

THE MESSENGER

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!

(By the Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor)

Dear First United Methodist Church of Riverside Family & Friends:

My family and I wish you all the best! May your New Year 2022 be more happy and healthy than ever!

Thank you so much for your beautiful Christmas cards and loving gifts for me and for my family! Your continuing encouragement, support, prayers, and love for my pastoral ministry are truly appreciated!

I am looking forward to serving God with you again in 2022 in order to make our congregation a faithful, growing, and thriving church! The following **“Report of the Pastor”** had already been published in the booklet of the 2021-2022 All Church Conference held on November 28, 2021, and I would like to share my report with the whole church family and friends as we enter into the New Year:

Report of the Pastor

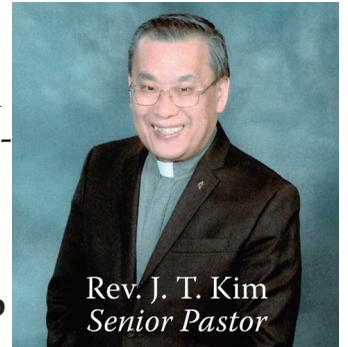
The 2021-2022 All Church Conference

The State of the Church

The Congregation of First United Methodist Church of Riverside and I, the Pastor, are truly grateful to God for resuming our in-person Sunday Worship gatherings on June 20th this year, after over 15 months of the pandemic crisis. Even though COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet, our gatherings, as the church, have been gradually and graciously rolling out so that we can continue to be faithful to God and to one another in this transition time! We are constantly striving to accomplish our missions and

ministries with our unwavering faith and steadfast love in the community and the world despite the ongoing and new challenges.

My Pastoral Ministry of:
(1) Providing Support, Guidance, and Training to the Lay Membership in the Church



Rev. J. T. Kim
Senior Pastor

It is the sixth year of my pastoral ministry here with the congregation of FUMC of Riverside, and I am humbled and grateful to be part of this faithful Body of Christ. During the pandemic crisis, the members and friends have shown hard work and fruitful endeavors in not only supporting our congregation members but also helping the community members through several creative events.

As we have been trying to recover from every aspect in the “disrupted” church life, mainly due to the unprecedented pandemic situation and its negative impact, our church leaders have shown their desires to grow our church. Now we are in the process of having a professional church growth consultant service, starting in 2022, and I support this initiation of the project fully.

However, aside from working with the consultant team, I will continue to emphasize the three essential and basic ministry areas: Discipleship, Evangelism, and Stewardship by providing necessary support, guidance, and training. Nothing can replace these three ongoing moving forces in order to be a growing and thriving church.

cont'd on Page 2

(2) Ministering within the Congregation and the World

While I am mainly responsible for serving and leading the congregation, I am also called to serve the community and the world. Beyond my pastoral appointment here at FUMC of Riverside, I have been actively leading the Riverside Mission Area (Corona UMC, Wesley UMC, and FUMC of Riverside) which is one of the Mission Areas of the East District. I have been attending the Interfaith Clergy meetings with the DMB (Downtown/Magnolia/Brockton), via Zoom, and now in person. Moreover, I have been continually serving with the East District Planning & Strategy (DPAS) Committee as a member, after completing my term as a Co-Chairperson, June 2021.

(3) Administering the Temporal Affairs of the Congregation

It is my joy and blessing to serve God, as a Pastor, through the local congregation in this community. I am a Bishop-Appointed Ordained Elder in Full Connection in the United Methodist Church and am primarily responsible for the Word (Preaching and Teaching), Sacraments (Holy Communion and Baptism), Administration (Supervising the Staff and Leading the Church), and Pastoral Care, including officiating Weddings, Funerals (Celebrations of Life), and various life events. Providing spiritual guidance through Pastoral Counseling and Life Coaching is always one of my priorities.

Even in this challenging time, I am grateful that I have been able to lead various Bible Studies, both seasonal and on-going, and all kinds of meetings via Zoom. I believe that many of the upcoming Bible Studies and meetings still will be conducted online via zoom, just as our Sunday Worship, now in-person, is still being shared online through livestreaming and telephones.

