

THE MESSENGER

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



MEN'S GROUP MEETS AGAIN



The Mysterious Masked Men of UMM Leadership

The leaders of United Methodist Men met Saturday, October 17 in the shade on the church lawn with President Daryl Salmon presiding. Together they made the following decisions: 1. Donate \$500 to the Salvation Army to help with their huge challenges during this pandemic; 2. Renew their FUMCOR charter with UMM National; 3. Start General meetings of UMM using Zoom at 11:30 am Sunday, December 13. Guest speaker will be Ron Purkey.

They are planning for the Annual Silent Auction Scholarship Fundraiser in May, 2021. Join the fun!

DANCING FEET NOW COZY

Thank you to all the generous sock donors who threw bags full of socks into a box in front of the church on Sunday, October 4.

We collected dozens of packaged socks and LeeAnn Salmon organized them by size and delivered them to Project Hope at Wesley United Methodist Church.

From dancing to Beatles hits in the sunshine, to seeing faces we haven't seen for a while, it was a fun "Sock Hop" event, organized by the Church and Society Committee.

Below, Pam Conlin throws a bag of socks into a box decorated by Margie Baillod.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

BY THE REV. JI TAI KIM

PANDEMIC PLAYBOOK

(Thanksgiving Edition)

The deadliest pandemic in history happened over a hundred years ago. The 1918 Flu Pandemic was called “Spanish Flu,” (even though it didn’t come from Spain). It infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the world population at that time. It killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million people, including over 675,000 Americans.



The current COVID-19 Pandemic, which started seriously affecting our lives in March, has infected over 40 million people worldwide (about 8 million in the U.S.) and killed 1.1 million people, including over 220,000 people in the U.S. It is not finished with us yet.

Our lives have been upended and restricted. While we are hoping to go back soon to where we left off last March, it is true that nothing will be the same as before and that we must realize that we can not predict our reality moving forward.

The Psalmist cries out: “How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?” (Psalm 13:2). We cry out to the Lord, too: “How long must we bear pain in this pandemic time?” How long? Nobody knows. One thing for sure is that our life goes on even in this challenging time.

One of my favorite comic strips gives us good insight on living in pandemic times: This guy “P” climbs a hill to ask a question to the Wise Teacher. P says: “Oh, Wise Teacher on the hill. Tell us all. When will things get better?” The Wise Teacher responds, “When YOU decide they get better.” P says, “What does that mean?” The Teacher says, “That you can’t control events. But you CAN control your reaction to those events.” Being still disappointed, P comes down from the hill, and tells his friend, “I was hoping he’d just say Tuesday.”

I remember a simple, yet meaningful, line from one of the episodes of a recent TV series. It was something like: “Time never stops. This time will pass also.” The 1918 Pandemic crisis lasted over 2 years. We have no idea whether COVID-19 is going to be more devastating than ever. Even with the help of the vaccines and antiviral treatments that are still being developed, we cannot simply predict when the pandemic crisis would be over.

In this given circumstance, either you CHOOSE how your life is going to be OR you try to develop extra patience and strength while waiting for the re-opening time to come. Of course, a pandemic is not a game or sports, but a crisis that affects everyone on this planet. In such a time like this, we must not seek mere survival mode but pursue thriving and fruitful ways of life.

Amazingly, almost all Psalms which begin with the Psalmist’s lament, frustrations, agonies eventually finish with praise and thanksgiving. Psalm 13 also concludes with these two verses: “But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me” (Psalm 13:5-6, NRSV).

Yes, “but” is a seemingly ordinary conjunction between the Psalmist’s complaints and the victorious ending. This bold transition invites us to be stronger, more faithful, and more courageous, because we must focus on God’s steadfast love, amazing grace, and faithfulness even more than ever, regardless of our situations.

November is a Thanksgiving season, and I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving not just during the holiday weekend but also in this pandemic crisis time and beyond. Yes, “thanksgiving” is another essential word for us to practice in words and deeds to experience how God can transform our lives from chaotic and fearful to beautiful and bountiful! Thanks be to God!

