

# THE MESSENGER

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

## THE BIBLE YEAR:

*This Book Could Be Your Best Christmas Gift for Yourself & Your Loved Ones*

**“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”** (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Dear Family & Friends of First United Methodist Church of Riverside:

Happy December!

In this last month in 2021, let us give thanks to God for the Greatest Gift we ever received from God for our Christian life: Christ Jesus! Just as the “refrain” part of the lyrics of “Because He Lives” (Hymn #364), our “life is worth the living just because he lives” - always - ever since the first Christmas and through his Death and Resurrection. In this sense, every Christmas is a joyful and grateful reminder of God’s Greatest Gift, “Immanuel: God with us,” given to you and me.

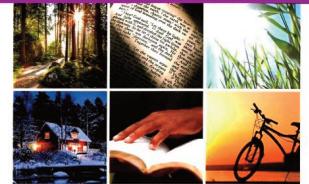
In the coming year, 2022, we are watching for at least two major milestones: (1) Our Church’s 150th Anniversary Celebration (sesquicentennial); (2) The worldwide UMC’s General Conference vote on a possible restructure of our denomination.

To stay focused on our joy and gratitude for our church life and family, I would like to invite you to join me in boosting the basic

foundation of our faith in Christ through reading the Bible.

While some of you might have read the Bible multiple times, others might not have read it thoroughly. We know that each time we read it, we are immersed into God’s new messages and insights. Those experiences, I guarantee, will be fascinating and delightful! Therefore, I invite you all to join me in reading the entire Bible with new awareness, by using the new book entitled, *The Bible Year: A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days*, written by Magrey R. DeVega, Published by Abingdon Press in 2021.

The brief introduction of the book shown from the back cover says: “Read the whole Bible in a year through small, daily goals. Think about a commitment to read a short selection from the Bible plus a concise devotional every day. You can do that - especially since *The Bible Year* has it all mapped out for you day by day.”



## THE BIBLE YEAR

*A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days*

MAGREY R. DEVEGA

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I believe this devotional book, along with your own Bible (any translation is fine) will help us to commit to a daily Bible reading discipline together, for spiritual growth and God's guidance in life. From the Bible, you, as faithful Disciples of Christ, will be strengthened by God's spiritual nourishment.

Therefore, for this year's Christmas, I highly recommend you consider giving yourself a gift. It will lead you and your loved ones to the "Greatest Gift from God." I will have some copies of the book available for you to obtain with a donation (a discounted price) at the church office in December, but you can also buy your own copy online, such as Cokesbury.com or AmazonSmile.com. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this "Bible Year" invitation.

My Faithful Friends in Christ! I, along with my family, sincerely wish you a More Blessed Christmas 2021 and a Happier & Healthier New Year 2022!

Joy and Peace,  
*The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor*



*Merry Christmas!*

## Calendar

All meetings will be held on Zoom. If you haven't attended any of the meetings before, call Pam Conlin at 951-237-5470 to receive a Zoom invitation.

**Executive Board Meeting:** Dec. 8, 2021 at 1 p.m.

**Almond-Wesleyan Circle:** Dec. 13, 2021 at 1 p.m.

**Citrus Circle:** Dec. 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**UMW Meeting:** Dec. 15, 2021 at 1 p.m.

The UMW will have a booth at the Alternative Gift Fair on Sunday, December 5, after Church from 11am to 3pm.

### **Citrus Circle Christmas Dinner on Zoom**

Sit down at your computer with your dinner or a snack and have a good visit with friends. For more information call Lisa Laird at 951-237-7112.

