

THE MESSENGER

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

Earn. Save. Give. Wesley's Simple Rules for Money New Bible Study

By David W. Fraser,

Chair of the Finance Committee

Pastor Kim is launching a new, four-session, weekly Bible study via Zoom on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7 p.m. The study guide for this short series will be James A. Harnish's excellent 115-page book, **Earn. Save. Give: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money**. Upon Pastor's request, I agreed to read the book and to write a brief article for The Messenger about the book to encourage our congregation to join the Bible study.

The Bible study will align with Pastor Kim's sermons on October 10 and 24, Stewardship Sunday and Commitment Sunday respectively. Reading the book and participating in the Bible study will help all of us to have a better understanding about how we relate to money and to giving to the church.

Vance P. Ross, Senior Pastor at Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church commented in the book's liner notes, "If you want to lead persons to become disciples of Jesus around money, you will not find a better resource than this." I couldn't agree more! I found the book, engaging, thought-provoking, relevant, and theologically and biblically sound. Harnish repeatedly draws on John Wesley's sermons and writings as well as the Bible to make his points. This book helped me gain new perspectives on money and on the meaning of stewardship.

Earn. Now in my 74th year, I look back and sometimes wonder, should I have made a greater effort to earn more, save more and give more. Called to social work as a profession, I knew that I would never earn as much as most of my college mates who pursued careers in business, finance, engineering, or medicine. Looking at many of my

college mates' financial success, I have to admit, from time to time, I do wonder, "What if...?" Reading Harnish's book, gave me fresh perspectives on this and some reassurance. Yes, maybe I should I have paid more attention to what I was paid and moved on to better paying positions sooner. I can forgive myself for that. Wesley offered guidance in understanding how work - any kind of work - should be viewed as an expression of a life committed to loving God and loving others.

We can be "called" to any kind of work at any level of pay. Sometimes we might not even be aware that it is God calling us to this work. Harnish, echoing Wesley and biblical references, suggests that you do work you love and earn as much as you can, always in the context that this is one way to show love for others and to love God in return for the love we receive. This is wisdom that even those of use who are "retired" can use in our current "work" and in looking back at the work we did in the past.

Save. That was always a tough one for me. I never had an allowance as a child. I worked every summer in high school and three in college at the factory where my dad was foreman. He never failed to give me money whenever I requested it. My parents were good at saving themselves, but never guided me in the ways of budgeting and saving. I was struck by Harnish's comments about how a congregation can guide its youth in making better choices around careers, earning money, saving, and giving - something I think we could explore at FUMCOR!



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Earn. Save. Give. Cont'd

Give. Sometimes I give out of guilt, but I mostly give to organizations who I think are doing good work in helping others in need or are trying to save the environment or wild animals. To be honest, I give to the church mostly out of a sense of obligation. Harnish helped me to see that there is a much richer, spiritual side of giving that I could embrace and express in my life.

Harnish offers a view of what he envisions a study using his book is all about. He states, "Over the weeks ahead, we will explore Wesley's guidance on money in the context of the wisdom in the Proverbs and the words and witness of the New Testament. Our purpose is to engage followers of Christ in a process of Bible study, personal reflection, prayer, and action that will lead to practical, biblical and Christ-centered wisdom about how we use our money." I, for one, am looking forward to Pastor Kim's Bible study to gain more wisdom about my relationship with money and giving. I trust that I will grow through this study to be able to give from a deeper, more spiritual perspective. I hope to see you there.

"FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE PEOPLE, CHANGE THE WORLD"



OCTOBER CALENDAR

All meetings are via Zoom. If you have not attended a meeting and would like to attend, please contact Pam Conlin 951 237-5470 for a Zoom invitation.

Each Thursday at 6:45pm UMW Bible Study with Corona UMW and Wesley UMW.

Oct. 11, 2021 1 p.m.

Almond-Wesleyan Circle

Oct. 13, 2021 3 p.m.

UMW Executive Board Meeting

Oct. 26, 2021 7 p.m.

Citrus Circle

There will not be a UMW Meeting in October.



United Methodist Men's Meeting Sunday, October 10th

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Sunday October 10th. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will start after worship service, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Kim will e-mail out a Zoom link to the entire congregation prior to the event.

