



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

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THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4845 BROCKTON AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CA 92506
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Volume 59

No. 3

March 1, 2020

In Our Prayers

In convalescent care, DeDe Earhart, Kirk Ferguson, Rev. Bob Mayou, Barbara Kent, John Logger, Bill McInRoe, Kay Otto

For health and support, Lynn Ashworth, Cesario Bandong, Mary Boon, Leilani Brabant, Peter Brabant Sr., Virginia Brawner, Verlyn Braymer, Eugene Brown, Matthew Carbajal, Danielle Casem, Phyllis Chandler, Mike Chernik, Tim Clark, Helen Dennington, Terry Edlin, Tom Fletcher, Kimberly Goforth, Grailing Jackson, Bill Kerrick, Donna Kidder, Bob Kraft, Judy Lamers, Don Nauss, Norma Nelson, Amanda Nuchols, Barbara Pope, Jason Pritchard, Nathaniel Pritchard, Chandra Roberts, Shukla Sen, Bob Schiffer/Lisa Thomas, Barbara Singh, Jim Sizer, Paul Slagle, Mike Smith, Connie Taylor, Georgie Taylor, Sharren Thompson, Claudia Velazquez, Eileen Walker, Josh Weaver, Velma Wellborn, Lynette Williams, Myra Williams



FROM OUR CO-LAY LEADER

My name is Melva Luker, better known to most of you as "Mimi." I joined this church family around two years ago and immediately felt welcomed and very much at home. I knew I "belonged." That was

a gift all of you gave to me, and I thank you for that. You see, this church is a very special place.

I came to find a place of worship. This is what I experienced:

- * A place of peace and quiet.
- * A lovely sanctuary (sun coming through the beautiful stained glass windows).
- * Organ music that touched my soul.
- * Our wonderful Chorale that filled my heart with joy.
- * Words from our pastor that focused on God's grace, love and hope.

I am an observer. This is what I saw:

- * People delighted in seeing one another.
- * Discussions and conversations all around.
- * Children running and playing happily.
- * Individuals with special needs being assisted.
- * Fellowship around coffee, tea and cookies.

The list goes on. This is the sign of a healthy church.

We often hear people say, "I came as a new person, and no one spoke to me." As many of you know, one of my favorite questions is, "COULD IT BE?" COULD IT BE people are busy doing the above? COULD IT BE that a person who passes by us is also new? Perhaps others are unaware we are new. As a new worshipper, perhaps we need to reach out to others and greet them!

Our congregation is diverse. Some long-time members are rather shy. They might not reach out, but, they're mighty fine. Others are very gregarious, having a good time, and they just forget, but they are lots of fun. You see, we are an imperfect bunch, but that makes this place a safe place to be. That's one of the reasons I call this church FAMILY. This is where I belong.

After being in this church for two years I was invited to be a Co-Lay Leader with Loretta Cudney. I felt very humbled and honored. After prayerful consideration, I accepted. COULD IT BE this is what was meant to be?

Pastor Kim asked me to tell all of you a bit about my church history and career. I was born, raised and educated near Chicago, Illinois. I grew up in the Evangelical United Brethren Church which joined with the Methodist Church in 1968, then renamed the United Methodist Church, so

from Mimi Luker *cont'd.*

technically I have always been a Methodist.

I sang in my church choir and later as an adult directed the church choir. As a pianist I did a lot of accompanying, I was a former UMW President and Lay Leader of my church in Illinois. Later my husband Joe was a Lay Leader of the Santa Barbara Methodist Church. We both worked with Methodist hurricane damage work teams, most recently in New Orleans. UMCOR was visible everywhere!

I started my teaching career in Illinois in 1962. I taught 3rd, 5th and 6th grades. After graduate work, I taught at the university level. I always loved teaching, music, art, writing poetry, public speaking and world travel.

In 2001 I left my teaching job at the University of California in Santa Barbara. My husband Joe retired from his law practice, and we built a home on a lake in the Ozark Mountains where we lived until Joe died. I then moved to Riverside.

Pastor Kim asked me to share with all of you my thoughts and dreams for our church.

Here are a few of my thoughts to ponder:

- * COULD IT BE we must focus on the fact that it is the very love of Christ that urges us on?
- * COULD IT BE that we must be aware of the work of the Holy Spirit emerging in the church today, here and now?
- * COULD IT BE “LOVE” must be our focus, not fear?
- * COULD IT BE that we can’t do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good we can do?
- * COULD IT BE injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere?

