

JUNE 2024

The Messenger

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

Bringing Peace With Justice to the World

By Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader



United Methodists are known for their hands-on social action, for their sober and healthy habits and for their routine and methodical ways. One reason for that is the founder, John Wesley, was a disciplined man, an abolitionist, and he had three simple rules for living a Holy Life: Do good, "of every possible sort, and as far as possible, to all."

I am happy that in the most recent General Conference, United Methodists voted overwhelmingly to remove the language that prevented LGBT people from being ordained or marrying in the church. At the same time, the General Conference recognized that regional and local control is best. There is still much to do to create pathways for all people to participate in the ministries of the church, and there are significant differences in the laws and traditions of different countries.

Did you know that the United Methodist Church contains a multitude of political and theological viewpoints? We want you to feel welcome at our church, and we want to walk all together toward peace with justice, and toward a world that is more like what God intended for creation.

Here in our congregation we want people of faith to have many ways to engage in concrete actions that make the community a more just and loving place. We feed the hungry, support mission projects, offer comfort to those who are suffering. We encourage everyone to participate in actions that protect God's creation and advocate for the oppressed. We invite you to join us as we serve as the working hands and dancing feet of our Lord in the world.

We partner with our local chapter of Family Promise to help families with shelter, food and funds to help them achieve sustainable independence.

United Women in Faith (UWF) frequently fund microloans through Kiva. With relatively small amounts of money, Kiva can help entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. UWF supports women owned businesses, and reinvests all repaid loans into new businesses. They have given more than 100 loans so far.

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Peace with Justice (cont.)

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) seeks to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike anywhere in the world. With a philosophy that "communities own their recoveries," UMCOR acts quickly to support local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters.

We partner with our fellow Methodists at Wesley UMC on Arlington to staff a drive thru and walk up pantry and homeless outreach program every Friday from 9 to 10:30 am. It is called the HOPE Room.

Gifts of rabbits, bees, sheep, goats and heifers are part of an international effort to provide living gifts that keep on giving. This congregation has operated the Heifer International booth at the Alternative Gift Fair for more than 40 years.

United Women in Faith (UWF) supports a high school girl with tuition, books, and uniforms at Padhar School in Madhya Pradesh, India.

Meals on Wheels was founded at First United Methodist Church and continues to operate here as a fully functioning non profit organization. Volunteer drivers take low cost meals to seniors or others in need of a steady delivery of food.

I'm looking forward to joining with Greg Laird and Pastor Kim at Annual Conference in Los Angeles June 12 to 15 to vote on issues related to our region of The United Methodist Church. It is called the California-Pacific Annual Conference. We hope to represent you well as we open the doors of opportunity to all, distribute resources more equitably, and provide better care for persons in need.

Peace with Justice Sunday was this past Sunday, but you can still donate through the church office. Make sure they know your intent for the money. We will always try to honor that.

In His Service,

Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader



Volunteer Opportunities

Summer is Coming!



It's not too early to look for sales on school supplies we will distribute at our third annual Bye Bye Summer Bash on July 27. We need: pencils, wide ruled notebook paper, spiral bound notebooks, erasers, Crayola crayons, colored pencils, highlighters, post-it notes, pencil cases, smaller three ring binders.

Skip the backpacks and just donate money, because we found a source for quality backpacks in bulk.

Thanks for your support and help,
The Outreach Team

Lee Ann Salmon

Lyn Knowles

Lucinda Edmunds

*Cindy Qualtieri and Kris Lovekin
celebrate the delivery of new kitchen
items purchased to make it easier to
cook and deliver meals to Family
Promise of Riverside*

Bells Ring June 9

Come Shake, Mallet & Toll with the bell choirs at 5 pm June 9 in the sanctuary. All of our bell ensembles will play, as well as The Response praise band and our organist Robert Phillips. This is a free concert. Invite friends!



Socks You Say?

We will pull the basketball hoop out on June 16 for some tossing of bags of socks that will be donated to the HOPE room at Wesley UMC. The best ones are white men's crew socks. Find a special and bring some bags of socks to church on Father's Day. Then toss them gently through the basket.

Kudos to Dads June 16

We're having a cake walk to celebrate Father's Day on June 16. Now all we need are the cakes. Please bring your donated cakes to church by 10 am that day. This is organized by Faith and Fellowship.



July 4th is Coming...

Our tradition is to invite the neighborhood to our parking lot to watch the fireworks shooting up from Mt. Rubidoux. We start at 6 pm with the fireworks at 9 pm. Donation is \$5 per car. Come celebrate Independence Day!

