



**First United Methodist Church
of Riverside**
4845 Brockton Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506-0134

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THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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No. 2

February 3, 2019

“DEAR WORLD”

One of my favorite living authors is Harold S. Kushner, who wrote a New York Times best-selling book, When Bad Things Happen To Good People (1981). In his one of his most recent books, Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life (2015), Rabbi Kushner concludes the book with “A Love Letter to a World That May or May Not Deserve It.” This letter is so meaningful that I would like to share it with you here:

Dear World,

We've been through a lot together over the past eight decades, you and I – marriages, births, deaths, fulfillment and disappointment, war and peace, good times and hard times. There were days when you were more generous to me than I could possibly have deserved. And there

were days when you cheated me out of things I felt I was entitled to. There were days when you look so achingly beautiful that I could hardly believe you were mine, and days when you broke my heart and reduced me to tears.

But with it all, I choose to love you. I love you whether you deserve it or not (and how does one measure that?). I love you in part because you are the only world I have. I love you because I like who I am better when I do. But mostly I love you because losing you makes it easier for me to be grateful for today and hopeful about tomorrow. Love does that.

*Faithfully yours,
Harold Kushner*



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

*Our condolences to DeDe Earhart and her family
for the passing of Jim Earhart on January 15, 2019.
A service will be held March 2, 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.*

In Our Prayers

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

For health and support, Carole Arnold, Lynn Ashworth,

Mary Boon, Scott Bunyar, Danielle Casem, Phyllis Chandler, Noriekim Chavez, Cheryl, Tim Clark, Elizabeth Davis, Denetria, Helen Dennington, Earhart Family, Terry Edlin, Walt Einhorn, Emerson, Aaron Gerstner, Kimberly Goforth, Rhonda Irving, Josh, Barbara Kent, Judy Lamers, Laurel McDonald, Reuben Munoz, Don Nauss, Jessica Oaks, Kay Otto, Ashish Peters, Barbara Pope, Peggy Ramsay, Jason Pritchard, Melissa Qualtieri, Chandra Roberts, Laura Robinson, Madison Salvador, Shukla Sen, Bob Schiffer/Lisa Thomas, Micheline Scoggins, Mark Spangler, Jim Taylor, Claudia Velazquez, Paul Ward, Sherry Weide, Velma Wellborn, Lynette Williams, Myra Williams, Gerry Wright, Anita Yunes

As a respected and seasoned elder spiritual leader who has gained a great deal of wisdom and insights from life and faith, Rabbi Kushner encourages everyone to love life and people. Just as Jesus lived and showed, there is no greater power of transformation than love. The Bible says, **“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”** (1 John 4:18).

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ! Let us stop creating fear or giving into fear in our lives. Instead, let us truly love one another, our neighbors, and even those who disagree with you, especially among the Church – the Body of Christ. Apostle Paul affirms that **“So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”** (Romans 12:5).

Our life is too short to be wasted by hating or rejecting people because they are “different” from whatever standard you have set. Yes, God is of not only justice – but also love. However, while God is the Ultimate Judge of our lives, pursuing God’s righteousness and justice, we must constantly remember that we are called

to love God and people whom God loves so much as well – with our whole beings.

The 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the highest decision-making body of our denomination, will make one of the most important decisions in history on the recommendation of the Commission on a Way Forward, from February 23 through 26, in St. Louis, Missouri. I urge and invite you all to pray with me for the General Conference, for the Delegates, and for our local congregations to follow Jesus faithfully, to love everyone sincerely, and to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world responsibly and joyfully.

We can all say: “Dear World – we love you, because God so loves you.”

Love and Blessings,

Pastor J. T. Kim

To the Congregation

A heartfelt thank you comes from The Guardian Scholars at UCRiverside, who were thrilled to receive gift cards from Stater Bros at their holiday banquet in December! For seven years, FUMCOR has been supporting these former foster youth, who age out of the system at 18 and when accepted to UCR, live in campus housing. There are 30 students this year, including some with children, and I am lucky enough to be able to hug them, see their smiles, and convey to you how much they appreciate being able to buy food during the holiday break.

Thanks to additional support from UMW, who bought from FUMPS \$50 cards this year! Our next gift comes in June, when the students need help surviving the summer months. Gratitude to our generous FUMCOR family.

*Susan Straight
Church & Society/Missions*

**Faith & Fellowship
All-American Potluck**

Please bring your favorite All-American dish to Fellowship Hall on February 17. Faith and Fellowship is hosting a potluck luncheon for everyone after Worship. They will be treating us with dessert (pie, of course), and drinks.

Mark your calendars and we will see you there!



