

THE MESSENGER

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

WELCOME BACK!

(By Rev. J. T. Kim)

Dear First United Methodist Church of Riverside Family and Friends:

It was a truly pure joy for all of us who gathered in person for Sunday Worship on June 20, 2021. Everyone was excited to come back for worship in the sanctuary and fellowship on the patio that we have missed for the past 15 months during the pandemic lockdown time.

We are very grateful to God for us to be united again in-person as a faithful congregation! I cannot thank you – each and every one of you – enough for being an amazing congregation!

As I have already mentioned to the congregation during Sunday Worship on June 20th, please rejoice with me that, by God's grace, I, as your Pastor, have been re-appointed to First UMC of Riverside for another pastoral year (2021-2022), effective July 1, 2021. I cannot believe that I am entering into my 6th year with you! Thank you so much for your unwavering love, fervent prayers, and sincere support that you have shown me for the past 5 years.

Especially, your steadfast love and faithfulness to God and to the Church that you have

shown during the COVID-19 crisis is greatly commendable and appreciated! Thank you for staying with me and with the Church leadership as we have strived to be alive and connected in the Spirit despite many challenges and restrictions during this unprecedented time.

I am confident that we, as the "New" Church, will love God and share God's love with our neighbors more than ever with the power of the Holy Spirit! Let us be a Spirit-filled Body of Christ! Apostle Paul proclaims, **"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ"** (Philippians 1:6).

One of the highlights during the summer-time will be our Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the Children (Preschool through 5th Grade) that will be held from Monday (July 5th) through Friday (July 9th), 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Fellowship Hall). Please pray for Mateo Mamea, our Director of Children & Youth Ministries, all the teachers and volunteers (you can still volunteer, if possible and willing; please contact Mateo) and the children for God's presence and safety.

Thanks be to God!

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

Sherman Indian High School is Focus of a New Project Set for July 11

The FUMCOR Church and Society Committee will be gathering school supplies for the students at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside. This is one of four residential schools for Native Americans still operated by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Cal-Pac Conference of the United Methodist Church consulted with the school and came up with a list of needed items for reopening this August. The following are items being collected: College ruled notebook paper; notebooks; #2 pencils; art supplies; backpacks; large beach towels; XL twin comforters; hygiene items; snacks (shelf stable cheese & crackers, peanut butter & crackers, ramen, etc.).

Bring items to church on Sunday, July 11 and Lyn Knowles and Cindy Marr will deliver them to Sherman during the week.

While the earliest history of the school in Riverside forced children to give up their native traditions, the current version of the high school on Magnolia Avenue is controlled by Native Americans with a curriculum that emphasizes American Indian history, languages and cultures. Students come from great distances to Riverside and arrive with just some basic clothing, so donations are appreciated.

“FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE PEOPLE, CHANGE THE WORLD”



Our Church is All About the People and Their Talents

There is really nothing like singing and praying together where you can hear each other. That is what happened on Sunday, June 20 after 15 months of the pandemic. We were allowed to come back into the sanctuary for an exciting yet familiar family reunion.

As The Response sang in one song, “It is time for us to more than just survive.” We will continue to stream worship services over Facebook Live. Worshipping both in person and online means that we will still be including some videos, worship leaders will be trying to greet those online, and we will be keeping worship services as streamlined as we can so there is not much down time.

One of the reasons we can do both kinds of worship effectively is due to the power of FUMCOR people. The Lonsbery family put together old and new equipment, learned new camera angles and techniques and made our services as organized as possible. Not every church is so fortunate.

Next, we would like to train a few more people about how to broadcast live, so the Lonsbery family can take a vacation if they want to. If you might be willing, stop by the sound booth after church!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

See You in September

There will be no meetings in July and August. We are hoping that come September we will be able to return to more normal in-person meetings, but if not we will continue with Zoom.

Don't forget, there are books available in the Church Library for the UMW Reading Program.

Have a wonderful summer!



The United Methodist Men will not meet in July or August while we are on a Summer break. We plan to resume our monthly meetings in September, with the possibility that we will be back to meeting in person in Fellowship Hall for lunch. Please keep your fingers crossed!

We wanted to thank everyone for their participation and support of this year's "virtual" Silent Auction, which concluded at the end of May. We successfully raised over \$2,000 to help support our FUMCOR students! We hosted those students at our June meeting via Zoom, and heard from Sophie Weiss, Leslie Tomlinson, Jennifer Walker, and Carmen Lonsbery regarding their recent studies and future plans.

A very special thank you is due for Mr. Bob Nelson, who was the driving force in making the Silent Auction happen this year. Bob, our students are very grateful for your efforts, as well as those of Greg Laird, Ron Bayer, and Daryl Salmon.

Enjoy the summer!

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!

Make Your Church Thrive

Behind the scenes, our church endowment funds come to our rescue. Both the regular operating expenses and periodic building improvements draw on funds built up by former members. For instance, recent vandalism broke one of the sanctuary's stained glass windows and endowment funds are there to draw on for the repair.

But what about future needs of the church? How can you make a legacy gift to the endowment fund?

