

THE MESSENGER

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



2020-2021 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our church’s 2020-2021 Church Conference date has been set by the District Superintendent: Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom, presided by D.S. Rev. Melissa MacKinnon.

The D.S. will send us a zoom link that can be shared with the church members.

An SPRC Meeting will be held with D.S. just before the Church Conference.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We are happy to report that the church maintains good financial health, and will be able to give our share of requested apportionments to support the operations of the larger United Methodist Church Conference. Thanks to all who have continued to faithfully give to support the church.

We are in prayer for the Arguelles family, and for Rev. Bev Devine. Both are grieving family members.

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Romeo & Juliet Lardizabal	5
Tim & Dana Traver	12
Roy & Cheryl Riggs	19
David & Sarah Fraser	20

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Gary Bruggeman	1
Mary Lou Kerrick	1
Lillian Popko	1
Shirley Parks	2
Micheline Scoggins	2
Melva Cooke	3
Norma Nelson	3
Kim Earhart	4
Matt Gorder	8
John McDonald	8
Steve Walker	9
Bev DeFrance	11
Barbara Spencer	11
Jules Ream	13
Liz Jennings	15
Jonathon Williams	18
Susan Straight	19
Sue Tomlinson	21
Doris Washburn	21
Jim Conlin	23
Sabrina Gilbert	24
Allysen Angel	26



MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

BY THE REV. JI TAI KIM



“COME CLOSER TO ME!”

When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, his power was mighty, for he was the second in command in the large Egyptian Empire. However, Joseph chose “grace” over “grudge” and “forgiveness” over “revenge.” One of the most remarkable words he used when initiating this profound reconciliation with his brothers was “**Come closer to me**” (Exodus 45:4). I was especially touched by this phrase, as I prepared for my recent sermon series.

His sudden statement and question had thrown them off guard. “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” (Exodus 45:3)

They were too dismayed to reply. So, Joseph comforted them, and himself, by saying “Come closer to me.”

I believe this is not just a happy ending for that family, but a timely lesson on the power of reconciliation through forgiveness.

Ironically, during our pandemic reality, we cannot “**come closer**” to each other in a physical sense. Nevertheless, this phrase, “**come closer,**” is an invitation to grace and mercy, and should be practiced every day and at every opportunity.

I am so grateful to God for our church leaders and members who have been initiating heart-felt connections and communications among the congregation and in the community. Please keep up your good works in many creative ways in order to spread God’s love and peace.

Rachel M. Srubas elaborates more on this phrase “**come closer**” in her devotion from the Upper Room’s Disciplines (August 10, 2020):

“Come closer is God’s invitation not only to Jacob’s sons but also to all humankind -- to you and me. If the words ‘come closer’ had another name it would be Jesus Christ. God comes close to us in Jesus because God yearns to heal the wounds of separation; undo the trauma of exile; reconcile all broken, distanced souls, families, and communities to Godself; and make human beings whole again...” (p. 270).

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ! My friends in Christ!

As God loved us first, as Christ taught us how to love one another, let us create God’s peace and reconciliation by saying, “come closer to me” first. Even though we have no idea when we can have any in-person gathering, let us continue to encourage one another by being connected through prayers, thoughts, phone calls, Zoom calls and other means of communication. Let us “come closer”!

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Love and Blessings,

Pastor J. T. Kim

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

UMW East District Annual Celebration

The UMW Virtual Annual Celebration will be held September 26, 2020 at 10:00 am, via Zoom. If you are interested in attending the conference from the comfort and safety of your home, please contact Lisa Laird (lairdlisaj@aol.com or 951-237-7112) for a copy of the registration form.

Small Groups Can Meet on Church Grounds

Health guidelines will allow church groups to meet on the church campus outdoors as long as people are masked and maintaining physical distance.

So for instance, if your UMW chapter would like to set up a circle of camp chairs under a tree or on a patio for a small group discussion or a meeting, that is now okay. **We must keep meetings to 10 people or fewer.** Please let Pastor Kim know when you will be on campus. People entrusted with keys know the rules for going in and out of the buildings, and yes, they are still alarmed.

Church and Society
First United Methodist
Church of Riverside

**THE STORIES
THAT SHAPED US:
CREATING PEACE
IN A BROKEN
WORLD**

Come tell your stories
and hear ours.