On February 10, United Methodist Men will be serving up lunch with an interesting program by retired pastor Dr. Charles Boss. If you have not met Charles, this would be a good opportunity to get to know him a little better. He will be presenting on his experiences and show many photos depicting life in general during his pastoral assignment to Pakistan during the 1950's. He was in Stuntzabad, Raiwind, and Kaarachi.

We want to thank all who made our January Luncheon a success—Anne Pfieffe for her terrific presentation on Family History, Genealogy and the sometimes surprising places it may lead you; Ralph Kauffman for his musical entertainment; David Fraser, Sarah Overton, Greg Laird, Daryl Salmon and company for preparing a delicious Beef Stew; Bill Ashworth for our devotional; Bob Nelson lead us into the new year with a new song, and table set ups by Gary Bruggeman, Ron Bayer, Bob Nelson and Daryl. We hope you can join us this time, and please make your donation of \$6.00 per person or \$15.00 for the family.



*Happy
March
Birthdays!*

Bob Bahnsen	2
Romeo Lardizabal.....	5
Bill Ashworth.....	8
Pat Williams.....	8
Do Won Lee.....	10
Pat Jeffries.....	11
Chris Musarra.....	11
Amit Roberts.....	11
Samir Roberts.....	11
Myra Williams	11
Annie Angel.....	13
Alice Musarra	13
Sloane Koenig.....	15
Fred Bowe	16
Dorie Grimes	16
Sheila Kane	18
Yvonne Peters	19
Alice Wymer	19
Cindy Marr	20
Ron Purkey	21
Claire Gorder	22
Mary Boon.....	23
Carmen Lonsbery	23
Chris Tupou	23
Carrie Renteria	25
Jeff Sluder.....	25
Dani Johnson-Cork	27
Connie Smith	29
Peggy Stepe.....	29
Patty Binford.....	31

MISSION MOMENTS
from UMW
Submitted by Peggy Ramsay
Coordinator for Education

Contributed by Eunice Areias and Luis Aramayo, missionaries, Guatemala.

In the high mountain valley in the town of Lemoa, between Santa Cruz de Quiche and Chichicastenango, 18 Maya women gathered for an all-day Bible study. The oldest of the women was 44, the youngest 16. Most of these women walked miles, some carrying their babies on their backs, in order to be present. Few of these women ever went to school. They were more comfortable in their native Ki-che language, but speak Spanish in deference to Eunice. They came to learn more of what the Bible has to say to them.



UMW

Bake Sale

February 10, 2019





CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE
 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
 MID-WINTER EVENT



SPARKING A CLIMATE REVOLUTION

SPEAKER: REV. DR. DEBORAH SHEPHERD-WEBSTER
DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2019

<p>CALIFORNIA: REGISTRATION: 9:00AM PROGRAM: 10:00AM - 3:00PM</p> <p>LOCATION: 40RBA LINDA UMC 79002 40RBA LINDA BLVD. 40RBA LINDA, CA 92886</p>	<p>HAWAII: REGISTRATION: 8:30AM PROGRAM: 9:00AM - 2:00PM</p> <p>LOCATION: SUSANNAH WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER 1117 KAILI STREET HONOLULU, HI 96819</p>
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PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE! CARPOOLING IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

REGISTRATION FEE: \$12.00 LUNCH INCLUDED *LUNCH IS NOT GUARANTEED
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 5, 2019 TO LATE REGISTRANTS*

PLEASE INCLUDE E-MAIL ADDRESS TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION.

MAKE CHECK(S) PAYABLE TO: CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UMW

PLEASE SEND VIA EMAIL OR MAIL TO:

<p>CALIFORNIA: TINA RAEMON POOL 8733 DARTFORD PLACE INGLEWOOD, CA 90305 (310) 210-7509 TRMPOOL@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>HAWAII: DEANNA ESPINAS 2103 PALOLO AVENUE HONOLULU, HI 96816 (808) 228-6345 ESPINAWAII@JUNO.COM</p>
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----- CUT & RETURN PORTION BELOW -----

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CHURCH: _____ DISTRICT: _____

CHILD CARE: YES NO AGES OF CHILDREN: _____

*\$25.00 DEPOSIT PER FAMILY FOR CHILD CARE IS REQUIRED WITH REGISTRATION BY FEB. 5TH. DEPOSIT



February 2019

*Handcrafters, 9:30 am, February 6, 27
Asbury Room*

10 UMW Bake Sale, (11:00 am),
Fellowship Hall

11 Almond/Wesleyan Circle
Potluck (12:00 pm),
Mary's Kitchen

13 UMW Executive Committee
(10:00 am), Mary's Kitchen

16 Cal-Pac Conference Mid-
Winter Event (10:00 am to
3:00 pm), Yorba Linda UMC
Contact Lisa Laird for more
information, 951-276-4490

20 UMW Meeting (10:00 am),
Koinonia Room

Coffee and Program:
Prayer and Self-Denial Lunch

26 UMW Citrus Circle
(7:00 pm), Adult Lounge

**UMW Bake Sale
Sunday, February 10, 2019**

It's time for our Valentine's Day
Bake Sale.

