

The Messenger

Love

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Ave. Riverside, CA 92506

LOVE

What is Your Passion?

By Kris Lovekin

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

James 1: 17 KJV

Our Lenten season is full of good soup, comforting and delicious. This year we will hear from some of our church family and friends about the gifts and graces they have received from God. Each Wednesday we will sing together and enjoy soup from a different fellowship group.



We start with two services on Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 14**, at 12 noon and 7 pm. where we can contemplate the sacrifice of Jesus. Rev. Bev Devine will lead us.

On Wednesday, **Feb. 21** we learn more about our stained glass windows from Mike Alfred, who grew up in this church.

On **Feb. 28** we will hear from Sophie Weiss about her passion for art and painting.

On **March 6** we learn more about weaving from Lyn Knowles.

On **March 13** we hear from Selin Nielsen, who has a passion for the refugee population and will tell us about progress made in the past few years.

On **March 20** we hear from Carolyn Greywood about her family's passion for Heifer International and how glad she was to find that our church values that organization as well.

If you will bring delicious soups to Lenten dinners, have them there between 5:30 and 5:45 pm and know that you can get help carrying those crock pots from people inside Fellowship Hall. Bread will be provided.

After that we will be ready for Holy Week. We will join Wesley UMC for a Maundy Thursday service in their sanctuary, and then for Good Friday service we invite them into our sanctuary. We want to encourage the fellowship and connection between our congregations. **(cont.)**

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Lenten Passion (cont.)

We gather Sunday, March 31 for the bright and passionate Easter Sunday service that will include brass and flowers and butterflies and all kinds of rejoicing. Our guest speaker will be Erin Hawkins-Smith, executive director of connectional ministries for the Cal-Pac Conference.



Are Photos or Video Your Thing?

Our communications team is in need of someone willing to help with photos or video for shouting to the world about our church family.

Contact Gayla Lonsbery or Kris Lovekin

If you give to church
on a credit card,
remember to cover the
3 percent fees!



Would You Teach Sunday School?

Our children are a blessing!
Listen to your heart...and if God is calling you
to minister to children, we need you on Sundays.
You would be our second person
and share responsibilities
for leading activities
and supervision; the
curriculum is provided.
Thank you for your
prayerful consideration,
Contact Christina Graves.



Volunteer Opportunities

Dinners at Family Promise

First UMC will again host Family Promise of Riverside in our Sunday School rooms. We have a good space that we can offer and there are bathrooms nearby.

Church and Society/Missions has voted to make this the focus of our "hunger ministry," something that Greg Laird has been leading. But he is ready for someone else to take over the organizing of the teams. Is this your calling?

Thanks to our recent volunteers for providing meals: Steve Kerrick, Richard Rajaratnam, Margie Bailod, Greg and Lisa Laird, Pam Conlin, Lyn Knowles, Cindy Qualtieri and Patti Gardinias.

Contact Kris Lovekin if you are called to take a meal. Or just get on board the Family Promise meal train by signing up here:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/z3o1ly>



Sending Books into the World

Lynn Ashworth's books will be distributed on the patio after worship on Sunday, Feb. 18 and Sunday Feb 25.

They will also be in the Fellowship Hall during Lenten Soup Suppers Feb. 21 and 28.

There are a wide range of Spiritual, Biblical, and Women's topics. Lynn was an avid reader who often shared her wit and wisdom with our congregation.

Take home some Lynn Love in February.

Gifts & Graces

Funding our Mission



Flapjacks for Fumps was a Great Success

A big Thank You to our Church Family for your support of the First Annual "Flapjacks for FUMPS" Fundraiser.

We also want to thank the Kitchen Crew lead by our own David Fraser and our Outreach Committee for all their hard work keeping all the plates full and the line moving along. You all were AWESOME!

And of course we want to thank our Preschool Families for your continuous support throughout the year with all of our fundraisers... you are truly Wonderful!

Our Best to you,
Karen Wilson, the Preschool Board, and Staff



On Jan. 27, families gathered and there was a line out the door for a breakfast that raised more than \$1,300

Know a Young Family? Time for Preschool Enrollment!



Our preschool is starting to enroll for the Fall, with registration for the church family starting Feb. 1. The general public has a chance to enroll starting on March 1.

