

OCTOBER 2025

The Messenger

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

Feed My Sheep!

Greetings Church Family,

Jesus asks us to show our love for him with our actions, with our willingness to feed his sheep. At FUMCOR that means we are all part of the support and outreach of the church, offering our gifts, our talents and our service.

We are profoundly grateful for your ongoing support and generosity to your church. We cannot accomplish all we do without your monetary donations and the volunteering of your talents and time. Your church shares God's love with the community. A few examples include: Vacation Bible School; the HOPE Room; Family Promise of Riverside; the Crop Walk; UMCOR fire relief and mission work in Ecuador; distributing free school supplies; the Halloween Hop and Live Nativity and music concerts. We also pay staff salaries, property upkeep, and our \$55,932 connectional apportionment contribution to the United Methodist Church.

As you may already know, October is FUMCOR's Stewardship Month:

- Pastor Kim will hold an evening Zoom Bible study on "The Grace of Giving" in October.
- On Oct. 12, Pastor Kim will preach Stewardship Sermon #1.
- **Commitment Sunday is Oct. 26**, and Pastor Kim will preach Stewardship Sermon #2.

Look for your pledge letter in the mail and return it in any way you choose, by mail, in the church offering plate or electronically.

Our vision is that all members "will glorify God in worship; introduce people to Jesus Christ through evangelism; help persons of all ages to become deeply committed Christians through ministries of discipleship; build caring relationships and foster mutual ministry among the church family through authentic Christian fellowship."

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First United
Methodist Church
of Riverside

Sheep...

(Cont. from page 1)

It's our hope that you will continue to support the operations and missions of FUMCOR with a monetary pledge for 2026. We understand that making a pledge is a personal decision; given boldly out of your love for God and others. Please seek God's wisdom in the matter of giving.

Every pledge makes a difference. Knowing your pledge in advance helps us develop next year's budget. Please increase your pledge if you can as we are experiencing some significant 2026 increases in expenses, such as insurance premiums and updating heating and air systems.

We also ask for your commitment to actively join and participate in church committees, as a chair and/or member. FUMCOR is operated by its committees; they are vital to ensure the business and fellowship of the church run smoothly, and its ministry and discipleship reach out to the community. Your commitment is a demonstration by work of the faith you profess. Please joyfully serve Jesus Christ and let us know which committee(s) you want to remain on and/or join.

Your generosity is an outflow of the generosity of God. Thank you always for your prayers, encouragement, and support for our church.

Mary L. Herrmann, Stewardship Chair, and the FUMCOR Finance Committee

Do you love me?

"He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" ... And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

-- John 21:17

Volunteer Opportunities

Invest in a Life: Become a Small Group Leader

Pastor J. T. Kim is recruiting leaders willing to open their homes for a small group Bible Study experience, to cultivate a stronger and growing community of faith and love.

As a leader, your role is not to be a Bible expert but to facilitate meaningful conversations in a welcoming environment. You will help people build authentic relationships and take their next step in following Jesus.

What you provide:

- A welcoming presence and a heart to serve others.
- A commitment to shepherd a small group of people toward spiritual maturity.
- The willingness to open your home, if possible, (or lead a group at the church). Even though Zoom sessions can be possible for special cases, In-Person gatherings with every participant's actual interactions are strongly encouraged.

What we provide:

Training and ongoing support; high-quality UMC curriculum and resources; best practices from other leaders.

If you are ready to invest in the lives of others, we would love to talk with you. For more information, please contact Pastor J. T. Kim (pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org) or Church Phone: 951-683-7831 or cell: 619-370-2743.





New Window Dedicated

Look up as you leave the sanctuary via the back door to the patio to take in a new gift to our church, a 150th Anniversary Memorial stained glass window dedicated on Sept. 7 by Loretta Cudney and her family in honor of David Cudney.

This window took some excellent committee work. We brainstormed what to include to represent God's creation, and how to honor our church history and our existing windows. The hands around the globe represent God's hands on the world, but also our hands in the world.

Lyn Knowles chaired the committee and during discussions Loretta Cudney felt called to dedicate it to her husband.

Mike Alfred helped us understand the history of the church's existing windows and Greg Laird and Brian Tomlinson installed the window with help from Adamms stained glass in Santa Monica.

The United Women of Faith helped us celebrate afterward with an ice cream social.

Artist David Lines said he used a little bit of antique glass in the piece as well as new glass, to reflect the 150th anniversary of the church and the focus on the future.

"Butterflies embody transformation and the beauty of difference; the hummingbird evokes resilience, joy, and the interdependence of all living things; and the encircling hands represent community, care, and our collective responsibility to one another," David Lines wrote.

The window was dedicated to David Cudney, a plant expert at UCR and a pilot.

