

THE MESSENGER

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



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E-mail Becky Ruiz at rruiz@firstchurchriverside.org if you need assistance.

BUDGETS FOR 2021

Committee Chairpersons, please be thinking about your budget for 2021. Contact Becky Ruiz in the office with your estimate by Friday, September 4 (rruiz@firstchurchriverside.org). Thank you.

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Robert and Linda Hice	3
Ron and Dianne Purkey	7
Dan and Dani Cork	11
Eric and Jennifer Mahl	13
Katrina and John Zeeb	16
Jonathon and Melissa Williams	17
Matt Gorder and Anita Kramer	22

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Have a safe and fun birthday!



Elizabeth Davis	1
Michael Othon	1
Sonja Moore	3
Harmoni Green	7
Carli Renteria	8
Bob Nelson	9
Dianne Purkey	9
John Zeeb	10
Alissa Britain	11
Peggy Ramsay	14
Michael McIver	17
Billy Gwira	21
Scott Kirkwood	21
Linda Kraft	22
Joyce Brown	23
Gretel Noble	23
David Rajaratnam	24
Kathleen Phillips	25
Marie Madden	27

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

BY THE REV. JI TAI KIM



Bridge Over Troubled Water

One of my all-time favorite popular songs is “Bridge Over Troubled Water” (1970), by Simon & Garfunkel. From the day I first heard it as a boy in Korea to today, it sounds like a comforting message that no matter what, God, through Jesus, is laying a bridge over a troubled life and a troubled world for me. I know many of you will recognize the first stanza:

*When you're weary, feeling small / When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all,
I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough / And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water / I will lay me down...*

This lyric reminds me of 1 John 3:16, **“We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.”** Yes, being a bridge of love himself, Jesus has already laid down his life for you and me and for the world. So, we are called to follow Jesus by being a bridge of love.

Thornton Wilder invites readers to examine the purpose of a bridge between life and death in his novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, which won a Pulitzer prize in 1928. The book concludes with the following: “There is a land of the living and a land of the dead. The bridge is love; the only survival, the only meaning.”

We are still living in this uncertain time of isolation, powerlessness, and division, mainly due to the pandemic crisis. We also wrestle with how to make our world fairer and healthier. We are overwhelmed by the uncontrollable numbers of death and confirmed cases of COVID-19 every day. We might be thinking about our own death more than ever. We need more comfort, peace, and strength than ever.

Let us hold on to Jesus’ words from Ephesians 2:14, **“For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.”** Let us remember that Jesus himself is our peace in this difficult time.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

Thank you so much for being a faithful congregation despite of the ever-changing circumstances. Please keep up your good work. Please continue to stay safe and strong. And let us continue to build bridges of love and peace over our troubled world always!

Hear Simon & Garfunkel harmonize as you read the words of the second stanza:

*When you're down and out / When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard / I will comfort you
I'll take your part, oh, when darkness comes / And pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water / I will lay me down...*

Love and Blessings,

Pastor J. T. Kim

**“FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE
PEOPLE, CHANGE THE
WORLD”**



This Happened Last Thirstday

By Kathleen Phillips

In a pretty little valley, there was a lovely pond that was fed by a sparkling stream. One day, several thirsty travelers stopped to rest near the water. The first sighed and said, “I sure would like a drink, but you wouldn’t catch me slurping up that water. It’s full of germs and parasites. Nope, if water doesn’t come from a faucet, it’s not going into my body.”

The second traveler just kept staring at the sunlight and puffy white clouds reflected on the pond’s surface. “I can see Heaven! God is telling me that it will soon rain, so we’ll have plenty of fresh water.” He, too, refused to drink from the pond.

“I think that you’re both crazy,” said the third traveler as he took off his clothes and ran into the water, cooling off his hot body. He gratefully drank the water, then exclaimed, “Wow! There are all kinds of fish in this pond, which you can see when you look beneath the surface. We’ll have a fine dinner! There are pretty stones that have been polished by the stream water, too. The swaying aquatic plants are beautiful. And when you’re under water, looking up, the sunlight sparkles all over the place! It’s amazing! Everywhere I look, I see something new!”

Meanwhile, his two companions just sat on the edge of the water, sweating, itching, and grumbling in the extremely hot, dry summer air.

The Parable’s Meaning:

The pond is the Bible. The first traveler is like many people today, who trust science exclusively and think that reading the Bible will only frustrate them and waste their time. The second traveler takes the Bible literally, seeing only the surface and hearing from God only that which he wants to hear. The third traveler is the person who faces his fears and frustrations and keeps on studying the Bible, looking beneath the surface stories for the soul nourishment and beauty in the layers beneath. He alone is truly satisfied.



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
Youth Director: Steve Grimes
Custodial Manager: Jesse 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!

“Meals on Wheels” Keeps Cruising Along

by Kris Lovekin

While church services have moved online, one operation has kept a physical presence on the church campus, with help from willing volunteers: Meals on Wheels.



A non-profit organization founded by and still housed at FUMCOR, its goal is delivering tasty food to seniors who are homebound or in need in the greater Riverside area.

Volunteers deliver meals from the church to 115 seniors four days a week, Monday through Thursday. On that final day, they deliver a frozen meal for Friday. Typically, the same volunteers stick to the same routes, so they get to know their clients.

Allison Glover, the operations officer and volunteer coordinator for Meals on Wheels, said volunteers still enjoy conversing with their clients, although they do it from a little farther back from the door and while wearing masks during this time of a global pandemic.

“We appreciate the church allowing us to continue our service,” Glover said. “It’s more than just a meal to our seniors who are housebound.”

Meals on Wheels has a long history at 4845 Brockton Avenue. Members of the First United Methodist Church started a meal delivery service for seniors and housebound neighbors in the 1960s. As the numbers of clients rose they realized that it needed to become a formal program.

In 1972, they established it as Meals on Wheels. It is Ruth Halpenny’s signature on the documents, Glover reports. A longtime church member, Ruth Halpenny was especially generous with her time, her talents and her financial resources to our church, with a legacy that continues to this day with an endowment fund that is designated for outreach.

Meals on Wheels operates on donations and they are always looking for new ways to raise money.

“We continue to expand into surrounding cities in Riverside County to help seniors of all types of lives, regain strength and independence,” said Glover.

You can keep up with news on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/riversidemow> or on their Website: <https://www.riversidemow.org/>



A photo from early days. Anyone recognize a face?

Pizza with a purpose



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

Show this coupon!

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!



california
PIZZA KITCHEN

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, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third-party delivery. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.