

# THE MESSENGER

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

## IT ALL BEGINS WITH YOU

Dear Church Family & Friends:

I wish you a Happy September! It is a time for "Back to School," "Back to Church," and "Back to Faith." Even though the coronavirus pandemic is still going on and we must remember vaccines and masks, we, Christians, must make sure we know whose we are, and what we are called to do in this time of uncertainty.

On Sunday, August 22nd, we were so blessed to receive and welcome our two new members, Lucinda Edmunds and Amelia Nieto, as we renewed our covenant as a faithful Body of Christ. I am confident that we will be able to welcome more church family members through your caring love, fervent prayer, and constant outreach.

Apostle Paul proclaims, in Acts 20:24 (NIV), "**However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.**"

Are you also sharing the good news? We are all disciples of Jesus Christ, regardless of our profession, background, or gifts. We were all called by Christ to be part of the Great Commission!

Our area of outreach is large, and River-

side is now a city of 315,000 people, according to the 2020 Census. So many souls are longing for you to reach out your hand.

We want to grow and thrive as a congregation, with many more families bringing children and youth to learn about Christ's love. Do not rely on "someone else" to do that. Reach out personally.

True church growth does not come from marketing strategies or adopting the latest church trends. If we rely on these human efforts, crafts, and styles, we are building a house on sand.

When you are firmly standing on the foundation of Christ and when you are genuinely reaching out to at least one person as a caring friend by sharing your love and joy, the Holy Spirit will empower you, guide you, and strengthen you and the person you are reaching.

Welcome to September! It is a "Back to the Living Bread" time! Jesus is calling you to come back to him for the Eternal Bread for your journey. Bring a friend to share that bread. Yes, it all begins with you! Be strong and courageous! Thanks be to God!

Blessings, *The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor*



## Learn about Family Promise at UMM

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Sunday, September 12. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will start after worship service, beginning at 11:30 AM. Pastor Kim will e-mail out a Zoom link to the entire congregation prior to the event. Note that we are starting this Zoom meeting 15 minutes later than previously in order to allow everyone to get home from church, before the meeting starts.



Our two speakers for this meeting will be Lyn Knowles and Kris Lovekin. Lyn and Kris will present an overview about the organization, and tell us how First UMC can help with this important ministry.

Family Promise of Riverside is a local chapter of a national organization that focuses on helping homeless families with children. Volunteers provide meals, shelter, and transportation. A professional social worker finds resources like job training or personal coaching. First UMC is a partner church and Wesley UMC has signed up as a host church. While the doors are not yet open, Family Promise of Riverside has an active volunteer board, a donated van, and a donated day-care center. The board works closely with the City of Riverside homeless services as they choose the families who will participate.

Please join us on Zoom on Sunday, September 12, at 11:30 AM, to learn how we can help support this group.

## Dr. Ken Miller Leaves a Legacy of Giving

There are many ways to support your church such as: serving on committees, working on projects, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, and financial giving.

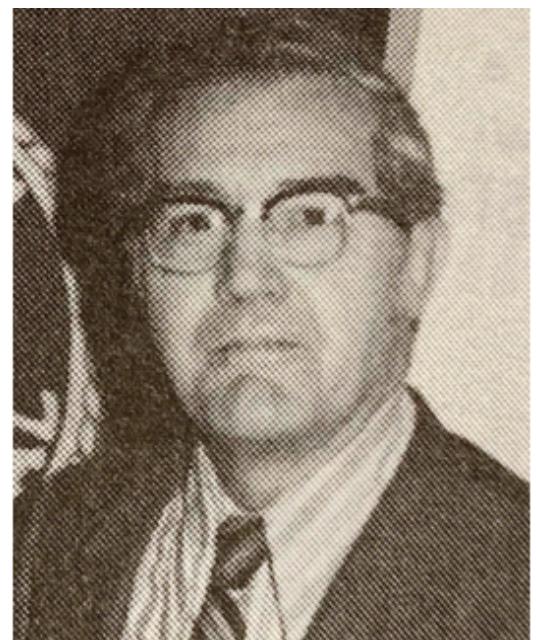
Once a month for the next several months, we plan to highlight a Plan for Legacy Giving, an area of giving that may not be so obvious: remembering FUMCOR in your estate settlement at the time of death.

We will also be highlighting several members who gave well beyond the call of duty with their time and talents of Christian love and labor to bless our Church.

