

THE MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RIVERSIDE, 4845 BROCKTON AVE., RIVERSIDE CA 92506 (951) 683-7831



WORSHIP IS VIRTUAL!

For now, we are offering an online church service, either live via www.Facebook.com/FirstChurchRiverside, or posted later at our church website: wwwFirstChurchRiverside.org

Our church staff continues to work, mostly from home.

Thanks to our media team: Dan and Cassie Lonsbery, Peter Brabant, Steve Grimes, and our talented music ministers, Robert Phillips, Yvonne Flagg, Kris Lovekin and Dominic Salvati

If you are having trouble finding the online church service, some help is included at the bottom of the newsletter.

FUMCOR HAS TALENT!

Singing, dancing, piano, guitar and violin are all part of the talents for our church congregation. But what about dog agility? What about woodworking? A church talent show via video showed that there are some advantages to the online format. Thanks to Lyn Knowles for the idea, Steve Grimes and Kris Lovekin for the execution, and to all our wonderful performers who submitted talent. If you want to see the result, and send a love gift into the church while you are at it, check out our church facebook page or our church website.

COMMUNION AT HOME

If you would like to serve as one of the volunteers to deliver communion and the liturgy to the homes of people without an internet connection, please call the church office. If you need that service, or other things like grocery shopping or a telephone call, please let the church know. We are fortunate to have resources and volunteers to help our church family. This will be one of the most heart-felt caring and reach-out ministry opportunities.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 18 to 20 is the Annual Conference for our California-Pacific Conference. You are welcome to watch the livestream on the conference website at <http://www.calpacumc.org/ac2020> during the Sessions on Thursday, June 18 – Saturday, June 20. This is the regional body of The United Methodist Church, made up of some 50,000 members in almost 350 local churches throughout Southern California, parts of Central California, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Guam and Saipan. Delegates from our church: Rev. Ji Tai Kim, Rev. Roy Riggs, Lay Leaders Loretta Cudney and Mimi Luker and chair of SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee), Greg Laird.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

BY THE REV. JI TAI KIM



JOYS AND CONCERNS

We celebrate with our graduates from high school and college as they mark a milestone in new ways. Thanks to God.

Our nation has lost more than 100,000 people to COVID-19. We pray for healing and for effective treatments and for grace for the families in grief.

Racial incidents have again sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the nation. We pray that God will give us wisdom and true acceptance of each other.

EVENTS AHEAD

- California Pizza Kitchen partners with our church on a fundraiser on Thursday, June 18. The coupon you need is in this issue.
- Please be in prayer for the delegates to the California-Pacific Annual Conference June 18 to 20. It will be held online for the first time.
- Pastor Kim has started a Bible Study class via Zoom. It might be time to get a camera and a microphone for the computer!

The pandemic has us all questioning our future, and the future of the world. Some of us have the luxury to stay home with our families and test out our cooking skills. Others have essential jobs and they are working harder than ever trying to keep up despite their worries about health. Others are sick, or alone and scared.

But whether this lasts for six months or two years, remember that your life is still about your own choices and attitudes. Good things often come from even the hardest of times. Especially if we look to Jesus.

Jesus' public ministry, along with his disciples, lasted only three years on this earth. Jesus' death and resurrection showed God's steadfast love and amazing grace upon humanity. He died and rose again, and his followers must have been so happy. After 40 days of saying goodbye, he ascended into heaven.

Saying goodbye is not easy -- just as the process of grieving for your loved one is always challenging. His followers were confused and did not know what to do next. Imagine, they had to lose him twice!

We are also confused about the future. But we can choose to move forward to accomplish God's will. Don't linger in the past too long, hoping for your old life. Plan for your new life. And for the new life of our church. The Holy Spirit will lead us. He will be our closest companion as we choose to be more loving, more hopeful, more joyful and more grateful. We are developing ministries that help us serve in new ways.

Buy groceries for each other, plant gardens and give away the excess, call just to check in on someone who is lonely. Pray with and for each other. Remember to fight for justice for those who are treated unfairly. Build up our connections and our ministries and we will bear fruit in the community.

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CHURCH IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

FUMCOR will be following the recommendations of Riverside County as well as our United Methodist leadership about how we can worship safely in an era of COVID-19. For now, the safest way to worship is online with a very small media team broadcasting the service. But the day will come when we can invite people back to our buildings with the right preparations. For instance, we will be wearing masks, and keeping our six foot distance.

We will be creative and include instrumental music, and more video performances, and other ways of worshipping together. We might be using our beautiful church grounds to worship outside. For now we have church committees in close contact with the larger United Methodist Church and we are planning for the day when we can worship in person again. Singing, potlucks, Sunday school and hugs are difficult to do safely. So for now, lets keep our services online.

Our God will lead us through this strange and foreign place, but we will find silver linings. For instance, our online worship has been visited by former members, or those who have been shut in and are glad to be back in community. We will find new ways to minister to people. David Fraser is leading an effort to make the Stephen Minister group available to people who feel lonely or cut off from fellowship. If you want to talk, call the church office phone number. A message will be sent to David.