Our speaker for this meeting will be....our own **Pastor J.T. Kim!** Pastor Kim will be speaking on the topic of Stewardship. As a reminder, Sunday October 10th will also be Stewardship Sunday. Please be thinking about, and praying about, your stewardship of our church, and please join us for what should be an interesting meeting.

We are still looking at the decision to return to a live, in-person meeting with lunch on a month-to-month basis. We're still hopeful that we can return to our regular meeting format before the end of the year. Stay tuned!

KEYS TO THE CRYPT

A HALLOWEEN ORGAN CONCERT

It's 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 30. There's a sepulchral chill in the autumn air. It's almost Halloween, and moonless darkness has descended on the city. Yet the doors of First United Methodist Church of Riverside stand open, welcoming one and all to a celebration of the music of the haunted holiday. From the magnificent organ's 2,962 pipes pour forth eight centuries of Halloween tunes – everything from the Gregorian requiem (introduced by a guest cantor) to movie music to familiar classics to weird little pieces about nightmares and gargoyles. In addition, there's a generous selection of "Ghoultide Carols" – you'll have to come to the performance to learn what these are, but they're always an audience favorite. And of course, it wouldn't be a Halloween concert without Johann Sebastian Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor.

Please plan to attend, and don a costume if you're so inclined. For everyone's safety, including your own, wear a mask, and the sanctuary is large enough to allow for proper social distancing of family groups. A freewill offering will be taken.

The purpose of the concert is to raise money for the Organ Maintenance Dedicated Fund. This is a separate account from the church's budgeted amount for organ maintenance, which can cover only one thorough tuning per year and a few minor repairs.

The organ, installed by Aeolian-Skinner in 1958, enlarged by Abbott and Sieker in 1967, and electronically revamped in 2006, is showing its age and will soon require major maintenance not accounted for in the annual budget. For instance, at the base of each pipe is a leather pouch, and nearly all of them are original. Our new organ maintenance man was astonished at how well the leather has held up, but he warned that complete "releathering" will need



to be done sometime in the next several years. When the leather fails, the pipes noisily leak air, stick "on," or don't sound at all. This is happening occasionally and will assuredly become more frequent as the aged leather continues to dry out and deteriorate.

A few of the largest pipes in the chamber have "collapsed" (the organ guy's word) and need to be rewelded and repaired. The combination pistons (the programmable round buttons under the keyboards that allow quick changes in the stops) fail intermittently and unexpectedly – always at

pivotal moments in the music! When one plays a scale on a given organ stop, each pipe should sound at the same volume level as its neighbor, but years of tuning have led to striking unevenness in several of the stops, particularly the reeds. And something mysterious has happened to the trumpet pipes in the balcony – the bottom octave is missing, and the pipes don't fit their holes in the wind chest!

There are other maintenance and repair issues, but you get the idea. We need to raise additional funds so our glorious organ can serve our congregation for decades to come. If this concert is a success, there will be more of them. If you can't attend the performance, you are welcome to make designated donations to the Organ Maintenance Dedicated Fund at any time.

Thank you for your support, and have a delightful and tune-filled Halloween!

**FREE Children's Puzzle Books
WHICH WAY USA by Highlights**

Sometimes when you're cleaning out old boxes, you find treasures. I found 50 plus **Which Way USA** puzzle books with accompanying maps.

For those unfamiliar with Which Way USA, they are a puzzle book published by Highlights that focus on one state, created to help a child learn map reading skills and solve puzzles while learning all about that individual state. They are sold through monthly subscription and cost \$15.95 each. When I was teaching, I would buy these books in bulk through ebay or other sources to use as student rewards. They are age-appropriate for 4th-6th grade children, and 3rd graders can also enjoy them, but will only be able to work a portion of the puzzles.

If you are teaching one of these grades, or if you are the parent or grandparent of children in these grades, I would love to give some of these books to you. Please call me at 951-737-3541 to arrange to pick them up after church. - *Lyn Knowles*

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!



NOVEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tim & Gretel Noble	12
Bill & Lynn Ashworth	22

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Shanna Marshall	1
Eureko Williams	1
Lina Renteria	3
Allison George	5
Gabriel Arguelles	7
Hannah Arguelles	7
Breanna Marshall	7
Richard Austin	8
Paula Kaufhold	9
Kevin Simpson	9
Katrina Zeeb	9
Emily Noble	11
Roy Riggs	11
Pastor Kim	12
Jason Handen	13
Gayla Lonsbery	13
Kelsey Weakly	18
Beryl Corson	19
Arline Ream	19
Robert Ream	19
Daryl Salmon	19
Bill Kerrick	20
Lucinda Edmunds	21
Melissa Williams	21
Bill Nuchols	23
Bob Schiffer	24
Ralph Kauffman	27
Sigmar Hofmann	28
Alfred Kocharian	30
Abigail Labrador	30

CARING MINISTRY

By David W. Fraser

Life presents many joys. We know too well that life also is full of heartache, fear, regret, grief and loss, pain and suffering. When the darkness of suffering overwhelms the light of all the good that life offers, we can feel so alone, helpless and abandoned. We might even feel in those dark times that God has abandoned us also. The work of walking through the darkness with someone who is hurting and with God's help, leading them back to the light, can be an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience. It's the kind of fulfillment our volunteers in the Caring Ministry experience. Our Caring Ministry Team continues to contact church members on a regular basis to learn about prayer needs to be lifted up to the congregation or to pray and offer an ear to another member of our church.

Our Stephen Ministers continue to work one-on-one on a weekly basis with members of our church who are going through their own dark times, bring-

ing God's healing, comfort and strength as they provide support to their care receivers.

Please consider joining our Caring Ministry Team or becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training and ongoing support and supervision to equip them in their ministry to others. That means that anyone, regardless of background or experience can be equipped to be a Stephen Minister.

Members of the Caring Ministry Team receive support and in-service training; no other special training is required. We're looking for those who want to reach out by phone to members of the congregation to become better acquainted with others in our church community. Our goal is to ensure that no one in our church feels left out, ignored, or forgotten.

Please contact David Fraser by email at stephen-ministry@firstchurchriverside.org or by cell phone at 951-205-6504 if you are interested becoming a Stephen Minister or a member of our Caring Ministry Team.



Meet Lucinda Edmunds

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and to describe how my choice to join the First United Methodist Church of Riverside came about. I'm a retired educator, having taught English, speech and theatre; I also served as site and district administrators. Like many retired people, I've filled my days with more activities than when I was working full time including teaching college part time, a small side business, and my most favorite commitment, babysitting grandsons. As busy as I was in my first few years of retirement, I still felt like something was missing – a sense of belonging to a community.

I had attended (FUMCOR) many times in the past, thanks to the invitation from my mother, a member before she passed away, and my sister. Having been raised as a Christian, I'd joined other churches and even taught Sunday school for many years as well as youth groups. But as an older adult, I let my devotion lapse and became cynical. When the pandemic hit, I admit that fear was one motivating factor for strengthening my relationship with God, but the ability to watch service online provided me with more opportunities to recalibrate my beliefs and see what I'd been missing. Along with hearing Pastor Kim's words of encouragement and faith, I also saw that the FUMCOR community cares for each other and its neighbors. I admire how faith and love is the motivation for the church's good works, not the desire to increase its budget. The Methodists' focus on God's love and an acceptance of all people no matter what their beliefs or background is a vision I've been missing. When my sister encouraged me to join (and because I always do what Sarah tells me to), I did. I'm looking forward to being involved as a part of this community.

Frances Franz 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. For the next several months, we plan to highlight (once a month) 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.

Last month, we remembered and honored Pastor Ken Miller who had special focus on Legacy giving.

We want to take a moment to remember and honor a former longtime member, **Frances Franz**, who passed away in February 2008. She was known for her quiet presence. She had been a member of our church since 1976. When she passed, a portion of her Estate was donated to our Church and used for the construction of our beautiful new FUMCOR sign (see below). It was constructed in 2009 with the help of many volunteers removing the old one.

Thank you, Frances, for this generous gift which serves us well to help present the face of our church for many years to come. And we thank all of you as well, for giving this some thought in your own Estate planning.



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.

Let us laugh:

“That skeleton sure brought his appetite to the picnic – and also some spare ribs.”

