

# THE MESSENGER

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

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

### LENT IS ALL ABOUT LOVE

By the Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor



For many Christians, Lent is a time for fasting and penitential sorrow over sins. However, surprisingly, an early church saint, John Climacus (579-649 AD) spoke of Lenten disciplines as a **“joy-creating sorrow”** leading to the joy of Easter. **“God,”** he wrote, **“does not insist or desire that we should mourn in agony of heart; rather it is His wish that out of love for Him, we should rejoice with laughter in our soul.”**

In this sense, the essence of Lent is about God’s love for us – and our love for one another and for others. Lent is a time for us to experience God’s steadfast love, Christ’s sacrificial love, and our joyful sharing of love with everyone. Regardless how seriously or lightly we observe Lent, let us remember that Lent is all about God’s eternal love shown through Christ.

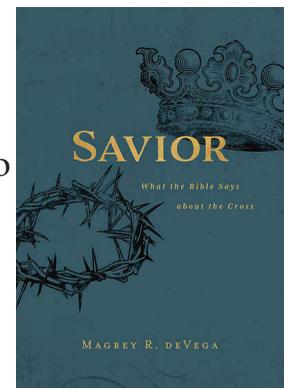
Last year, in February, our church was blessed to host the Ash Wednesday Service for the Riverside Mission Area. We solemnly shared the Imposition of the Ashes with all the participating sisters and brothers in Christ in the sanctuary. However, in the middle of the Lenten season, our normal lives, including the Lenten Study series, were unexpectedly disrupted due to the pandemic, and since then, every worship service and all the

activities have been conducted online, except for a few drive-thru events.

This year’s Ash Wednesday (February 17) Service will not be a traditional in-person gathering, or even a drive-thru, but an online livestream service at 7 p.m. on Facebook Live (the same venue as Sunday Worship). Please join us for an Ash Wednesday Service that invites us to begin the 2021 Lenten Journey of meaningful 40 days.

Moreover, you are invited to a short-term (5 Wednesdays) Lenten Study which will begin on February 24, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Our textbook is Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross, written by a UMC pastor and author, Magrey R. deVega, published by Abingdon Press (2020). Out of many new resources for Lenten Studies this year, to me, this book is believed to be the best book in a spiritual and theological sense. I am confident that this book will not only deepen our relationships with God and others but also help us in growing in love throughout our Lenten journey together.

If you would like to join this Lenten Zoom Study, please sign up by simply sending an email to me: [pastorjtkim@first-churchriverside.org](mailto:pastorjtkim@first-churchriverside.org). Love and Blessings,  
*Pastor J. T. Kim*



## "Have a Heart" and Support Our Community

The Assistance League® of Riverside is hosting a **Community Blood Drive with LifeStream Blood Bank from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb.13**, at 3707 Sunnyside Drive, Riverside.

Not only can your one donation save multiple lives, but this drive is also a fundraiser for Assistance League of Riverside -- an all-volunteer organization dedicated to clothing, comforting and educating Riverside area children in need in many ways.

You may have heard of Operation School Bell®, which provides new school clothing, shoes, books and supplies to school children. Snack Attack provides food for those in need. Bear Pals provides teddy bears and toys to traumatized children in emergency rooms and through the Sheriff's Department.

Assistance League is a regular booth at FUMCOR's Alternative Gift Fair and a favorite cause of the Church and Society Committee, especially Margie Baillod. Like our church, Assistance League faces the pandemic's many financial challenges.

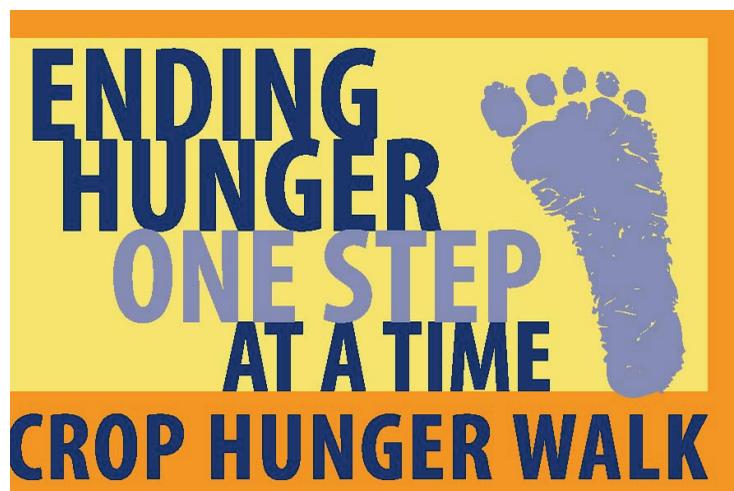


Margie Baillod

We are setting a goal to donate 20 pints of blood from our congregation. If you can't donate blood yourself, please recruit friends or relatives who can! Potential blood donors may make appointments by visiting [LStream.org/ALR](https://LStream.org/ALR) or calling 800-879-4484. If necessary, donations can be made prior to the blood drive, and Assistance League will get credit if donors use the code "MALR" when registering.

The drive will take place in a large, well-ventilated meeting room. Social distancing will be set up and face coverings are required. Donors will receive a "Count on Me" long sleeve T-shirt (while supplies last) and will also be informed of the results of the free Covid Antibody test that is done on each donated pint.

