

THE MESSENGER

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

THANKS BE TO GOD – NOW!

One of the car commercial's catchphrases on TV has recently caught my attention: *"It's Your Journey. Own it."* This subtle message sounds appealing to the brand's potential customers to claim or reclaim their full life experiences. Yet, the underlying,



and ultimate, message's intention is, of course, urging people to buy this particular brand of car.

Whether it is your life, your car, or whatever you have in your possession on this earth, can you truly "own" it? The word "own" is, generally, parallel to the word "belong." Your life, and mine and everyone else's, is actually owned by God and every single life is indeed on "lease."

This truth reminds us of Job's sincere and honest confession from the Old Testament: **"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."** (Job 1:21).

Yes, we are called to be faithful stewards of life and time. While "treasures" and "talents" are given to some of us as special and extra gifts and opportunities, "time," on the other hand, is given to everyone equally and

fairly. Just as my Sunday sermon on "Time Stewardship" (10/24), everyone is given "One Pound" (of Time) each. And we must not take our "time" for granted for any reason.

You cannot change your past. Period. Your future depends on your choices and actions that you are making NOW. So, you are, after all, constantly living in this precious time of NOW, which is borrowed from God. That is why the present moment NOW can determine who you are and who you are becoming.

In the book, The Precious Present, the author, Spencer Johnson (M.D.), expresses the importance of the "precious present:" *"My past was the present / And my future will be the present / The present moment is the only reality I ever experience."*

Yes, for Christians, this "precious present" is a profound concept of a "spiritual time," a critical time of discernment and wisdom in God's guidance. And, to me, this can also be considered as the same concept of the German American theologian Paul Tillich's book The Eternal Now that signifies "NOW" as *"the ground from which all things emerge and perish in each and every moment."*

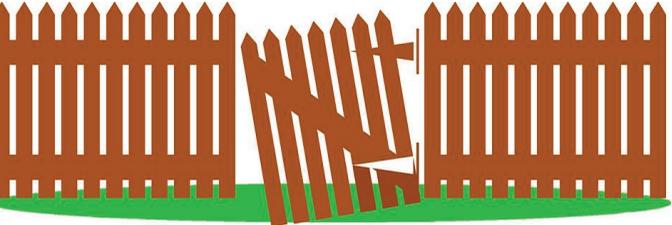
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Thanks Be to God - Now! cont'd.

As we enter November, let us give thanks to God for everything in our lives. We are grateful for our loving relationships with God and with people. We are grateful for all the wonderful opportunities to share God's love with everyone. We are grateful for our new beginnings in every aspect. And we are extra grateful for "NOW" that calls us to respond as faithful stewards and disciples of Christ Jesus. As long as we are breathing and living, "NOW" is another expression of God's amazing grace! Thanks be to God -- NOW!

Welcome to another Happy Thanksgiving Season!

Love and Blessings,
Pastor J. T. Kim



HELPING HANDS

Thank You to "Helping Hands"

We are grateful to Greg Laird and Ron Bayer, members of "Helping Hands," who installed a new fence for us. It is a work of art!

Thank you so much,
Charles McFallThompson and Michael Thompson



This summer, the UMW bible study read a book by Beth Allison Barr called The Making of Biblical Womanhood. The author challenged the theological view that women are divinely created as helpers and men are divinely created as leaders. Using history, culture, and language translations, she discussed the view of "complementarianism" that she had been raised in, practiced, and believed for many years.

Would you like to know what she said in the book? Join United Methodist Women on Wednesday, November 17, at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

Calendar

All meetings are still being held on Zoom. If you haven't attended a meeting and would like to, please call Pam Conlin at 951-237-5470.

Monday, Nov. 8, 2021 1 p.m.
Almond-Wesleyan Circle

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 1 p.m.
UMW Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021 1 p.m.
UMW Meeting

We will be voting on the 2022 Officers, on the 2022 Budget and on 2021 Year End Giving. Program: "The Making of Biblical Womanhood"

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021 7 p.m.
Citrus Circle



It is that time to bless the children and bring a sparkle of hope and joy to neighborhood families.

December 13th is our Wesley UMC and FUMCOR's 2nd Annual Christmas Drive-By!

To make this happen, we need your help to fill the children's Christmas lists.