Despite our limited circumstances, resources, or opportunities, due to these uncertain times, I express my deepest gratitude to the whole congregation and the committed leaders for their active, faithful, and generous support for our church's missions and ministries in many creative, loving, and caring ways.

Our church campus has continued to be our operating headquarters, with the worship team leading worship every Sunday from our familiar sanctuary for broadcast via Facebook Live. The or-

ganization "Meals on Wheels" continued to deliver meals from our property. We held many drive thru events like collecting socks, collecting pledge cards and collecting diapers for those in need. Our worship service has been our "lifeline" for our spiritual development and growth that provides strength and comfort from God. Now we are blessed to share our worship experiences and joy by expanding the service not only in person but also via online and telephone. We give our sincere thanks to all the worship leaders, musicians, the media team, many volunteers, and the staff, who have helped behind the scenes throughout these challenging times.

(Here: the list of my "Continuing Education for Spiritual Growth" has been omitted for the Messenger. If you'd like to read the complete list, please refer to the 2021-2022 All Church Conference Booklet available at the Church Office.)

The most basic and conventional practices of my spiritual discipline, such as prayers, meditations, reflections, and reading of the Bible and other books on various subjects, are always not only the foundation of my spiritual life but also the sources of my preaching ministry. Moreover, I gain a great deal of spiritual insight from the interactions and conversations that I have with the congregation and community members through a variety of venues and relationships.

My special thanks go to the Rev. Roy Riggs and the Rev. Beverly Devine who are my wonderful helpers, advisors, and friends! Their presence and gifts are God's blessings not only to the congregation but also to me!

The congregation and I are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Siosaia "Saia" Tu'itahi to our East District! Some of our church leaders have already met him via zoom on several occasions. I hope our whole congregation would get to know him more and better beyond our "All Church Conference" which will be presided by Rev. Siosaia Tu'itahi.

Even though our time of transitions will continue for a while, our common church mission remains the same: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." And we will continue to "Follow Jesus, Love People, and Transform the World" - together! Thanks be to God!

In Gratitude and Grace,
The Rev. Ji Tai "J. T." Kim, Pastor



United Methodist Men's Meeting for Sunday, January 9th

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Sunday, January 9th. 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. (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!)

Our featured speaker for January is our own Mr. Brian Tomlinson, the Chairman of our church Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees are entrusted with the maintenance of our church campus and physical plant. Brian is a life-long member of the church, and knows where all of the skeletons are buried.... and where all of the roof leaks are located! He will give us a summary of the Trustee's current work and upcoming projects, a "State of the Church Physical Plant" address if you will. He'll also give us an update on the current status of Boy Scout Troop 270 that meets in the Scout House at the back of our church parking lot. The Boy Scouts and the United Methodist Church have not yet come to an agreement on insurance and liability issues. Let's all pray that this issue can be resolved, and that we can continue as a church to support this vital ministry to young men.

In other news, thanks to the generosity of our church congregation, and the hard work of Bob Nelson, Greg Laird, Daryl Salmon, and Ron Bayer at our virtual silent auction last May, the United Methodist Men were able to make a \$500 donation to support the work and mission of the Salvation Army. Bob, Daryl, and Ron were able to present a check in person to Riverside area commander Captain David Cain on Monday, Dec. 13th. Thank you again to everyone for your support during last May's silent auction!



United Methodist Men Past President Daryl Salmon (R) and Treasurer Ron Bayer (L) are shown presenting a \$500 donation from the UMM to Captain David Cain with the Riverside Salvation Army on December 13, 2021. The Captain showed them around the facility including their Sanctuary, and described some of the ways donations are being used to help their homeless and re-entry programs.

(Photo submitted by Bob Nelson)



CALENDAR

All meetings will be via Zoom. If you have not attended a meeting before and would like to, contact Pam Conlin at 951-237-5470.

January 10, 2022, 1 p.m.

Almond/Wesleyan Circle

January 12, 2022, 1 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting

January 19, 2022, 1 p.m.

UMW Meeting

January 22, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

East District UMW Meeting

(Please see registration form on the next page for more information.)

January 25, 2022, 7 p.m.

