

THE MESSENGER

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

WE ARE THE NEW CHURCH!

(By Rev. J. T. Kim)



When the Hebrew people were in the Babylonian Exile (597-538 BCE), the only spiritual force that kept and sustained

them alive and hopeful was their unwavering faith in God who gave them the promise of the new future through God's prophets. Isaiah, as one of those faithful prophets, delivered God's message of "**restoration**" and "**protection**" to the Israelites through the Book of Isaiah:

**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine...**

**For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you...**

Do not fear, for I am with you...

(Isaiah 43:1b, 3-5, NRSV)

These words of faith and hope are still relevant and keep us moving forward as we are transitioning into the upcoming days from the over-a-year-long modern "exile" due to the pandemic. Even though we are

still confused, anxious, and uncertain about our new days ahead, we listen to God's voice written in the Bible in the new light and the new hope:

**Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?**

(Isaiah 43:18-19)

Yes, God is doing "**a new thing**" for all of us – here and now. And we are so excited about it! We can joyfully affirm that we are part of God's "New Creation." We are the "New Church!" And, by the grace of God, we are being planted as "New Branches" that are already being connected to the source of our life, the True Vine, Christ Jesus.

It is a new beginning and a new opportunity for a humble, yet joyous, start. It is a time for us to realize who we are and whose we are. It is a time for us to grow and thrive. It is a time for us to bear more fruit than ever. It is a time for us to engage in more outreach, more caring, and more loving ministries and missions.

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My Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

I cannot thank you all enough for your endurance, faithfulness, and loving support for the church that you have shown during the “lockdown” time. Even though our church’s physical campus was closed, you have been amazingly faithful to God by being an active and caring congregation! We will gather in-person for Sunday Worship very soon. The Church Council has decided to re-open our sanctuary on **June 20, 2021**, Father’s Day Sunday, upon the official approval from the District/Conference Re-Launch Team.

I would like you to be ready as the “New Church.” Please do not cling to **“the former things,”** or **“the things of old,”** if God is leading us to be the “New Church.” Let us humbly rely on the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can accomplish our mission to **“make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world,”** as a faithful and fruitful congregation! Thanks be to God!

Love and Blessings,

The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor



Family Promise of Riverside Has a Meeting June 7

FUMCOR is part of a coalition of church and community members working on the issue of housing and shelter with Family Promise of Riverside. The next organizing meeting for volunteers is 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 7 via Zoom.

Family Promise, which has 1,700 affiliates all over the U.S., uses volunteer labor and existing space in the community to shelter homeless families with children. While the Riverside chapter is relatively new, it is part of a national organization that has won top ratings from Charity Navigator for the past seven years.

It has a volunteer board, and a concrete plan to launch in Riverside. When it does, FUMCOR will be part of the effort to provide meals to families. We will take the food to another site four times each year. An upcoming fundraiser on June 26 is called “Night Without a Bed” and it helps raise awareness of the stress of not having stable shelter.

If you feel called to this meeting, contact krislovekin@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Tax-deductible donations can be made through the Website: <https://www.fpriverside.org/>

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



**United
Methodist
Women**
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN JUNE EVENTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE VIA ZOOM

All UMW and Circle meetings are virtual via Zoom. If you have not attended a meeting before and would like to, please contact Pam Conlin (951) 237-6570.

**Almond-Wesleyan Circle -
Monday, 6-14-2021 at 1:00pm**

**UMW Executive Board Meeting -
Wednesday, 6-16-2021 at 1:00pm**

**Citrus Circle -
Tuesday, 6-22,-2021 at 7:00pm**

**UMW Meeting -
Wednesday, 6-23-2021 at 1:00pm**

UMW Meeting

The June UMW Meeting is going to be a time to visit and catch up with friends. There will be a short business meeting, a time to share joys and concerns, and Spiritual Devotion. Please come!

Mission U

Mission U is virtual again this year. It begins June 21 and runs through July. There are many classes to choose from, including some for youth and children. Sign up today! You can attend from the comfort of your home.