We need donations of homemade
baked goods to be brought to Fellow-
ship Hall prior to church services on
the 10th. Cakes and pies should be
sliced and wrapped in individual
servings. Cookies wrapped up in half-
dozen to a package. Small loaves of
breads are best.

Thanks so much in advance for
your help in making this year's Bake
Sale the best ever.



YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 3

9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
5:00 pm—Youth and Young Adult meet in the Youth Center.

Sunday, February 10

9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
5:00 pm—Youth and Young Adult meet in the Youth Center.

Sunday, February 17

9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
5:00 pm—Youth and Young Adult meet in the Youth Center.

Sunday, February 24

9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.
5:00 pm—Youth and Young Adult meet in the Youth Center.

African American Music Heritage

February is Black History month, and each Sunday in our worship service we are highlighting a traditional spiritual hymn from the rich tradition of African American music. The hymns are “Let Us Break Bread Together” (2/3), “Kum Ba Yah” (2/10), “Lord I Want To Be A Christian” (2/17), and “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me” (2/24). Spirituals were a form of music that developed in the eighteenth century in the American South among African slaves. Most spirituals were sung in a call and response format, when the leader would sing a phrase and the group would repeat the phrase. Many congregations still sing these hymns in that style. All the tunes were sung without accompaniment, and each individual group would add their own harmonies, if any.

“Let Us Break Bread Together” is based on Acts 2:42. **“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”** Most scholars accept that it is of antebellum southern origins. It has been suggested that the original song consisted of only the last verse and refrain, which may have been a means to call slaves together in secret meetings. Another interpretation takes church history into consideration, “In the antebellum South, many slaves were required to attend church every Sunday at an early morning service, while their white owners attended the later service. The song refers to kneeling during

Communion, which is common in certain liturgical traditions. It also refers to having one’s “face to the rising sun.” Horace Boyer has pointed out that “it is an old tradition for Christian Churches to be aligned on an East-West axis so that early morning communion was always ‘into the sun.’ This was the tradition of Anglican church buildings almost universally until about 1800,” (The Hymnal 1982 Companion, vol. 3A, p. 614). Therefore, it is possible that this song was first sung by slaves in Episcopal Virginia for whom the experience of taking Communion would have involved kneeling toward the rising sun.” (Tiffany Schomsky, hymnary.org) The tune is traditional but the version in our hymnal was adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith in 1986.

“Kum Ba Yah” (Come By Here) became a very popular hymn in the United Methodist Church in the 1960s and was a very popular “folk” song in the U.S. from about 1950-1980. The earliest record of its existence is as late as the 1920s on a cylinder recording. In 2017 the Georgia State Legislature named it the state historical song but that does not prove its origin in Georgia. Indeed, there has been significant controversy over the origins of this song. There are several stories, but based on evidence found in the archives of the American Folklore Center, most believe that it is an African American spiritual from the southern U.S. which “then traveled all over the world: to Africa, where missionaries



**Riverside CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday March 10, 1:00 p.m.
Temple Beth El, 2675 Central Avenue**

CROP Hunger Walks are community events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations to raise money and awareness for community and worldwide hunger relief efforts. CROP Hunger Walks are held in some 2,000 cities and towns nationwide for the purpose of providing food, medical care, disaster relief, and self-help development for needy people around the world. First United Methodist Church has been actively involved in the local CROP Hunger Walk since 1976. To date, the Riverside CROP Hunger Walks have raised \$509,000. A quarter of the funds directly benefit Riverside hunger relief programs and food pantries.

Between now and March 10th, please visit the table on the patio after the church service to sign up as a participant or sponsor. You may also donate or register as a team member online at www.crophungerwalk.org/riversideca/FUMCOR. Thank you for your faithful support of this important part of our ministry!



JOIN THE HABIT BURGER GRILL IN SUPPORT OF

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

Every, 2nd Tuesday of each Month, 4pm-9pm

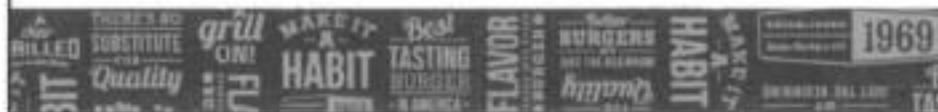
The Habit Burger Grill will **DONATE 20% OF SALES** from this event to benefit your organization. Simply present printed flyer or show offer on your smart phone to cashier upon ordering.