- * COULD IT BE we must meet current needs rather than maintain and preserve institutions?
- * COULD IT BE we need helpful framing of issues rather than liberal reductionism and conservative fundamentalism which divides us?
- * COULD IT BE we ALL need to leave our comfort zone and our need to be in control?
- * COULD IT BE we need to listen to each other with open hearts and minds?
- * COULD IT BE we need to have fewer answers and invite more questions?
- * COULD IT BE we need to make our youth and children our primary focus, for they are the future of our church?

As long-time chaplain at Yale University, William Sloane Coffin, once wrote:

“...Oh God, let us be men and women for whom the complexity of issues only increases our zeal to deal with these issues; men and women who alleviate pain by sharing it; and men and women who are always willing to risk something big for something good. So that we may have in the world a little more truth, a little more justice, a little more beauty than would have been there, had we not loved the world enough to quarrel with it for what it is not but still can be. Take our minds and think through them, take our lips and speak through them, and take our hearts and set them on fire!”

Lovingly and amen,

Mimi Luker
Co-Lay Leader



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

Habit BURGER GRILL | Riverside
3555 Riverside Plaza DR
Riverside Ca 92506

Giving never tasted so good
MAKE IT A HABIT



Pizza with a purpose

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server and we'll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine-in, takeout, catering and all beverages.



Fundraiser in Support of:
First United Methodist Church of Riverside
January 16, 2020, February 20, 2020,
March 19, 2020, April 16, 2020,
May 21, 2020, June 18, 2020,
July 16, 2020, August 20, 2020, September 17, 2020,
October 15, 2020, November 19, 2020 & December 17, 2020
(every 3rd Thursday of the month)
(11AM-10PM)

Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen Riverside Plaza
3540 Riverside Plaza Drive Ste. #308 Riverside, CA 92506
951-680-9362

Join the CPK program and receive a free Small Plate on your next visit after registering. Register today at cpl.com or download our new app today!



Fundraiser offer valid only on the Habit and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501(c)(3) organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third party delivery. Offer valid if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501(c)(3) organizations participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.





Happy April Birthdays!

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Kay Otto | 1 |
| Lisa Laird..... | 2 |
| Jim Sizer | 3 |
| John Logger | 8 |
| Robin Renteria..... | 10 |
| DeDe Earhart | 11 |
| Tina Fletcher | 12 |
| Kristy McCormick..... | 16 |
| Robert Phillips | 16 |
| Lisa Thomas | 16 |
| Kirk Ferguson | 17 |
| Skylar McDonald..... | 18 |
| Helen Dennington..... | 20 |
| Marge Wolter..... | 20 |
| William Waite | 21 |
| Doris Wright | 21 |
| Lillian Zeeb | 21 |
| Kim Austin | 23 |
| Derek Updegraff | 23 |
| Kyle Grimes..... | 24 |
| Gail Murray | 24 |
| Sean Clark | 25 |
| Barbara Jo Wilson..... | 29 |
| Don Knowles | 30 |
| Richard Rajaratnam | 30 |

Spring Takes Flight at FUMCOR

Join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 29, at 5:00 p.m., for an organ concert devoted entirely to “The Birds and the Bees.” You’ll hear very familiar and virtually unknown music about crows, cuckoos, swans, penguins, chickens, and other avian creatures, and the presentation will include the entire catalogue of bee-related pieces written especially for the organ (extensive research has uncovered a grand total of two such compositions).

Arrangements of orchestral and chamber works, as well as music from opera and cinema, will be interspersed with humorous poetry. You’ll hear a suite that lovingly depicts Pablo Picasso’s “Woman with Raven” but concludes with a bizarre and apocalyptic toccata.

Organist Robert Phillips will be joined by special guests, including Elizabeth Updegraff’s protégé Piper Martincheck, who will perform a thrilling ballet to the “Berceuse” and “Finale” from Igor Stravinsky’s Firebird. A freewill offering will be taken, with all proceeds placed in a special fund for organ repairs and maintenance.

Did you know that Robert can also play a few non-keyboard instruments, including the harp and guitar? His parents noted his musical talent when, while he was still in diapers, he started composing pieces on his toy piano. At age 5, Robert started taking piano lessons, frustrating his mom by playing “Alley Cat” and other novelty songs endlessly. He switched to organ at age 13 and got his first church organist job a year later. The pastor

chastised him for playing too loudly during prayer time, so one Sunday, Robert just pretended to play. Afterward, he asked if the volume was soft enough, and the pastor assured him that he’d finally gotten it just right.



