

THE MESSENGER

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

WALK WITH THE RISEN CHRIST!

(By Pastor J. T. Kim)

I love walking -- both physically and spiritually. I "walk" every day on my treadmill, mainly to keep myself healthy. I also take my daily "walk" with Jesus through my spiritual disciplines, including reading the Bible and books, mostly on faith and love.

Have you noticed that our Christian life is described as "walking" with Jesus? From time to time, we enjoy singing, "**Just a closer walk with thee... daily walking close to thee...**" (The Faith We Sing #2158), and "**O How sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms...**" (UM Hymnal #133). Yes, we are pilgrims in this life journey, walking close to God every day.

After "walking" the 40 days of our Lenten Journey together, we gratefully celebrate Easter Sunday on April 17th! It's Resurrection Sunday, New Life Sunday, and New Hope Sunday for you and for everyone!

However, Easter is just the beginning. As you celebrate Easter, you leave your old habits behind and start walking with the newly resurrected Christ in a new day. Easter should never be routine, but a new opportunity for you to walk with Christ with New Hope and New Life!

In the book entitled We Make the Road by Walking, the author Brian D. McLaren,

who is a well-known speaker, activist, and public theologian, writes on Easter:

"... Between this day's sunrise and today's sunset, our world has been changed forever. Everything is new. From now on, whenever we break the bread and drink the wine, we will know that we are not alone. The Risen Christ is with us, among us, and within us... Resurrection has begun. We are part of something rare, something precious, something utterly revolutionary..."

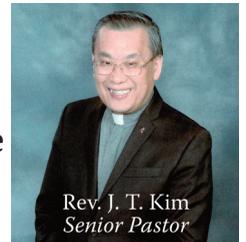
Yes, just as you walk and job for your health, your spiritual state must also be strengthened by your spiritual "walk" with the Risen Christ.

McLaren concludes with these words: **"This is what it means to be alive, truly alive. This is what it means to be en route, walking the road to a new and better day. Let's tell the others: the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!"**

May your new walk with the Risen Christ, along with your friends in Christ, be a joyful and delightful adventure! You are never alone!

With Easter Love & Blessings,

The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor



Rev. J. T. Kim
Senior Pastor

Please Join Us for Holy Week Services



**** Palm/Passion Sunday Worship**, April 10th, at 10 a.m. (Sanctuary): Child Baptism; Welcoming New Members through Reaffirmations of Faith.

**** Maundy Thursday Service**, April 14th, at 7 p.m. (Sanctuary): The Rev. Beverly Devine, Preaching; The Aldersgate Chorale.

**** Good Friday Service**, April 15th, at 7 p.m. (Sanctuary): The Rev. Roy Riggs, Preaching; Soloist/Ensemble.

**** Easter Sunday Worship**, April 17th, at 10 a.m. (Sanctuary): Easter Music with Brass Ensemble; Egg Hunt; Release of Butterflies; Easter Fellowship.

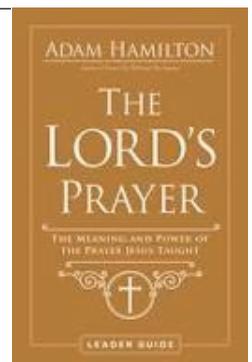


LOOKING FORWARD TO EASTER SUNDAY

Faith and Fellowship is accepting donations of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Wrapped candy is best (no chocolate or nuts). Bring your contributions to church to Kelly Weakly or Marcia Bales or drop it off at the church office during office hours (10 am to 2 pm) by April 10.

Please join the United Methodist Women as they study The Lord's Prayer with author Adam Hamilton. The study lasts 6 weeks and begins on the first Thursday following Easter, April 21, at 7:00 PM. We hold our studies via zoom, so you will need to receive an invitation to join us. If you have previously attended the UMW bible studies, you will automatically receive the invitation to the first lesson. If you have not previously attended, please contact Lyn Knowles at (951) 737-3541 to reserve your place. Your kingdom come." "On earth as it is in heaven." "Daily bread." You can recite these phrases from the Lord's Prayer by heart. You think you know what they mean, but truthfully, you're not entirely sure. You know it's the prayer Jesus used to teach us how to pray, but do you know why? You know the prayer is sacred, but do you grasp the power of the words?

