

MARCH 2025

The Messenger

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

We Get A Second Chance

Dear Family and Friends of the First United Methodist Church of Riverside,

Please be strong and courageous as you are living in this time of fears, uncertainty, and despair. Life has been, still is, and will be always unpredictable and unstable; however, as long as we keep trusting in God's faithfulness and steadfast love, we can still pursue justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God in our faith journey together.

Starting Ash Wednesday, March 5, this year's Lenten journey will begin for all Christians all around the world, including our community of faith and love.

As your pastor, I welcome you all to this Lenten journey. May God of grace and mercy walk with you, guide you, and strengthen you throughout Lent and Holy Week so that we can finally celebrate the glorious Easter Sunday together!

Our Wednesday Soup Supper program with a speaker is scheduled for five Wednesdays (March 12 through April 9) during Lent, and you and your loved ones are invited to this wonderful and delicious soup fellowship with amazing speakers and musicians. Thanks to Lay Leader Kris Lovekin who is coordinating this program, along with other church leaders and ministry teams. The main topic of the talks by the speakers will be "Second Chances."

My new Lenten Sermon Series, "Rise Again!," will begin and be shared throughout Lent from Ash Wednesday (March 5) and on six Sundays (March 9 through April 13) and I will share with you how certain Biblical characters and their lives were completely transformed by God.

(cont.)



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Second Chances (cont.)

Each Sunday, one of those characters' life-changing stories will be the focus of my sermon, and we can learn and apply God's principles and teachings into our own lives here and now.

Palm/Passion Sunday will be April 13, and Holy Week's services (Maundy Thursday, April 17, and Good Friday Service, April 18) will help us get ready. On Easter Sunday, April 20, we will not only celebrate the Resurrection of Christ Jesus who has given us New Life but also welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ to our congregation. So, if you desire to join our church, please contact me (pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org) or the church office (951-683-7831) as soon as possible so that a Membership Class can be arranged (In-Person or Zoom Session) for you.

Love and Blessings,
The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

"After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."
John 11:11 (Revised Standard Version)



Sophie Weiss entertains her tablemates with plans for the new "Youngish" fellowship group.

Volunteer Opportunities

Family Promise is Back

First UMC is partnering with Family Promise of Riverside, a nonprofit organization that coordinates shelter and food for homeless families with children.

They always need gift cards, dinners, reading buddies and help in moving. The organization is having good success transitioning families to stable housing.

Contact Kris Lovekin if you are called to work with homeless families in some way.

CAL-PAC YOUNG GEN TAK FORCE

YOUNG GENERATIONS MINISTRY GATHERING

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

March 1
10 AM - 2 PM

EVENTS

Welcome Cal-Pac

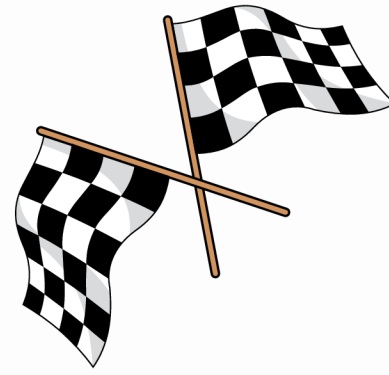
The Cal-Pac Annual Conference will use the FUMCOR Fellowship Hall to gather youth and young adult leaders for a daylong workshop on Saturday, March 1. Christina Graves and Sophie Weiss will represent our congregation as they brainstorm ideas for more outreach to youth and young adults.

Sophie Weiss will lead a brand new group for people ages 20 to 40 with the first meeting at her home at 6 pm Sunday, March 2. If you are in the church books, look out for an email about joining the group. If you are not a member and want to be involved, please email Sophie Weiss at sophieweiss23@gmail.com

START

REV YOUR ENGINES

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 10AM – NOON
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OUTREACH
COMMITTEE IS HOSTING
“BOXCARS AT THE MOVIES”
AT THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



Children 8 and under are invited to bring a box large enough to sit inside. There will be paper tires, headlights, taillights, license plates and steering wheels for children to attach and decorate their car.

Decorated cars will be parked “drive in” style with drivers inside, snacks and a box juice will be served and a short movie will be shown.

At the conclusion of the film children can push their cars thru a car wash & participate in a musical roundabout!
Parents must attend with their children!



First UMC Hosts CROP Walk March 23

First UMC will host the local CROP Hunger Walk at 1:30 pm on Sunday, March 23.

The walk will begin and end at the church with First UMC Riverside with a break at Trinity Lutheran and then walk back. You can sign up as a FUMCOR team participant or donate at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/first-united-methodist-church-of-riverside-ca>

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. Twenty-five percent of the money raised in the Riverside event will go directly to local hunger relief programs and food banks.

