

THE MESSENGER

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

“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR; DO NO HARM”

Dear First United Methodist Church of Riverside Family and Friends:

No one likes getting shots, right? However, I do get a flu shot every year, just as my children got their necessary shots to go to school. It is a good thing that the school system requires all kind of immunizations to protect everyone in school. Even my two family dogs get shots regularly, because we want to take good care of them.

I, along with my whole family, am fully vaccinated for COVID-19 because it is not just for myself, but for others. Surely, I trust science and medicine, respecting and listening to scientists and medical doctors and professionals as they discuss these life and death concerns. But also, getting vaccinated is one of the practical ways of following the Biblical mandate, “Love your neighbor” (Mark 12:31), and John Wesley’s “Do No Harm” rule (Wesley’s Three Simple Rules). This is a factbox from the New York Times of July 26, 2021:

Vaccinated people are nearly guaranteed not to be hospitalized or killed by Covid.

Among children under 12, who remain ineligible for the vaccine, serious forms of Covid are also extremely rare. Children face bigger risks when they ride in a car.

The Delta variant does not appear to change either of those facts.

Millions of unvaccinated American adults are vulnerable to hospitalization or death from Covid.

Given all of this, the most effective Covid-fighting strategy is obviously to get vaccinated now. I hope and trust that most of our congregation members have been fully vaccinated, even though no survey has been done.

As your Pastor, who loves you and cares for you and your loved ones, I implore you to check with your physician and get vaccinated NOW if you have not done so yet. I am confident that this is the best way of showing your love to God and to people, especially in this ever-challenging time. Thanks be to God!

Love and Blessings,
The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor



*May the Lord make
you increase and
abound in love
for one another
and for all ...*



1 THESSALONIANS 3:12, NRSV

Stephen Ministry at FUMCOR

Stephen Ministry is part of FUMCOR's Caring Ministry. It provides one-on-one Christian care to those in our church who are hurting in some way. Stephen Ministry links church members in need with well-trained, compassionate lay people in our church to ease their suffering.

Here are some guiding principles for our Stephen Ministry:

- We believe no one should feel alone in our church, especially during a personal crisis. No one should have to bear their burdens, cares, worries and pain alone. A Stephen Minister listens, expresses care and concern, prays with, supports and encourages those they serve. All of this they do as Christ's ambassadors of grace and hope.
- We know our Pastor needs our help in caring ministry. There is too much need to expect him to do it all alone.
- Christ calls us to love one another. Stephen Ministry offers a vehicle for ordinary Christians to reach out to comfort those in need with one-on-one caring. Responding to Christ's call to love one another, Stephen Ministry is a tangible, and action-oriented way of expressing love.

- Stephen Ministry offers a unique opportunity for both the Stephen Minister, and the person they care for, to grow spiritually, to deepen their faith in God's healing power, and to seek God's help in all that we say and do.

Here are some ways you can support FUMCOR's Stephen Ministry. 1.) **Pray** for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry. 2.) **Accept care** from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone. 3.) **Tell a friend** at FUMCOR or one of their family members who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry. 4.) **Prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.**

Currently, we have five church members serving as Stephen Ministers. David Fraser, Marie Madden, Lynn Ashworth, Allison George and Greg Laird. We are looking for another five to ten church members to join our next training to become Stephen Ministers. Please join us in this vital ministry by contacting David Fraser, (Co-leader with Marie) by email at: stephenministry@firstchurchriverside.org or by cell phone at 951-205-6504.



UMW will have no meetings in August.

SAVE THE DATE

On Wednesday, September 15, at 7:00 PM our United Methodist Women will host Opal Singleton Hendershot from “One Million Kids.” Opal is a nationally recognized expert on child trafficking and travels the US training police and sheriff’s departments.

We made September an evening meeting so working moms could attend. Moms and grandmas (as well as dads and grandpas) should anticipate learning about the role of technology and social media in modern trafficking.

We hope to hold the meeting in person, but if covid requirements prevent that, the meeting will be via Zoom.

A-V Team Volunteers Needed

The Audio-Visual team is looking for volunteers to help with the Sunday Service. No previous experience is required, as the A-V team will train new members. Volunteers should be comfortable with technology as the system is completely digital. In addition, the starting time on Sundays is 8:30 AM. Anyone interested, please visit the sound booth after service.

Our Church at Work



FUMCOR donated two SUV’s full of school supplies, toiletries, and snacks to Sherman Indian High School.



Cindy Marr represents Church & Society Committee as she makes the delivery.