Today we begin by taking a moment to remember and honor a former Pastor of our church, the Rev. Ken Miller (picture on the right) who served as our Sr. Pastor for 10 years, starting in 1967.

Rev. Miller is remembered by many as the man who, besides his tremendous other Pastoral talents, took time to talk with members - one on one, about leaving a lasting legacy to this congregation. The fruits of his labors have served the Lord and our Church very well and continue to bless us in so many ways.

Let's Remember and Honor Pastor Ken Miller today for his Legacy efforts and so much more. In future months, (on the second Sunday of the month) we will be noting some of those legacy gifts and donors. Thank you for giving this some thought in your own Estate planning.





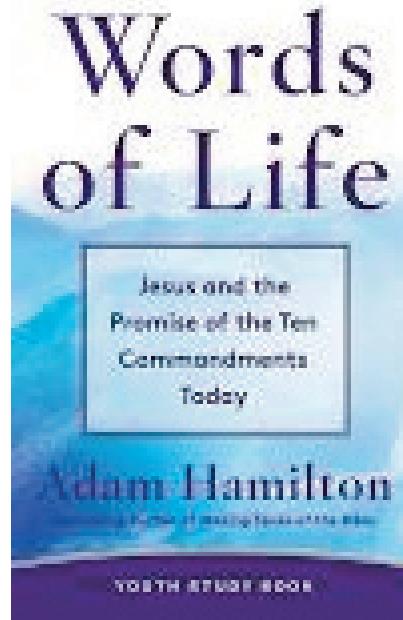
United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND UMW's SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Parents and grandparents of pre-teen or teenage children are encouraged to attend the September UMW program featuring Opal Singleton. She is the director of "Million Kids" and an expert on human trafficking. She trains law enforcement personnel, has a Saturday morning radio program, and a podcast of the radio show and insider alerts. She provides free community workshops offered online through San Bernardino County.

How do you recognize human trafficking? What should you do if you see it? How is social media used as a source to entrap unknowing youth (male and female)? What bills are before the CA Assembly that would: restrict/prevent/punish traffickers?

Come learn important information that is not often freely spoken of. If you are on the UMW unit mailing list, you will automatically receive an invitation to the ZOOM meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm. We have made this an evening meeting to enable those who work to attend. If you are not on the UMW unit mailing list and would like to attend, please contact Pam Conlin at 951-237-5470.



The Ten Commandments are more than a series of "Thou shalt nots." Jesus looked behind the rules to the condition of the heart each commandment was meant to address.

Beginning on Thursday evening, September 9, UMW is beginning a 6-week study of Words of Life, Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today by Adam Hamilton. Please contact Lyn Knowles, (951) 737-3541, if you would like to attend. The study will be held via zoom. A social time will start at 6:45 pm, with the study to begin at 7:00 pm

As Adam Hamilton says, "The commandments don't merely tell us what not to do. They point us, positively, toward how we're meant to live our lives - towards God's will for us in the midst of our deepest struggles." Don't struggle alone. Join us as we focus on God's will for us. This study is a joint Corona and First Riverside UMW bible study, but you don't have to be active in UMW to participate in the study. Please join us.

## *UMW Continued*

### **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

We had hoped that we could be meeting in person by now, but because of the new Covid variant our UMW and Circle meetings are going to remain on Zoom. If you haven't received an invitation in the past and wish to attend call the contact number for the meeting you wish to attend. All ladies are invited and very welcomed to come.

**9-8-2021 1:00pm UMW Executive Board Meeting**

**9-9-2021 6:45pm Corona UMC/First UMC Bible Study** (meets every Thursday at 6:45pm for social time and the Bible Study will start at 7:00pm).

If you haven't attended before, please contact Lyn Knowles for a Zoom invitation 951-737-3541.

**9-13-2021 1:00pm Almond-Wesleyan Circle**

If you haven't attended, before please contact Pam Conlin for a Zoom invitation, 951-237-5970.

**9-15-2021 7:00pm UMW Meeting**

This meeting is open to the entire church.

Program: Child Trafficking

If you haven't attend before please contact Pam Conlin for a Zoom invitation, 951-237-5970.

**9-28-2021 7:00pm Citrus Circle**

If you haven't attended before, please contact Lisa Laird for a Zoom invitation, 951-237-7112.

### **Dorothy & Robert Wilson**

Some of you might remember church members Dorothy and Robert Wilson. Dorothy passed away on June 22, 2021 at the age of 92. She and Robert had moved to Oregon in 2006 to be with their daughter. Robert passed away in 2011.



