

 **First United Methodist Church  
of Riverside**  
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Riverside, CA 92506-0134

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# THE MESSENGER

 **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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December 2, 2018

## Dear First United Methodist Church of Riverside

### Family and Friends:

My wife KwangJin and I sincerely wish you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas! May God continue to fill your hearts with more reasons to be grateful and joyful throughout this season and always—even though we are overwhelmingly surrounded by many devastating circumstances, uncertainties, and fears. Be strong! Christ Himself is our Good News of God's amazing love for all!

I'd like to share with you my year-end report that will also be included in the 2018-2019 Charge Conference (12/09/18) packets:

#### Report of the Pastor

#### **2018-2019 Charge Conference**

I am grateful to God for you — the congregation that always strives to be faithful and fruitful. Even though it has been only two and a half years with you, I am continually amazed to discover and re-discover many wonderful things happening through an awesome congregation like you. It is truly possible by God's grace. We will continue



working together to accomplish our mission of **“making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”** I express my sincere gratitude to the congregation and to the committed leaders for your continuing support and unity in our endeavor of sharing God's love in the community and in the world.

We are finally getting ready to grow and thrive in the current state of our church, after a decline over the past decade from many deaths in the congregation and other reasons. Now we are blessed to have gained new members, many of them families with young children. I am excitedly looking forward to welcoming the year 2019 to witness how God will lead us into new and fruitful opportunities to bring more souls to Christ.

This year, I delivered my new 8-week sermon series, titled **“Rebuilding Our Faith; Transforming Our Lives,”** focusing on the importance of Discipleship, Stewardship, and Evangelism. In the New Year, the whole congregation will be invited to implement these applications in more practical and tangible ways in order to be more faithful by not only dwelling in the Word of Christ, but also bearing fruit.

### *In Our Prayers*

*In convalescent care*, Kirk Ferguson, Bertha Harris, Rev. Bob Mayou

*For health and support*, Michelle Arguelles, Carole Arnold, Cecily Ashworth,

Lynn Ashworth, Mary Boon, Scott Bunyar, Danielle Casem,

Phyllis Chandler, Noriekim Chavez, Cheryl, Tim Clark, Elizabeth Davis,

Denetria, Helen Dennington, Terry Edlin, Robert Flores, Aaron Gerstner,

Kimberly Goforth, Ashley Beals Heath, Kidder Family, Josh,

Barbara Kent, Judy Lamers, Luna, Gerry Marr, Diane Marsh,

Laurel McDonald, Don Nauss, Jessica Oaks, Kay Otto, Ashish Peters,

Barbara Pope, Peggy Ramsay, Jason Pritchard, Chandra Roberts,

Laura Robinson, Madison Salvador, Shukla Sen, Bob Schiffer,

Micheline Scoggins, Randy Sosa, Mark Spangler, Lisa Thomas,

Claudia Velazquez, Sherry Weide, Velma Wellborn, Lynette Williams,

Myra Williams, Gerry Wright, Anita Yunes

*From Pastor Kim cont'd.*

I am so proud of the congregation for their open hearts and minds, inclusive hospitality, compassionate ministries and missions in the community and the world, and their hard work to make differences in their lives as well as other people's. I love that we strive to live out **“to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God”**(Micah 6:8).

I always try to make myself available for my parishioners in counseling, visiting, coaching, praying, and all other necessary pastoral care and spiritual guidance; it only takes one phone call, text, email, or Facebook message to reach me. Moreover, unless I am out to visit, out of town, or in meetings, anyone is welcome to stop by the church Monday through Thursday mornings, no appointment required.

I commit myself to the congregation primarily by providing the Word, Sacraments, Administration, and Pastoral Care, including officiating Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms. Providing spiritual guidance in my pastoral leadership is always one of my priorities. I love to engage in my Sunday Worship preaching and teaching ministries, including Adult Sunday School, Tuesday & Wednesday Bible Studies, New Member's Classes, and Advent & Lenten Bible Studies. I do my best in offering various spiritual nourishment opportunities to the members who can fit at least one of these ministries into their busy schedules.

In 2018, by God's grace, several significant new initiatives have been started and implemented: (1) The Mid-Week (Wednesday) Bible Study has been well established with a good number of participants; (2) The “Agape”

(mostly families with young children and other young adults) fellowship group has been activated, with thanks to Gayla Lonsbery for volunteering as the group facilitator; (3) The Luncheon Fellowships welcoming New Members successfully helped everyone to get to know the new members, with thanks to the Faith & Fellowship Committee (Chair: Marcia Bales); (4) Per our Bishop's guidance, in relating to the “Commission on the Way Forward,” a special short-term Bible Study, Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church, was held in Nov.