In his new book and study, The Lord's Prayer, best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores each of the prayer's rich lines and examines their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. Not only will you come to understand its power; you'll learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for all of your prayers.



SODEXO IS RENTING SPACE

Are you noticing the white vans in the parking lot?

The FUMCOR kitchen, library, and some space in the parking lot is temporary headquarters for Sodexo, an international food prep and catering company that has clients that include UCR Extension, Meals on Wheels and many others. They will stay for at least three months, paying about \$3,000 per month to the church. The contract could potentially be extended, depending on Sodexo's needs. Their rent will partially make up for the income we lost from the jury trolley.

The church benefits from renting out some parts of our property.



Missions Garden is Back!

JOB OPPORTUNITY

First United Methodist Church of Riverside is seeking a secretary/receptionist to work in the friendly, relaxed atmosphere of the church office. This is a part-time position with office hours of Monday thru Friday, 10:00am to 2:00pm (20 hours/week). Starting wage is \$16.00/hour, with paid vacation and holidays. For additional information, please contact Greg Laird: lairdgregs@aol.com

THE POTATOES WERE LOADED

Our first Faith and Fellowship event since the pandemic was a huge success on Sunday, March 20, with a potato bar in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Missions Garden on the same day made for a busy Sunday afternoon. David Fraser's avocados won the produce popularity contest. We donated leftover fresh fruit to the Community Settlement House on 14th Street.



Nate deJesus, Settlement House, with our grapefruit.

BROKEN SHEEP COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL

Church council will not be held at the traditional time and date this April. Instead, Council will join with the Broken Sheep committees to discuss what each group has accomplished, the plans of each committee, and how the various committees should work together. We should have the report from Kim and Eric of Broken Sheep by the time we meet, and we can incorporate their observations into our planned work. For those on Church Council and Broken Sheep Committees, please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 30, from 9 am to 12 pm. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Ruben & Robin Renteria	18
Peggy & Uldis Stepe	26
Tom & Tina Fletcher	30

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Overton-Fraser	1
Bob Banks	2
Clayton Erickson	2
Lynn Ashworth	4
Margie Baillod	4
Samuel Britain	5
Dave Cudney	5
Cindy Lonsdale	10
Lee Ann Salmon	12
Jennifer Mahl	13
Rebel Harrell	15
Joan Roberts	15
Roger Murray	17
Erika Noble	17
Jonathan Bales	18
Karen Wilson	18
Derrick Austin	19
Genette Sizer	20
Chandra Roberts	21
Kasey Cole	23
Beth Waddell	25
Ann Huntington	27
Jocelyn Williams	27
Bessie Ridley	30

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!



United Women in Faith

UMW has a new name and a new look.

United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith! The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join and put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

APRIL CALENDAR

- April 11, 2022 1:00pm Almond-Wesleyan Circle
- April 13, 2022 1:00pm Executive Meeting
- April 20, 2022 1:00pm NO UMW MEETING
- April 26, 2022 7:00pm Citrus Circle
- April 30, 2022 8:00am-3:00pm Grandma's Attic Yard Sale

All meetings are held via Zoom. If you would like to attend any of the meetings or would like more information, please contact Pam Conlin 951-237-5470.

There will be no UMW meeting in April. We will be preparing for the Yard Sale on April 30th.

YARD SALE: We are having a yard sale to coincide with the Wood Streets Annual Yard sale on April 30th. If you would like to help, either the day of the yard sale or beforehand, please contact Pam Conlin at 951-237-5470. We would very much appreciate your help.