Robert Phillips

Robert enjoys working with church choirs, and he has amused choristers by playing their favorite television theme songs from memory. He has written music for parish plays. He also has composed and arranged some beautiful pieces. He demonstrated a talent for coming up with songs appropriate for certain people (such as his playing “If It Takes Forever, I Will Wait for You” to herald the late arrival of red-faced singers to choir practice).

Robert has perfect pitch. He proves this by identifying the pitch of an occasional belch, car horn, etc.—a very useful talent. Robert has also played with rock bands. He loves to read, do crossword puzzles, collect records and sheet music, and grow plants, especially orchids, ferns, bromeliads, and carnivorous plants. He’s incredibly smart (he was valedictorian of his high school class and graduated summa cum laude from college). He’s amazingly talented but unusually humble, which is one of a multitude of reasons why he is loved by his lucky wife of 36 years, who enjoys living with him in perfect harmony.

EAST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

SOCIAL ACTION EVENT at Riverside First UMC, 4845 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA 92506

Helping At-Risk, Homeless, and Foster Care Kids

"HOPE 4 YOUTH"

April 25, 2020



♥ "Love Gifts"
\$10 Gift Cards – Target,
Walmart, Stater Bros.

PANEL DISCUSSION OF DISTINGUISHED EXPERTS FROM 3 YOUTH SERVICES

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | <p>Christopher Dech</p> | | <p>Heidi Mayer</p> | | <p>Andrea Acosta</p> |
| <p>Project Director of the Riverside Community College District Foster Youth Support Network, which seeks to increase college access and success for foster youth. Youth benefit from campus programs that provide transition help, financial assistance, and academic advising.</p> | | <p>Founder/Executive Director of YouthHope; serves homeless, runaway, and at risk youth from cities in San Bernardino /Riverside. Gives youth stable environment to receive needs and services; i.e. education, job training, food, housing, clothing.</p> | | <p>From Oak Grove Center's Thrive Independent Living Program, the ILP provider for Riverside Co. Dept. of Public Social Services. Thrive ILP provides hands-on real life experiences through engaging and interactive workshops for foster youth.</p> | |

8:30 am – 2:00 pm (8:30 – 9:15 am Registration)

Registration fee: \$15 Registration deadline: April 20, 2020
(\$20 if postmarked after registration deadline) – Lunch included
Make checks payable to: East District UMW
Send to Registrar: Liz Roark, 695 Sequoia St., San Bernardino, CA 92407
Questions call: 909-227-6919, e-mail: lizumc94@gmail.com

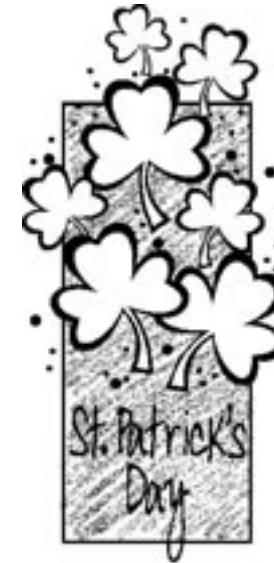
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Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
 Local Church Name _____
 Childcare needed? Y___ N___
 Parents are responsible for bringing sack lunch for each child. YES___ How many children? _____
 Accessibility: Do you need assistance? Parking _____ Stairs _____ Other _____
 Dietary Needs: ___ Type: _____ Gluten Free _____

Faith & Fellowship Committee

On March 15 after the worship service, Faith and Fellowship will have special St. Patrick's Day refreshments on the patio. Mark your calendar for this event.

If you are interested in being a part of Faith & Fellowship, they are welcoming new members. See Kelly Weakly or Marcia Bales.



Church Directory

Who is that person sitting in front of you at church? Can you get an address/phone number of a fellow church member? The answer is yes! The new church directories are here. Most of you already have yours. If you sat for a picture, you can pick up your free directory at the church office. If you weren't able to sit for a picture, there are directories available for \$15, because there was a cost to get extra copies. You can also purchase one of these at the church office.



Our next luncheon date for United Methodist Men will be on **Sunday, March 8**, after church in Fellowship Hall. A delicious lunch will be served and the suggested donation is \$6 per person and \$15 maximum for a family.

Our speaker will be our own Marie Madden who will be telling her life story. She has started successful businesses along with other interests. She has lived in Texas and Pennsylvania before moving to California with her sister to be closer to nephew Rick (and Ellie) Bennett and great niece Jessie Bennett.