Cindy Qualtieri, UMW president, delivers activity bags to the Riverside Police Department. The activity bags are then distributed to all of the stations so children can read, color, play, or cuddle with a small stuffed animal while they wait for a relative or Child Protective Services to pick them up.

History Corner

A vandal (likely someone in despair) threw a rock at the church and it went through one of the stained glass windows on the patio side of the church. This window depicts the prophet Jeremiah with a scroll of prophecy and chains around his wrists. Fortunately, the rock did not hit any of the figure of Jeremiah, which will make it easier to repair. But now that our attention is on it, let us remember how this gift came to the church.

Miss Jessie Hooker, an active member of the church, dedicated this window to her parents, Charles A. Hooker and Sarah Hooker. As Jessie Hooker never married and had no children, her will specified that her entire estate would go to the First United Methodist Church. That included her house.

"She died in April 1973 when I was nine," remembered Mike Alfred, who was confirmed at the church a few years later. "Her home on Ramona Drive became the second parsonage." Rev. Swedenburg and his family lived there briefly, and then Rev. Ben Youngblood



Mike Alfred

and his family moved in July 1974. "Their older son Neal and I were exactly the same age and quickly became friends," Mike Alfred remembered. "I was often in the house and Miss Hooker still had a "presence," especially with church members who knew her."

He said the room where the children slept had been the "bird room." Miss Hooker would leave the windows open so the birds could come in for seed and she could enjoy their singing. A generous spirit, indeed.

Jessie is buried with her parents at Evergreen Cemetery. There is a prominent marker. She was a prolific writer and she left scrapbooks of her own writings and newspaper clippings about Biblical archeology to the church. Eventually the church sold "Hooker House," (we never got tired of this joke.) Proceeds helped to fund church operations.

Is there a bit of history that you would like to know about First Church? Contact Kris.Lovekin@gmail.com

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!



FUMCOR Youth

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.

Camp, Sierra Service Projects, Youth Conventions and so many more summer activity event options are all opening this year. If you are interested in something specific or not sure, then contact me and I will try to find something that fits your interests.

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.

Youth Sunday School: We will begin meeting August 15th at 11:15am after church service, until 12:00 pm. Parents are welcome to join as observers or as volunteers (contact me for more information), it will be a 'introduction style' meeting and to find out the interests of the youth.

UMYF Night: TBD – traditionally it is

held in the evenings but may be moved to better fit the schedules of the youth and their families. We will build a time schedule upon further information.

Youth Confirmation Class: If anyone is entering into 7th grade, or that is already in the youth group (age 12-17) please contact me, and we will set up dates & times to meet to complete a confirmation class for anyone who was not able to because of the pandemic. Classes are going to begin soon, so please contact me as soon as possible.

Re-Affirmation of Faith: If you recently turned 18, please inform me and we can set up a class for you as well. We will begin meeting soon, so please contact me as soon as possible.

Email:

youthdirector@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.

Mateo Lavea Mamea

Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

First United Methodist Church of Riverside





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|--------------------------------|----|------------------|----|
| SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES | | Carli Renteria | 8 |
| | | Bob Nelson | 9 |
| Robert & Linda Hice | 3 | Dianne Purkey | 9 |
| Ronald & Dianne Purkey | 7 | John Zeeb | 10 |
| Dan & Dani Cork | 11 | Alissa Britain | 11 |
| Eric & Jennifer Mahl | 13 | Michael McIver | 17 |
| John & Katrina Zeeb | 16 | Billy Gwira | 21 |
| Jonathon & Melissa Williams | 17 | Scott Kirkwood | 21 |
| Matt Gorder & Anita Kramer | 22 | Linda Kraft | 22 |
| | | Joyce Brown | 23 |
| SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS | | Gretel Noble | 23 |
| Elizabeth Davis | 1 | David Rajaratnam | 24 |
| Michael Othon | 1 | Marie Madden | 27 |
| Harmoni Green | 7 | | |

FUMCOR Members Urged to Continue Giving

FUMCOR’s Finance Committee is urging members to continue their generous support of the church during the summer months. Typically, giving drops off over the summer and it is important that everyone continue to fulfill their pledges and to give as best as they are able.

There is still time, even up until about October, to make a pledge to FUMCOR. We have not reached our budget goal for pledged giving and your pledge now can make a difference.

In September, the Finance Committee will be taking up the challenge of creating a budget for 2022. The committee relies heavily on how well we’ve been able to meet our projected expenses through our revenues – pledged and other giving plus our other sources of income. We’d like to continue to financially support our worship and our church’s ministries at similar levels as in the past few years, but this greatly depends on pledges and projected giving. From the start of the Covid pandemic to the present, our church members have been generous in their support, remarkable given the challenges we’ve faced this past year. Please continue to give generously.