Citrus Circle

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Neumann	1
Donna Kidder	3
Daniel Noble	3
Margaret Berger	7
Helen Kirkwood	8
Alex Othon	9
Jeff Ashworth	11
Linda Hice	11
Andrew Angel	12
Dan Cork	15
Ron Bayer	16
Kwang Jin Kim	18
Tina Rajaratnam	18
Charlotte Stevenson	20
Pam Conlin	21
Lee Ann Kocharian	22
Myles Pfeifle	22
Mary Herrmann	25
Jennifer Walker	26



East District UMW Local Leadership Training

“New Hope, New Beginnings”

Guest speaker: Rev. Siosaia Tu’itahi

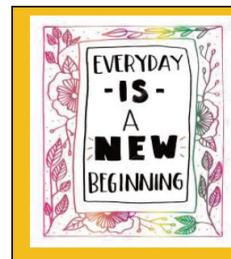
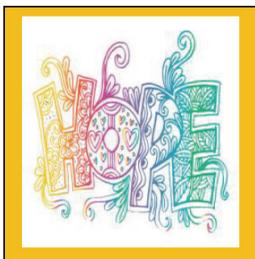
Saturday, January 22, 2022

10:00 am to 11:15 am

Montebello UMC

1220 W. Whittier Blvd.

Montebello, CA 90640



In-person and online streaming

Gathering starts at 9:30 with

Continental Breakfast

Registration is \$10 (for in-person)

Make your check payable to East District UMW

Registration by January 10, 2022 to:

Annie Solomon at annsolo1029@netscape.net; or

73027 Sun Valley Dr., Twenty-nine Palms, CA 92277

(Training schedules - TBA)

+++++

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

Ruth Halpenny Leaves a Legacy of Giving

For the last few months, we have highlighted (at the beginning of each month) several members who gave of themselves to our Church in significant ways during their lives as well as by remembering our Church in their Estate settlements at the time of death. Last month, we remembered and honored Bob & Lois Fitch and Ella Kreige for their many Legacies, including the lasting Fitch-Kreige Scholarship fund which lives on to benefit our students.

Today we are concluding this Legacy Series by remembering another faithful member, Ruth Halpenny, who many will remember in our congregation not that long ago. Ruth passed away in 2013. She was an outstanding Christian, supporting many Church activities including the Stephen Ministry which she helped organize and participate in during its early years.

Ruth joined our church in 1953. She had a very pleasant and humble demeanor, with a spirit that simply over-shadowed her financial ability and leadership to support so many of our Church Missions. Her father was a physician in Denver where she grew up and later moved to Riverside with family in the Citrus business. Throughout her life she generously supported our church. She had many interests, especially art, and also supported many philanthropic causes.

Funds from her Estate gift is managed carefully by our Trustees, like all of our legacy funds, large or small. The wishes of the donor are prayerfully honored. The Halpenny legacy is directed as requested for Congregational growth and Mission Outreach. Projects of our Church within these categories, for which there is limited budget, often turn to this source.

Our congregation owes a great debt of gratitude and appreciation for the life and legacy of Ruth Halpenny.



First, let us laugh...

Lost Keys

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

Q: Where did the music teacher leave their keys?

A: In the piano!

Kid's Corner News & What's Up Youth!

What happened last month?

- **Live Nativity** - This year we were able to perform the Live Nativity on the front lawn for a live audience with hot cocoa and treats. Check out the pictures online and on social media to see more.
- **Jesus Birthday Skit** (FUMCOR News) - Check out the service online (12/19) to see the breaking news.
- **Acolyte Program** - There are now five new and experienced acolytes, Lilly & Julia Zeeb, Kristin Beals, and Joseph & Justice Juarez. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an acolyte, contact me.

Parent's Morning Out: If someone you know has a need for daycare on Wednesday's from 9am -12pm please contact me or the front office for more information.

Uplift Youth and Family Night: Wednesdays at 6pm - 7:30pm, is a night of games, food (pizza) and fellowship. The youth invite the whole family to join as we apply the teachings of scripture to daily life.