**Bob & Dorothy Wilson**

#### **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!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

FUMCOR offers a big welcome to our two new members: Amelia Nieto and Lucinda Edmunds. We are glad to be growing our church and adding new talents. Do you have a friend you can invite?

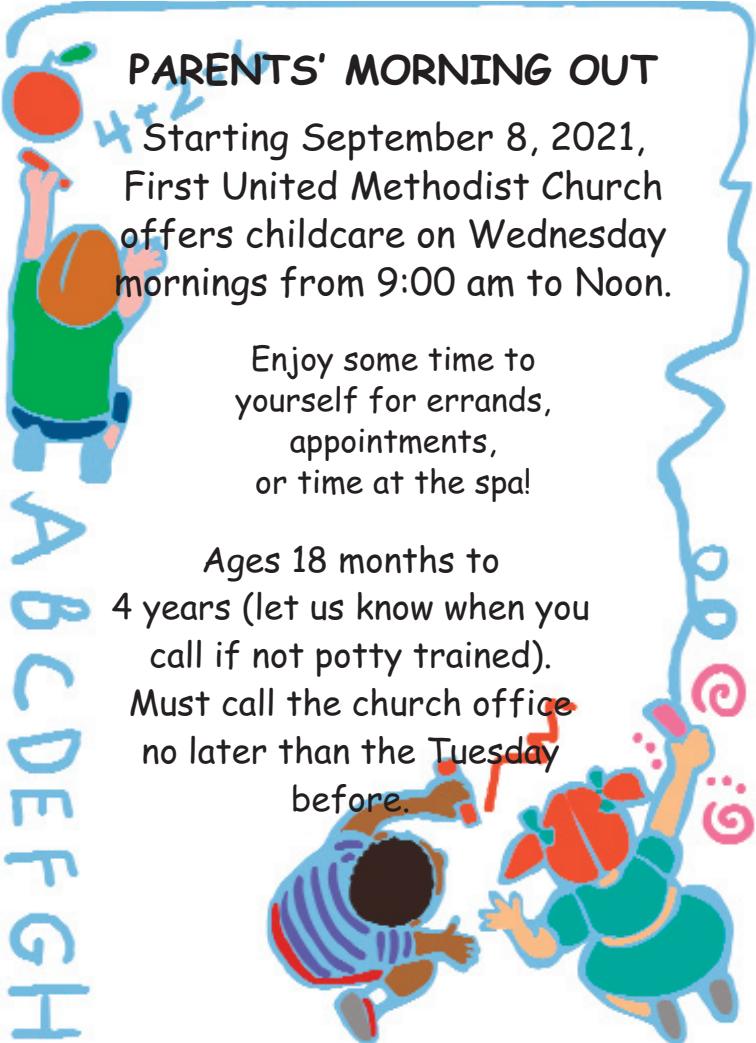


## PARENTS' MORNING OUT

Starting September 8, 2021, First United Methodist Church offers childcare on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 am to Noon.

Enjoy some time to yourself for errands, appointments, or time at the spa!

Ages 18 months to 4 years (let us know when you call if not potty trained). Must call the church office no later than the Tuesday before.



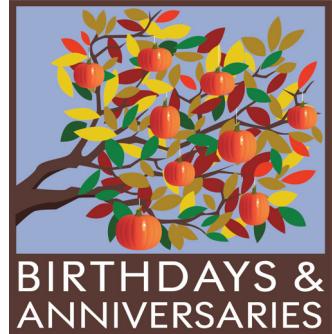
951-683-7831

Cost is \$20 per child, payable by cash or check.

(Sorry, we cannot accept walk-ins.)



# OCTOBER



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Romeo & Juliet Lardizabal  
Tim & Dana Traver  
Roy & Cheryl Riggs  
David & Sarah Fraser

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Lou Kerrick  
Lillian Popko  
Shirley Parks  
Micheline Scoggins  
Melva Cooke  
Norma Nelson  
Kim Earhart

	Rolando Arguelles	5
	Matt Gorder	8
5	John McDonald	8
12	Steve Walker	9
19	Bev DeFrance	11
20	Barbara Spencer	11
	Jules Ream	13
	Liz Jennings	15
1	Jonathon Williams	18
1	Susan Straight	19
2	Susan Tomlinson	21
2	Doris Washburn	21
3	Jim Conlin	23
3	Sabrina Gilbert	24
4	Allyson Angel	26



## ADD YOUR VOICE!

## SING WITH THE ALDERSGATE CHORALE!

Has God blessed you with musical talent? Perhaps you should sing with the Aldersgate Chorale. Our purpose is to serve our Lord and minister to our congregation with sacred song. We sing a variety of styles of sacred music, and welcome singers of all ages. Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 9, 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the choir room. And, for our safety, I have ordered masks especially designed to protect singers from Covid. Come and join us!