"Dave admired all the stained glass windows in this church, so my family felt this was a good way to honor him," Loretta said. "His love of flight is represented by the kestrel hawk, which frequently flies out of the bell tower of our church and in fact did on the day of his funeral."

David Cudney worked on many church committees, volunteered with the youth and died in March of 2023. He will always be part of the church in this beautiful gift of the window. Remember to look up!



The Cudney family presented the window to the church



David and Loretta



World Communion Sunday

At 10 am Sunday, Oct. 5 you are invited to participate in World Communion Sunday, an international celebration of our shared Christian heritage. Other languages will be part of the service.

As usual, a time of prayer will be held in the chapel at 9:15 am where you can lift up the concerns of the world, community and family.



Welcome Home!

It was an exciting Sunday Sept. 28 to welcome into our fellowship (from left) Marilyn and Doug Robinson (From Redlands FUMC); Jeff Benedict (from First United Methodist Church of Pasadena); Stephen and Frederica Turkson, Brent Levine and James Herron.

In the back, lay leader Kris Lovekin and Pastor J.T. Kim

If you desire to join our church as a member, please contact the church office (951) 683-7831



Laitiy Sunday

Oct. 19

The lay people of the church make up the fabric of support for our missions and ministries. Our guest speaker will be Lucinda Edmunds and our theme will be about the complicated relationships between parents and children.



Happy Fall, Friends!

We're so thankful for this season of community and connection. May it be filled with blessings, warmth, and fellowship!



Youth Sunday Evening

Oct. 12, 5 to 6:30 pm

Youth Room

All school-age kids and their friends are invited! Mark your calendars. Join us for a fun night of pizza, fellowship, and festive activities!

Note: This will be the only youth meeting this month! Don't miss it!



Parents Morning Out

Wednesdays, 9 am-12 pm

Need a break or time to run errands? We're here to help!

Drop your little ones off for a safe, fun, and nurturing morning with us.

\$25 for one child age 18 mos. and older/ \$35 for 2 siblings



Acolyte Ministry



In the Methodist church, an acolyte is a lay assistant who helps with the worship service by carrying the processional cross, lighting and extinguishing the altar candles, and assisting in other areas like collecting offering plates. The word "acolyte" comes from the Greek word "akolouthos," meaning attendant or helper. Acolytes serve as a spiritual and tangible representation of Christ's presence by bringing the "Light of Christ" into the worship service and taking it out into the world. We provide training for youth and adults!

Thank you for supporting...

the **Mary S. Roberts Charity Drive**

Your generous donations will make a big difference!

We are grateful for your kindness and continued support in serving our community.



Contact: Christina Graves

childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

United Methodist Men

Sunday, Oct. 12



Allison George Speaks About Ecuador Adventures



Allison George worked in Ecuador with a youth team from Colorado to build church and school meeting spaces



Come win an historic print

The United Methodist Men will host their monthly luncheon after church on Sunday, Oct 12 so the congregation can hear more about Allison George's mission trip to Ecuador this past July. She joined David and Shari Nelson and youth from churches in Colorado.

FUMCOR helped fund the trip with a big pancake brunch on the church patio.

"While in Ecuador, Allison's years of experience in scouting and her practical know-how proved invaluable," David Nelson said. "She played a critical role in shopping for team supplies on the ground, often navigating unfamiliar stores and markets to make sure we had exactly what we needed—whether it was work gloves, water jugs, face masks, soap, or snacks. As our official quartermaster and medic, she kept everything organized and flowing smoothly."

UMM President David Leonard said the event will include an opportunity drawing for a bit of Riverside's history, a print that features the Victoria Avenue Bridge image signed by Riverside artist Marty Tobias. It was offered as a keepsake at the time of the 100th anniversary of the bridge.

Cost for the lunch is \$6 per person or \$20 per family. The lunch is open to all.

In addition, the United Methodist Men continue a weekly Prayer Breakfast, from 7 to 8 am each Friday in Mary's Kitchen. Come share fellowship, faith, coffee, donuts. All men are invited to attend!



United
Women
in Faith

Dear women of the congregation, guests, and neighbors,
you are welcome to attend our meetings, studies, and events.
For more information: unitedwomeninfaith.firstumc@yahoo.com



Events and Meetings

10/9 Lunch Bunch at Sam's Pita and Kabab
9799 Magnolia Ave, Riverside - 11 am



Weekly Walk About

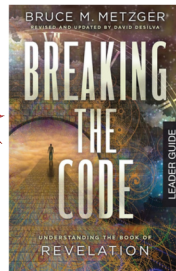


Every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am Ryan Bonaminio Park.
We meet in the last parking lot near the playground.



Book Study Begins

Thursdays - Beginning Oct. 9th
If you are new to this study group,
call: Pam 951-237-5470.



The new study, *Breaking the Code*, understanding the book of Revelation by Bruce Metzger and David Desilva begins October 9. The study will finish before Thanksgiving and will break until January.

