

# THE MESSENGER

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



## Family Promise of Riverside to Reach Out to Homeless Families

Families without shelter come to a place where they have no roof, no couch and no cushion. No family member or friend will tide them over. They need someone who cares.

That is the moment for Family Promise of Riverside. Starting with meals, shelter, school and transportation, Family Promise cares about the future of this family.

Volunteers from all over, including some from FUMCOR, will be partners in providing hands-on help and friendship. Would you be willing to support fundraisers in December that will help get the doors open? The group still needs a 15-passenger van to provide transportation, as well as more volunteers.

Family Promise of Riverside is based on successful chapters around the nation, and a volunteer board works closely with the City of Riverside on recommendations for families to serve.

Explore this program further at

<https://familypromise.org> and follow them on [Facebook.com/FamilyPromise-Riverside](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromise-Riverside).

Please contact 951-684-7200, if you are interested in discussing this further. If you are ready to make a donation, it is easy to do. Write a check to Magnolia Presbyterian Church, with "Family Promise of Riverside" in the memo line, and send it to the church at 7200 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, 92504. Alternatively, send an online donation via: [www.MagPres.com/gofundme](http://www.MagPres.com/gofundme)



*Kris signs up at Family Promise meeting.*

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

BY THE REV. JI TAI KIM



## Let These Times Shape Our Faith

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning. God entered our world, not as a conqueror but as an infant, demonstrating the depth of God's love – a radical vision of peace and love – for all creation. Join us this year as we journey through Advent focusing on the gifts that God provides: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, & Christ!

As we walk together through the 2020 pandemic, let us be aware that we walk through history, that how we sharpen and shape our lives now is how we will shape our future.

I look forward to the time when we can worship in person; however, I also cherish and honor this time apart. What will we learn? What will it mean? How will God use our gifts in new ways?

I invite you to join us for Sunday morning worship, for the Advent book study, for Christmas Eve and for our first service of the new year.

Until then,

*Pastor Kim*

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



*Thanks to Rev. Bev Devine and Lee Ann Salmon for a beautiful Fall Altar!*

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
DECEMBER EVENTS**

**UMW Executive Meeting**  
December 9th - 1:00pm  
Via Zoom

**Almond/Wesleyan Circle**  
December 14th - 1:00pm  
Via Zoom

Put on your Christmas finery and join us!  
If you haven't attended on Zoom and would like to join us, please contact Lyn Knowles and give her your email address.

951-737-3541

**Citrus Circle**  
December 8th - 7:00pm  
Via Zoom

If interested, contact Lisa Laird for the link to the Zoom meeting.

951-237-7112

**UMW Meeting**  
December 16th - 10:00am  
Via Zoom

If you haven't attended on Zoom and would like to join us, please contact Lyn Knowles, 951-737-3541, and give her your email address.

We are unable to have our Christmas Brunch this year, however, join us on Zoom for Christmas Fellowship.

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**UMW 5k Virtual Run/Walk**

We would like to thank everyone who participated or sponsored a UMW member to run/walk for them. We raised over \$1,100, which will go to Missions.

We so appreciate the support of our congregation in our Mission work.

*Praying for a safe and healthy Christmas Season for all. Merry Christmas!*



## **UNITED METHODIST MEN ARE BACK IN BUSINESS!**

We will host our first ever United Methodist Men's group meeting via "Zoom" on **Sunday, December 13th, starting at 11:15 am** after live-streamed church services. Everyone is invited to attend. Pastor Kim will e-mail a Zoom link for the meeting to the entire congregation.

In addition to spreading Christmas holiday cheer, we will welcome our special guest speaker, Lt. Col. Ron Purkey, USAF, Ret. Ron and his wife Dianne have been members of our congregation for a few years, and you might have met them as they greeted you at the door of the sanctuary one Sunday each month. This is your chance to get to know them even better. Ron will discuss some of the highlights of his military and civilian careers, his family, and his love for all things Texas Tech! Go Red Raiders!

Please plan to join us for this special time, as we gather together to celebrate our unity in Christ, even during these difficult times. We hope you can join us on December 13th.

## **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 we 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.

### **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!



## CHECK OUT THE ONLINE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

The Alternative Gift Fair will continue online in 2020 with vendors sharing their wares via Facebook and taking payment via checks or online apps.

What it lacks in soup and bread, it will gain in convenience for shoppers no matter where they live. Proceeds are going to good causes. Plus, one generous church member who wants to remain anonymous

skipped all the online work and just sent a \$5,000 check to Heifer International through our church office!

Heifer Project is just one of many organizations that will benefit from the Alternative Gift Fair this year. A high school sophomore is making hand made paper flowers with all proceeds going to Path of Life Family Shelter. Paper artist Margaret Goodward supports a girl's school, the Riverside Food Cooperative supports locally sourced groceries, Inlandia Institute supports locally sourced literature. Another vendor, Pencils and Dreams, supports schools in Africa. We round out our fair with Ten Thousand Villages, Heifer International and the Assistance League Thrift Shop. There may even be a church parking lot event to hand off some of the purchases to local residents, but all the buying and selling will happen online.

Make your Christmas gifts mean something to the world. Check out what is on offer at <https://www.facebook.com/alternativegiftfair>

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Schiffer and Lisa Thomas	15	Deirdre Kirkwood	11
Robert and Patricia Ream	17	Brad Tomlinson	11
Ron and Lee Bayer	25	Jas Roberts	12

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

		Mimi Luker	14
		Teresa Clark	16
Nick Lovekin	1	Patricia Ream	17
Benita Roberts	3	Lolita Manacop	19
Julie Williams	3	Mack Davis	20
Cheryl Riggs	4	Kate Lovekin	21
Teiapa'a Tupou	5	Beulah Leake	25
John-Paul McDonald	7	Susan Exon	28
Bob Binford	8	Rebecca Slaughter	28
Dylan Grimes	8	Evie Fletcher	30
Joy Arguelles	10	Bob Kraft	30
John Burch	11	Kyle Weakly	31

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

As Christmas shopping begins, you have a lot of choices. Shop for gifts at the **Alternative Gift Fair online**, or at your local mom and pop stores in town. Support artists and non profits and good causes. Make your gifts by hand! But remember, if you are going to order from Amazon.com, use their portal for non profits: Simply shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1641437](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1641437) and AmazonSmile will donate to FUMCOR, at no cost to you.

*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:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## ADVENT CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### Sunday Worship Services

10:00 am, Livestream on Facebook

November 29 - HOPE

December 6 - PEACE

December 13 - JOY

December 20 - LOVE

### Wednesday Advent Study Series

7:00 pm via ZOOM; Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23

Making Room: Sharing the Love of Christmas

Email Pastor Kim to sign up

and receive the link:

[pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org](mailto:pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org)

### Christmas Eve Family Service

7:00 pm on December 24

Livestream on Facebook

## GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOBBLE

FUMCOR's Church and Society Committee is passing out \$300 in Stater Bros. gift cards to an All Saints Episcopal Church project that handed out turkeys and fresh produce to families who need some help from the Inland Empire food bank called "Feeding America."

Not only that, but All Saints Episcopal Church, which is just a block away from FUMCOR, stored 40 turkeys in our church freezer for the giveaway event. The pandemic is giving our church an opportunity to partner with other church projects to help those in need.

Church and Society continues supporting Guardian Scholars at UCR and RCC, as well as the Second Harvest Food Bank. Plus, the gift cards are purchased from the FUMCOR preschool, so these purchases help the preschool as well. Special thanks to Debbie and Sigmar Hofmann for a personal gift that helped us have more money for the cause.