Kid Joke found at: <https://www.rd.com/jokes/kids/halloween-jokes-for-kids/skeleton-puns/>

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.

Projects: What is your favorite thing to help with around your house? Cleaning, yardwork, cooking, looking after younger family members or maybe even at your grandparent's house? My favorite was raking the leaves between steppingstones at my grandparents and helping to cook. Talk to your parents or children about what their favorite task is and ask about why.

Reflective Vests and Certification Badges will be distributed to volunteers for parents to quickly find contact points of information in both Children and Youth Ministries.

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



Fizziwig Helping Out

FUMCOR Youth

What’s Up FUMCOR Youth! Sunday School for the Youth is currently happening right after Children’s Time until 11 a.m. Feel free to come by and hangout, while we talk about how faith and family can be fun and exciting, too.

Newest Youth Commemorated! The UMYF handprints Wall is an excellent way to mark a new stage of life’s journey as a participant in the Church and the world. Reflect on each of our journeys and how they intersect today.

Activities: We started making bags for anyone to take with them to handout to someone hungry. The bags contain a protein pack (tuna), fruit snack gummies, a granola bar, a Capri Sun juice and a handwritten note for the recipient from the children and youth ministries participants (donations of items or money are welcome).



“Wednesday UPLIFT Youth Night” - Wednesday Nights

from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 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. This is a family event, so all ages (and generations) are welcome.

Your friends are always welcome to join any of these events or trips too, so invite your friends whether they attend church or not. ALL are welcome.



Reflective Vests and Certification Badges will be distributed to volunteers for parents to quickly find contact points of information in both Children and Youth Ministries.

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

Email: youthdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

We are sharing a letter from the Bishop with the congregation, because we have an agreement with the Boy Scouts for use of the Scout House that lasts until Dec. 31. The trustees are working on how to proceed.

Boy Scout Units Chartered by Local United Methodist Churches

Dear Friends:

As you may be aware, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) filed for bankruptcy relief in early 2020. BSA is overwhelmed with potential liability exposure from sexual assault allegations nationwide and is seeking to resolve all victim abuse claims involving the BSA and its local councils. To give United Methodists a presence in the process and to protect our interests, the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) organized an "Ad Hoc Committee" comprised of several Chancellors and GCFA lawyers. The Committee retained outside bankruptcy counsel to represent local churches and all Annual Conferences in the bankruptcy proceedings.

Under BSA's proposed plan submitted to the bankruptcy court, BSA has suggested a path to continue after the bankruptcy. However, they are leaving their Chartered Organizations out on a limb by themselves. The Chartered Organizations are the local churches, schools, and civic groups that sponsor or host a Scout Troop, Pack, Crew, or other unit. The details of these plans are still being played out, but BSA is placing all our United Methodist churches who have ever been involved in scouting in a very difficult position.

Brief History of Chartered Organizations

Historically, BSA developed charter or sponsor agreements which its local councils used to document the relationship with Chartered Organizations, including local churches. These charter or sponsor agreements historically placed supervisory and other obligations on local churches, which have since been used in litigation to expose local churches to significant abuse claims. To accommodate Chartered Organizations, since 1976, BSA named Chartered Organizations as "additional insureds" under insurance policies it purchased for the benefit of its local councils and Chartered Organizations. The additional insured

rights protected Chartered Organizations from lawsuits seeking damages and provided defense costs for legal representation.

However, despite BSA's consistent past assurances that they held enough insurance to cover their Chartered Organizations in case of injured scouts, we now know that BSA did not have sufficient insurance. The local churches are at risk of having to pay significant sums to victims to compensate them for the damages they suffered at the hands of some scout leaders. In addition, the local churches will have to pay for the cost of their own attorneys to defend those claims. All of this is because the BSA did not fulfill their promise to have enough insurance to protect the local churches.

Future Relationship with the BSA

The Committee believes United Methodists' interests are not adequately protected under BSA's current proposed plan. This may change, but until future developments become more certain, the Committee's advice is to limit exposure to future claims and withhold approval of the proposed plan.

