

THE MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UMC RIVERSIDE
4845 BROCKTON AVE. (951) 683-7831

REFLECTIONS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by Kris Lovekin

Greetings my friends!

Judging from the most recent California Pacific Annual Conference, held each year in June, the spirit of Christ is alive and well in our region of the United Methodist Church.

Gathering on Zoom webinars and hotel conference rooms in Costa Mesa, we voted to raise pay for new ministers, to seek racial justice in our policies.

We saw new candidates for ministry confirmed (including Rev. Kate Hunter, who will speak at FUMCOR next month).

Sadly, we voted to close three UMC congregations in El Monte, Huntington Beach and Desert Hot Springs.

A highlight for me was the speech by Erin Hawkins, who described how the lessons she learned at church taught her to speak up proudly at the microphone and have the confidence to earn multiple college degrees and take a job in Washington D.C. She is now working in Los Angeles as our Executive Director of Connectional Ministries.

I felt deep relief when delegates stood to cheer after a vote to make Cal-Pac a safe harbor conference for LGBTQI pastors and seminary students who want to pursue pastoral life without harassment.

Bishop Grant Hagiya, who is getting ready to retire, said there is overwhelming agreement that we will be ordaining and marrying lgbt candidates.

"Let's work on important issues, like racism, and inclusion of all people, especially our LGBTQI community," Bishop Hagiya said. "There is no turning back for us. This is a conference that will always be on the edge, and will always be leading the denomination."

Three impressive pastors were selected as candidates for Bishop: Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Rev. Sandra Olewine and Rev. Tom Choi. I thought maybe I was voting for "my" next Bishop. But no. The United Methodists like to share our best candidates with other jurisdictions. That is what keeps us in connection.

Hundreds of delegates donned hair nets packed 27,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. It was like a factory line, only a lot more crowded and chaotic. But we made a LOT of meals! In another room the 50 packs of diaper wipes we donated slipped into hygiene kits.

We celebrate the fact that Pastor Kim has been re-appointed to our church. He asked me to send his deep thanks for a supportive congregation.

Thanks to co-lay leader Loretta Cudney, delegate Greg Laird, Pastor Kim and Pastor Mateo, conference young adult rep. Bree Marshall and conference youth rep. Joseph Juarez.



Kris Lovekin, with featured speaker, Erin Hawkins & Loretta Cudney



Rev. Kate Hunter with Bishop Grant Hagiya



Pastor J.T. Kim and Breeana Marshall, a young adult representative for Cal-Pac Conference

**If you are intrigued,
there are many videos online:
<https://www.calpacumc.org/ac2022/>**

BYE BYE SUMMER BASH AND HELLO NEW FAMILIES

FUMCOR will be hosting a community event on July 30th called the "Bye Bye Summer Bash."

At this event, we will be giving away school supplies as well as providing lawn and water games, a bounce house, snacks, and door prizes.

"We are excited to invite the community to our campus to introduce our church as a place of welcoming and friendship," said Melissa Williams, who leads the organizing committee.

In the coming weeks, we will be asking members of the congregation for your support. We will need volunteers for the day of the event, as well as school supply donations. Thank you all in advance for helping us to grow our church family.



THE CHURCH IN DOLLARS AND CENTS



The Church Finance Committee is grateful for all the pledges and offerings received. Your gifts help to manage FUMCOR.

Every penny counts in church finances, including pennies from when you order your online purchases from Amazon Smile, or dollars for rental agreements with cell tower companies.

That money helps to pay for staff, supplies, repairs, printing, materials, music and so much more. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Finance Committee Chair, David Fraser.

YAY FOR LONSBERY POWER!

We all know Gayla Lonsbery. She and her family sit in the media booth on Sunday mornings and through the magic of live streaming, they bring our church service to those unable to attend in person. Dan, Cassie and Carmen have all joined in the booth at one time or another. They take no money for their Sunday service.