This is a study via zoom that starts at 7 pm, with the zoom room opening at 6:45 to give participants a chance to chat before we start.

If you would like an invitation to the study, contact Lyn Knowles at 951-737-3541. The book can be purchased from Amazon.



"Candle of Commitment"

The "Candle of Commitment" in United Women in Faith is a ceremony for mission-based fundraising and honoring individuals. Each unit of the United Women in Faith chooses a person or persons to honor. The ceremony takes place at the East District Fall meeting.

During the ceremony, a candle is lit to represent mission work, and the time it burns is determined by the amount of money donated.



Fall Bake Sale

Oct. 12 - 11 am

For those with good memories, we enjoyed some delightful rain in April. Sadly, it was on the date of the UWF yard sale, and yes, it really cut into our sales. We are holding a bake sale to compensate for the dollars lost because of that rain. If you're a good baker, we would be very happy if you would donate one of your specialties to be sold. All our profits go to our missions.

The Fall Bake Sale will be in conjunction with the UMM Lunch in Fellowship Hall.

So dig out your favorite fall baked goods recipes.

- Cookies should be wrapped 6 cookies on a plate or in a zip bag.
- Cakes and pies do best already cut and wrapped in plastic for travel.
- Cupcakes do not sell well.
- Small loaves of breads do sell well.



Baked goods can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall Sunday, before 10 am worship.



September Lunch Bunch met at Hangar 24.



Prayers and Praises

We pray for...

Patrick Russell, Derek and Robin Austin, Devyn Salmon, Marie Madden, Jon Dugan, Gitanjali Spencer, Liz Jennings, Donna Woodard, Mary Boon, Emilie Gorham, Mack Davis, George Callow, Bill Ashworth, Norma Nelson, Pat Beals, Calvin Narayan and Shail Singh, Ed Lamers, Melva Cooke, John and Susan Logger, Michael Thompson, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Marge Wolter, Michelle Arguelles, Robert and Benita Roberts, De'Ann McWilliams, Jazz Roberts' family, Josephine Essien's family, Claudia Weber-Timmerman's family (Roy and Cheryl Riggs), our families, our neighbors, our country, our world



Sometimes...

**there is nothing left to do...but sing!
Does that sound odd?**

It is said of the Methodist movement that we were born in song. We sing our faith, and our songs are about calling out to God. This late summer/early fall we turn to the song book that has sustained and defined the people of God from the very beginning - the Psalms.

The Psalms give words to a variety of emotions and circumstances out of which we call upon the Lord. We shape our worship around these words to give voice to people in our communities who may feel unheard even by God. The witness of the Psalms is that God is prepared to meet us where we are.

So let us call upon the Lord.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

October Anniversaries

- 12 Tim and Dana Traver
- 19 Roy and Cheryl Riggs
- 20 David and Sarah Fraser



All-knowing God,
we gather together with
praise and thanksgiving
for who you are,
and for all that you have
done for us.

You know us better than we
know ourselves—
all our thoughts and actions—
and yet you love us.

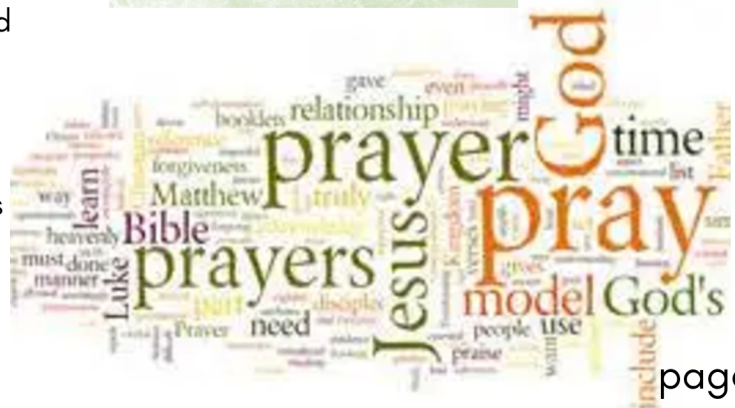
No matter where we go or
what we do,
your love encircles us—
ahead and behind—
gently leading and guiding
and blessing.

We praise you for your love
and your faithful presence
in our lives.

For we are your people,
called by your name. Amen.

October Birthdays

- 1 Mary Lou Kerrick
- 1 Lillian Popko
- 2 Shirley Parks
- 3 Melva Cooke
- 3 Norma Nelson
- 5 Rolando Arguelles
- 8 Matt Gorder
- 8 John McDonald
- 9 Steve Walker
- 11 Bev DeFrance
- 11 Barbara Spencer
- 14 Terri Whieldon
- 15 Liz Jennings
- 17 Corinne Graves
- 17 Cora Reupert
- 18 Jonathon Williams
- 19 Susan Straight
- 21 Susan Tomlinson
- 21 Doris Washburn
- 23 Jim Conlin
- 24 Sabrina Gilbert
- 27 Holly Hough
- 29 Carol Cipra
- 29 Marilyn Robinson
- 31 Mary Mamea





What we need:

Candy for the trick or treat portion of the event. NO Peanut candy, because of allergies.