On UMW Sunday we awarded our 2020 Mission Recognition to our awesome Media Team. The award for 2021 went to Sonja Moore and Bev DeFrance. UMW gives this award to recognize those who have given of their time and talents to the UMW and/or the Church. The award is given annually. Because of the pandemic we are just now giving our Media Team their 2020 award.



Mimi Luker and Bev DeFrance

UWF MISSION MINUTE (Reprinted from the UMW Daily Prayer Guide)

From Lynn Ashworth, Missions Coordinator

REFLECTION

“During our tenure as United Methodist lay educational missionaries in Malasia on the island of Borneo in the South Pacific, our three young daughters attended local schools where they would make friends and learn the local languages. Our second daughter was excited as she dressed in her white dress and joined her kindergarten classmates for the graduation photo. When the printed photo arrived, our daughter rushed to us shouting, “Mommy, can you find me?” That was a remarkable question that indicated she saw herself no differently from the children who surrounded her. Not only was the photo in pre-color days of black and white film, her face was the only white one in the midst of darker ones representing Chinese, Iban, Malay, and Indian cultures.

Children are born into our world without racial prejudice. It is taught by example and in repetitious, negative, abusive language. Let us share in the vision of Isaiah 10:6 when the fallen creation will be restored: “A little child shall lead...” to reimagine God’s kin-dom on earth.”

By Camille Yahm, retired missionary to MALASIA



The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Palm Sunday, April 10th. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will start after church services, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Kim will e-mail a Zoom link to the entire congregation prior to the event.

Our topic for the April meeting is a comprehensive update on the current schism in the United Methodist Church. With the decision to postpone the next General Conference of the church until 2024, and the consequent decision to launch the new Global Methodist Church beginning on May 1, 2022 (i.e. next month), local Methodist churches throughout the world will need to begin a process of prayer and discernment to determine their way forward in this new era for the Methodist movement. We will plan to outline and disseminate the latest information available, and sketch out the options available for FUMCOR during this time. Local churches that would like to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church will need to follow the existing procedures outlined in the current Book of Discipline, since the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace which we discussed during our November meeting will not be voted on at the General Conference prior to 2024, and passage or even consideration of the proposed Protocol at a 2024

General Conference is far from certain. Please plan to join us for this informational meeting.

In other news, planning continues for our Silent Auction in May to raise money for our scholarship program for our FUMCOR college students. Please be thinking of items which you might consider donating to the auction. Collection of items for the auction has already begun, with a deadline of Easter Sunday, April 17th. Items can be brought to the church prior to that date and stored in the Susanna Wesley Room. If you need help having an item picked up, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Greg Laird, Mr. Bob Nelson, or Mr. Daryl Salmon, or any of the members of the United Methodist Men, and we will arrange for pick-up.



The auction will run from May 1 to May 29, with closing bids on Sunday, May 29th at 6 PM. Thanks very much for your support! As a special treat, we plan to have a program where we get an update from all of our FUMCOR college students at our June meeting of the United Methodist Men.

A Life of Faith and Service Springs from First UMC Riverside



The Rev. Jan Ritzau Wiley, former youth leader at FUMCOR and a retired District Superintendent, will preach on Sunday, April 24 to help us celebrate our 150th anniversary this year.

She joined the choir at FUMCOR as a teenager, singing with Dave Young, and she discovered her Christian faith at camps and M.Y.F. With her guitar and a great singing voice, she led the youth program at our church in the 1970s before heading off to college to become a librarian.

It was while she was enthusiastically helping a library patron that she heard a nearby patron try to shush her: "Excuse me, but could you be a little quieter?"

She said it was the moment that she realized that God might have a different plan for her life. She said Rev. Ken Miller and Rev. Ben Youngblood were both supportive and encouraging about her call to the ministry.

Her laughter and her empathy made the ministry a good choice. So she followed her calling and graduated from the Claremont School of Theology. She met her husband, the Rev. Mark Wiley, and together they were a two-clergy couple finding appointments at United Methodist congregations that were close enough for a happy family life for themselves and their two children, Melissa and Nick.