Suggested items are listed below that are always requested by children. These items can be purchased early and brought to FUMCOR during office hours, to church any Sunday or call Lee Ann Salmon (951)906-6452 with questions or to pick up items at your home. Individual toys needed:

- a. Barbie dolls/Disney dolls/Frozen dolls/Baby dolls
- b. Pop-it Fidget Toys
- c. Mimi backpacks/cross-body purses
- c. Earbuds
- d. Legos, Duplo blocks, other building sets
- e. Paw Patrol and Blippy toys.
- f. Action figures, Spiderman, Batman,
- g. Board games for children/teens (families will have a chance to pick a game).
- h. Remote control cars (please include batteries, if possible)
- i. Sport equipment (regular footballs, basketballs, soccer)
- j. Men' and women's wallets/cologne (for teens)
- k. Nail polish, lotion, curling iron, blow dryer, flat iron
- l. Arts and craft gifts, jewelry, bracelet makers
- m. \$20.00 gift card for youth from Target, Kohl's, Wal-Mart, Amazon;
- n. Other gift cards amounts or cash/check are accepted to shop for items

We need all gifts by December 1st so we have time to shop, sort & bag.

Please do not wrap gifts. If you are writing a check, please make it to Wesley UMC, memo Children's Christmas. Thank you all so much for helping this partnership continue in these crazy times.

Blessings, *Lee Ann Salmon*

P. S. We do need extra volunteers to sort and bag gifts the first two weeks in December and help handing out Christmas gifts on December 13th. Let Lee Ann know!



United Methodist Men's Meeting Sunday, November 14th

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Sunday, November 14th. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will start after church services, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Kim will e-mail out a Zoom link to the entire congregation prior to the event.

Matt Gorder will be the speaker for this month's meeting, and he will provide an overview of "The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation."

For many years, the United Methodist Church has debated issues of human sexuality and church policy in regards to these matters, culminating in a Special General Conference called to decide on a path forward in February, 2019. At that Special General Conference the existing language in the United Methodist Book of Discipline was affirmed, but that did not end the controversy, or the division in our denomination over this issue.

Now a new proposal has been advanced, which is likely to come to a vote at the next General Conference of the United Methodist Church, currently scheduled for late August, 2022. This proposal, i.e. the aforementioned "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation," if passed, could result in the schism of the United Methodist Church, and the formation of new Methodist denominations.

This talk will present a summary of the proposal, and discuss what it might mean for the United Methodist Church, and for FUMCOR. We hope you can join us for what should be a very informative presentation.

We are still looking at a possible decision to return to a live, in-person meeting with lunch on a month-to-month basis. We don't currently expect to return to our regular meeting format before the end of the year. But as for January, 2022..... Stay tuned!

**AN IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE:
ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE (2021-2022)**

Date: **Sunday, November 28, 2021**

Time: **5:30 p.m.**

Venue: **Online (Zoom)**

Presider: **Rev. Siosaia "Saia" Tu'itahi, East District Superintendent**

Theme: **"Our Parable of the Pandemic"**

Every member of the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Riverside is invited to attend our upcoming annual All Church Conference (2021-2022). Please join us to give thanks to God as we celebrate our missions and ministries together!

Please be reminded that all of the committee and ministry reports are due November 8, 2021, to the church office. A zoom link for the All Church Conference will be provided by the District before the Conference.

If you need a hard copy or a .pdf of the Conference packet, please contact the church office prior to November 19.

Blessings,
The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor
Loretta Cudney & Mimi Luker, Co-Lay Leaders
Lyn Knowles, Chairperson of the Church Council

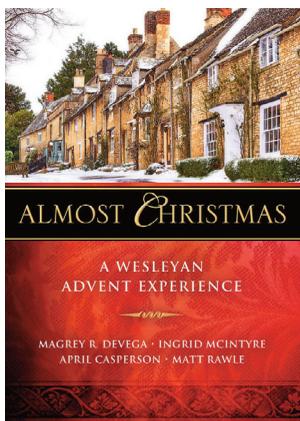


DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Elizabeth Tupou	1
Sean & Teresa Clark	8
Robert & Kathleen Phillips	9
Doug & Rebecca Slaughter	19
Dave & Loretta Cudney	22
Lucinda & Rollin Edmunds	22
Kirk & Kelly Weakly	29

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Brandon Labrador	5
Barry Arnold	6
Bertha Harris	8
Camille Arguelles	9
Sara Peck	10
Angela Johnson	10
Bill Wolter	11
Crisanjali Rajaratnam	11
Julia Zeeb	12
Helen Nuchols	13
Charles McFallThompson	14
Fiedad Arguelles	15
Kirk Weakly	15
Kristin Beals	15
Rachel Roland	17
Connie Taylor	23
William George	29
Jackie Cook	31



Advent Study 2021

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom

December 1, 8, 15, & 22

Please email:
pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org
to sign up for the Advent Study

All Are Invited & Welcome!