There is a recommendation for local churches across the denomination change their relationship with their scouting units. We agree with this recommendation. A feasible business plan for future BSA operations must be presented to the bankruptcy court, and BSA will need the cooperation and support of the United Methodists to convince the court that its business plan is feasible. Our solidarity is a method to show BSA that United Methodists cannot be left to carry BSA's liabilities.

If your local church currently charters a scout unit, we recommend that you NOT renew that chartering agreement when it is up for renewal or re-chartering this fall. Instead, we recommend one of two options, the choice of which is up to you.

1. Tell the local scout council that you will NOT renew that chartering agreement but will only extend the current agreement until December 31, 2021.
2. Tell the local scout council that you will NOT renew that chartering agreement but will enter into a Facilities Use Agreement with their unit until December 31, 2021. This will act similar to a lease allowing the scout

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unit to use your space, but they will be responsible for everything else, including the selection of leaders.

If your local church currently has a Facilities Use Agreement with a scout unit, we recommend that you NOT renew that agreement when it is up for renewal this fall but only extend it until December 31, 2021. Also, make sure your Facilities Use Agreement has appropriate indemnification and insurance provisions included, and that you require the scout unit to provide you a certificate of insurance indicating the church has been added as an additional insured on all policies.

If your local church does not charter a scout unit at this time, we recommend that you NOT consider chartering a unit until the bankruptcy case is finalized and we have an understanding of how the United Methodist relationship with scouts will continue in the future.

We understand that these suggestions are dramatic, but we believe they are the prudent course of action at this time. We want to protect our local churches from costly litigation. Once a reorganization plan is approved by the bankruptcy court, we will know better how to proceed.

Final Thoughts

We know the value of scouting. It has played a very large role in the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church for a very long time. But the BSA is not proving faithful to The United Methodist Church as they are leaving us without the protections they promised. We simply cannot currently commit to the relationship with the BSA as we have in the past. Until we know how the BSA will be organized and operate in the future, we must make some changes. Hopefully, we will be able to continue our long connection with scouting in some way, but we need to make some changes today to help prevent us from being dragged down with the BSA in the future.

We hope you recognize the risks involved with renewing your relationship with local councils. We will try to answer questions you may have, but please understand that we cannot predict what might happen as the next several months unfold.

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya and the Appointed Cabinet

JAMES A. HARNISH



**EARN.
SAVE.
GIVE.**

Wesley's Simple Rules
for Money

A Short-Term Bible Study on **Stewardship**

4 Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

(Via Zoom)

October 6: #1 "We Don't Need More Money; We Need Wisdom"

October 13: #2 "Earn All You Can"

October 20: #3 "Save All You Can"

October 27: #4 "Give All You Can"

All Are Invited and Welcome!!

Please email to:

pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org
to sign up for this Bible Study Series



150 Years | | Past to Present

History of the Organ

The organ at First United Methodist was consecrated on Sunday, November 24, 1957.

Built by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts, it was designed by G.

The partially completed instrument contained 1,441 pipes in 27 ranks and 22 speaking stops. Deviating from the original design, Abbott and Seiker Organ Builders completed the organ in 1965, adding 1,094 pipes in 20 ranks and 16 stops.

The Bourns family of Riverside funded the addition of an Antiphonal division, which Abbott and Seiker installed in 1967, adding 427 pipes in 7 ranks, and 5 stops. The total size of the completed organ was 2,967 pipes in 54 ranks and 44 stops.

In February of 2006, after an extensive fundraising campaign led by Robert Nelson, FUMCOR was able to hire R. M. Ballantyne Pipe Organs of Riverside to rewire the organ, modernize the console and install a new solid-state memory system that allows the organist to record in advance and let the organ play the piece later.

On Sunday November 12, 2006, the instrument was celebrated in a service and a concert featuring some of FUMCOR's longest serving organists: Dorothy Hester, David Christensen, and Marc Longlois.

Organists of the Church

Manta Love North	1909 to 1947
Larry King	1952 to 1957
Donna Young	1957 to 1960
Dorothy Hester	1960 to 1977
David Christensen	1977 to 1984
Frederick Bacon-Shone	1984 to 1990
Melody Armstrong	1990 to 1995
Marc Longlois	1996 to 2016
David Lines	2016 to 2019
Robert Phillips	2019 to Today