Gifts and Graces

Funding our Mission

By David Fraser and Kris Lovekin



Lee Ann and Daryl Have a Flair for the FUMCOR Mission

When you think about the stalwart, standout members of this church, Lee Ann Salmon's name jumps out. Lee Ann and her husband Daryl are a hardworking team, but they make it look easy. Both have served on or led numerous church committees and have committed a tremendous amount of time and energy to our church, its mission, and its service to the community.

Lee Ann arrived first. She moved from Colorado to Riverside in August, 1976 with her family. "We came to FUMCOR through the preschool. We had no family here. We needed a family!" she said. Once there, people who worked at the preschool invited them to church. Shirley Parks, Carol Stalder, Bill and Marion Wolter, Nata Lea Whiffen, Lynn Ashworth, Libby Gabel and Ruby Gregory were all influential. In 1985, the preschool director invited Lee Ann to teach, and in three short years she took over as director of FUMPS. She loved working with the children and seeing their growth, so she took classes at RCC, UCR and Chaffey College to complete the credentialing requirements. Lee Ann led the preschool until 2016 and continues to serve on the preschool Board of Directors. When her boys were teens she was an active volunteer parent for the UMYF group.

Lee Ann met Daryl in Riverside when he came to repair her air conditioning unit. They married in August, 2001 in the FUMCOR sanctuary. They added their children into a big blended family and they worked together to guide their growing group through jobs and moves and children. They have 9 grandchildren so far.

Lee Ann currently leads the Outreach Committee, putting on Bye Bye Summer Bash, Breakfast with Bunny and Santa's Workshop. She has served on Staff Parish Relations, Finance, Worship, Education, Church Council, and she chaired the first Fall Festival in 2016. She has found an outlet for her background in Interior Design by working with the Altar Decor Team. She and Daryl have started the Empty Nester's Potluck to draw in people who might want to eat together on a Saturday night and play games and converse. The next one is June 15.

For Lee Ann, the joy is in the helping. She was one of the first people to partner with Wesley UMC for hunger and homeless ministries, bringing volunteers from First UMC to distribute clothing and food and even household goods to people in need. We get to thank Lee Ann for bringing Daryl into the fellowship, and for all the wonderful work he has done over the years too, making repairs, stringing lights, ushering, driving, welcoming with a smile.

FUMCOR is blessed to have them both, taking on the jobs that need to get done, building alliances and friendships, serving God, the community of the faithful, and those in need.



Family Swim Party

End of the School Year Party!

12 noon to 3 pm June 8

Sarah and David Fraser invite us to their home for a swim and they are offering to BBQ. Bring your family and swim attire and enjoy fellowship, fun, and food! Please RSVP to childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org or call the church office. Hope to see you there!



VBS Begins!

Last Call for Camp Firelight! Don't miss this exciting opportunity June 3 to 7 from 9 am to 12 noon for children TK/K - 6th grade. The cost is \$20 for the first child and \$10 for siblings or any other child in your carpool. Bring your neighbors and friends! To register, go to our website at <https://firstchurchriverside.org> or scan below



Scan to register

Parents' Morning Out Summer Session

Parents' Morning Out will continue through the summer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am to noon.

We're inviting our community parents who would like to leave their 18 month thru 5-year-old children while they get a much deserved break. The cost is \$25 per child, \$10 more for a sibling.

Parents must register in advance at the QR code to the right. Questions? Contact the office 951-683-7831.



United Methodist Men

Sunday, June 9



Congratulate Our Students Over Lunch on June 9

For the next lunch of the United Methodist Men, we will be celebrating all of our FUMCOR students, and we'll get an update from several of them regarding their current program of study, their future plans, and what's new in their lives. Please plan to join us after church, starting at 11:30 am. After we hear from our students, we'll have an excellent lunch prepared by Dave Fraser.

We'll also provide an update on the results of our Silent Auction to raise scholarship money for our FUMCOR students.

Our monthly meetings are open to the entire congregation, and we hope you will join us for a great program, meal, and fellowship. Cost is \$6 , or \$15 per family.

The United Methodist Men are continuing our weekly Prayer Breakfast, from 7 to 8 am each Friday in Mary's Kitchen. We share fellowship, faith, coffee, donuts, and pastries. All men are invited to join us!



An Invitation from our Empty Nesters

**Come join the fun and fine company
on June 15th 5 pm**

Empty Nesters Potluck meets every third Saturday at
5 pm in our Fellowship Hall.

Ron and Lee Bayer will be hosting June's dinner.
Bring your casserole and join us on June 15th for good food,
great conversation and maybe a game!

Questions? Call

Lee Ann (951) 906-6452 or Ron and Lee (909) 856-6862.