### **UMW Meeting**

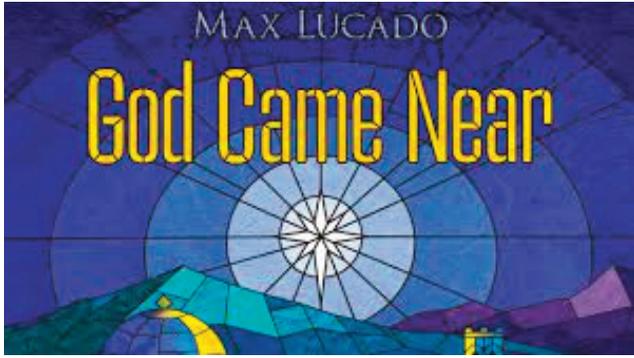
We will have the Installation of 2022 Officers and a short business meeting. Come join us and visit with friends

### **A NOTE OF THANKS**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the years of prayers for my brother, Don Nauss. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer four years ago. After surgery to remove his esophagus and three-quarters of his stomach, the cancer returned and the doctors said that with chemotherapy, he had 8-12 months to live. Well, my brother was a fighter and a strong believer in prayer. There were many groups praying for Don and he was so grateful. He lived two years longer than anyone expected. In addition to Don's appreciation, I want to thank all of you at church for your prayers and support these past years. The gift of prayers definitely makes a difference and you all have made a huge difference for me and my family.

With loving thanks, Susan Nauss Exon



### December 12 is the Christmas Cantata

The Aldersgate Chorale will present a wonderful cantata for our December 12 worship service. "God Came Near" is based on a blend of classic texts and beloved carols. It was composed and arranged by Tom Fettke with narration based on the words of author Max Lucado. The musical features narration, solos and choruses that travel back in time when Christ, the Son of God, became man. The result is an unforgettable celebration of the incarnation. It all happened in a moment - a most remarkable moment - when God came near.

**INVITING ALL CHURCH WOMEN & FRIENDS TO JOIN**  
THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AS WE BEGIN OUR NEXT STUDY  
**COMMON GROUND**  
Loving Others Despite Our Differences  
This four week study starts on **Thursday January 6, 2022**  
We meet virtually via Zoom at 6:45 pm for a time to socialize and the study begins at 7:00 pm. Please contact:  
Lyn Knowles  
([daselwonk@aol.com](mailto:daselwonk@aol.com))  
for information and to get on the Zoom invite list!

### WESLEY HOPE ROOM TOY DONATIONS

If anyone is still interested in donating to the children's gift giveaway, please contact Lee Ann Salmon at (951) 906-6452.



### United Methodist Men's Meeting Sunday, December 12th

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will start after church services, beginning at 11:30 am.

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

In keeping with the holiday season, the theme of this meeting will be Christmas and Christmas holiday traditions from the FUMCOR congregation. We'll have a few speakers present short anecdotes or stories of their family Christmas traditions or special Christmas memories, and then we hope to have everyone else in attendance join in. Please plan to join us for some fun holiday cheer, and be sure to bring a story or Christmas tradition of your own that you would be willing to share.

Merry Christmas, and we hope you can join us on the 12th!

We are still looking at a possible decision to return to a live, in-person meeting with lunch on a month-to-month basis. Stay tuned!

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



# JANUARY 2022

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Schiffer & Lisa Thomas	15
Ron & Lee Bayer	25

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Nicholas Lovekin	1
Benita Roberts	3
Julie Williams	3
Cheryl Riggs	4
Teiapa'a Tupou	5
John-Paul McDonald	7
Bob Binford	8
Dylan Grimes	8
Jonabelle Arguelles	10
Deirdre Kirkwood	11
Brad Tomlinson	11
Jazz Roberts	12
Mimi Luker	14
Teresa Clark	16
Patricia Ream	17
Lolita Manacop	19
Mack Davis	20
Kate Lovekin	21
Beulah Leake	25
Susan Exon	28
Rebecca Slaughter	28
Evie Fletcher	30
Bob Kraft	30
Kyle Weakly	31

## S'Mores and a Lap Blanket? Sounds Cozy

Church and Society is supplying students at Sherman Indian High School with lap blankets and snacks, such as popcorn, cup o noodles, hot chocolate and the ingredients for s'mores.