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

Dedications are being received now for the poinsettias to grace our sanctuary this Christmas season. Please complete this form and return it to the church office before Friday, December 10.

The cost of a poinsettia plant is \$10.00. Checks should be made out to First United Methodist Church (or FUMCOR) and marked "Poinsettia."



I would like to reserve _____ poinsettia plant(s) at \$10.00 each. I enclose my check, or cash, for \$ _____.

Dedicated by:

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:



Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates
amazonsmile

An Option for Receiving Contribution Statements

If you would like your contribution statement emailed to you instead of mailed, please contact the church office. You will receive it more quickly plus it saves the church postage. Thank you.

Dave Mann & Oliver Moore Leave a Legacy of Giving

For the last couple months, we have highlighted (at the beginning of each month) an area of giving that may not be so obvious; remembering FUMCOR in your Estate settlement at the time of death.

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

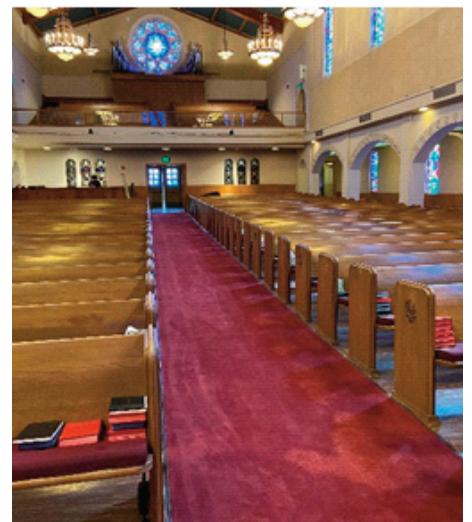
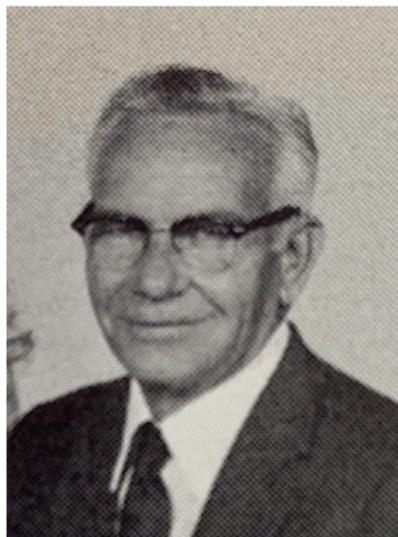
Last month, we remembered and honored Frances Franz whose Legacy 'lives on' in our beautiful sign announcing our Church to the world, placed prominently on our front lawn. Today, we want to take a moment now to also Remember and Honor two former members of our Church, Oliver Moore and Dave Mann. Mr. Moore passed away in 1971 and Dave Mann, some 14 years later, in 1985.

Oliver Moore was a contractor by trade, and Dave Mann a prominent local Civil Engineer. They teamed up in the late 1960's (together with members of our United Methodist Men), and, after surveying the property line, led the teams for many Saturdays one Spring to construct our South boundary Block Wall. It replaced a scraggly hap-hazard fence.

Dave had earlier served as President of the United Methodist Men and went on to lead our Men's early Thursday morning Weekly Prayer Group for at least two decades.

Oliver loved to help cook for Methodist Men breakfasts and also led dozens of volunteers one year to sand and refinish all the church pews that we still enjoy using. Dave was right there helping.

Likewise, both men served in many other ways in our ongoing Church Missions. Ironically, we could not find a photo of Oliver Moore. These men gave lasting legacies that we should always remember and be thankful for, for serving God and our church in such wonderful ways. This article is honoring just two of the many donors who have helped our church. Below: The wall, Dave Mann, the pews.





