

150th Anniversary of the First United Methodist Church of Riverside ~2022 Calendar of Events~

10 a.m. Sunday, April 24

Guest Preacher

First UMC Riverside sanctuary

The Rev. Jan Ritzau Wiley delivers a sermon, "Back to the Future." She is a retired United Methodist pastor who grew up at First UMC Riverside and was a youth leader in the 1970s before heading to college and then seminary.



11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 8

United Methodist Men Via Zoom

Kris Lovekin and Bob Nelson, church historian, will present plans for the anniversary year to the UMM and provide a peek into the current research and digitization of historic church records that is now well-underway. This is a free event. Contact the church office for a Zoom link.



5 p.m. Sunday, June 12

Bell Concert

First UMC Riverside sanctuary

The bell choirs of First UMC Riverside will present a concert of favorites from the year, plus a rousing finale. This is a free event.

7 p.m. Monday, July 4

Independence Day Celebration

First UMC Riverside parking lot

We have an annual tradition of opening up our parking lot for the community to watch the fireworks. This year we will make it special for our anniversary year, with some games from the late 1800s.



3 p.m. Saturday, July 9

Firebrands and Revolutionaries: 150 Years of Organ Music
First UMC Riverside sanctuary

Organist Robert Phillips will offer up a program of organ music that celebrates church history and the independence of the nation. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted to support organ maintenance and repairs. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, nearly died in a house fire as a child. He was the “brand plucked from the fire” according to his mother Susanna Wesley, who said God had saved him for great things. John Wesley and his composer

brother Charles Wesley created a denomination that methodically pursued prayer, exercise, knowledge, and equality. They were both staunch abolitionists, just like Riverside’s founder John Wesley North. He wanted to live in a colony devoted to intelligent, industrious and enterprising people who valued education, books, churches and the arts. His nephew’s wife, Manta Love North, played the organ at First Methodist Church for 38 years.



5 p.m. Saturday, July 9

Tour of the Stained Glass
First UMC Riverside sanctuary

Mike Alfred will offer a tour of the stained glass windows of the church, dedicated to many people and causes over the years. The tour will follow the organ concert. This is a free event.



6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5

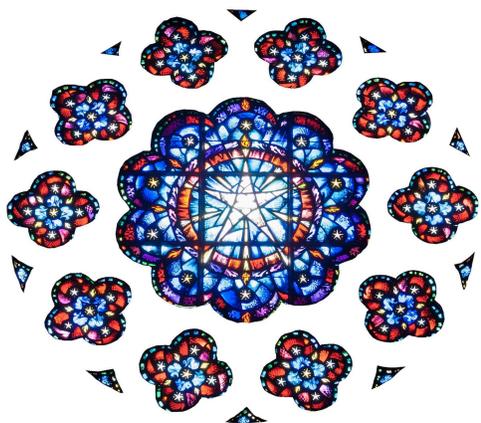
“The Mid-century Modern Marvels of Clinton Marr”

Back to the Grind

3575 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92507



Scott Watson, City of Riverside Historic Preservation, will offer a program called “*The Mid-century Modern Marvels of Clinton Marr*” as part of a program to support the Museum of Riverside. Clinton Marr was a Riverside architect who was also a longtime member of First UMC Riverside. He designed our own Education Building and the Wesley United Methodist Church on Arlington Avenue, along with many other wonderful buildings and homes in Riverside. How could we resist making this part of our anniversary celebration? This is a free event.



3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10

Tour of the Stained Glass

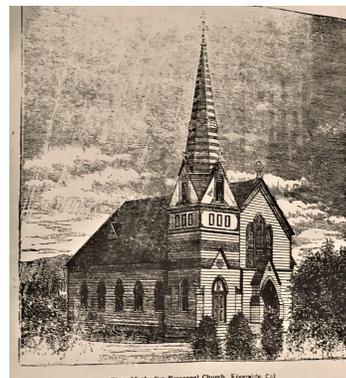
First UMC Riverside sanctuary

We will offer a tour of the stained glass windows of the church, dedicated to many people and causes over the years. This is a free event.

Monday, September 12

History Display in the Education Hallway

The archives committee (Bob Nelson, Kris Lovekin, Mike Alfred, Greg Laird) will display some of our historical treasures in the glass case near the Chandler Lounge. The display will include photographs and other memorabilia. This display will remain up at least through October.



7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6

Choir Practice at the Mission Inn

The Aldersgate Chorale will visit the corner at Sixth Street and Orange to remember the first location of the First Methodist Church in downtown Riverside. The church burned in 1947. This is very near the Mission Inn and the choir may find a piano inside the Inn to help celebrate the 150th birthday of the church and at the same practice for Sunday morning. (Permission being sought from the Inn.)



11:30 a.m Sunday, Oct. 16

Anniversary Celebration

First UMC Riverside sanctuary, patio and Fellowship Hall

The congregation plus invited guests will stay after the service for some presentations, box lunches and some displays of pictures. There are plans for children's activities, ice cream, tours of the sanctuary and other fun activities. We are fundraising to make this a free event.