"Our donations to the school in July were much appreciated," said Lyn Knowles. "At this time of year they are asking for snack food and lap blankets that can keep the students warm." Please bring these items to church between now and Sunday, Dec. 12. Leave them in the narthex on the west side, nearest to the men's room.

Your gifts will be hand delivered by FUM-COR church members to grateful recipients. If you would love to get more involved with hands-on missions work, just let Kris Lovekin know at krislovekin@gmail.com

## Thank You to Dale and Jean Grout

You might notice a new Nativity scene on the table during Sunday worship this Advent season. Dale and Jean recently relocated to Oceanside, and Dale donated his lovely work of art to the church. Thank you Dale and Jean!



## **THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5**

Come out to the church patio for the Alternative Gift Fair, which offers handmade gifts, soup and holiday music. It is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, December 5.

Are you out of embroidered dish towels? The United Methodist Women should have those. Look for the Heifer International table to buy a share of a goat. The local literary hub Inlandia Institute sells books about the Inland area. Pencils and Dreams offers books and art supplies to raise money for schools in Africa. 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. New vendors this year are Family Promise of Riverside, Soroptimist International, and Sisters-in-Craft, a sister duo selling holiday decor and raising money for cancer research.

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

## **THE CHANDLER LOUNGE**

Thank you to the Chandler family for donating funds to the church in loving memory of Phyllis Chandler. Phyllis was especially fond of the room that was known as the Adult Lounge, and she was dedicated to the upkeep of that room.

A plaque has been placed in the newly named “Chandler Lounge” in her honor.

## **CHURCH CAMPUS CLOSED**

This is a reminder that the church office will be closed at noon on December 24, Christmas Eve, and also, the Christmas holiday on December 27 and 28. New Years’ Eve, we will close at noon, and be closed January 3.



**Help bring joy this season**

Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates  

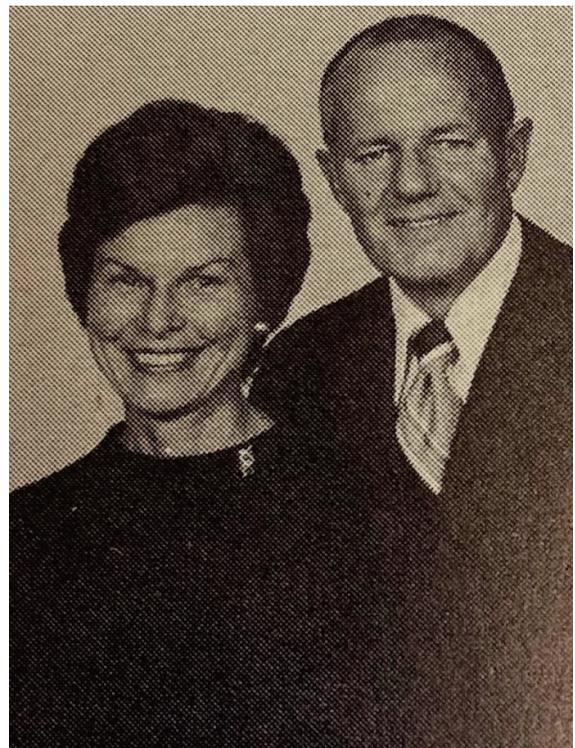

## Ella Kriege and Bob & Lois Fitch Leave a Legacy of Giving

Last month, we remembered and honored Oliver Moore and Dave Mann whose Legacies live on in so many ways. We are now taking a moment to Remember and Honor the faithful former FUMCOR members who were behind the Fitch - Kriege Scholarship Fund. We use proceeds from these funds to annually award a scholarship to one or more of our FUMCOR youth going on to college. We want to honor these wonderful members, not only for this Scholarship Fund Legacy, but for the legacy of love and caring they left throughout their lives to our wonderful church.