However, Gayla is an employee of the church. She serves as the bell choir director. This is a part time job that involves leading and teaching adults and children to play the bells and chimes. You don't have to know how to read music; Gayla will teach you. She attends workshops and conventions to update her musical skills, and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her position as leader of the bell choirs.

It is this combination of paid staff and volunteer labor that combines to create the energy and action of our church. Your gifts help us accomplish this.





United Women in Faith

WHO NEEDS SCHOOL SUPPLIES? WE DO!

School is out. You know what that means? "Back-to-School" sales!

In past years, we have gathered school supplies and donated them to other organizations such as the Salvation Army or Project Hope.

This year, we are going to distribute the supplies ourselves at the Bye Bye Summer Bash! When you see those school supplies go on sale, grab some spiral bound notebooks, pencils, or backpacks. Bring them to church and leave them in the Narthex.

Here is a list of what to look for:

- Elementary students: backpacks (no cartoon characters please), wide ruled spiral bound notebooks, pencils, colored pencils, erasers, pencil boxes, and rulers.
- Middle School students: backpacks (no characters please), three ring binders, college ruled or wide ruled packs of lined paper, pens and pencils, whiteboard markers, highlighters, and pencil pouches.
- If you don't have time to shop, please make a donation and label it "school supplies."



FYI

- There will be no Unit or Circle meetings in August.
- The UWF Executive Committee will meet at 1 p.m. July 6th on Zoom.
- Please make checks for pledge or donations payable to United Methodist Women.



HINDU TEMPLE TOUR

We are going to visit the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple in Chino Hills on Thursday, Aug. 4. We plan to meet at FUMCOR at 9:30 so we can carpool. We will have a guided tour followed by lunch in their Indian vegetarian cuisine cafe. Price range in the cafe ranges between \$7 and \$13. The Temple is wheelchair accessible. No bare shoulders or bare knees. If you are interested in going, please contact Pam Conlin at 951 237-5470 as soon as possible.

COME TO A POTLUCK

We are having a Potluck with Wesley UWF and Corona UWF at Corona UMC from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 14. This is a chance to visit with each other.

Please plan to come and invite a friend.





UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Church

UMM GATHERED IN PERSON TO HEAR DREAMS

The United Methodist Men held a lunch in June to eat delicious meatloaf made by David Fraser and to listen to the dreams of their scholarship winners.

This was the first in person lunch for the group in two years.

Kyle Grimes is studying anthropology at Riverside City College. He dreams of the life of an adventurous archeologist.

Sophie Weiss is in grad school at UC Riverside, studying materials science, which can have wide applications in energy, computers and even something like modeling the multifaceted sight of flies.

Jennifer Walker is working on her Master's degree in fine art at UC Riverside and this has been a big year for her in getting her work out in the world in exhibits.

UMM President Matt Gorder said that the next lunch happens in September.

He said the money from scholarships flows in from the group's major fundraiser, the Silent Auction. A generous congregation helped the group raise more than \$1,450 to help support scholarships for FUMCOR students.

"We would like to give a special thanks to Bob Nelson, Greg Laird, Ron Bayer, Bill Ashworth, and Daryl Salmon for all of their hard work to make the auction a success," said Matt Gorder.

Jennifer Walker

Kyle Grimes



Sophie Weiss

WE HAVE A NEW CHURCH LOGO

As part of our on-going effort to reach out to our community, we have created a new logo. The logo will uniquely identify us to our community.

Working with Eric Sieberling of our consultant team called "Broken Sheep," we initially brainstormed some ideas. Then, we narrowed it down to the image and color that means the most to us. Here's the breakdown:

- The image of the bell tower anchors us in our traditions and in something that is easily seen from the neighborhood. We want people to recognize which unique church this is.
- The sun peeking over the top shows that we are "in the light" and that we are rising. It also reminds of how Mt. Rubidoux rises behind the church property.
- "First United" emphasizes the word united, which is of course part of our official name. But it has the added bonus of describing a good feeling that we want to inspire in our congregation.
- The maroon color with orange accents shows that we are a warm, passionate, active and vibrant church. Colors communicate in interesting ways.

