

**Sonoma Valley Interfaith**  
**Wednesday, March 23, 2022 / 12 pm–1 pm**  
<https://www.sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org>  
[sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com](mailto:sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com)

**Present:** Scott Pryor, Peadar Dalton, Donna Thomas, Marie Wilson-Johnson, John Bonnoit, JoJo Puthussery, Curren Reichert, and Manette Fairmont.

**12:00 pm**

- **Welcome/Opening Blessing** - Scott opens with a prayer called “Lead Us”
  
- **Non Profits Check-in and Updates.**
  - City Council** - ongoing discussion in regards to finding a location for S.O.S.’s parking lot needs, Broadway lane striping and plans for SDC development. City council meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month with public forum opportunities to speak. See more [here](#).
  - SVUSD** - Donna reports the school the district continues with staffing struggles and differences between district administration and site staff. Tricia and Steve will reach out to the Superintendent and offer invitation to our May or June meeting.

**12:30 pm**

- **Guest: Kathy King, Sonoma Overnight Support, S.O.S.**
  - Year in review: 55,000 meals served over the last year (up from 37,706 in 2020), 825 people, 250 meals a day Monday through Friday. Those served are tracked and identified daily. They have just hired a new case manager. They were able to support 15 people/families during the winter sheltering in local hotels.
  - Of those who have self identified as homeless, 39 have identified that they live in their cars. The current overnight parking lot will be allowed to continue for 30 more days then after that there is no plan in place for folks living in their cars. Some have jobs, families and pets. There has been no new lot found as of now. These people will be spread throughout the streets of Sonoma legally parking for 24 hours at time.
  - The City is hiring a consultant on homelessness beginning April 1st to help with planning how best Sonoma can support this vulnerable population.
  - May 7th drive thru meal fundraiser, info. to come soon.

## How can we help?

You will be receiving two short videos and some statistics. Can you share these with your congregations or ask Kathy to come speak on behalf of S.O.S.? Please share the need for:

**Volunteers are always needed as are gift cards (McDonald's, Jack in the Box, & Taco Bell small denominations \$10-\$15 and gas cards for those living in their cars, as a special treat they love Starbucks/Peet's \$5-\$10) and monetary donations.** Visit their website [here](#) for more.

- **Guest: Sandy Piotter, Friends In Sonoma Helping, F.I.S.H.**

FISH is celebrating 50 years serving Sonoma Valley. They are looking forward to 50 more and are thankful of the support from our faith communities. Building improvements include a mural and new paint in order to be more welcoming to the community.

- Year in review: nutritious food provided to 700 households, 550 boxes of healthy food delivered to housebound families, 310 families received rental support, and 144 received utility support. Over 370 rides to medical appointments given, 580 para-transit or bus tickets and 1500 gallons of gasoline given.
- They continue to offer rides, clothes, medical equipment, rent and utility support (paid directly to the landlord and PGE). They rely on donations only and volunteers, there are no paid staff. 1,500 volunteer hours spent on the phone providing services while listening with an empathetic ear in both English and Spanish. Add in the many community members served by our Clothes Closet, our medical equipment loan program, and other services, and these figures provide a sense of what a busy year it was for FISH!
- There have been many changes in food needs, definitions of food insecure vs. starving and the food pantry pick up numbers have actually decreased. Requests for fresh produce have increased.
- Since Covid there has been an increase in food support services in the valley. FISH has applied for a grant to help bring all the food support groups/providers together to get organized and find a way to most sufficiently serve the needs of Sonoma Valley
- Their website provides an up to date list of pick-up food pantries, prepared meal locations, and food delivery service for seniors, ill and disabled people. Visit [here](#).

## How can we help?

Please share that there is an **urgent need for volunteer drivers**. They are also in need of a scheduler for the food room and someone to help with paperwork assessment for rent and utility support.

- **Other news:**

- Peadar asks can we as a group develop a public acknowledgement event of prayer for what's happening in Ukraine? Maybe at the plaza somewhere.

- Can anyone lead/organize this?**

- Curran announced a Relief Concert in support of Ukraine, Russia and Baltic states. April 22nd, 6:30pm on the FCC/CSS campus. More info to follow but **volunteers are needed**. For more information or to volunteer call 707-996-1328.

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, April 27th, guests will be John Hennelly, CEO Sonoma Valley Hospital. We will discuss use of our community grant and when/where to resume our meetings.

- **KSVY - Please mark your date on your calendar.**

The call in number is 933-9133. The information is on their website [www.ksvy.org](http://www.ksvy.org)

March 29	Steve Finley	818-207-1757
Apr. 5	Marie Wilson- Johnson	707-996-2151
Apr. 12	Donna Thomas	707-939-6774
Apr. 19	Manette Fairmont	707-529-9562
Apr. 26	Scott Pryor	831-747-0139