Founded in 1947, the preschool offers social, emotional, spiritual and developmental growth in a carefully planned program. It has always been an important part of our church. This program is child centered, licensed and accredited. The staff fosters and appreciates the individual child's natural curiosity, creativity and ability.

More here: <https://www.fumps.org> or call 951 683-4500

Parents Morning Out

Do you know someone who can use a break in the morning? We are looking for more families for Parents Morning Out, which operates from 9 am to 12 noon on Wednesdays when FUMPS is in session. Contact Christina Graves at childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org or the church office at 951-683-7831.



Youth in Service and Fun

We are looking for more acolytes to bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary. This is a good service opportunity for young people who develop skills and take pride in their place in the service. We will train them.

Also, we will have Youth Group at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, Feb 7 and 21. Please join us for pizza, devotionals, and games.



Cherish the Children

As February embraces us with the warmth of its love, let's take a moment to cherish the children around us. Like delicate blossoms in the garden of life, they bloom with potential, and our love nurtures their growth. In this month of affection, let's shower our little ones with kindness, encouragement, and the boundless love that echoes the heartbeat of God.





Creating the Beloved Community

Dr. Joan Roberts, shown at left, spoke on Jan. 14 in church about the dreams of the Civil Rights era in the U.S. and how those dreams are still not realized. In February, which is Black History Month, we will be exploring ways that we can make justice flow like a mighty river.

The choir is preparing anthems and the Rev. Bev Devine will focus the sermon on Feb. 4 around the theme of Black History.



We Need Hoppy Helpers

Our next family outreach event will be a Breakfast with Bunny from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 9 in the Fellowship Hall. It will include breakfast, crafts, games, a bounce house, and a special guest: Barbara J. Bunny. We'll need many volunteers to get this up and running. Save the date and look for sign-ups starting in February after the service by the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, contact Lee Ann Salmon at 951-906-6452.

Farewell to Bill McInroe, a Patriot and Hero

The death in January of longtime church member Bill McInroe is a good reason to recall an essay and video project by church member Susan Straight and photographer Doug McCulloh that narrates the story about how U.S. Marines helped protect North Korean refugees as they sought safety during the Korean War.

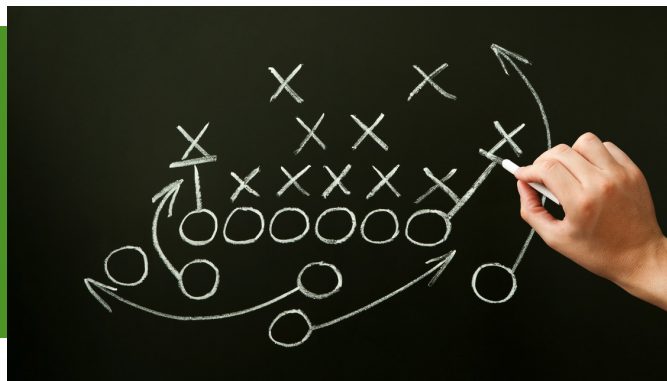
Pastor John Yoon said his father's life was protected by those soldiers and because of that act the Yoon family has been able to thrive in the U.S.

Listen to Susan Straight tell the story here: [Wild Blue Yonder](#)



United Methodist Men

Sunday, Feb. 11



UMM Will Hold Fellowship Lunch on Super Bowl Sunday

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 in the Fellowship Hall with lunch provided by Dave Fraser. Everyone is invited!

Matt Gorder promises that we will be home in time for the Super Bowl kickoff. He thanked Brian Tomlinson, last month's speaker. This lunch will be more of a fellowship lunch.

The cost of the lunch is \$6 per person or \$15 per family.

If mornings are your thing, the UMM meets for Friday morning Prayer Breakfast, a tradition that was formerly headed by Bill Kerrick. They meet at 7 am each Friday in Mary's Kitchen for coffee donuts, prayer and fellowship. All men are invited to join us. We'll conclude by 8 a.m. Plans for the future include a "Silent Auction" in May to raise money to support our FUMCOR student scholarship program. Please be thinking of items you may wish to donate.

First UMC To Host CROP Walk for 2024

First UMC has been actively involved in the local CROP Hunger Walk since 1976. This year, at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 17, the walk will begin and end at FUMCOR. You can sign up as a FUMCOR team participant at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks>

CROP Hunger Walks are community events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations to raise money and awareness for community and worldwide hunger relief efforts.