In Gratitude and Hope,

Pastor J. T. Kim

SEE THE UNITED METHODIST WORLD FROM YOUR COMPUTER!

One of the opportunities during COVID-19 is the chance to meet United Methodist missionaries via Zoom. Each Thursday, those who register get to meet four missionaries from different locations all over the world.

Lyn Knowles was so inspired by her time talking with Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa, serving in Tanzania, that she convinced the Church and Society committee to send \$500 to support the missionary work there.

To get on the mailing list to find out more about United Methodist Missionaries, just email itin@umcmission.org and you will receive weekly invitations and other announcements about opportunities to engage with missionaries. Find out more about these missionaries at www.umcmission.org.

#StillInMission for Thursday, Nov. 5 at 9 a.m. Pacific time will feature Deirdre Zimmerman, serving as a nutritionist in Nepal; Randy Hildebrant, serving in Tennessee; Emmanuel Ufonna Mefor, serving as a Doctor in Zimbabwe; Mutwale Ntambo wa Mushidi, serving in Tanzania; and Kulli Toniste, teaching at the Baltic Methodist Seminary in Estonia.

#StillInMission for Thursday, Nov. 12 at 8 a.m. Pacific Time will focus on Lourdes Ramirez, who serves in Nicaragua; Katie Peterson, who organizes UMCOR outreach in Pennsylvania; Florence Ogugua Mefor, who serves as a nurse and midwife in Zimbabwe; Lester Dornan, who serves as a physician in Nepal.

#StillInMission Episode for Thursday, Nov. 19 at 8 a.m. Pacific time will feature Collins Etchi Ako, who serves in East Congo; Elizabeth Nichols, Executive Director of the Jubilee Project in Tennessee; Francine Ilunga Mpanga Mufuk, who coordinates the Young Girls Ministry in the Côte d'Ivoire; Jean Paul Dietrich, a project coordinator in the South Congo.

Come see the world!

If listening to a recording is more your style Visit the vimeo channel here:
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7323146>



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

If you are participating in the 2020 UMW Reading Program, please have your completed book list sent to Margaret Berger by December 1, 2020. Margaret's address is 3356 Santa Cruz Dr, Riverside, CA 92507.

The UMW Legacy Fund is honoring Margaret Berger this year for her contributions to the UMW and the Legacy Fund.

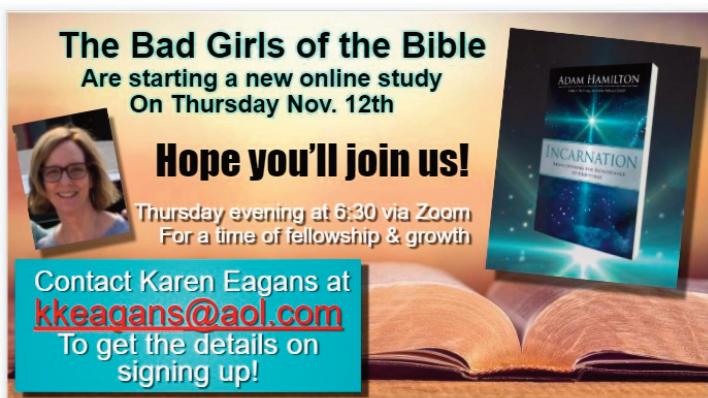
UMW will meet November 18th at 10AM via Zoom. If you wish to attend the meeting, please email Pam Conlin at pjoffroad@gmail.com and we will send you a Zoom invite. We will be voting on officers for 2021, the 2021 budget and year-end giving. If you would like more information or need some help with Zoom call Pam Conlin at 951-237-5470.

CHRISTMAS FOR WESLEY'S HOPE ROOM

Christmas will be different for Wesley's HOPE Room this year because of the pandemic. We will still be collecting Christmas gifts from FUMCOR for families in need by asking for gift cards to Target, Walmart & Amazon (remember if you use AmazonSmile, it is a fundraiser for the Church so it's a double "gift!").