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:

(Kid Joke found at: <https://www.rd.com/jokes/religion/>)

FLOOD OF REQUESTS

If anyone needs an ark, I happen to Noah guy.



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

- Vacation Bible School Theatre 2021 @FUMCOR: In-person VBS was a success! We hosted 20 children this year from Preschool to 6th grade levels. We went through the Scripture and learned many lessons, while being creative, expressive and making new friends! Next year we plan to host 100 children, so if you are interested in the planning, feeding, teaching or activities as a volunteer, please let me know.
- Kid's Corner: Make sure to look for Kid's Corner Activity Packs prepared and ready for the children in the narthex (or ask an Usher for one).
- Lord's Prayer: It is always a blessing to witness the children recite the Lord's Prayer. Thank you to the children of VBS for the July installment. If you or your child are interested, email me [email listed below].

Upcoming events:

- Children's Sunday School is starting on August 15th following Children's Time. The children will follow their teachers to their perspective classes and will meet their parents at Fellowship Hall to be signed out.

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
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 find a way to help our neighbors! Ask your parents for help and find new ways to help your neighborhood. What did your family decide on? And what was something that stuck out to you? Growing up in my family would help by picking up trash in the neighborhood. Email your pictures of you and your family helping your neighborhood or tell us how it went to:

childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

When we help out our neighbors we become a better community, as God's children.

SafeGatherings Certification is an important aspect of our children's ministry 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 children's safety our first priority. If you would like to volunteer to assist in a children's 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.

Mateo Lavea Mamea

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

“Love One Another”

How the Caring Ministry Manifests Christ’s Entreaty

A few weeks ago, our Lay Leader, Loretta Cudney told us in the Sunday service that no one in the church should feel alone. The church is a place to feel cared for, welcomed, and recognized. Christ entreated us to “love one another.” Christ manifested his love while he was among us by healing the sick, caring for those who are grieving and reaching out to those who are shunned or dispossessed.

Manifesting Christ’s call to love one another has a long tradition at FUMCOR. The United Methodist Women, and several other groups and individuals at our church have been sending get well cards, condolences and reaching out to fellow church members for years.

While the Caring Ministry is not new, the idea of formalizing and organizing the various efforts of church members to love one another was placed under the auspice of a new Caring Ministry with David Fraser as Chair. The Caring Ministry will coordinate the efforts of our various groups engaged in caring activities within our church. Pastor Kim initiated the forming of the Caring Ministry and gave it his blessing over a year ago. It’s taken some time to get things rolling.

FUMCOR’s Stephen Ministry falls under the Caring Ministry umbrella. For several months now, a small team has begun making regular contact with church members by phone, email, cards, or letters. Lee Bayer, David Fraser, Patti Gardenias, Sarah Overton, and Breanna Marshall contact 10-15 church members each on a regular basis. They check on how the church member is doing. They find out if the church member has any prayer requests that they would like passed on to the Pastor to be lifted up in the Sunday service and/or to be included in the prayer request email blasts that are sent out from the church

office. The team members are also sending birthday cards, and other special occasion notes and cards. Team members have found the work gratifying and church members appreciate the contact they receive.

The Caring Ministry Team meets monthly to discuss issues and concerns that come up in their work of reaching out to members. This is a time for sharing concerns and finding support from other team members. In-service trainings will also be offered as needs are identified.

There are many ways to manifest Christ’s call to love one another at FUMCOR. Ministry to church members, including The Caring Ministry Team, Stephen Ministry, Helping Hands (Greg Laird and his team), the United Methodist Women’s work in sending out greeting cards and sympathy notes as well as their Prayer Shaw Ministry. Back in late January 2021, Kris Lovekin initiated an effort to call all our older church members to assist in getting their Covid vaccine. Many people were having a difficult time navigating the system to get their shots. Several church members joined Kris in offering this help. There are various efforts conducted by Church & Society such as the Hunger Ministry and the Alternative Gift Fair that go beyond serving church members. There are so many ways to get involved in sharing Christ’s love.

The Caring Ministry believes that as we strengthen our ties with one another (ties that bind), we will find greater strength and support to engage in sharing Christ’s love with others. The Caring Ministry team needs more people to help us cover the church’s membership. Please join us in this ministry to others. If you would like to join the Caring Ministry Team, or any of the many programs mentioned here, please contact David Fraser at stephenministry@firstchurchriverside.org or by cell phone at 951-205-6504.