Organizer Kevin Simpson has met someone whose life was changed because of the effort of CROP walkers. He also said the CROP walk movement needs more people. He will be out on the patio after church for questions.

Contact info: Kevin Simpson (kevin.m.simpson@me.com)

Thank you for your support!





United Women in Faith

Hello,
I'm the new 2024 UWF president. We have a great board this year with Cindy Qualtieri, Pam Conlin, Patti Gardenias, Lisa Laird, Donna Woodard, and Shirley Parks continuing to serve. We have a brand new board member, Becki Brawner, who has been brave enough to take on the role of secretary. We are excited about our missions, and programs we have planned for this year. We hope you will join us on the adventure.

Blessings,
Lyn Knowles



Events and Meetings

- Bible Study:
- Feb. 1 "Luke: Outcasts, Outlaws, Outsiders" 6:45 pm - Zoom
 - Feb. 8 "Luke: Outcasts, Outlaws, Outsiders" 6:45 pm - Zoom
 - New Bible Study begins April 4 - "Fear of Other, No Fear in Love" by William H. Williams
 - Feb. 11 - Valentine's Bake Sale and Jewelry Sale 11 am - (F.H.)
 - Feb. 15 - Lunch Bunch - 1 pm lunch - Flo's Farmhouse Cafe
 - Feb. 17 - East District Mid-Winter Event
 - Feb. 19 - Citrus Circle - 7 pm - Zoom
 - Feb. 24 Serendipity Circle 10 a.m. - Chandler Lounge

For more information contact:
Lyn Knowles 951-737-3541



Bake Sale



Jewelry Sale



Do you embroider?



Would you like to embroider a few pre-washed, ironed and stamped tea towels for the UWF?

We would really appreciate your help!
Call Lisa Laird 951-237-7112

Prayers and Praises

Joys & Concerns

Please be in prayer for the prayer requests of the congregation.

Kay Otto, Norma Nelson,
Mack and Elizabeth Davis, Jim Sizer,
Mary Herrmann, Rebecca Slaughter,
Pat Williams, Michael Thompson, Kim Austin,
Lisa Thomas, Jim Ashworth, Jim Conlin,
family of Kathleen Longbotham,
family of Bill McInroe,
our families, neighbors,
country, and
world



*Ash
Wednesday
Services*

**February 14
Noon and 7 pm**

Lenten Prayer

**God of Grace, we give thanks
that it is acceptable to be human.
We rejoice that we do not have to have every answer.
We praise you that you alone are God.
May this season of Lent
be a time to lament the sin of our world
the suffering of humanity,
and the travail of creation.
Reassure us that you have created us "very good,"
and that you forgive us when we behave badly.
May our prayers be honest,
trusting you to forgive, heal, and guide us. Amen.**

firstchurchriverside.org

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please join with us in giving thanks for the birthdays and anniversaries in our congregation.

February Anniversaries

- 11 Bob and Patty Binford (27)
- 11 Phillip and Doris Washburn (67)

February Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Neumann
- 2 Clayton McEvoy
- 3 Donna F. Kidder
- 3 Daniel Noble
- 7 Margaret Berger (92)
- 9 Alex Othon
- 11 Linda Hice
- 11 Jeff Ashworth
- 12 Andrew Angel
- 15 Dan Cork
- 16 Ron Bayer
- 18 Tina Rajaratnam
- 18 Kwang Jin Kim
- 20 Charlotte Stevenson (94)
- 22 Pam C. Conlin
- 25 Mary Herrmann
- 26 Jennifer Walker



You are invited to pray in our chapel just before worship in the sanctuary.

**February 4th and 18th
9:15 - 9:45 am**

LENTEN SEASON

- February 18 - First Sunday in Lent
- February 25 - Second Sunday in Lent
- March 3 - Third Sunday in Lent
- March 10 - Fourth Sunday in Lent
- March 17 - Fifth Sunday in Lent
- March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday
- March 29 - Good Friday
- March 31 - Easter Sunday



**Walk with God and with one another
through this season of sacrifice and prayer.
Be emptied, then filled, as you are raised
with Christ, now and forevermore.**

Highlighted Events

- **Feb. 1: Preschool Registration begins at 9 am - Room 1**
- **Feb. 11: Valentine's Bake Sale & Jewelry Sale**
- **Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday Service, 12 noon and 7 pm**
- **Feb. 17: Empty Nester's Potluck 5 pm**
- **Feb. 18: Family Sunday with The Response**