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

Thank you for your support!





Lenten Supper Speakers Announced

Our Lenten Dinner soup suppers begin in March, showcasing the second chances that we are given every day. What times in your life have you been given a second chance? We will also sing together and enjoy delicious soups brought by members of our fellowship group.

The Christian Education group will set the tables.

It all starts at 6 pm.

March 12: **David and Shari Nelson** will share about their time in Ecuador as Volunteers in Mission.

March 19: **Rev. Bev Devine** will tell us about second chances in her faith journey.

March 26: **Claire Jefferson-Glipa** of Family Promise of Riverside will talk about second chances for families in crisis.

April 2: **Selin Yildiz Nielsen** will tell us about second chances for asylum seekers.

April 9: **Steve Kerrick** will talk about second chances in his faith journey.

Baked Potatoes and More



Faith and Fellowship will host the ever popular St. Patrick's Day potato bar after church on Sunday, March 16. Join us in your best shamrock greens!



Enrollment is Open for FUMPS

Our First United Methodist Church Preschool is taking registration for enrollment now.

Founded in 1947, the preschool offers social, emotional, spiritual and developmental growth in a carefully planned program. It has always been an important outreach 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/>





Vacation Bible School

Save the dates! June 16 to 20

The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School is "Road Trip." We need volunteers to help check families in and out, help with crafts, and guide children from station to station. Today's children often do not learn about Jesus. Some families do not attend church but VBS is a great opportunity!

Volunteers tell and show the children that Jesus loves them... could you do this?

Contact: Christina Graves:
childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Nurturing New Life to release on Easter Sunday!

Soon, we will have teeny caterpillars that will be eating and eating! Our little guests (last year's pictured at right) will be growing long and chubby. Someday soon, they will cocoon and move into their butterfly "Pavillion."

We are excited to watch them progress to full-fledged Painted Lady butterflies!

Children can help us release them after church on Easter. Let's celebrate the joy of Easter together as we learn about God's incredible love for each and every one of us... even the little caterpillars!



People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them.

Mark 10:13a



We need Sunday School Teachers!

**Our children and youth need you!
 Please share your faith, hope and love
 with God's dear children of all ages...
 We offer resources and staff support
 and God does the rest!**

Amen!



"Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children."

Mark 10:14b

United Methodist Men

Sunday, March 9



Judy Cunningham in period costume

Pilgrims Searched for a Better Life

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 9 in the Fellowship Hall with lunch made by Dave Fraser. Everyone is invited to hear more about the history of the Mayflower pilgrims from Judy Cunningham and Barbara Matulich, members of the Mayflower Society. The cost for lunch is \$6 per person or \$15 per family.

In 1620, a brave group of 102 men, women, and children sailed across the Atlantic on the Mayflower in search of a better life. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants was established in 1894 to research and educate the public about that crossing. The Society provides education and understanding of why the Mayflower Pilgrims were important, how they shaped western civilization, and what their 1620 voyage means today and its impact on the world.

Since its founding, the Mayflower Society has welcomed over 100,000 members who could prove Mayflower descent and has an ever-growing number of members across the globe.

If mornings are your thing, the UMM is meeting at 7 am each Friday morning for a Prayer Breakfast. Gather in Mary's Kitchen for coffee, pastries, sharing news about those who need prayer, and fellowship. All men are invited to join.

Plans for the future include a "Silent Auction" in the Spring to raise money to support our FUMCOR student scholarship program. Please be thinking of items you may wish to donate. Items to be donated for the sale can be delivered to the office during the last week of April.



We Have a Welcome Wagon

Have you noticed our welcoming faces? Allison George, at right with a scout leader and Pastor Kim, is helping to coordinate a welcoming team each Sunday to greet our church family and new visitors who might want a little more information about our church activities. Terri and Dennis Whieldon donated the wagon, the umbrella and linens.





United Women in Faith



Events and Meetings

- March 12 - Executive Meeting: (Zoom) - 1 pm
 - March 12 - Lunch Bunch: Zacatecas Mexican Cafe
3767 Iowa Ave - 11 am
 - March 19 - UWIF Meeting (Chandler Lounge) - 10 am
Speaker: Kris Lovekin
 - March 29 - The Gathering (Chandler Lounge) - 10 am
- For more information contact:
Lyn Knowles 951-743-7490

UWIF Takes an Adventure!

After lunch at Martha Green's in Redlands we went to tour Kimberly Crest House. After climbing lots of stairs, we arrived at the Venice Statue in front of the house. The tour included the first and second floors. The interior is beautiful, but unfortunately, pictures were not allowed.

