummage Sale is Coming February 24-26, 2022



The rummage sale is only a few weeks away. We are expecting a great number of people to come and shop at our Semi-Annual Rummage Sale. It takes a lot of volunteers to pull off this sale. We are going to need people to work in the holding area, people to cashier; people to help with the bake sale, people to work at the doors, and people to work at the wrapping stations. Volunteers can be men or women, either Velda Rose members or just friends who might want to help. And remember, your time and talent will be multiplied in the various organizations the United Methodist Women

have selected as recipients of the proceeds of the sale. Many lives will be impacted by your commitment to volunteer. This is a huge fundraiser for over 50 years for the United Methodist Women. For further information, please contact the church office or Tim and Joan Most at the Mission Building.

2022 Spring Music Events at VRUMC



**Mark your calendars for these upcoming
Spring Music Events:**

Sunday, March 6: East Valley Chorale
eastvalleychorale.org/concerts

Saturday, April 9: Resonance
resonanceve.com

Tuesday, April 26: Orpheus
Orpheus.org/performances

Introducing
The 2022 Velda Rose Music Ministry Team



Mary Ellen Loose
Director of Arts
Collaborative Pianist
Organist



Robert Richter
Organist



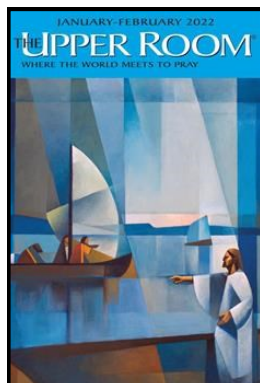
Rachelle Starr
Song Leader
Soloist
Choir Director



Men's Vocal Ensemble
Featured choral ensemble twice a month



January-February Upper Room



The January-February 2022 Upper Rooms are available in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, or in the office during office hours.

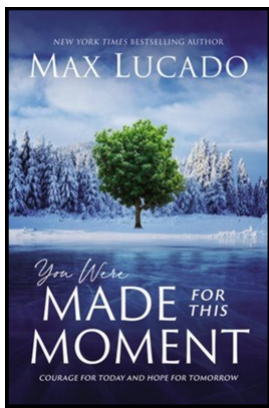
If you are homebound and would like to receive the Upper Room by mail, please contact the office to be put on the mailing list.

You Were Made for This Moment: Lenten Bible Study

Five Weeks - Wednesday from 4-5 PM
March 9 - April 6

You Were Made for This Moment

Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow



Are you weary from your challenges, wounded by your battles, or worried your world is spinning out of control? Have the struggles pilfered the life out of your life? If so, the book of Esther brings welcome news: *Relief will come!*

Queen Esther concealed her Jewish identity. As far as anyone knew, she was pure Persian. But then came the royal decree that would annihilate her people. She had to make some tough choices. Would she remain silent or would she speak up? Would she blend in or would she stand out? Esther could have refused. She could have cowered in fear. But she spoke up. She stood out. And God used her to save the nation. It's not hyperbole to say that her courage changed the course of history. Nor is it an overstatement to say that God can do the same with you.

Like Esther, you may be staring down a seemingly impossible situation. And what's true for Esther is true for you: deliverance will come. God will have his victory. He will rescue his people. He will right the wrongs of this world. The question is not, Will God prevail? The question is, *Will you be part of the team?*

In *You Were Made for This Moment*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado will help you

- reclaim your eternal identity as a citizen of heaven,
- put your hope in the God of grand reversals,
- cultivate courage for your challenging times, and
- discover your role in God's story.

You don't need to become undone by tough times, you can become unleashed by our triumphant God. You, friend, were made for this moment.

The class will consist of video presentations, discussion, and the primary resource, *You Were Made for this Moment*. If you wish to purchase the book, the cost is \$14.00.

*in loving
memory*

Koy Prestridge 1/8/22

John Spykerman 1/25/22



Patty Ott	2/1	Claris Olson	2/15
Judy DuBois	2/2	Judith Thompson	2/18
Dale Smith	2/2	Jim Taylor	2/21
Ardis Bengtson	2/5	Richard Williams	2/23
Ann Adams	2/8	Elaine Wertz	2/24
Tom Daggy	2/9	Jan Arnold	2/25
Kay Cooke	2/11	Seini Latu	2/26
Pat Mayhall	2/12	Bob Macha	2/27
Lila Bartlett	2/14	Mary Rothermel	2/27
Helen Taylor	2/14	Deonna Larson	2/29



Tobby & Bonnie Baca	2/14
Palei & Melisa Ika	2/18
Sione & Sulia Kaipelea	2/28



VELDA ROSE

United Methodist Church

5540 E. Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85205-8720
(480) 832-2111

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Or on Facebook: [@veldaroseumc](https://www.facebook.com/veldaroseumc)

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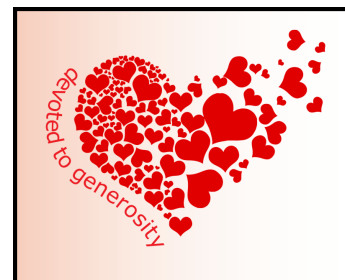
Staff Leadership

Rev. Grant J. Hagiya, Resident Bishop
Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Larry R. Norris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Daniel Gómez, Associate Pastor
Ministers, Every Member of the Congregation

WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

Join us online for our midweek devotion
each Wednesday at 10:00 AM,
and 9:30 AM Sunday morning services in-person
and online at
facebook.com/veldaroseumc/
or on the church website:
veldarose.org/connect/watch/



NEXT ISSUE

Items considered for the
February Vision
must be submitted by
Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

Please **e-mail** Jessica at
officeadmin@veldarose.org
with your newsletter articles.