Ongoing Events

- **Sundays:**
 - Chapel Prayer Group 1st and 3rd - 9:15 am
 - Youth Bells Rehearsals - 9:30 am
 - Worship - 10 am
 - Sunday School for Children - 10:15 am
 - First Sundays-Holy Communion
 - Second Sunday-Men's Lunch after church.
 - Third Sundays - Faith and Fellowship Events 11:15am
- **Tuesdays:** Bell choir rehearsal - 7 pm
- **Wednesdays:** Response band rehearsal - 6:30 pm
- **Thursdays:** Adult choir rehearsal - 7 pm
- **Fridays:** Men's Prayer Breakfast - 7 am



*Easter
Lilies*

Dedications are being taken now for the Easter Lilies, to grace our sanctuary this Easter. Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Friday, March 8. Cost of the lily is \$15. Checks should be made out to First United Methodist Church (FUMCOR) and marked "Easter Flowers."

Donors may pick up their plants after the Easter worship service.

Dedicated by: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Need to Reach Us?

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506
(951) 683-7831 (Mon to Fri 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
secretary@firstchurchriverside.org

Church Staff

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On Sabbatical

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childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

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rruiz@firstchurchriverside.com

Beverly Devine, Secretary
secretary@firstchurchriverside.com

Yvonne Flagg, Choir Director
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Gayla Lonsbery, Bell Director
belldirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Robert Phillips, Organist
organist@firstchurchriverside.org

Karen Wilson, Preschool Director
fumps@sbcglobal.net

Jesse Ruiz, Custodial Manager
jrui28880@aol.com

Brad Tomlinson, Campus Supervisor
bradtomlinson4@yahoo.com



First United

Methodist Church of Riverside



Lighten Up for Lent (musically speaking)

Now that the Christmas season is but a manic memory and we drift dolefully toward the impending penitence of Lent, we must ask ourselves, "Is there humor in organ music?" Yes, Virginia, there is!

Come to FUMCOR at 7 pm Saturday, March 2 and you'll hear a centuries-spanning spectrum of musical madness proving that, indeed, organ composers often have a sense of humor and aren't afraid to use it.

By Robert Phillips

The concert will include works by big names in classical music, such as Franz Joseph Haydn, who offers a tittering tribute to gossiping women (sexism was okay back then), and Johann Pachelbel (of "canon" fame), who pays homage to the bird with the most unimaginative call in the forest. Other selections on the program respectfully parody the styles of classical A-listers, answering such urgent questions as "What would 'Bolero' sound like if Mozart had written it?" and "Would J. S. Bach have won the Grammy for best soundtrack if he had composed the score for a certain Peter Sellers movie?" And somehow that prescient Mr. Bach seems to have written a trio based on a Jerome Kern tune from 1939!

And what of the least talented of Papa Bach's 20-odd children, P.D.Q. Bach? In honor of the death, on January 16, of Peter Schickele, the scholar who spent decades tirelessly unearthing and championing the Bachian black sheep's oeuvre, the program will feature P.D.Q.'s "Three Chorale-based Piecelets," which are strange and, at times, nearly unplayable arrangements of highly unlikely cantus firmi.

Several animals, including a donkey, a squirrel, a wonky fish, an overheated songbird, and some trenchant hamsters, will make an appearance, and you'll hear a wedding march that every organist wishes he could play, when confronted with a bridezilla, without jeopardizing his paycheck. Along the way, you'll also encounter a "Suite for St. Wiesel-Popp," a "Hornpipe Humoresque," a "Ragtime Toccata," a 12-bar blues played solely with the feet (pun intended), and a "Birthday Suit(e)."

As always, the concert is free, and a free-will offering will be collected to support the Organ Dedicated Fund. Imminent maintenance projects for our magnificent instrument include releathering wind chests for the pedal division (the home of most of the nonfunctioning pipes) and replacing all the contacts on the pedalboard (a major effort). Later on, as the releathering transitions to the great division (the middle keyboard), we'll fix a leaking air reservoir, replace the tattered screen between the pipes and the chancel (suggestions regarding the new screen's color are welcome), and rehabilitate some damaged reed pipes. Those are currently the highest-priority projects, and your continuing contributions are deeply appreciated!



Robert Phillips suggests Lent needs a bit of a laugh