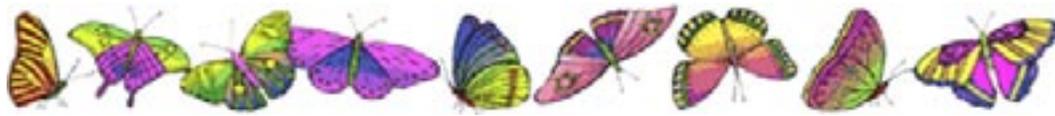


THE MESSENGER



NEWSLETTER OF

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RIVERSIDE
 4845 BROCKTON AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92506-0134 ~ (951)683-7831

WHAT IS YOUR SPIRITUAL HUNGER?

(By Pastor J. T. Kim)

Easter Greetings!

Being refreshed and recharged, I am gratefully back from my one-week post-Easter vacation, which was great! And thank you all for your love and support!

I cannot believe it's already May! After the East District Conference to be held on May 21st, the 2022 California-Pacific Annual Conference will follow in June.

As a transitional year from the coronavirus pandemic, this year's Annual Conference will be held in a hybrid format (Online & In-Person), not in Redlands, but in Costa Mesa. And the Conference's theme will be "Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger."

As your pastor, I would like to ask you this survey-kind of question, "What is your spiritual hunger?" In other words, what is your spiritual need or desire to be nurtured through our church? Or what do you long for in your life journey spiritually?

The main reason I am asking you is that I want my sermons (and sermon series), Bible studies, and other spiritual learning experiences to be relevant to your spiritual health and growth. I want to help you if you are struggling, or in need in every aspect of life as Disciples of Christ.

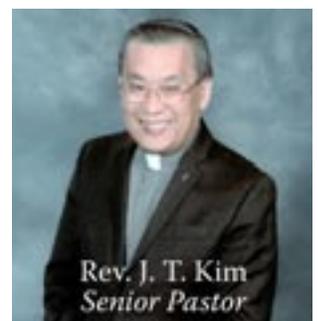
Normally and faithfully, I use the Revised Common Lectionary for my preaching. A lectionary is a collection of readings or selections from the Scriptures, specially arranged and intended for proclamation for the Christian worship. This 3-year cycle Revised Common Lectionary (1983), which had been originated by the Roman Catholic Church (1969), is now being used by most mainline protestant denominations worldwide, including our United Methodist Church.

However, as I am prayerfully preparing for my upcoming new sermon series on spiritual renewal and transformation, the Conference theme has caught my attention, and I have realized that I must and need to ask you about your "spiritual hunger" needs and your desired topics.

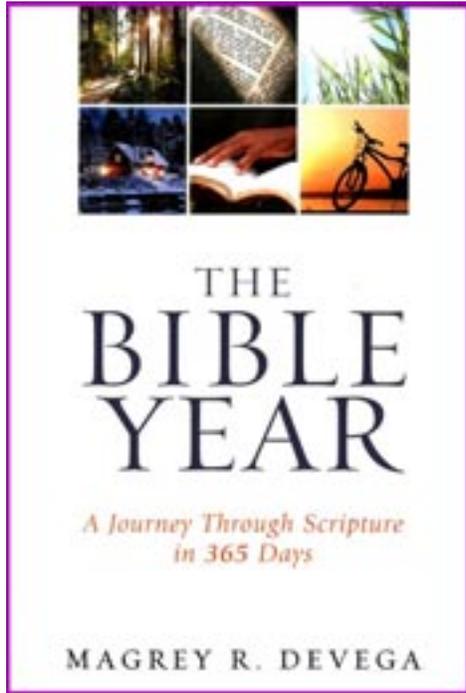
So, please share with me if you would like to hear such crucial topics from the pulpit. I will do my best to address your most interested topics through my preaching ministry with the guidance of the Scriptures and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Love and Blessings,

The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor



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



Please be informed that the Wednesday Bible Study (“The Bible Year”) will resume on May 11th, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Each of the following dates shows its Day# of the book (The Bible Year by Magrey R. DeVega).

May 11: Day 131
May 18: Day 138
May 25: Day 145
June 1: Day 152
June 8: Day 159

May 18, 2022 07:00 PM
May 25, 2022 07:00 PM
June 1, 2022 07:00 PM
June 8, 2022 07:00 PM

After the 5 sessions we will take a summer break; you are expected to continue reading the assigned daily Bible portion throughout the summer. You will be notified when we will resume meeting in September. Moreover, this is an open class; everyone is invited and welcome! Please let me know if you have any question.

*Easter Blessings,
Pastor Kim*

Did You Know?

YOUR BEST OPTIONS

for giving your church donations are by check or direct deposit from your bank. Using a credit card imposes fees on the giver or on the church.

And who likes that?

Make the change here: www.firstchurchriverside.org/giving

Vacation

Bible School 2022

July 11th-15th from 9am-1pm

Visit firstchurchriverside.org

\$25 for one child

\$35 for two children

\$45 for three children

(**\$5 more per each additional child)

For more information contact:

childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

First UMC of Riverside

4845 Brockton Ave, Riverside, CA 92506



It's been... quite a while!