Ella Kriege was a faithful member who for many years in the 1960's and 70's made it her mission to love you at first sight. She would be at your doorstep the very next day after you first visited our church to welcome and encourage you to join and participate. She had that wonderful motherly presence that you loved from the beginning. You knew she was guiding you carefully into the arms of a Christian church family. She should be credited with bringing literally hundreds into our fold.

Ella's daughter, Lois, was married to Bob Fitch. Both Bob & Lois Fitch sang in our Choir for many decades. Both served joyfully, over time, in virtually every capacity of Leadership and service in our church. Lois was the accomplished school Secretary at Central Junior High, and Bob eventually became the Chief County Administrative Officer for Riverside County.

Ella Kriege passed away in 1990. Her daughter Lois passed away only few months later that same year; Bob Fitch passed in 2007. Together this family of wonderful Christians left a Scholarship Fund which the Church continues to administer for the benefit of our youth. Let's give thanks and praise to God for these wonderful Legacy gifts by Ella Kriege and Bob and Lois Fitch. Picture of Ella Kriege and Bob and Lois Fitch below.





**First Sunday of Advent (HOPE)**

Sunday, November 28, 2021

**Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online** (10 a.m.)

Special Music: Organ Solo (Video)

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

**Advent Study, Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience, Begins (Zoom)** (7 p.m.)

**Second Sunday of Advent (PEACE)**

Sunday, December 5, 2021

**Sunday Worship with Holy Communion: In-Person & Online:** (10 a.m.)

**Alternative Gift Fair (Patio)** (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

**Blue Christmas Services (In-Person)** (Noon & 7 p.m.): Led by the Rev. Beverly Devine

**Third Sunday of Advent (JOY)**

Sunday, December 12, 2021

**Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online** (10 a.m.)

Christmas Cantata: *"God Came Near: Miracle & Majesty of Christmas"* (Tom Fettke & Max Lucado) by the Aldersgate Chorale

**UMM (United Methodist Men) Hosting Christmas Fellowship (Zoom)** (11:30 a.m.)

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (LOVE)**

Sunday, December 19, 2021

**Family Sunday Worship: In-Person & Online:**

(10 a.m.) Children's Presentation: *"Happy Birthday, Jesus!"*; Children's Chime Choir; Allegro Ringers & The Response: *"Joy to the World"*; *"Happy Birthday Jesus Cupcakes"* Fellowship hosted by Christian Education Committee

**Living Nativity (Front Lawn)** (6:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.)  
*A Free Gift to the Community!*

**Christmas Eve Services (CHRIST)**

Friday, December 24, 2021

**Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service: In-Person & Online** (7 p.m.) Aldersgate Chorale  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion: In-Person Only** (11 p.m.) Allegro Ringers and Vocal Ensemble



## 150 Years | | Past to Present

One of the newer sanctuary windows is the Madonna and Child, located on the balcony staircase near the chapel. It was designed by the Judson Studios of Pasadena and dedicated on Nov. 19, 1972, as a memorial to Amy Reeves, wife of Dr. Edwin E. Reeves, senior pastor from 1951 to 1959. The congregation held the first worship service in our current sanctuary during their tenure, on Sept. 11, 1955.

Dr. Reeves was guest preacher here on the Sunday the window was dedicated as part of the Centennial Celebration. Amy Reeves died three years before, and the congregation started a memorial fund.

Longtime member Pat Beals remembers that in the Reeves' time at First Church, they were better known as "Ed-and-Amy," like it was one long word.

The Messenger of that week describes her service: "The beautiful design in stained glass of the "Madonna and Child" has been given by Dr. Reeves and friends to express the deep love and gratitude for the influence of her life as she served with her husband during the eight years of his ministry in this church. Hers was a quiet ministry yet her life touched many people who felt the blessing of her presence among them. She was beloved by all who knew her."



### 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!