She has been active in the Stephen Ministry here and also in her past churches.

This will be an interesting program and a great lunch, so mark your calendar.

FUMCOR YOUTH

Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:15 am in the Youth Center.

Youth and Young Adults meet at 5:00 pm every Sunday in the Youth Center.

Mail an Easter Card

Would you like to encourage someone on the FUMC prayer list and let them know that the congregation continues to lift them in prayer?

Would you be willing to commit to sending an Easter card to someone on the list?

We have Sunday School and preschool-created cards for you to send to your prayer list person. You may choose one of those cards or use any card you already have at your home. Let's see if we can share God's love with everyone on the list. You can obtain your cards as well as the name and address of someone on the prayer list at the table on the patio following church on March 29 or on Palm Sunday, April 5.

Helping Hands

Do you have a small handyman-type project you would like to have done but can't do it yourself or don't know who to call? Consider using "Helping Hands," a ministry that is a part of the Church & Society/Missions committee. The work is done on a donation basis, and funds are used for mission work as directed by the committee. A win-win! For more information contact Greg Laird (951) 237-9567.



- March 2020** **No Handcrafters**
- 9 Almond/Wesleyan Circle Potluck (Mary's Kitchen) 12:00 Noon
 - 11 Executive Committee (Mary's Kitchen) 10:00 AM
 - 18 **UMW Serving Lenten Soup** (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 PM (No UMW Meeting this month.)
 - 24 Citrus Circle (Lynn Ashworth's Home) 7:00 PM
Leader: Paulette Bruggeman

MISSION MOMENTS from UMW Submitted by Peggy Ramsay Coordinator for Education

Contributed by Emma Cantor, United Methodist Women Regional Missionary, Asia

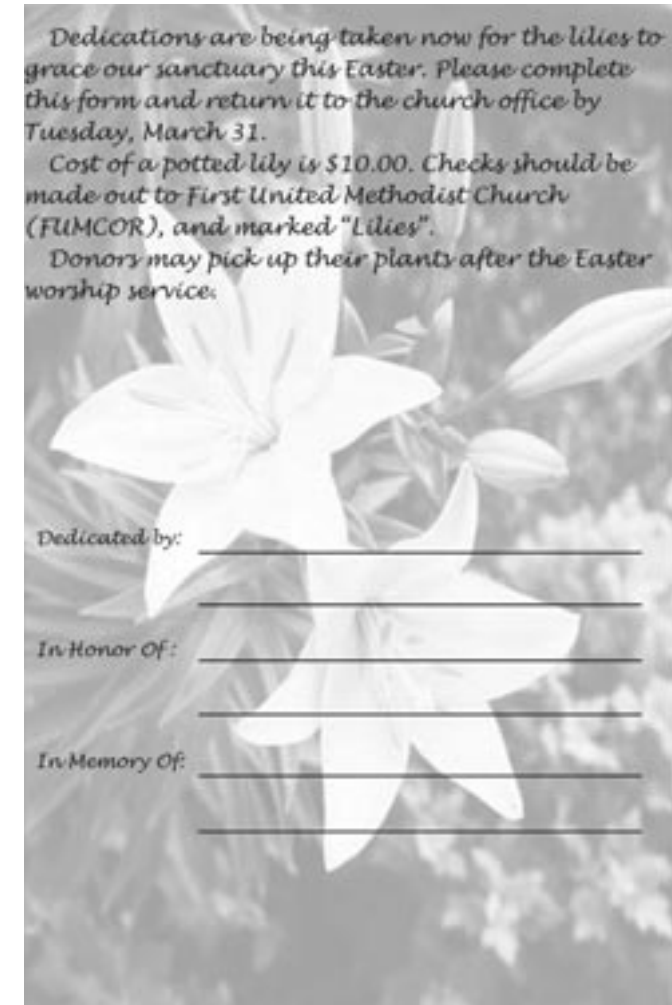
God's light to me is my path to ministries with women, youth and children, which evolves around education, nurturing and leadership-capacity building towards transformation. The mission is shared through the promise and powers of faith and trust in God through Jesus the Christ. God's light permeates and diffuses darkness in the lives of women, youth and children. God's light brings changes and transformation in the lives of the people through United Methodist Women's ministries in Asia.



Have you wanted to attend a UMW conference or district event, but decided not to go because the function was held in Simi Valley or Palm Springs? Now is your chance. On April 25, the East District Social Action event will be held here, at First United Methodist Church of Riverside.