March Lunch Bunch

will be at **Zacatecas Mexican Cafe**, 3767 Iowa Ave. The restaurant is near the corner of Iowa and University. It is a little tricky getting into Zacatecas's parking lot.



YARD SALE

SATURDAY APRIL 26



We are joining our neighbors from the Woods Streets by having our sale on our FUMCOR front lawn. UWIF invites you to participate by bringing or buying treasures on our front lawn.

This is a great time to start cleaning out closets and the garage.

Donations can be left at the Church Office between 10-2 Mon-Fri.

or call Pam Conlin if you need items picked up 951-237-5470.

FirstChurchRiverside.org

March 12 Lenten Soup Supper



United Women in Faith is scheduled to provide soup and bread for the **March 12 Lenten Soup Dinner**

We will need 12 soups and bread or crackers. **Look for the sign up sheet.**



Thank you!

Thank you!

We appreciate all those who brought (and bought) baked goods in our **Valentine's Day Bake Sale.**

Prayers & Praises

Joys & Concerns

Ryan Dungan, John and Susan Logger,
Daryl Salmon, Ed Lamers, Pat Beals,
Bill and Helen Nuchols, Melissa Williams,
Norma Nelson, Mary Herrmann,
Michael Thompson, Jim Ashworth,
Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Yvonne Peters,
LJ Arguelles, Michelle Arguelles,
Marge Wolter, De'Ann McWilliams,
Mack Davis, Robert and Benita Roberts,
Desmond Renteria, Ruben Renteria,
the family of Robin Renteria,
the family of Bill Woodard,
the family of Pat Williams,
our families, our neighbors,
our country, our world



**Walking this earth,
facing temptation,
defeating sin,
Jesus has done for us
what we could never do
for ourselves.**

**This is good news!
In Jesus Christ we are
forgiven!**

**And so we praise you,
Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit. Amen**

-Christine Jerrett

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March Anniversaries

3/1 Steve and Kris Lovekin (39)
3/16 Stan and Jackie Cook (50)



Beloved, you—you—who live in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the Almighty – will find in God your refuge and fortress.

Go now, in the blessing of the Triune God who shelters you and rescues you, that we all might be a shelter and a rescue for and with one another. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.

March Birthdays

3/2 Bob Bahnsen 93!
3/4 Janis Duke
3/6 Greg Hough
3/7 Michiko Reyes
3/8 Bill Ashworth
3/8 Sean Lomax
3/11 Myra Williams
3/11 Amit Roberts
3/11 Samir Roberts
3/16 Dorie Grimes
3/19 Yvonne Peters 90!
3/20 Cindy Marr
3/21 Ronald Purkey
3/23 Chris Tupou
3/23 Carmen Lonsbery
3/23 Mary Boon 100!
3/25 Carrie Renteria
3/25 Jeffrey Sluder
3/27 Danielle Johnson
3/28 Michelle Arguelles
3/29 Peggy Stepe
3/31 Gavin Hough



- March 5 - Both services will include "Imposition of Ashes"
12 pm Ash Wednesday in Sanctuary
7 pm - Combined service with Wesley UMC in FUMCOR Sanctuary
- March 9 - First Sunday of Lent
- March 16 - Second Sunday of Lent
- March 23 - Third Sunday of Lent
- March 30 - Fourth Sunday of Lent
- April 6 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
- April 13 - Palm Sunday
- April 20 - Easter Sunday



Highlighted Events

- March: Lenten Soup Suppers: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9
- March 16: **Wear Green!** Baked Potato Bar! Faith & Fellowship is providing potatoes and fixings- 11 am
- March 23: The Habit Fundraiser - 11 am - 9 pm
- March 23: Crop Walk - 1:30 pm

Ongoing Events

- Sunday Worship: 10 am
- First Sundays-Holy Communion
- Sunday School for Children: 10:15 am
- Second Sunday-Men's Lunch w/speaker after worship
- Third Sundays - Faith and Fellowship Events after worship
- Bell choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7 pm
- Response Band rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
- Adult choir rehearsal: Thursdays, 7 pm
- Friday Mornings - United Methodist Men's Prayer Breakfast - 7 am

Order your Easter Lily



Dedications are being taken now for the Easter Lily Plants, to grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Friday, April 4 or email your request to: secretary@firstchurchriverside.org

Cost of a Lily Plant is \$15.00

Checks should be made out to:

First United Methodist Church (FUMCOR) and marked "Easter Lily."

Donors may pick up their plants after the Easter worship service, April 20.

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

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Lisa Skivers, Preschool Director
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