Moreover, in 2018, we are grateful that: (1) The “Living Last Supper” resumed on Holy Thursday, with thanks to Dani & Dan Cork for coordinating and directing this awesome community event; (2) With the initiative from the Church & Society / Mission (Chair: Kris Lovekin), we had a church-wide “Stuff the Bus” Project to help the migrant families through Christ United Methodist Ministry Center in San Diego, with thanks to Rev. Roy & Dr. Cheryl Riggs and members for taking all the items to San Diego; (3) We have been in the process of developing a partnership relationship with Central Middle School through the “Adopt-A-School” program.

In 2019, with the help of the leaders and the congregation, we will see some good changes: (1) Every third Sunday will be designated as a “Family Sunday” with family-focused, family-oriented worship with the Response Praise Band; (2) Starting in February, our Sunday Worship Bulletins will be simplified and redesigned; (3) The Aldersgate Chorale will participate in a Community Choir Concert on Sunday, March 3, at Calvary

## An Invitation to a Cruise from UMW

We invite you to join a 4-day cruise October 6 - 10 , 2019 to Catalina and Ensenada. By scheduling early, you can take advantage of reduced pricing.

Husbands are welcome to attend, although they need to know they will be seriously outnumbered!

Book your cruise by January 15 for the reduced price. Call Jocelyn Smith to book at 1-800-764-7419 ext 83267 to make a deposit and reserve your room.

The non refundable deposit is \$150. The remainder is due in August. Our group number is 4XXK33. Email: [jsmith4@carnival.com](mailto:jsmith4@carnival.com)

### Schedule:

Sunday	10-6-19	Depart from Long Beach at 6:30 p.m.
Monday	10-7-19	Catalina Island, arrive 7:30 a.m., depart 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10-8-19	Ensenada, Mexico, arrive 8:00 a.m., depart 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10-9-19	Fun Day at Sea
Thursday	10-10-19	Long Beach, arrive 7:00 a.m.

Cruise Information: This is Carnival Cruise Line.

- Everyone needs a passport, even if they do not get off the boat in Ensenada.
- Fares include taxes, fees, meals, entertainment and daily room cleaning.
- Prices: Ocean view double occupancy - \$392.52 per person.
- Interior room double occupancy - \$350.52 per person.
- Interior, 3 to a room, \$270.04 per person.
- Gratuities are an additional \$55.80 per person, or \$51.80 if reservation is made by 11-30-18.
- Travel insurance is recommended and pays for sick bay on board, helicopter evacuation in case of emergency, or cancellations due to health, etc.
- Determine your roommate before calling Jocelyn for your reservation.

If you have any questions, call Lyn Knowles at 951-737-3541

*From Pastor Kim cont'd.*

Presbyterian Church in Riverside.

While I am primarily responsible for serving and leading the congregation, I am also called to serve the community and the world, to support the ecumenical and inclusive programs and events not only within the congregation, but also locally and globally. I am proud of my congregation members who are always willing to welcome and embrace everyone from all walks of life.

Beyond my pastoral appointment here at FUMC of Riverside, I have been actively and regularly attending the Riverside Mission Area (UMC) meetings with other Clergy members and sometimes with Lay Leaders at various church sites, Clergy Covenant Group meetings within the East District, the Police-Clergy Partnership Meetings at Magnolia Police Center, DMB (Downtown/Magnolia/Brockton) Interfaith Clergy Group gatherings at Calvary Presbyterian Church, TURN (Today's Urban Renewal Network) meetings at the City Hall, the Mayor's Initiative "Love Your Neighbor" meetings at various locations, and Riverside Community Hospital Workshops. Recently, our Lay Leader and I were invited to and attended the Neighbors of Wood Streets (NOWS) Community Group, and this will be a great opportunity for us to be known in the community.

I have been serving as a visiting clergy at Riverside Community Hospital and other local hospitals, a member of the East District Building & Locations Committee, a member of the Paragraph 213 Assessment Team for the East District, and a full board member of the California-Pacific Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Moreover, I

have been helping my fellow clergy members with coaching. My coaching service is also available to parishioners and anyone who needs to be coached in life and faith.