Pat Beals,
a longtime church member,
was delighted to greet
the Rev. Jan Ritzau Wiley,
who was the youth leader for
the church in the 1970s and,
more recently, was our
District Superintendent.

Rev. Wiley preached
on April 24 as part of our
celebration of the church's
150th anniversary.





**GOODBYE
AND
HELLO**

Stephanie Chandler retired after more than a decade as church secretary. Many, from the congregation offered gratitude, as well as, best wishes in her retirement!

And, now, we say hello to our new secretary, Rev. Bev Devine.



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

James & Genette Sizer	7
Bob & Norma Nelson	13
Donna & Bill Woodard	14
Michael Thompson & Charles McFall-Thompson	15
Rev. J. T. & KwangJin Kim	29

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

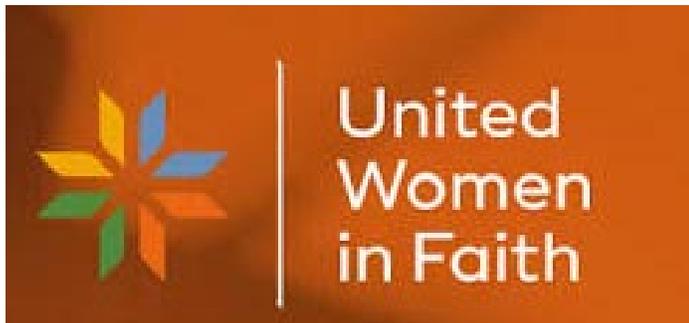
Jude Angel	1
Gaila Sims	1
Melanie Gaumer	3
Rev. Bev Devine	4
Christine Waite	6
Susan Page-Logger	7
Virginia Brawner	10
Steven Beals	12
Dale Grout	12
Lyn Knowles	12
Tim Traver	12
L.J. Arguelles	18
Josephine Essien	19
Melissa Elsner	20
Nana Gwira	20
Greg Laird	21
Kris Lovekin	21
Mike Alfred	25
Kelly Weakly	25
Doug Slaughter	27
Cassie Lonsbery	29
Ann Pfeifle	29
Leslie Tomlinson	29

FUMCOR STAFF

Pastor: Rev. J.T. Kim
 Office Manager: Becky Ruiz
 Secretary: Rev. Bev Devine
 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!



UWF WELCOMES YOU!

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.

May 9, 2022 1:00pm
Almond/Wesleyan Circle

May 11, 2022 1:00pm
Executive Committee

May 18, 2022 1:00pm
UWF (UMW) Meeting speaker is Deaconess Cecil Arceo.
We will be learning more about what our missionaries in the United States are doing. Please come join us.

May 24, 2022 7:00pm
Citrus Circle: Leader, Patti Gardenias

Assembly 2022 is being held in Orlando, Florida from May 20-22. The theme is "Turn It UP." The Assembly will be in person and virtual.

To register go to:
<https://assembly2022.org>

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Yard Sale on April 30th. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

UWF MISSION MINUTE

(Reprinted from the UMW Daily Prayer Guide)

From Lynn Ashworth, Missions Coordinator

~REFLECTION~

When Christopher aged out of foster care, finding himself homeless, jobless, and without familial support, he found. David and Margaret Youth and Family Services and he joined our Transitional Housing Program and Workforce Training Program. David and Margaret empowers children, youth, and families through culturally diverse services that foster emotional, educational, spiritual, and identity development.

Through the Transitional Housing Program Christopher received housing and had his basic needs met. Which freed him to focus on becoming an independent adult in the Workforce Training Program. He received life skills and employment readiness training, as well as a paid internship in the campus cafeteria. After his internship ended, and COVID interfered, Christopher lost interest in finding a job. An employment specialist at David and Margaret stepped in to provide support and job training.

Christopher is now a full time student, has a full time job, and has sustainable housing. With the help of David and Margaret he is officially an independent adult.

*~Jadie Delgado,
Digital Communications Coordinator
David and Margaret
Youth and Family Services
La Verne, CA*



**United Methodist Men's Meeting
Sunday, May 8th
Mother's Day Sunday**

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. Please invite your Mother to attend as well, for a real Mother's Day treat!

Our featured speaker for Mother's Day will be our very own **Kris Lovekin**, who will be briefing us on some of the exciting plans coming up this summer and fall as we celebrate our church's 150th Anniversary.

Kris has been working on the church-wide 150th Celebration committee, and has also been helping Bob Nelson, our Church Historian with his volunteer sub-committee (Greg Laird, Mike Alfred and Kris) on research, filing and digitizing our Historical records.

Some of those records waft between "historical" and "hysterical", but discerning which is which and trying to cull and organize them is a huge job. They will be sharing their plans and status in this meeting.

We would love to have you join us for this meeting to kick-off your Mother's Day celebration.

In other news...

our Silent Auction will begin in May to raise money for our scholarship program for our FUMCOR college students.