United
Women
in Faith

Summer is Here

It is hard to believe that June is here.

Be sure to make sure to donate school supplies for the back to school bash. Materials are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.

Also, Mission U is coming up in July at Cal State Long Beach. Registration is due in June.

Check out details here:

<https://www.calpacumc.org/events/mission-u-2024-united-women-in-faith/>

Key News & Notes

No Unit Meeting or Executive Meeting in June

June 17 - Lunch Bunch at Backstreet - 11 am
3735 Nelson St., Riverside.

June 25 - Citrus Circle Dinner Out Time and place to be announced later

June 29 - Serendipity - 9am

We are going out for breakfast at Flo's Farmhouse
5620 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside. Corner of Van Buren and Philbin Ave.

Contact: Pam Conlin 951-237-5470



Need Laundry Soap?

Lyn Knowles and Church and Society have arranged a fundraiser through TruEarth, a laundry soap that is more sustainable because it doesn't come in big plastic jugs. The idea is to encourage sustainability, move away from plastic, and raise a little money for missions. We are all in on that.

The link to order and give the church credit for your purchase:

<http://tru-earth.sjv.io/FUMCOR>

Prayers & Praises



Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

June Anniversaries

- 11 Jeff and Alissa Ashworth
- 13 Bob and Norma Nelson
- 14 William and Donna Woodard
- 15 Michael & Charles McFall Thompson
- 26 Bernd and Nancy Neumann
- 29 Ji Tai and Kwang Jin Kim

June Birthdays

- 1 Gaila Sims
- 2 Susan Harker
- 3 Virginia Bahnsen
- 3 Melanie Gaumer
- 4 Rev. Bev Devine
- 6 Christine Waite
- 7 Susan Page-Logger
- 12 Steven Beals
- 12 Dale Grout
- 12 Timothy Traver
- 12 Carlyn Knowles
- 15 Barbie McEvoy
- 18 LovieJay (LJ)Arguelles
- 19 Josephine Essien
- 20 Melissa Elsnor
- 20 Nana Gwira
- 20 Nan Friedley
- 21 Greg Laird
- 21 Kris Lovekin
- 25 Kelly Weakly
- 25 Steve Grimes
- 25 Mike Alfred
- 27 Doug Slaughter
- 29 Ann Pfeifle
- 29 Leslie Tomlinson
- 29 Cassie Lonsbery

We Pray For...

Jeff Bruns, Rebecca Slaughter, Allison George, Barbara Jo Wilson, Mary Herrmann, Matt Gorder, Courtney Hart, John and Susan Logger, Jim Conlin, Virginia Bahnsen, Michael Thompson, Norma Nelson, Pat Williams, Lisa Thomas, Kat Franklin, Mary Negrete, Ron Tovar, Richard Austin, Jim Ashworth, Kim Austin, and Linda Rydzik

Families of: Bessie Ridley and Stanley Thompson



CELEBRATE!



Psalm 139: 1-6, 13, 14

The Inescapable God

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
 you discern my thoughts from far away.
 You search out my path and my lying down
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
 Even before a word is on my tongue,
 O Lord, you know it completely.
 You hem me in, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot attain it.
 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works;
 that I know very well.

What does the Lord require?

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
 and what does the Lord require of you
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Ongoing Events

- Youth bells: Sundays: 9:30 am
- Sunday Worship: 10 am
- Sunday School for Children: 10:15 am
- First Sundays: Holy Communion
- Third Sundays: Response Band leads Worship
- Bell choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7 pm
- The Response rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
- Men's Prayer Breakfast: Fridays, 7 am

Special Events

- June 2 -- Last day to bid in UMM auction
- June 3 -- Vacation Bible School begins at 9 am
- June 9 -- UMM Lunch (Scholarship winners speak)
- June 9 -- Bell Concert, 5 pm
- June 12 to 15 -- Cal-Pac Annual Conference
- June 15 -- Empty Nesters, 5 pm
- June 16 Father's Day Cake Walk and Sock Toss
- June 23 -- Guest Speaker Claire Jefferson-Glipa
- June 23 -- Fundraiser at The Habit
- June 30 -- Guest Preacher, Rev. Roy Rigs

A Few Reminders from the Office



- Do you have a high school or college graduate in your family? Let us know, we are ready to celebrate.
- Would you rather be receiving your "giving statements" via email? Let Becky know.
- If you can give to the church direct from your bank account, you avoid all kinds of credit card fees.
- 2025 budgets are already in the works. What will your committee need? The office needs to know by Sept. 5.
- Do you lead a committee taking a break during the Summer? Make sure to update the church calendar.

Need to Reach Us?

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