We would like to encourage all the ladies of the church to attend this informative gathering. The cost is \$15, but we don't want anyone to miss it because of financial concerns. If you want to attend, contact UMW President, Lisa Laird (951-237-7112) and we will be happy to give you a scholarship. The day includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and three knowledgeable panelists who will speak about programs helping young people who are at risk, homeless, or aging out of the foster care system. We hope you will join us.

P.S. Please bring a love gift to share with the kids. You can donate a \$10 gift card from Target, Stater Brothers, or Wal Mart which will be distributed to the youth. Stater Brothers, Wal Mart and Target all sell food and are readily accessible to most communities. Cafeterias are closed when schools are closed; your love gift can help make sure the kids get a meal.



An Invitation

We would like to request the honor of your presence at the Eagle Court of Honor for Ian Patrick George on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at First United Methodist Church in Fellowship Hall.

Doors open at 10:30 am. The Court of Honor ceremony will start at 11:00 am and lunch will begin at 12:30.

R.S.V.P. 909-234-3984 or respond to ageorge555@gmail.com —*The George Family*

March 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|--------|---|
| <p>8:45 am Adult Sunday School—AL 8:45 am Beginning Bells —Mary's Kitchen 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chime Choir —Youth Center 10:00 am Worship/First Sunday in Lent/Communion 11:15 am Church & Society—Adult Lounge 5:00 pm Youth & Young Adults —Youth Center</p> | <p>7:00 pm Trustees—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Worship Committee —Adult Lounge</p> | <p>10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary's Kitchen</p> | <p>6:00 pm Sit 'N Sew Quilters —Mary's Kitchen 6:00 pm Lenten Study & Soup Supper #1 —Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal—Music Room 7:00 pm The Response Rehearsal —Sanctuary</p> | | |
| <p>8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 8:45 am Beginning Bells —Mary's Kitchen 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chime Choir— Youth Center 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am UMM Lunch Program—FH 5:00 pm Youth & Young Adults—YC</p> | <p>12:00 pm Almond/Wesleyan Circle Potluck—Mary's Kitchen</p> | <p>10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 4:00 pm "The Habit" Fundraiser —Off Campus 7:00 pm SPRC—Conference Room 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Sanctuary 7:00 pm Faith & Fellowship —Adult Lounge</p> | <p>10:00 am UMW Executive Committee —Mary's Kitchen 6:00 pm Lenten Study & Soup Supper #2 —Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal—Music Room 7:00 pm The Response Rehearsal —Sanctuary</p> | | |
| <p>8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 8:45 am Beginning Bells —Sanctuary 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chime Choir— Youth Center 10:00 am Worship/Beginning Bells 11:00 am Missions Garden 11:00 am St. Patrick's Day—Patio 5:00 pm Youth & Young Adults—YC</p> | <p>5:30 pm Finance Committee —Conference Room</p> | <p>9:00 am Staff Meeting Conference Room 10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary's Kitchen</p> | <p>6:00 pm Lenten Study & Soup Supper #3 —Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>11:00 am CPK Fundraiser to Close Off Campus 7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal—Music Room 7:00 pm The Response Rehearsal —Sanctuary</p> | | <p>9:00 am UMW Leadership Mtg. (East District)—Koinonia</p> |
| <p>8:45 am Adult Sunday School —Adult Lounge 8:45 am Beginning Bells —Mary's Kitchen 9:15 am Youth Sunday School—YC 9:30 am Children's Chime Choir— Sanctuary 10:00 am Worship/Children's Chimes 11:15 am Evangelism/Welcoming 5:00 pm Youth & Young Adults—YC</p> | <p>7:00 pm Church Council —Adult Lounge</p> | <p>10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Sanctuary 7:00 pm UMW Citrus Circle —Lynn Ashworth's Home</p> | <p>6:00 pm Lenten Study & Soup Supper #4 —Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal—Music Room 7:00 pm The Response Rehearsal —Sanctuary</p> | | <p>Hunger Ministry</p> |
| <p>8:45 am Adult Sunday School-AL 8:45 am Beginning Bells —Mary's Kitchen 9:15 am Youth Sunday School-YC 9:30 am Children's Chime Choir —Youth Center 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Organ Concert Rehearsal 5:00 pm Organ Concert—Sanctuary 5:00 pm Youth/Young Adults—YC</p> | | <p>9:00 am Messenger Volunteers —Mary's Kitchen 10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Sanctuary</p> | | | | |