Support your organization and enjoy:
Award Winning Flame-Grilled Charburgers
Grilled Sandwiches | Fresh Hand-Cut Salads | Delicious Sides |
Frozen Shakes & Malts



Riverside
3555 Riverside Plaza DR
Riverside Ca 92506

Giving never tasted so good
MAKE IT A HABIT



sang it for new converts; to the northwestern United States, where Marvin Frey heard it and adapted it as “Come By Here”; to coastal Georgia and South Carolina, where it was adapted into the Gullah dialect. It was likely versions in the Gullah Geechee dialect that made it to the Northeastern United States, where it entered the repertoires of such singers as Pete Seeger and Joan Baez; and eventually to Europe, South America, Australia, and other parts of the world, where revival recordings of the song abound.

Although it is truly a global folksong, its earliest versions are preserved in only one place: the AFC (American Folklife Center) Archive.” (Stephen Winick at Library of Congress >blogs>Folklife Today>Kumbaya:History of an Old Song). In our hymnal, the harmonies were composed by Carlton R. Young in 1988.

“Lord I Want To Be A Christian” is another popular hymn stemming from the spiritual tradition but there is no clear evidence of its origins other than coming from Virginia in the late eighteenth century. “The hymn first appeared in Folk Songs of the American Negro, a compilation by Frederick and John Work, published in 1907. Most hymnals contain very similar texts, omitting the original fourth verse of the Folk Songs text, which reads “I don’t want to be like Judas, in my heart, in my heart.” The original text also read, “In-

a my heart,” which is now changed to “In my heart” in modern hymnals. Each verse describes a different part of what it means to be a Christian: to be holy, to be loving, and to be more like Jesus.” (Laura de Jong, hymnary.org) The version in our hymnal was adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith in 1986.

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” is another of dozens of traditional Spirituals which are shrouded in the mists of undocumented History. Very little is known about this hymn but its presence in African American culture is old. The song is essentially a prayer to have Jesus near during times of trial and heartbreak; it is a traditional song for African American churches during Holy Week. The text is demonstrative of the close relationship between the savior and the individual in African American theologies. Tiffany Shomsky (hymnary.org) believes the song was named for Sojourner Truth, an escaped slave who was a Methodist abolitionist and advocate of women’s rights in the mid nineteenth century. The version in our hymnal was adapted by William Farley Smith in 1986.

If you would like to read more about the history of African American Spirituals, visit the Library of Congress site at: www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200197495.

Contributed by Cheryl Riggs

February 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
					1	2						
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—YC 10:00 am Worship/Communion 11:15 am Church & Society / Missions —Adult Lounge 5:00 pm Youth / Young Adults —Youth Center	3	7:00 pm Trustees—Mary's Kitchen	4	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 4:00 pm The Habit Fundraiser —Off Campus 7:00 pm Bells—Mary's Kitchen	5	9:30 am Handcrafters —Asbury 6:00 pm Sit 'N Sew Quilters —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study —Conference Room	6	7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale —Music Room	7	8	9	
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—MK 10:00 am Worship/Scout Sunday 11:15 am UMM Lunch Program—FH 5:00 pm Youth / Young Adults —Youth Center	10	12:00 pm Almond Wesleyan Circle Potluck —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Worship Committee —Adult Lounge	11	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Bells—Sanctuary 7:00 pm Faith & Fellowship —Adult Lounge 7:00 pm SPRC—Conference Room	12	10:00 am UMW Executive Committee —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study —Conference Room	13	HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! 7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale —Music Room	14	15	16	
8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 8:45 am Bells—Sanctuary 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chimes—YC 10:00 am Worship/Bells/Family Service 11:00 am Missions Garden—Patio 11:15 am Faith & Fellowship All-American Potluck Lunch —Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm Youth & Young Adults—YC	17	President's Day Campus Closed	18	9:00 am Staff Meeting —Conference Room 10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 5:30 pm Finance Committee —Conference Room 7:00 pm Bells—Mary's Kitchen	19	10:00 am UMW Meeting—Koinonia 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study —Conference Room	20	7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale —Music Room	21	22	Hunger Ministry	23
8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 8:45 am Beginning Bell —Mary's Kitchen 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chimes—YC 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Evangelism / Welcoming—AL	24	7:00 pm Church Council —Adult Lounge	25	9:00 am Messenger Volunteers —Mary's Kitchen 10:00 am Bible Study—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Bells—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm UMW Citrus Circle —Adult Lounge	26	9:30 am Handcrafters —Asbury 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study —Conference Room	27	7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale —Music Room	28			