We are collecting \$10 & \$20 gift cards or checks to Wesley UMC and then Barbara Jo Wilson and I will go shopping to fill the children's Christmas lists. We have 30 families to buy for. You can always mail your gift to FUMCOR – just please write HOPE Room on the memo line!

Thank you for supporting our partnership with Wesley's HOPE room! Any questions, call Lee Ann Salmon at (951) 906-6452.



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Ladies of the church are invited to a joint First United Methodist Church/Corona United Methodist Church Bible study written by Adam Hamilton. The Corona UMW bible study group calls themselves Bad Girls of the Bible in honor of the first study they did (plus it's a really great name) which is why you see that

title at the top of the picture. We will be studying Incarnation, Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas. We will meet on Thursdays, November 12 & 19, and December 3 & 10, at 6:30 PM. This is a *Zoom bible study, so each week you will receive a zoom link* to join the study. Interested? Please contact Lyn Knowles (951) 743-7490 to reserve your spot and independently purchase a copy of the book.

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!

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR GOES ONLINE

Like weddings, memorial services and family vacations, the annual Alternative Gift Fair held at our church in December will have to go online because it is not safe to gather in the Fellowship Hall. It won't be the same, but some of the vendors have the ability to take your orders via email or snail mail.

If you are on Facebook, follow the page "Alternative Gift Fair." Starting in November we will highlight individual vendors and give you a way to reach them. We can arrange for delivery by mail or via pick up from a private home. We have asked for approval for a pick up event in the church parking lot on Sunday, Dec. 6. However, all buying actions should already have been made at that point.

Margaret Goodward, a paper artist, said she will work to get her art to people who need some this year. The Assistance League runs a thrift shop in Riverside. The nonprofits 10,000 Villages and Heifer Project International have online stores that could make shopping possible this year.

If you are not on Facebook, and you want to reach your favorite vendor, get in touch with krislovekin@gmail.com. She has contact info for all the usual vendors.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Elizabeth Tupou
Robert & Kathleen Phillips
Doug & Rebecca Slaughter
Dave & Loretta Cudney

	Bill Wolter	11
1	Crisanjali Rajaratnam	11
9	Julia Zeeb	12
19	Helen Nuchols	13
22	Charles McFallThompson	14
	Fiedad Arguelles	15
	Kirk Weakly	15
5	Elizabeth Girke	15
6	Kristin Beals	15
8	Rachel Roland	17
8	Connie Taylor	23
9	William George	29
10	Jackie Cook	31
10		

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Brandon Labrador
Barry Arnold
Bertha Harris
Mary Ellen Burch
Camille Arguelles
Sara Peck
Angela Johnson

Commitment Sunday Was Successful! Our sincere thanks to all who came out on Commitment Sunday (10/25)! We have received 54-Pledges totaling \$235,669 for 2021. This is less than the number and amount of Pledges we received for 2020, but we knew that a drive-thru Commitment Sunday would not be as enticing as cake and fellowship on the patio (oh how we all are looking forward to that again next year). Plus, we were competing with a Green Bay Packer Football Game, which they won [Packers 35; Texans 20], and a cold/rainy day. Nevertheless, we consider Commitment Sunday a success; you are such a generous, giving, and caring congregation. If you have not turned in your Pledge Card yet, you can still mail it to the Church Office, or email your pledge information to the Church Finance Manager (Becky at rruiz@firstchurchriverside.org). Your commitments/pledges will help the church and finance committee plan and budget for 2021 ministries and operations. May God bless you.

Mary L. Herrmann, Finance Committee Chairperson



Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates
[amazonsmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile)

Dedications are being received now for the poinsettias to grace our sanctuary this Christmas season. Please complete this form and return it to the church office before Friday, December 4.

The cost of a poinsettia plant is \$10.00. Checks should be made out to First United Methodist Church (or FUMCOR) and marked "Poinsettia".

After Epiphany Sunday, January 3, we will have the plants outside the office available for pickup.

I would like to reserve _____ poinsettia plant(s) at \$10.00 each. I enclose my check, or cash, for \$_____.

Will you be picking your plant(s) up after Epiphany Sunday? Yes _____ No _____

Dedicated by: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