**The auction will run from
May 1 to May 29,
with closing bids on
Sunday, May 29th at 6 PM**



We'll have the items displayed in the glass case in the breezeway of the church, as well as in an on-line catalog.

Greg Laird has once again volunteered to coordinate the bids. Thanks very much for your support of this vital ministry for our students!

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..... and get ready for lunch, as we plan to meet again in person after church for our June meeting!

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

**In this church people are dedicated to the education of our youth.
There are several scholarships available to support our youth in higher education.
Here is some background on those scholarships.**

Genevieve Russell/Felice Riley Memorial Scholarship- Genevieve Russell was a faithful member of this church. Her family directed that funds donated in her memory be collected in a scholarship fund. Harrie and Felice Riley were also members of this church from for over 50 years. Felice served the Sunday School, youth groups and United Methodist Women (now Women of Faith) and led our prayer chain. Harrie served the building maintenance program, worked on the church grounds, and in the kitchen. He helped with transportation, provided flowers and served as an usher/greeter.

There are two conditions for consideration of this scholarship.

- 1) You have been, and are now, an active participant in our church fellowship.
- 2) You are now, or will be in the coming Fall term, enrolled at Riverside Community College.

Lois Fitch/Ella Kriege Memorial Scholarship

Ella Kriege served her Lord through FUMCOR for 52 years. Ella's daughter, Lois Kriege Fitch also served her Lord through this same fellowship. This loving "mother-daughter" team modeled gracious discipleship throughout their lives, especially to our youth.

There are two conditions for consideration for this scholarship.

- 1) As a new college student, you must now be an active participant in the FUMCOR fellowship (participating where possible in worship, praying for the fellowship, sharing in youth activities). If you are a returning college student, you need to be practicing your faith in your college situation.
- 2) You are now, or will be in the coming fall term, enrolled in a four-year accredited institution for higher learning.

The Marr Family Scholarship (new this year)

Both Clint and Gerry Marr were dedicated long-time members of FUMCOR. In fact, the Marr extended family spans five generations of dedicated family members. Funds will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement, church and community activities, financial need and educational objectives.

Here are the conditions for consideration for this scholarship.

- 1) Consideration will be given to a student entering or already enrolled in the University of California at Riverside. If no UCR students are eligible in a given year, the funds may be awarded to an eligible student attending California Baptist University. If there are no UCR or Cal Baptist students who apply, the funds may be awarded to a Riverside Community College student.
- 2) The student must be an active participant at FUMCOR, participating in areas of leadership, Bible study or Christian fellowship, or active in Christian activities at the university.

~~APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED VIA EMAIL BY MAY 16~~

Please request the application via e-mail at cec@fumcor.com.

Let us know if you are a new college student or if you are a returning student, as there are different applications for each one. You will submit the applications to the same email.

Through their May auction proceeds, the United Methodist Men also award scholarships to our youth. The application process will be handled via email, so it is important that you list an email address that will be valid through the end of August. —Regan Pope, Christian Education Chair



150 Years | | Past to Present
"We are Digging Into Church History!"

*Our series about church history continues.
This year, we are celebrating 150 years
with a lunch after church
on Sunday, Oct. 16th.*



Laughter Reigns as We "Ring His Praise"
By Mike Alfred

In 1973 (when I was ten) Rita Wiggins, a piano teacher and the wife of the Rev. Perry Wiggins who was Minister of Education, formed the first Handbell Choir at First Church. My mother eagerly joined the group which practiced on Saturday mornings, the same time as the Asbury Choristers, which I never missed.

After our rehearsal I would enter the Education Building to hear the clear notes of the bells echoing in the long hallway. More particularly, I remember the laughter they shared as they tried to master this new music and "Ring His Praise."

I also remember the great care they showed for the bells -- the white pallbearers gloves, the taboo against letting one bell clank against another, and that each bell had its own special place in the case.

Initially, First Christian Church allowed us to borrow their three octaves of bells while we raised money to purchase our own. Contributions and memorials, whether large and small, started adding up.

With those gifts we could afford a total of five octaves. The Engleman family donated one of the octaves as a family gift.

The bells cost from \$60 to \$155 each. Today they start at \$250.

Creative church members sewed pads to use with the tables.

The Bell Choir first played at Christmas Eve services in 1974. A Service of Dedication of Handbells for the five octaves was held in June 1975. A youth choir and two adult choirs often played in services and gave an annual concert in May. We named our choirs the Joy Ringers and the Allegro Ringers.



Over the years, many people have rung the bells. In the past 15 years, our current bell choir director Gayla Lonsbery added a children's chime choir and techniques that include change ringing and the use of a bell tree.

The bells play with the choir and with the praise band on occasion.

During the pandemic, the bell choir offered songs for the online services by recording themselves playing and creating videos.

The bell choirs have traditionally offered a concert each June and this year, the date is set:

BELL CHOIR CONCERT
5 p.m. Sunday, June 12
in the sanctuary.

**The concert finale is something popular,
a showy piece that remains a surprise.
*Join us to find out the surprise!***