For my own spiritual development, growth, and fellowship, I have been a part of a new Covenant Clergy Group, mainly meeting quarterly for now, with colleagues in East District. On my personal level, I always enjoy reading books, especially on spirituality, leadership, management, and life-and-death. Moreover, it is always interesting and engaging to extract sermon insights and wisdom from all kinds of mass media, such as news articles, magazines, films, art, and even comics. My Continuing Education for this year includes: (1) The 2018 School of Congregational Development, sponsored by Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, held in San Diego (8/15-8/18); as one of the recipients of the scholarship from the General Board of Global Ministries, I was able to gain a great deal of insights and resources on "Discipleship" throughout the School; (2) Bishop's Convocation (9/11-9/13) held in Indian Wells, CA, with the topic of "Making Disciples of Christ."

Thank you so much for being an amazing congregation with your commitment and hard work. As we always "**strive first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness**" through our church together here and now, I am confident that we will continue pleasing God with our "**fruits,**" by not only making more disciples of Christ, but also witnessing transformations taking place in the community and in the world. Thanks be to God!

Love and Blessings, *Pastor J. T. Kim*



### "Apples to Apples" Night

On Saturday, January 12, at 6:30 pm, the AGAPE group will be meeting in the Adult Lounge for a game of "Apples to Apples." Please bring a snack (appetizer or dessert) to share with the group.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for this group, please contact the church office.



UMM will not be hosting a lunch program in December so that all can attend this year's All-Church Conference at Wesley UMC on Sunday, December 9, at 1:00 pm. **We wish you a Very Merry Christmas** and will return to our 2nd Sunday program and lunch in January 2019!



### Happy January Birthdays!

Benita Roberts .....	3
Julie Williams .....	3
Cheryl Riggs .....	4
Jim Taylor.....	5
Telapa'a Tupou.....	5
John McDonald .....	7
Robert Binford.....	8
Dylan Grimes .....	8
John Burch.....	11
Deirdre Kirkwood.....	11
Brad Tomlinson .....	11
Mimi Luker.....	14
Teresa Clark .....	16
Patricia Ream .....	17
Sheryl Plumley.....	18
Mack Davis .....	20
Kate Lovekin .....	21
Beulah Leake .....	25
Susan Exon .....	28
Rebecca Slaughter.....	28
Evie Fletcher.....	30
Bob Kraft.....	30
Kyle Weakly.....	31

UMW Cont'd.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The annual Christmas party at the Salvation Army Silvercrest Residence will be on Friday, December 7. It will begin at 9:30 am with cider and coffee to be followed by singing and Christmas activities. You are asked to bring salad, sandwiches or dessert to share. Please bring a gift worth at least \$10 which will be put under the tree for one of the residents. Please wrap the gift and mark whether it is for a man or a woman and the size if applicable. Currently, there are 60 women and 25 men in residence. If you cannot go to the party but would like to send a gift you can give it to Lynn Ashworth by Wednesday, December 5.

### A SAD NOTE

Unless the Riverside Church Women United can find leadership, the Christmas Party will be its last meeting. If you feel moved to become the president, treasurer or secretary of this group that meets only four time a year, contact Lynn Ashworth (951-684-4457).

### READERS!

Margaret Berger needs your reading form by December 10.

### MISSION MOMENTS

from UMW

**Submitted by Peggy Ramsay  
Coordinator for Education**

*Contributed by Shimba Mulunda, regional missionary, based in the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

We talked about the large number of immigrants from Congo and Zimbabwe in South America in one workshop. How to care for these populations is now a problem the South African government faces. I heard similar problems concerning immigrants in the United States when I was itinerating in Oakland and in Sacramento. For some people, having immigrants in their midst is inconvenient and uncomfortable. However many do not choose to be immigrants.

A fact many people overlook is that everyone on this earth is a potential refugee. Jesus himself was forced to flee with his parents when Herod threatened his life. It is amazing to see how immigrants are mistreated in developed countries, in spite of the fact that some people become immigrants for economic reasons and wars, among other reasons.



**December 2018**  
*No Handcrafters*

- 1 Setup for Alternative Gift Fair & Mini Bazaar
- 2 First Sunday of Advent
- 2 **Alternative Gift Fair & Mini Bazaar**
- 7 **CWU Christmas Party**, Buffet, Salvation Army Silvercrest, 9:30 AM
- 10 Almond / Wesleyan Circle, Lunch Out, 12:00 Noon (place TBA)
- 12 **Christmas Brunch** (Adult Lounge) 10:00 AM, Officer Installation
- 18 Citrus Circle (Adult Lounge) Dinner Out, 6:00 PM
- 25 **Christmas Day**

### END-OF-YEAR GIVING

At the last unit meeting the membership approved the officers and budget for 2019. They also learned about some of the organizations which will receive donations from the money earned at the Bazaar. We thought the congregation might be interested how your dollars are used:

- Alternatives to Domestic Violence \$500
- David and Margaret Home \$400

- Feeding America \$500
- Path of Life Ministries \$750
- Safe House \$500
- Methodist Hospital Auxiliary \$100.
- Methodist Hospital Rehab Wing \$250
- Guardian Scholars (UCR and RCC) \$500
- Salvation Army \$850
- Jubilee Project \$150
- UMW Legacy Fund \$500
- Riverside District UMW \$1000

### FEEDING AMERICA

One of the organizations to which UMW gave money is Feeding America. This nationwide organization provides food hub warehouses where the big producers of food products send donations of their products. The local food banks then come to the hub to get what they need on their shelves. The speaker who came to our Unit Meeting was representing the FARSB Hub (Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino). She noted that local retailers take part in the collection of food and dollars.

Currently Stater Bros. is having a collection of non-perishable foods, sale of donation cards and a box for giving at the register. You can learn more about this organization at [www.FeedingIE.org](http://www.FeedingIE.org).

### YOUTH CALENDAR



#### Sunday, December 2

- 9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
- 5:00 pm—Youth and Young Adults **Cookie Baking** in Fellowship Hall Kitchen.

#### Sunday, December 9

- 9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
- 5:00 pm—**Christmas Caroling for All**. Meet in Parking Lot between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

#### Sunday, December 16

- 9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
- 5:30 pm—Get ready for Live Nativity.
- 6:30 & 7:00 pm—**Live Nativity**, Front Lawn

#### Sunday, December 23

- 9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
- No evening activities tonight.

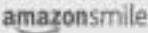
#### Sunday, December 30

- 9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
- 5:00 pm—Youth and Young Adult **Holiday Party** in the Youth Center.

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to First Riverside United Methodist Church when you do your holiday shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1641437](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1641437).

**This holiday, make a difference while you shop**

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates. 



Friday, December 7

## Children's Evening with Santa

at FUMCOR

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM



Singing

Special Story

Snacks

Games

Light Dinner

**Santa will be visiting!**



**Parents!**

Want to have some time to *wrap gifts, shop, bake, decorate, catch a movie, or go to dinner?*

We would love to make that easy for you to do.

**Please register by December 5**

**by calling the Church Office (951) 683-7831.**

**(30 children is the limit, ages 3 through 4th grade.)**

A donation for future events for our children's ministry program will be appreciated.

### Alternative Gift Fair

The Alternative Gift Fair is coming up on **Sunday, December 2** from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Get ready for music, a soup lunch, and the best holiday shopping around. We will have olive oil from Palestine, scarves and clothes from Afghani designers, bees and goats and chickens from Heifer International, hand made gifts from the United Methodist Women, baskets and ornaments from 10,000 Villages, the best gifts from the Assistance League of Riverside, plus jams and honey and soaps from the Riverside Food Co-op. The fair is organized by the Church and Society / Missions Committee. Each year it gets bigger and better.

Come join us and bring a friend to the fair!

Thank you,

*Kris Lovekin*

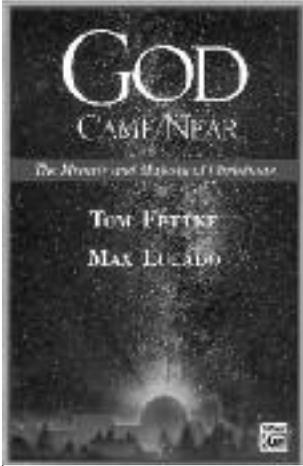
### Refill the Pantry Food Drive

Church & Society / Missions will be collecting non-perishable food items during the months of November and December for the Riverside Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army collects more than household items and clothing. They also support the homeless by serving hot meals, providing sack lunches for homeless shelters and giving families in need of food boxes monthly.

After the rush of getting food to families over the holidays, our goal is to help them stock up for the New Year by providing non-perishable food items: peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, beef stew, soup, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, etc.

Collection boxes will be in the church office and Narthex during the months of November and December. Call Lisa Laird for further information, 951-276-4490.



On **December 9** during Sunday morning Worship, the Aldersgate Chorale will sing a new cantata. In the cantata "**God Came Near,**" you will travel back in time when Christ, the Son of God, became man. Based on Christmas writings by author Max Lucado, this new cantata from arranger/composer Tom Fettke features a blend of new songs, classic texts, and beloved carols. The result is a magnificent and unforgettable celebration of the Incarnation. It all happened in a moment—a most remarkable moment—when "God Came Near."