Kids' Corner News

First, let us laugh...

Sporty Pumpkin

[found at: <https://www.rd.com/jokes/thanksgiving-jokes>]

Q: What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?

A: Squash

What happened last month? Children's ministry continues to be active in reaching out into the community. We connected with the youth group by coloring and decorating the paper bags for the "hunger bags" project. While we were unable to participate in the Halloween Hop this year, we collected some spooky supplies & volunteers (Lyn Knowles, Kelly Weakly, Melissa Beals, Karen Wilson) and made 131 Happy Halloween bags with candy and crafts.

Parent's Morning Out has been able to continue with the help of Kristy McCormick and her daughter Kat, and now with Jessie Bennett, too. We hope to continue this valuable outreach ministry. If someone you know needs a safe place for daycare on Wednesday's from 9 am -12 pm, please contact me or the front office for more information.

What is going on this month? We are going to begin the acolyte program this month! Sign-up posters will be available in the Narthex for parents to pick out dates for their children and youth to participate. November is a great month for showing ways we can give back to our communities.

Explore: What are you grateful for this month? How can you give back to your community? Talk to your family about the different ways that you can do something together that helps someone else.

What to look forward to next month? We will need volunteers to help in FUMCOR's Live Nativity Scene and acolytes to serve during the holiday season.

Special thanks and gratitude to all the teaching staff and volunteers: Kelly Weakly, Marcia Bales, Greg and Lisa Laird, Lorretta Cudney, Lyn Knowles, Sabrina Gilbert, Lee Bayer, and Melissa Williams, who have created content, assisted in teaching or in overseeing the various children programs this year.

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

What's Up Youth!

What happened last month? We restarted the 'hunger bag' ministry, with the help of the children too, we create lunch bags with designs and images to show that much care and thought was used in making each bag. Inside is a drink, a granola bar, some crackers, fruit gummies and a tuna pouch, most importantly there is a note from the youth & children to remind people they are not alone, that they are loved and that someone is thinking of them. The bags can be found after church on the patio and are free to take for anyone. If you would like to donate funds there is a jar for collections, if you would like to donate supplies or time to this ministry, please let us know. Started the *Roller Redesign* project. This project offers the youth an opportunity to use tools and affect change in a real way, by leaving their imprint on something used by the church. This project should be completed by the end of January.

What is going on this month? We will be reaching out to local shelters to see what ways our youth can participate in the communities, both locally and conference wide by partnering with other UMC churches & youth groups. The acolyte program will be started back up in November and we will have a sign-up poster in the Narthex for the youth and the children. If you are interested or know someone that is, contact for more info.

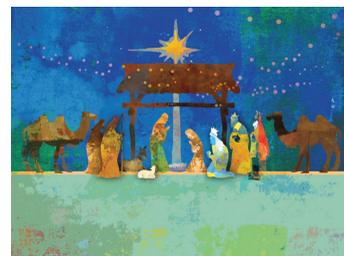
What to look forward to next month? Preparing for Christmas events begins, we will need youth to participate in the "Happy Birthday Jesus" Skit, the Live Nativity Scene and as acolytes over the holiday season. Special thanks to my wife **Nidia Mamea** and to **Breanna Marshall** for continuing to be a part of the Youth leadership team and providing content for the youth to engage in activities on Uplift Youth & Family Wednesday nights. If you would like to volunteer, have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact me at: youthdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Many blessings,

Mateo Lavea Mamea

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

First United Methodist Church of Riverside



The Alternative Gift Fair is Set for Sunday, December 5 - Completely Outdoors

This year's Alternative Gift Fair, which focuses on hand-made goods, is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at the First United Methodist Church of Riverside, 4845 Brockton Ave. All booths support non-profit causes. The fair will be outdoors, on the patio.

Musicians will be singing and playing the dulcimer, the guitar, the ukulele and the piano. A simple soup lunch is available at the fair. Parking is free.

The fair has handcrafts made by the United Methodist Women; as well as cards and gifts from Heifer International.

The organization "Empowering Nations" offers baskets made in Uganda. The local literary hub Inlandia Institute sells books about the Inland area, and Pencils and Dreams offers books and art supplies. The Riverside Food Co-op will have a booth with jams, soaps and candles. Glocally Connected runs a booth that sells clothes, jewelry and food made by families who are new immigrants to the area. Our former organist, David Lines, will bring his beautiful fused glass. A new vendor this year is Family Promise of Riverside.