This logo can be used in color and black and white. It will be incorporated in all our new communication materials. Look for it everywhere as we roll out new posters and flyers as well as digital media.

-- Your communication team is Gayla Lonsbery, Kris Lovekin, Jeff Ashworth and Carmen Lonsbery



Boom!



Come enjoy the Riverside fireworks show from the best vantage point in Riverside. We open the parking lot at 5:30 p.m. and collect a \$5 donation to help support fellowship activities. Bring a picnic! The boy scouts will be selling hot dogs and other snacks near the Scout House.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Addyson Erickson	4
Ian George	4
Annie Clark	5
Paloma Clark	5
Patti Gardenias	5
Cheryl Hanrahan	5
Amelia Nieto	9
Tim Noble	9
Ruben Renteria	9
Nidia Mamea	10
Rollin Edmunds	13
Michael Noble	15
Loretta Cudney	17
Cindy Qualtieri	17
Yvonne Flagg	18
Marcia Bales	21
Joan Brown	23
Rebecca Koenig	25
Sophie Weiss	26
Kaitlin Traver	28
Jean Grout	29
Chalmer Tomlinson	29
Lou Santino	30
Rosette Sims	30
Stan Cook	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Derek & Elizabeth Updegraff	7
Mateo & Nidia Mamea	9
Daryl & Lee Ann Salmon	11
Connie Smith & Bill Stenger	13
Dale & Jean Grout	20



VBS SET TO START JULY 11

Come get on a roll with God. Children from preschool to entering 6th grade will be filled up with spirit and faith at a Vacation Bible School themed around Food Trucks.

Barbara Jo Wilson has agreed to lead our VBS efforts once again.

Hours are 9 am to 1 pm each week day between Monday, July 11 and Friday, July 15.

Although enrollment is full, Barbara Jo said she may need a few more volunteers.

FUMCOR STAFF

Pastor: Rev. J.T. Kim

Office Manager: Becky Ruiz

Secretary: Beverly Devine

Choir Director: Yvonne Flagg

Bell Director: Gayla Lonsbery

Organist: Robert Phillips

Preschool Director: Karen Wilson

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!

FIREBRANDS AND REVOLUTIONARIES—150 YEARS OF ORGAN MUSIC

By Robert Phillips

As part of FUMCOR's year-long 150th anniversary celebration, organist Robert Phillips will present a concert at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 9, on the church's magnificent Aeolian-Skinner instrument.

He will be joined by Kris Lovekin and Yvonne Flagg, sopranos, and Phil Bremenstuhl, bass, on some numbers.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was a firebrand in the most literal sense. In 1709, fire consumed the Epworth rectory, and five-year-old John was rescued through the nursery window. He later wrote that he was the "brand plucked from the fire," and his mother, Susanna Wesley, said that God had saved him for great things. John and his composer brother Charles created a denomination that methodically pursued prayer, exercise, knowledge, and equality. Both men were staunch abolitionists.

A firebrand in a more figurative sense was John Wesley North, Riverside's founder, who was studying for the Methodist ministry when he quit to pursue the law and public policy. He was also an abolitionist and wanted to live in a colony of intelligent, industrious, and enterprising people who valued education, books, churches, and the arts. He and his wife, Anne Loomis North, were influential in the founding of churches in Riverside 150 years ago, including First Methodist.



Robert Phillips, organist

Their nephew's wife, Manta Love North, played the organ at First Methodist Church for 38 years.