Please contact me or a choir member if you have any questions.

*Yvonne Flagg, Choir Director*

## 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.



MATEO

Let us laugh! **Kid Joke** found at:

<https://www.rd.com/jokes/religion/page/2/>

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking them, "Does anyone know what the bishop does?" There was silence. But finally, one little boy answered gravely, "He's the one you can move diagonally."

**Sunday School 2021-2022 has begun!** Parents please sign in children and youth in the Narthex so we know who will be joining us each week. We will be holding Sunday School in Fellowship Hall, following Children's Time (during service) and will be waiting in Fellowship Hall after service.

**Explore:** What is your favorite thing about this time of year? The changing of seasons, school beginning, or maybe because it is that much closer to all the holidays? Find something new in your neighborhood for you and your friends or family to talk about, ask about why and how it affects you and listen to your friend or family's response.

If you would like to volunteer, have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact me at: [childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org](mailto:childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org)

## FUMCOR Youth

**What's Up FUMCOR Youth!** Sunday School for the Youth is available Sundays after church service from 11:15 -12:00 noon. Feel free to come by and hangout, while we talk about how faith and family can be fun and exciting, too. Bring your friends, whether they attend church or not, ALL are welcome. We will begin planning trips and events very soon, so please let me know what you like to do.

**Examples:** going the beach, watch parties (movie night), doing crafts, service projects, volunteering or inviting friends and using the fire pit.

**"Pizza-Fellowship"** - Starting September 1, we will begin meeting Wednesday Nights from 6:30-7:30pm in the Youth & Young adult rooms (upstairs in the Education Building). We will talk about Scripture, play games and talk about how faith in action works in our lives.



Your friends are always welcome to join any of these events or trips, too.

If you would like to volunteer, have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact me at: [youthdirector@firstchurchriverside.org](mailto:youthdirector@firstchurchriverside.org)

Many blessings,

*Mateo Lavea Mamea*

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Email: [childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org](mailto:childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org)  
[youthdirector@firstchurchriverside.org](mailto:youthdirector@firstchurchriverside.org)

## 150 Years || Past to the Present

*"A tiny drop of water dies all alone. But an ocean of love will overcome." -- Jim Strathdee*

By Kris Lovekin

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) is an ocean of love at our church, a place for young people searching for their life's purpose. With service projects, beach trips, love feasts, summer camp and planning for youth Sunday services, young people polish their social skills, their leadership skills and their faith philosophy. In other words, they find their place in God's world.

First UMC Riverside has had many active UMYF groups across the eras. The youth room looks about the same, sprinkled with donated couches, a pool table and murals on the wall. My father, Richard Williams, knew the group by the name Epworth League when he arrived in Riverside about 1950. But in 1968, the name changed to UMYF. That year, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged, calling themselves "United Methodists."

In my era in the '70s and '80s, we raised

money for mission projects with car washes and newspaper drives, rock-a-thons and rent-a-youth auctions.



We had our own youth newsletter, a planning committee to make sure we had things to do each Sunday, short trips to retreat centers in the mountains and long trips

across the country (The Bicentennial Mission Tour in 1976.) We raised money all year to work for a week each Summer with the Sierra Service Project, weatherizing homes so native people would have more protection from the elements. We showed the love of God to others with our actions, like visiting a convalescent home with youth leader Jan Ritzau, who later became a Methodist Minister and our District Superintendent. And of course we all had to go to Summer camp at Wrightwood and Colby.

Mateo Mamea is our new youth leader, and he is building a UMYF program on the traditions of the past, as well as on the possibilities of the future, so that our youth will not feel alone. We want them to have an ocean of love to help them overcome the obstacles of life. We are here to support him and the youth of the church. Maybe there will be a new trip to the Sierra Service Project? Have you ever thought about being a youth counselor?

*This is a monthly installment about church history. First UMC Riverside was founded on Oct. 13, 1872. That means next year we will be 150 years old. How shall we celebrate the milestone?*



Youth Musicians