Drop it off at the church office before the event. Any questions? Call Kelly Weakly 951-203-8098

Get Set for Halloween Hop

Cartoon characters, superheroes and cowgirls will be out to dance the night away from 5 to 7 pm, Sunday, Oct. 26, at the annual Halloween Hop.

All ages are welcome to dance to Halloween tunes with a professional DJ or simply sit and enjoy the antics. We provide the pizza. This is a free event, and one of our church's fun traditions. Come join the party in the Fellowship Hall at 4845 Brockton Ave, Riverside.

We always invite our FUMPS families. We have flyers to hand out to neighbors. Pick those up in church. Thanks to Faith and Fellowship and the Outreach committee for all the planning that goes into this event.

Speaking of our Preschool...

Our preschoolers at FUMPS will be having their traditional costume parade, pumpkin patch activity and more fun this month. Support the preschool at this fundraiser from 4 to 9:30 pm at Islands restaurant on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Bring a friend to dinner!





Present this flyer to your server (or show it on your mobile device) and Islands will donate 20% of your food and beverage purchases back to:
First United Methodist Church Preschool.

Dine-In or Take-Out. Order online at www.islandsrestaurants.com

First United Methodist Church Preschool

Islands Riverside
 Date: Wednesday, October 8th 2025
 Time: 4pm to close
 Location: Islands Riverside
 3645 Central Ave. • (951) 782-7471



Kris meets Morticia and Gomez Addams at the organ concert. Invite your friends, wear a costume and come hear the pipes creep and the keys creak. All money raised goes to help update the organ operation and sound.

Listen for a Saxophone and "Boos in the Night"

By Robert Phillips, organist

In an eerily moonlit church, a phosphorescent phantom floats before the brooding façade of the mighty pipe organ. As the apparition's diaphanous digits drift across the timeworn keys, the instrument pours forth otherworldly harmonies of sweetest melancholy. Soon a spectral saxophone adds its lonesome wail to the lamentation, telling tragic tales of faithless lovers and of distant, mournful train whistles echoing through the darkness.

Is the church truly haunted? Why, no, it's just "Boos in the Night," our annual Halloween organ concert. To witness this supernatural spectacle firsthand, come to our sanctuary at 7 pm on Saturday, Oct. 25. As you may have guessed, our organist will be joined by virtuoso saxophonist Jeff Benedict in a jazzy rendition of the title tune. Other special guests include sopranos Yvonne Flagg and Kris Lovekin, as well as an intrusion of insects in a terrifying tribute to the recently retired Dr. Demento. The program features a centuries-spanning selection of spooky songs, ranging from a classic by Edvard Grieg to melodies inspired by Shakespeare (*The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), from marching gargoyles to movie music (*Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*),

from Gregorian chant to television themes (including the snappy audience-participation favorite from *The Addams Family*). Be prepared to don your dancing shoes and moonwalk to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." And no Halloween extravaganza would be complete without some Ghoultime Carols and Johann Sebastian Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor." Wear a costume if you like (but do wear something). There is no charge for the event, and a freewill offering will be collected for the Organ Dedicated Fund as we continue the refurbishment of our magnificent Aeolian-Skinner. See you there (unless you're dressed as the Invisible Man, of course)!

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Special Event



Happy Birthday Marie Madden

It's unusual to get a round of Happy Birthday accompanied by organ in the church service, but Marie Madden turned 97 on Sept. 27 and her family brought a cake. Happy Birthday Marie!

Ongoing Events

- Chapel Prayer Meeting: 1st Sundays - 9:15 am
- Sunday Worship - 10 am
- Sunday School for Children - 10:15 am
- Sunday School for Youth (2nd and 4th) - 10:15 am
- First Sundays - Holy Communion
- Third Sundays - Response Band leads Worship
- Third Sundays - Faith and Fellowship Events
- Bell Choir rehearsal - 7 pm Tuesdays
- The Response rehearsal - Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal - 7 pm Thursdays
- Men's Friday Prayer Breakfasts - 7 am

Upcoming Events

Tour with Us

Saturday, Oct. 25 -- We invite the public in to see our stained glass windows, to hear our organ and to learn a little bit more about the 153 years of our history in Riverside. The City of Riverside sponsors Doors Open Riverside from 1 pm to 5 pm at notable historic buildings around Riverside. We will talk a few people into coming back for the organ concert!



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

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organist@firstchurchriverside.org

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fumps@sbcglobal.net

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