Started in 1981 at First Christian Church, the fair has broadened its mission to include people from a variety of faith traditions. The original founder was Ken Gutierrez, a retired city employee. The current organizer is Kris Lovekin, who wants to create a space that feels welcoming to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

"This is the alternative to mall shopping," Lovekin said. "This fair makes it easy to have more of a handmade holiday."

Find out more on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/alternativegiftfair>



A Note From the Wolters

"Pastor Kim & FUMCOR Friends,

Thank you to all who have sent Bill and me cards and notes. They are very precious.

Thank you Citrus Circle for the prayer shawls we also received and cherish.

Bill has decided he will continue to stay at the home because there are areas he is not strong in and he doesn't want me to be overly stressed about.

I walk over every day, as it is literally in our back yard. He enjoys visiting with other residents and he also partakes in the afternoon activities. He just loves being around others, which would not be if he were to come home.

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,

Bill & Marge Wolter"

Consultant Broken Sheep to Help Us "Grow the Church"

The church leadership has secured the services of the consultant "Broken Sheep" to help us grow our church. They will be on campus January 21st - January 23rd. So, who is Broken Sheep?

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Pope-Seiberling is an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and has served in small, mid and large sized churches for 18 years to grow God's kingdom. Eric served as an Officer in the United States Air Force, and for the past 20 years, worked and consulted for companies like Procter & Gamble, PepsiCo, Whirlpool, Kroger, CA, FedEx, Benjamin Moore Paints, Dassault Systèmes and now Amazon as a marketing executive to help them transform how they serve their customers and how they run their businesses.

Together, they combine the best of the secular corporate world and church practice to deliver the newest skills and trends with a sound theological understanding to create positive change.

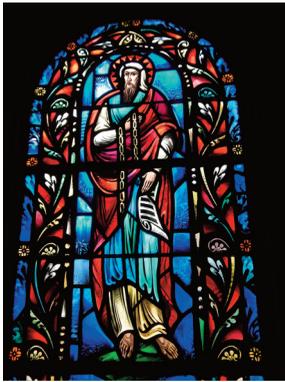
Kim and Eric have worked with churches, districts and conferences across the country to help turn around small and mid-sized churches across the United States to help them return to growth. They have also authored over 50 United Methodist Communication articles and screencasts and are regular contributors to Practical Resources for Churches to help share their knowledge to help grow the body of Christ.

Kim is a graduate from Millersville University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science of Education, majoring in Special Education and Elementary Education with a concentration in Urban Education. She received her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Asbury Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, where she was a Beeson Scholar. Eric received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Political Science from the United States Air Force Academy, and a Master of Business Administration from University of Colorado, in Colorado Springs.

Eric and Kim currently live in Wayland, Massachusetts, but have lived across the country including Colorado, Washington D.C., Texas, Hawaii, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and now Massachusetts. They have one daughter who works for Amazon as a Workplace Health and Safety Manager in Fall River, Massachusetts, and a beautiful, but shy, retired racing greyhound they adopted this summer named "Nancy."

150 Years | | Past to Present

By Mike Alfred



Our gratitude to Brian Tomlinson and Adamm's Glass of Santa Monica for the repair and restoration of the Jeremiah window. Most of the Sanctuary stained glass windows were created by Connick Associates of Boston and installed in 1955. The windows along the patio side aisle are Old Testament Prophets. On the driveway side are New Testament Prophets.



The upper, or clerestory, windows represent the Life of Christ. As we look to Advent (Sunday November 28 to Christmas Eve) take a moment to look at the first two windows. The Annunciation window shows the angel Gabriel imparting to Mary that "Nothing is impossible for God." (Luke 1:37) As the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon her, Jesus' journey on Earth begins.



The second window, the Nativity, is unique in the series with the star bursting the background as Heaven touches Earth. "When they saw the star, they were filled with joy." (Matt. 2:10) Palm branches symbolize hope and cheer while sheltering the family. There are also twelve pairs of bells ringing out the good news. This window was given "as a memorial dedicated to God and the church by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Webb and children." The engineering firm founded by Mr. Webb is still a thriving enterprise in Riverside.

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!