UMCOR IS ON THE COVID CASE

UMCOR, The United Methodist Committee on Relief, is the missions arm of the United Methodist Church. It has expanded to include help for people who are in need because COVID-19. UMCOR will assist vulnerable communities in the United States and around the world in the areas of health, food insecurity, water, sanitation and hygiene and economic instability. Gifts should be directed to Advance #3022612. To give online, visit <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-2025-umcor-covid-19-response-fund.aspx>. To give by check, send checks payable to Advance GCFA to: Global Ministries/UMCOR GPO, P.O. BOX 9068 New York, NY 10087.

FUMCOR STAFF

Pastor: Rev. J.T. Kim
Office manager: Becky Ruiz
Secretary: Stephanie Chandler
Choir Director: Yvonne Flagg
Bell Director: Gayla Lonsbery
Organist: Robert Phillips
Preschool Director: Karen Wilson
Custodial Manager: Jessie Ruiz
Campus Supervisor: Brad Tomlinson

First Church Riverside has active committees making decisions about missions, church property and finances, the worship experience and fellowship groups. Come be part of the work of the church!

LOCAL MISSIONS

Church and Society/Missions has donated \$750 to Feeding America, \$500 to Path of Life, and \$500 to Meals on Wheels. This money was raised by His Helping Hands, a ministry that does small repairs for congregation members for a donation.

Another \$1,000 from our Hunger Ministry account will help Guardian Scholars of UCR. Thanks to all the people who have made this possible, our donors and our workers, who include Greg and Lisa Laird, Gary Bruggeman and Daryl Salmon, among others.



FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE
PEOPLE, CHANGE THE WORLD

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 Rewards**™ program and receive a **free Small Plate** on your next visit after registering. Register today at cpk.com or download our new app today!



Fundraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c 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, online, catering.

Our **Dining for Dollars** fundraiser this month will be **Thursday, June 18.** Order some food and they will send 20 percent of the proceeds back to support missions at **First Church Riverside.** Show this coupon!

Online Church on Facebook

Tips and Tricks

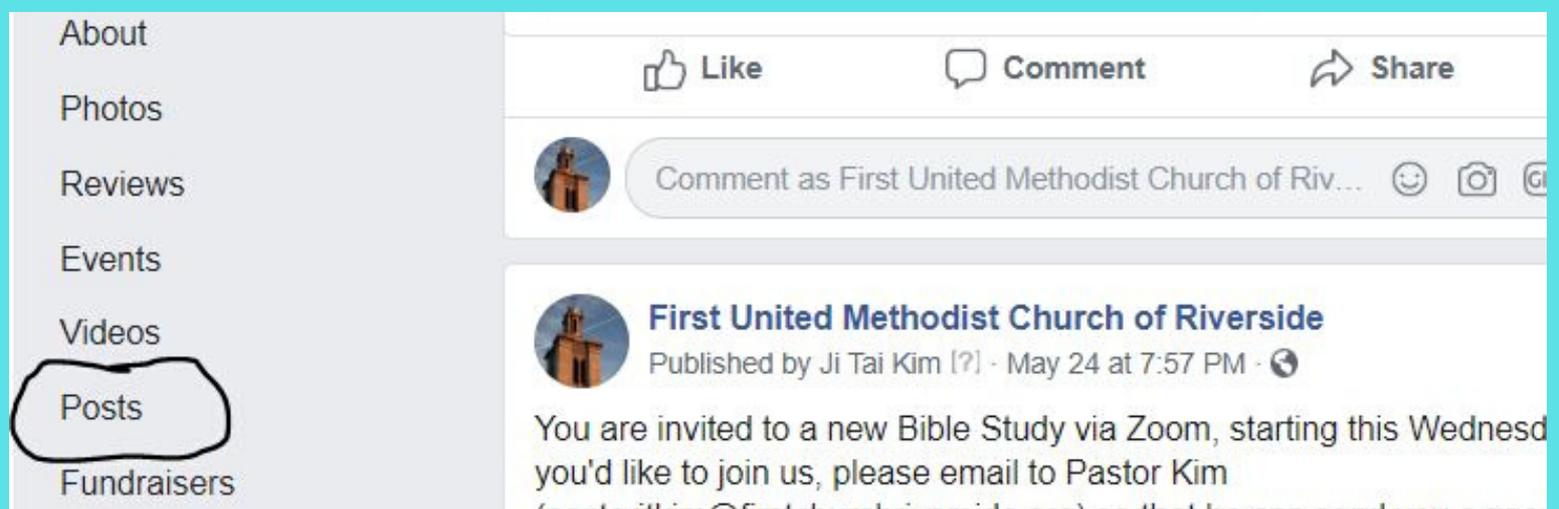
Make an account for facebook, and then travel to this address:

www.facebook.com/FirstChurchRiverside

Like or Follow our page, so facebook knows you are interested. You accomplish that with buttons right below the top image on the page.



Just before 10 a.m on a Sunday morning, we will post the livestream. It will be the most recent post on the page. You might see it on your own, but if you don't, look to the menu on the left and click on the word "Posts" which I have circled in the picture below. The category of "Videos" will work too.



If you are there about 10 minutes early, the top post you see will include a count down clock of the time before the service starts. After 10 am. you should see a service in progress.

Comment and celebrate together. We want to know that you have made it.

If you are still having trouble, email krislovekin@gmail.com and tell her you need a phone consultation. If you want someone to call you on Sunday morning and just let you listen to the audio of the service, we can arrange that.

Remember, we store them on the church website too:

www.FirstChurchRiverside.org/media