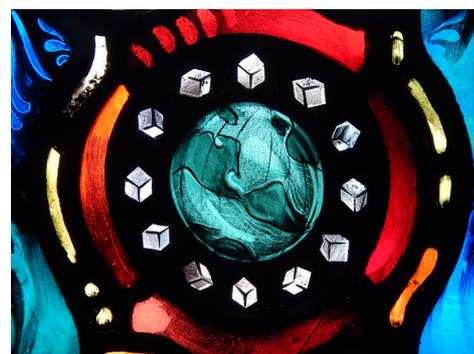
Every July, we celebrate the courageous revolutionaries of the United States, who fought and won their freedom from Britain. Their assertion in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal" shocked the world. To honor the sentiment, the concert will begin with a pair of patriotic numbers. After that, we will explore the music of the Wesleys, including organ and vocal works by Charles, Samuel, Samuel Sebastian, and Charles, Jr., and hymns from John's Sacred Harmony, published in 1780. We will hear fanfares, fantasies, and toccatas based on tunes associated with Charles Wesley's hymn texts. The concert will also feature some of the greatest hits from 150 years ago, as well as 21st-century compositions by former FUMCOR organist David Christensen, including a ditty entitled "March of the Hamsters." To finish the program, we'll hear five composers' variations on that most famous of Methodist hymns, "O for a thousand tongues to sing," demonstrating the wide range of creativity that the tune inspires, with, of course, a roof-raising toccata at the end.



John Wesley preaches

A freewill offering will support the Organ Dedicated Fund. Generous donations to this fund have already paid for much-needed renovations of the instrument. In August, our technician will redo the wiring in the console, which should eliminate some of the organ's unpredictable and nerve-wracking behavior (e.g., randomly disabling all the pistons, refusing to cancel certain stops, intermittently powering-down the console). At the same time, he will replace the disintegrating fabric on one of the air reservoirs. (Did anyone notice the sound like a jet plane landing during the Ashworth wedding? That was the leaky air reservoir! It has been temporarily patched and will be good as new after the August project.) Future work will include replacing the screen on the pipe chamber (which turns to dust when touched), repairing damaged and collapsing pipework, and the biggie—the long-overdue re-leathering of the entire instrument.

After the concert, stick around for a tour from Mike Alfred of the church's beautiful stained-glass windows!



150 Years || Past to Present

For Hazel Denning, All the Church is a Stage

By Kris Lovekin and Mike Alfred



Hazel Denning in 1944

This past Maundy Thursday, some church members sorted through hundreds of costumes and offered up a short play about the last supper. But why do we have so many costumes?

Our history includes a strong theater tradition that started in 1939, with the founding of The Thespian Guild by Hazel Denning, who joined the church a year before with her husband Burl. She created plays to strengthen faith and uplift the spirit.

Sometimes they were comedies and sometimes dramas. Many church members have taken the stage of the Fellowship Hall.

In 1949, Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" included dozens of people. There were collaborations with other churches in something called the Inter-Church Drama Group, which promoted ecumenical themes. Actors and crews from different churches put on "A Reformation Program" in 1959 and "Christ in the Concrete City," which reflected the changing times of the 1960's.

For FUMCOR's Centennial in 1972, Hazel Denning wrote and directed "A Dream Come True," a dramatization of our church's first hundred years. It included projected images, and voices representing the many hundreds of people who helped build it.

Hazel Denning wore many hats over the years from church secretary to youth leader, then later as a psychologist and counselor. She was active in Community Players. She sought to encourage people to feel God's love in themselves and let it shine through. She finished her doctorate at age 76 and died in 2006, at the age of 98. These days Sue Tomlinson works to keep the costumes organized and in good shape, bringing them out regularly for Living Nativity and other events.



Reformation Program, 1959



"A Roaring 20's Review" with "a cast of thousands" included Brian Tomlinson as one of the singing waiters.



A Palm Sunday morning with costumes in 2017



The classic comedy "You Can't Take It With You" featured Pat Beals as "Alice," the "normal" person who nevertheless loves her eccentric family. Richard Austin's father, Stan Austin, played the IRS man (second row, left). The show raised the money for a new stage curtain.



Elaine Vergeront, Bill Wolter and Andy Miller in "A Dream Come True"