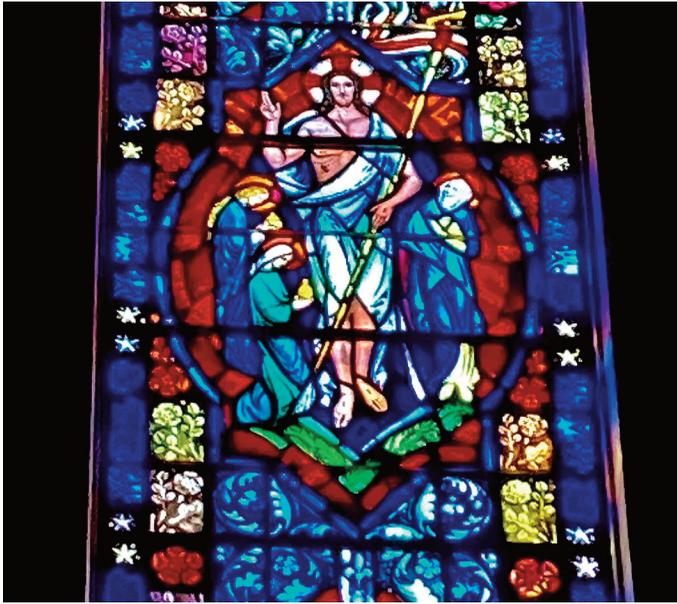
Jan's long and faithful service in our conference took her to La Mesa First UMC (San Diego District), Ramona UMC (San Diego District), California Heights UMC (Long Beach District), Community United Methodist Church in Huntington Beach and then as District Superintendent in the East District for four years.

She is now enjoying retirement with two granddaughters, Caroline, 4 and Hattie, and a puppy, Rocket.

She has been an influential leader throughout the church, serving as chair of many district and conference committees, the District Committees on Superintendency in both Long Beach and Santa Ana, Chair of the Board of Directors for Campus Ministry at Long Beach State, Chair of the California-Pacific Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair of the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, and as a member of the delegation of the California-Pacific Conference to the Western Jurisdictional Conference and Chair of our conference Mission/Vision Discernment Team.

She said it all started at FUMCOR. Please come say hello to the Rev. Jan Ritzau Wiley. She is the first of what we hope will be a series of familiar faces who will return to Riverside for an anniversary visit.

150 Years | | Past to Present



We are Digging Into Church History!

By Mike Alfred and Kris Lovekin

Through the Years, Women Renew and Revive the First United Methodist Church

April is the month of Easter, and the month of renewal and new life. We remember it when we spot the "Resurrection" window (located on the top of the left side of the sanctuary as you face the altar.) That window is also called the "Women at the Tomb." It was a gift from the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the forerunner of the United Methodist Women.

We have always had women actively serving in our congregation in organized groups with officers and smaller units known as branches or circles. They meet for Bible study and service. They meet to make quilts and crafts that raise money for mission work. They meet for fellowship and support, leaping into action to support families in grief with receptions after memorial serv-

ices. They wrap the grieving in prayer shawls. They work for racial justice, for the elimination of poverty, and for the protection of creation.

Because the Methodist Church merged and reorganized frequently, we have known these groups by many names. The Women's Home Missionary Society was formed in 1880. The name "Ladies Aid Societies" starts appearing in 1903. The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in 1921, especially for Methodist Episcopal women employed outside the home.

Eventually, these various groups came under the same umbrella and in 1939 we started using the name Woman's Society of Christian Service. In 1972 that name became United Methodist Women. And recently, just in the past few weeks, the name has changed again to United Women in Faith.

But by any name, the women of First United Methodist Church of Riverside are an organized force for good, serving the risen Lord with strength and skill, like the women pictured in our Resurrection window. If you want to get involved, check in with Cindy Qualitieri, who is currently leading the group.

This is one in a series about church history to help us celebrate the founding of our church in October, 1872. This year we are celebrating 150 years with a lunch after church on Sunday, Oct. 16th.