Kiva Loans

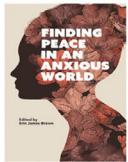
Our United Methodist Women continue to fund new Kiva loans to women entrepreneurs throughout the world. This month we funded four loans with money that had been repaid by previous loans. We had a bit over \$100 to lend, but EBay offered a 3X match, so our \$100 became \$300 of lending power. With our four new loans, we have now funded 43 loans to 42 different countries.

SAVE THE DATE

Living into the Church's Moral Witness

Cal-Pac United Methodist Women Virtual Mission u 2021

This year our studies are:



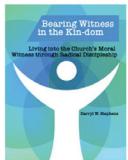
Finding Peace in an Anxious World

English: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (7:00-8:30PM) **OR**

English: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8 (2:00-3:30PM)

Tongan: July 30, August 1, 2 (7:00-9:00PM)

Spanish: July 10 & 24 (4:00-5:30PM), 17 & 31 (4:00-6:00PM), and August 7 (4:00-5:00PM)



Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

English: June 25 (7:00-9:00PM), 26 (1:00-3:00PM & 4:00-6:00PM), 27 (1:00-3:00PM) **OR**

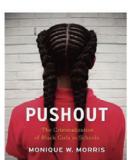
English: June 27, July 11, 18, 25 (4:00-6:00PM)

Tongan: July 10, 17, 24, 31 (4:00-6:00PM)

Spanish: July 7, 14, 21, 28 (10:00AM-12:00)

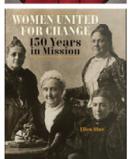
Korean: July 10, 17, 24 (1:00-3:00PM), 31 (1:00-2:30PM)

Bridging (combination young women & seasoned women):
June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 (7:00-8:30PM)



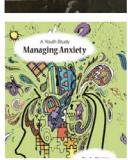
Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28 (7:30-9:00PM)



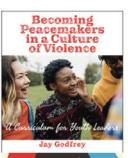
Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission

June 21, 28, July 5 (7:00-8:30PM)



Youth Study: Managing Anxiety (ages 12-17)

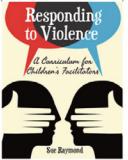
July 16 (5:00-7:00PM), 17 (10:00AM-12:00 & 1:30-3:30PM), 18 (2:00-4:00PM)



Youth Study: Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence

(ages 12-17)

July 9, 10 (12:00-4:00PM)



Children's Study: Responding to Violence (ages 6-11)

June 26, 27, July 10, 11 (1:00-3:00PM)

Studies are free. Invite a friend! You need not be part of UMW.

All are welcome to attend multiple studies. Please register at: calpacumc.org/umw

You can purchase your study books at:

unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-resources, Smile.Amazon, or Amazon Prime.

For more information, please contact Dean: Barbara Miller barbara@lantoga.net

Asst Dean: Phyllis Vea lisivea808@gmail.com

Registrar: Nicole Nonies nicolenonies2010@gmail.com



UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 13

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Sunday June 13th. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will start after worship service, beginning at 11:15 am. Pastor Kim will e-mail out a Zoom link to the entire congregation prior to the event.

Our speakers for this meeting will be our FUMCOR students who are currently participating in the scholarship programs sponsored by the church. We will hear from **Sophie Weiss, Jennifer Walker, Leslie Tomlinson, and Carmen Lonsbery**. Each of them will give us an update on their current studies and future plans, as well as other interesting things happening in their lives. Find out what it has been like to be studying in college during the pandemic, and how they have overcome these challenges in part due to the support of the church through these scholarship programs.

We also hope to have a report on the results of the UMM silent auction, which will help fund these scholarships in the coming year. Please refer to the on-line catalog at <https://firstchurchriverside.org/main2/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Master-Photo-List-8.pdf> To place a bid, please contact Greg Laird in the evening at (951)-237-9567. We're still accepting bids up until the deadline on May 30th at 9:00 pm. Thank you very much for your support!

A NOTE FROM WESLEY UMC'S HOPE ROOM OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you for all of your support. We have gone through all of our crock pots, mixers and microwaves. If you have any extra to share, we will pass them forward! Contact Lee Ann Salmon 951-906-6452 for pickup.

Thanks again for your continual support!