An ongoing conversation to
connect the congregation

**STARTING WEEKLY ON
AUG. 16, 2020 | 3 PM
VIA ZOOM**

To RSVP, email krislovekin@gmail.com

Get in Deeper Touch with the FUMCOR Family

All are welcome to join a conversation group over Zoom on Sunday afternoons called "The Stories that Shaped Us." Questions that we will discuss include: "What brought you to the Methodist Church" or "Jobs You've held" or "Lessons Your Parents Taught You" or "Where did you Grow Up?"

With the pandemic, our congregation needs a place for some deeper conversations about our lives and stories. Church and Society/Missions voted to support the series to help keep the church in conversation.

Dani Johnson-Cork, Kris Lovekin and Mimi Luker are moderating the discussions and the series will last as long as people continue to be interested in having them. We meet at **3 p.m. each Sunday.** If you think this sounds like fun, email your interest to krislovekin@gmail.com and she will get you connected.



FUMPS to Open Again September 1

First United Methodist Preschool Director Karen Wilson has been working overtime with the help of Brian Tomlinson, Chair of Trustees, to create a plan for safely opening the church preschool program on Tuesday, Sept. 1. East District Superintendent Rev. Melissa MacKinnon approved those plans recently.

The plan includes keeping small groups of children together with their teacher, with recess and snack breaks that do not overlap with other classes. Teachers will be cleaning surfaces regularly.

“Parents have reported a need for their children to be back in a preschool program, especially because some parents cannot afford to stay home from jobs that are essential,” Karen Wilson said. “We appreciate all the prayerful support of the church family as we open again.”

FUMPS opened in 1947 and is well known in the larger Riverside community. FUMPS is licensed by the State of California Department of Social Services.

If you have a question about whether spots are still available, call the preschool directly at (951) 683-4500.

Riverside County Providing Free Masks to FUMCOR

In order to help everyone find face coverings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, FUMCOR applied to receive disposable masks from the Riverside County Health Department.

The church will distribute them through Meals on Wheels, the church preschool program and will still have plenty left over.

The “Masks are Medicine” campaign began at the end of July as the number of cases in Riverside County and throughout California were spiking. While the cases continue to rise in the county, the rate of increase has slowed. In Riverside County, there have been more than 50,000 confirmed cases and more than 950 coronavirus-related deaths. Health officials say good handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing a face mask can decrease our risk for infection by 95 percent.

If you have an idea for a group that could make use of masks, please get in touch with the church office at (951) 683-7831.

Pizza with a purpose



Our Dining for Dollars fundraiser this month will be Thursday, September 17. 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!



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.

Sending Money to Help People Cope

At the August Church and Society/Missions meeting, held online, the group voted to send \$250 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief for general use for emergency response. We sent it to the Salt Lake City distribution center, where a team from FUMCOR worked last summer (**Pam Conlin** in photo). Church and Society/Missions builds up money from fundraisers and generous support from the congregation.



We also voted to send \$250 to Wesley United Methodist Church's Project H.O.P.E., which is still operating to offer help to those who are in need locally. LeeAnn Salmon and Lisa Laird have been active in this project.

The Hunger Ministry is sending money to the Path of Life Shelter each month, in place of sending a team of volunteers with food. The committee hopes to return to in-person food serving once it is safe to do so.

THE UNIVERSAL "GOLDEN RULE"

Contributed by Rev. Bev. Devine

Baha'i "Desire not for anyone the things that ye would not desire for yourselves." -- Baha Ullah LXVI

Buddhism "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." -- Udana-Varga, 5:18

Christianity "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." -- Matt 7:12

Confucianism "Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you." -- Analects 15:23

Hinduism "Never do to others what would pain thyself." -- Panchatantra III.104

Islam "Do unto all men as you would they should do unto you, and reject for others what you would reject for yourself." -- Mishkat-el-Masabih

Jainism "In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own self." -- Lord Mahavira, 6th Century B.C.E.

Judaism "What is hateful to you, do not to your fellowmen. That is the entire law..." -- Talmud, Shabbat 314

Native American "Respect for all life is the foundation." -- The Great Law of Peace

Sikhism "Treat others as thou wouldst be treated thyself." -- Adi Granth

Taoism "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss. -- T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien.

Zoroastrianism "That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself." -- Dadistan-i-Dinik, 94:5

Interfaith Voices for Peace and Justice, Sponsored by Eden Theological Seminary,
475 Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119 www.interfaithvoices.org/ifv.cfm



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!