I'm glad you asked.

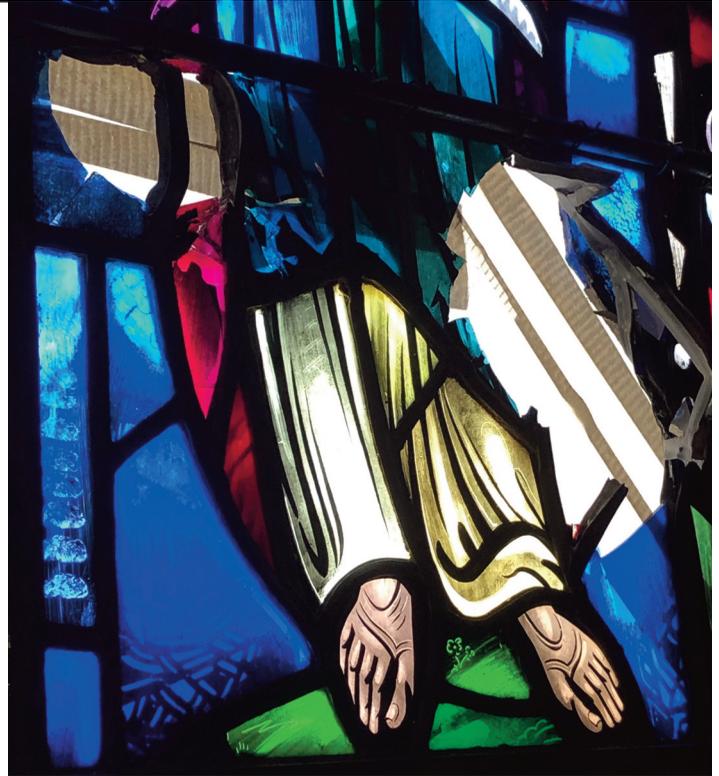
The Estate Planning Committee/Capital Committee is made up of Bill Ashworth, Bob Nelson, our pastor and lay leaders. They wonder if you are in a position to put something in your own will or trust.

"We want to stress how much this would mean to your church in coming years," said Bob Nelson.

Generally, bequests should contribute to the long-term ministry of the church, so unrestricted cash, stock and bonds are always a good option.

Gifts should come with few complications.

For instance, real estate, jewelry or other items should be sold by the



executor of the estate with proceeds designated for the church. The committee manages the funds and they are glad to talk about bequests. However, donors must work with their own attorney on drafting the bequest and tax impacts of the gift.

It is a safe bet that a bequest to maintain stained glass windows will always be useful, or money to support the music of the church, or children's ministry or youth ministry. If you have questions about other ways to use your bequest, please talk to the committee.



Come to our Parking Lot

to see the Fireworks at the Park

July 4, opens 6:00 pm, \$5 per car



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. 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).

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. 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 & 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.

Sunday Youth Group: We will begin meeting July 17th at 11:30am (the Sunday after VBS Sunday) after church service. Parents are welcome to join; it will be an 'introductory style' meeting and to find out the interests of the youth.

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.

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 youthdirector@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





August BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Derek & Elizabeth Updegraff	7
Mateo & Nidia Mamea	8
Dale & Jean Grout	20

Velma Wellborn	13
Michael Noble	15
LuEtta Dodge	16
Loretta Cudney	17
Cindy Qualtieri	17

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Addyson Erickson	4
Ian George	4
Annie Clark	5
Paloma Clark	5
Patti Gardenias	5
Cheryl Hanrahan	5
Tim Noble	9
Ruben Renteria	9
Nidia Mamea	10

Yvonne Flagg	18
Marcia Bales	21
Joan Brown	23
James Son	26
Sophie Weiss	26
Jean Grout	29
Chalmer Tomlinson	29
Lou Santino	30
Rosette Sims	30
Stan Cook	31

Yes, We Are Still Collecting Medicine Bottles

We are collecting medicine bottles again. If you do not peel off your contact information before the donation, personal information will be removed before sending the bottles on their way. Please do not black out your personal information with a marker. The marker creates a big mess.



We are also collecting glasses: prescription, readers, sunglasses and their cases. If you do not have an eye glass case, please put your glasses inside an old sock or something that will protect the lenses from scratching.

There is a clearly marked box in the Narthex ready for your donations.

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/one-liners/>
-Early Morning Revelations-

I woke up this morning
and forgot which side the sun rises from...
then it dawned on me.

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

- Father's Day: We were able to celebrate Father's Day in-person and on family Sunday.
- FUMCOR In-person Worship! 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: Always a blessing to witness the children learning & reciting, thank you Kristen for the June installment. If you or your child are interested, email me [email listed below].

Upcoming Events:

- Vacation Bible School Theatre 2021 @FUMCOR
 - o Dates will be July 5th - July 9th (Registration open until July 6th).
 - 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 game or activity! Ask your parents for help and find new games to play or games that they played as children. What is your favorite game? And what was the new game you learned? My favorite game as a kid was building forts. Email your new words and phrases to: childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org When we learn to play together we learn how to better live together, as God's children.

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