The Outreach Committee ❤

Youth Group News

What's Up FUMCOR Youth! You might have seen me through worship service on Facebook livestreaming or in one of the various videos we have made for the Children's Moments/Sunday School. My name is Mateo Mamea (you can call me Mr. Mat or Mr. Mamea, if you can't remember, don't worry I have also answered to "Hey...you..." lol).

I understand that the pandemic restrictions have been very difficult for the youth (probably more so than many age groups). I have witnessed so much strength in many people your age as new ways to spend time with friends and family are found through gaming, social media and the newest tech.

I hope to create, reinforce and expand how the church listens to the voices of the youth, while also passing along the narrative experience of the United Methodist Church. Together is how the church of tomorrow is built, and I look forward to hearing about each of your experiences as well as any questions. We will be reaching out to see how all of you are doing.

Special Session Youth Confirmation

Class: If anyone is interested that is already in the youth group (age 12-17) please contact me and we will set up dates and times to meet to complete a confirmation class for anyone who was not able to because of the pandemic. If you recently turned 18, please inform me and we can set a class up for you as well. Email: childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

SafeGatherings Certification is an important aspect of our Youth ministry at FUMCOR because it informs visitors and guests that we hold ourselves accountable to a higher standard of care and are transparent in the programs we offer. Making the Youth's safety is a top priority.

If you would like to volunteer to assist in the Youth Ministry Program, please notify us of your interest and any hobbies or skills you would like to share (reading/teaching/drawing/crafting/singing/music/etc.) at childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org or call us at (951) 683-7831 and leave a message.

Looking forward to the new ways of understanding,

Mateo Lavea Mamea

Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
First United Methodist Church of Riverside





JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Ruth Walker
Sigmar & Debbie Hofmann
William & Margaret Waite

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Gigi Johnson-Handen
Dan Lonsbery
Tracy Salyer
Valerie Othon
Juliet Lardizabal
Delaney Britain
Debbie Hofmann
Adrienne Austin-Knight
Delphine Sims
Judy Bello
Lee Bayer

	Alina Girke	10
18	Michael Thompson	15
21	Paulette Bruggeman	15
28	David Fraser	15
	Esther Kim	15
	Donna Woodard	17
1	Dena Kirkwood	17
4	Mateo Mamea	17
5	Kaley Weakly	18
5	Mele Tupou	18
5	Jessie Erickson	22
5	Elizabeth Updegraff	23
6	Linda Rydzik	24
7	Margaret Waite	26
8	India Lovekin	27
9	Ruth Walker	27
9	Brian Tomlinson	28
9	Pat Beals	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
Director of Children & Youth Ministries: 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!

KIDS CORNER



Greetings from the Kids Corner!
Thank you to all that volunteer their time and resources to help create a space of spiritual education and growth for

all the children here at FUMCOR and in our community.

Time for a hearty chuckle:

How does Moses make tea?

HE BREWS

Kid Joke found at: <https://www.rd.com/list/short-jokes/>
[NICOLE FORNABAIO/RD.COM]

Let's talk about the events from last month (May):

- Mother's Day: On family Sunday, what a blessing to witness.
- Sunday School Video Lessons: Continuing On...growing and exploring.
- Lord's Prayer: Thank you for participating in new ways and expanding worship.

Upcoming events:

- Vacation Bible School Theatre 2021 at FUMCOR
 - o Dates will be July 5th - July 9th (Registration Starts: May 24, 2021).
 - o Volunteers: We need people that are willing to and want to participate in making video content and possible in-person gatherings.
- Coming Soon! FUMCOR Children's Corner News
 - o Are there any Newsworthy stories or topics you would like presented or discussed? Email:
childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Kid Questions: For inquiring minds, we pray that we should always be teachable. Is there a question that you or your child have about Jesus/God/Church/Religion or even about Theology? Is there a question you would like to ask and hear the kids answer? Submit your questions and we will put on our thinking caps and see what the children can come up with.

Explore: Each month let's go explore! This month let's learn a new word or phrase in another language! Ask your parents for help and find ways to learn the many languages of God's children. What word or phrase was learned, how it was found, and why it is important? Email your new words and phrases to:

childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

That way we all might understand each other better, as Jesus teaches to love our neighbor.

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