—*Yvonne Flagg, Aldersgate Chorale Director*

## "Our Town" at Poly High School

Please mark your calendars to see our **Ian George** in the following performances of "Our Town" at Poly High School:

Thursday, January 10, 7:00 pm  
Friday, January 11 at 3:30 pm  
Friday January 11 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, January 12 at 2:00 pm  
Saturday, January 12 at 7:00 pm

Ian will be in all performances.



### **OFF Group Christmas Gathering at the Burch's Co-hosted by John and Mary Ellen and Mimi Luker Saturday, December 15, beginning at 5:00**

Begin your holiday season with an OFF Group Appetizer Party/Cookie Exchange!

You don't need to bring cookies to attend, but please bring an appetizer to share. If you are participating in the Cookie Exchange, let Mary Ellen know when you RSVP. Our address is 17949 Aloe Lane, Riverside, and you can call or text Mary Ellen at 951.415.7855 or email us at [jmeburch@gmail.com](mailto:jmeburch@gmail.com) to let us know if you will be able to come.



Cookie Exchange



#### The Details:

A cookie exchange is no ordinary event! No one arrives or leaves a Cookie Exchange empty handed. For this special occasion, you must bring the following:

**6 dozen home baked cookies** (Yes, you read that correctly! This is usually a double batch of a recipe. Everyone in attendance will bring 6 dozen cookies (baked with a holiday theme in mind) and there will be a swap so that everyone leaves with a large assortment of cookies to bring home to their families. If 6 dozen is too much for you to bake, team up with someone and then each bake 3 dozen! Bring cookies that will hold their shape well, so they won't be smashed in transit. **NO** store bought cookies!

**Containers:** Containers will be provided to carry your collection of cookies home with you.

When you RSVP, please indicate what type of cookie you will be bringing. We would like to ensure that there are a wide variety of cookies baked, so have more than one idea for the cookie you would like to bake in case someone has already chosen your first idea.

# DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						8:00 am Alternative Gift Fair Setup—Fellowship Hall <b>1</b>
8:45 am Beginning Bells—MK 8:45 am Adult Sunday School —AL 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chimes—YC <b>10:00 am Worship/1st Sunday Advent Communion</b> 11:00 am Alternative Gift Fair—FH 5:00 pm Youth/Young Adults—FHK	7:00 pm Trustees—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Worship Committee —Adult Lounge	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Bells—Mary's Kitchen	6:00 pm Sit 'N Sew Quilters —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Advent Bible Study #2 —Adult Lounge	7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale —Music Room/Sanctuary	5:30 pm Evening with Santa —Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b>
8:45 am Adult Sunday School—AL 8:45 am Beginning Bells—MK 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chimes—Sanctuary <b>10:00 am Worship/Christmas Cantata/Children's Chimes</b> 11:15 am Children's Rehearsal—Sanct. 1:00 pm Charge Conf.—Wesley UMC 5:00 pm Youth/Young Adults/Church Caroling—Parking Lot	12:00 pm Almond Wesleyan Circle Potluck —Mary's Kitchen	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Bells—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm SPRC—Conference Room	10:00 am UMW Christmas Brunch —Adult Lounge 7:00 pm Advent Bible Study #3 —Adult Lounge	12:00 pm Staff Christmas Party —Adult Lounge 7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale —Music Room	5:00 pm OFF Group Fellowship —Burch Home	<b>15</b>
8:45 am Beginning Bells—MK 8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 9:15 am Children's Prog. Rehearsal —Sanctuary 9:15 am Youth Sunday School-YC <b>10:00 am Worship/Children's Christmas Program</b> 5:00 pm Youth Meet for Live Nat.-FH 6:30 & 7 pm Live Nativity—Front Lawn	5:30 pm Finance Committee —Conference Room	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 11:30 am Preschool Christmas Program —Sanctuary 7:00 pm Bells—Mary's Kitchen	11:30 am Preschool Christmas Program—Sanctuary 7:00 pm Advent Bible Study #4 —Adult Lounge	7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale —Music Room	<b>Church Campus Closes at Noon</b>	<b>Hunger Ministry</b>
8:45 am Bells—Sanctuary 8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chimes—MK <b>10:00 am Worship/Bells</b> 11:15 am Evangelism/Welcoming—AL	<b>Church Office Closed Christmas Eve</b>  7:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service —Sanctuary 10:00 pm Allegro Ringers Reh.—Sanctuary 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service—Sanctuary	<b>Church Office Closed Christmas Day</b>				
8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Youth/Young Adult Holiday Party—Youth Center	<b>Church Campus Closed New Year's Eve</b>					