A photo ID with proof of age is required. Donors ages 15 and 16 need signed parental consent which, along with much more information, can be found at <https://www.lstream.org/about-donating/who-can-donate/>.



## 2021 Riverside CROP Hunger Walk (Virtual)

Sunday March 14

CROP Hunger Walks are community events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations to raise money and awareness for community and worldwide hunger relief efforts.

First United Methodist Church has been actively involved in the local CROP Hunger Walk since 1976. Last year, FUMCOR was responsible for \$1,475 of the \$13,210 raised during the Riverside event. This year's CROP Hunger Walk will be a virtual event on Sunday, March 14th. We encourage all participants to walk with their own households at a time and place of their choosing on that date. Please join the FUMCOR team by signing up at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/first-united-methodist-church-of-riverside>. Donations may be made at the same website.

Please contact Kevin Simpson ([kevin.m.simpson@me.com](mailto:kevin.m.simpson@me.com)) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

**"FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE PEOPLE, CHANGE THE WORLD"**



## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN FEBRUARY EVENTS**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE VIA ZOOM**

If you have not attended a meeting and would like to be sent a Zoom invite, contact Pam Conlin 951-237-5470.

**Thursday evenings at 6:30pm Bible  
Study with Corona UMW**

**Almond-Wesleyan Circle - Monday 2-  
8-2021 at 1:00pm**

**UMW Executive Meeting - Wednesday  
2-10-2021 at 1:00pm**

**UMW Meeting - Wednesday 2-17-2021  
at 1:00pm**

Lyn Knowles will be telling us about her visit to John Wesley's London home.

**Cal-Pac Mid-Winter Event - Saturday  
2-20-2021 at 11:00am**

**Citrus Circle - Tuesday 2-23-2021 at  
7:00pm**

**For more information contact Lisa  
Laird 951-237-7112.**



## **February UMW Meeting Program**

Have you ever wanted to visit the John Wesley House in London? Lyn and Don Knowles visited the house and the museum in August 2019. The house is six floors tall, but visitors are only allowed on the bottom four floors. Lyn took hundreds of pictures, but has condensed them, and will condense them again before sharing them with you via zoom on Wednesday, February 17. A short unit meeting starts at 1:00pm with the tour of Wesley House to follow. We hope you can join us for a look at early Methodism.

## **UMW 2021 Yearbook**

Our 2021 Yearbooks will be ready for distribution soon. We would like to know first if you would prefer to have your yearbook in a digital format or in a hard copy booklet? (The digital copy would be printable.) Please, take a minute and give Patti Gardenias a call at 951-686-1490 to let her know what you would like.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Over the past five years our Prayer Shawl Ministry has made and given as gifts 150 beautiful prayer shawls. Thank you ladies. If you would be interested in knitting/crocheting a prayer shawl, please contact Lynn Ashworth at 951-684-4457 for more information.



## UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING

### Groundhog Day!

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men will be on Sunday, February 14th, starting at 11:15 AM, following church services. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom, and Pastor Kim will send out a Zoom meeting invitation to the entire congregation prior to the start of the meeting.

Our featured speaker for this meeting will be long-time member of the church, and co-founder of our music group "The Response," Mr. Wayne Speir. Wayne, Becky, and their family moved to Pennsylvania over a year ago, and we do miss them all very much! Wayne will fill us in on all of the doings of the Speir family, and also share some interesting local lore regarding Punxsutawney Phil, the famous Ground Hog. Wayne might even be able to tell us how many more weeks of winter are in store for us!

Please join us for this time of Fellowship. Everyone is invited!



A heartfelt thank you to our church family for your prayers and support at the time of my mother's passing; you have given us comfort and peace.

*Greg & Lisa Laird*



### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Kris Lovekin	1
Bill & Marjorie Wolter	8
Steve & Dorie Grimes	9
Mack & Elizabeth Davis	11
Stan & Jackie Cook	16

Myra Williams	11
Dorie Grimes	16
Yvonne Peters	19
Alice Wymer	19
Cindy Marr	20
Ron Purkey	21
Mary Boon	23

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Bob Bahnsen	2
Romeo Lardizibal	5
Michiko Reyes	7
Bill Ashworth	8
Pat Williams	8
Amit Roberts	11
Samir Roberts	11

Carmen Lonsbery	23
Christian Tupou	23
Carrie Renteria	25
Jeff Sluder	25
Dani Johnson-Cork	27
Michelle Arguelles	28
Connie Smith	29
Peggy Stepe	29
Patty Binford	31

### 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  
**Children's Ministry & Young**  
**Family Outreach Director:** Mateo Mamea  
**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!

# Let's Eat Out!

ONLINE FUNDRAISER BY THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY

Place your online pickup or delivery order from  
The Old Spaghetti Factory at OSF.com using the code:

## FMCHURCH

to help support the First Methodist Church.

**When you order online: February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Use the code at checkout and we will donate 10% of your total purchase  
(pre-tax) to help support the First Methodist Church.

Share this email and Let's Eat Out for a good cause!  
Fundraiser only available when you order online at OSF.com.

We're sorry, we cannot accept dine-in guests for this fundraiser.



February 14 is  
Valentine's Day!

Remember your sweetheart  
and order through AmazonSmile.

amazonsmile