AfterSchool Program: Wednesday from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, a free program is offered to provide space for children and youth to study or play at the church. Enrollment is free, please contact me for more information. This program is open to all.

What is going on this month?

- 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 the month.
- **"Living the Dream" Youth Camp** - (1/14 to 1/17) a multicultural camp that examines Martin Luther King Jr's, "I Have a Dream" speech and what it means across different cultural backgrounds. It is open from 6th grade to 12th grade levels. Please contact me for more information.
- **Uplift Guest-Speaker-Night** (TBA)- an invitation will be sent for various organizations to present their group's mission of service within the community. Offering the youth and the families more ways of developing deeper connections within the community and in fellowship.

Explore: What is a goal for you this new year? How will you take steps towards that goal? Talk to your family about the goals that you want to do this new year, maybe they can help you reach your goal and see how you might help a family member or friend reach their goal.

What to look forward to next month?

- **Talent Show Fundraiser:** An opportunity to showcase the gifts that God has given so that we might help a group or charity program. There will be a Children & Youth portion and a portion for the congregation to participate. So, dust off those dance moves and tune those harmonicas so that we might all rejoice in a joyful noise!
- **More FUMCOR News stories-** the children and youth will be recording more episodes of FUMCOR News to inform and investigate the lessons of scripture in our daily lives.

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

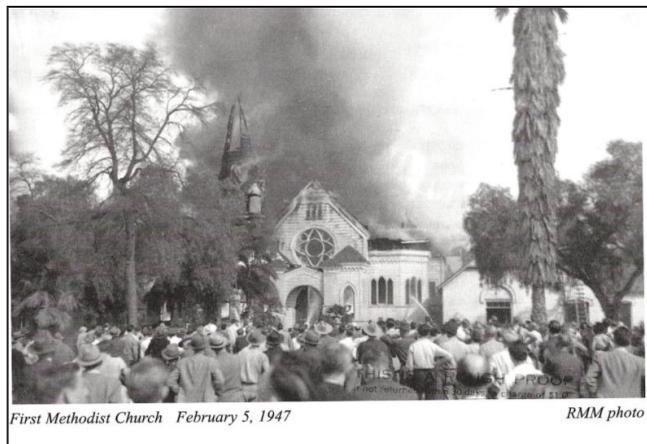
With an attitude of gratitude,
Mateo Lavea Mamea
Director of Children & Youth Ministries
First United Methodist Church of Riverside

150 Years | | Past to Present

“When fire leaped from the towering roof of the First Methodist Church on a February morning in 1947, crowds of people came running from all directions to the corner of Sixth and Orange streets. The belfry of the church was on fire with flames visible for blocks.” -- Joan Hall, from the book “Riverside’s Invisible Past.”

Spectators saved some of the furnishings. Congregation members grabbed important documents from the office. But eventually, the First Methodist Church sanctuary at 3535 Sixth Street in Riverside had to be declared a total loss. The cause? A fire caused by faulty electrical wiring. At the time of the fire, the sanctuary had gothic spires, two entrances and a large high-ceilinged amphitheater big enough to seat 600 people in oak pews. It had an organ and a choir loft and a parsonage for the pastor. The cathedral glass windows let light filter in from the west. The church faced Sixth Street, near Orange Street. Expanded and renovated several times, it housed an active congregation that grew from a few dozen people who first met in a one room schoolhouse back on Oct. 13, 1872. It was one of the first church services held in the city. In October, 1882, the Methodists rang a bell that could be heard all over the city. It was 1,200 lbs., cast in the Clinton Meneely Bell Company of New York. During an expansion project, the congregation sold the bell to the City of Riverside for use as a fire alarm. During the 1940s, even before the fire, the congregation began to plan for a new church on Brockton Avenue. Some of the most important papers saved from the original church were the drawings for the new church campus, which started with the Fellowship Hall, added the sanctuary and then added an Education wing. Bricks salvaged after the fire became part of a planter near our current Education building on Brockton Avenue. And that loud peeling bell? It ended up in the Peace Tower on the top of Mt. Rubidoux. It is still there today.

(We are indebted to Joan Hall and her book “Riverside’s Invisible Past” for some of this description.)



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!