

MAY 2026

The Messenger

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

He's Got the Whole World....

Dear church family,

There I was at the Riverside Plaza on a Sunday in April and a big globe with hands caught my eye. At first I thought it was religious symbolism, like "He's got the whole world in his hands." But then I figured out that we had just passed Earth Day on April 22, and maybe there was an event that I missed.



"Keep Calm and Save the Planet" is what it said on the bottom of the globe and suddenly I had to have a picture of myself with this thing. I feel like they captured my motto for life and God had set it down in front of me at the Riverside Plaza, like a reminder.

I do think our God and Creator expects us to actively care for the creation and that includes not only people, but our natural resources, the forests, the oceans, the animals. Churches are a spot where that creation care can be made manifest. We can show what it looks like to trust each other, to respect our differences, and to be good stewards of God's creation.

At FUMCOR we have made some changes to switch from fossil fuels to electric power and we have investigated solar energy and tried to imagine ways to pay for it. We have cared for our fellow humans and we have even used our property for shelter of Family Promise.

We have reached out in partnership with others in the community through the HOPE room at Wesley, and the Alternative Gift Fair in December, and our many outreach activities for families in the Riverside community.

Some possible projects in the future could be creating more pollinator friendly landscaping, or deciding some of our property could be used for housing. How do we model to the world what building the beloved community looks like? What are your dreams for our church family?
(cont. below)

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The Whole World (cont.)

We get to hear about projects that other United Methodist Churches are doing at Annual Conference, which is coming up in June. There will be new and exciting projects this year, like the earth worm farm and farmer's market in Bishop, where Rev. Kate Hunter is serving.

I'm looking forward to seeing our congregation grow with new people, new ideas and new journeys together. I know that we will strive to protect God's creation, to protect each other and to make real change in small steps. Many times, it is our hands together that are required to make a change. It is a privilege to be in the search for a more just world with you.

I'll see you in church.

Many blessings,

*Kris Lovekin
Lay Leader*



May we walk lightly upon this ground.
May our hands build, our hearts heal,
and our voices advocate for a future
where every blossom and every being
can thrive in harmony.
Amen.



Volunteer Opportunities

Family Promise Dinners



FUMCOR is a partner with Family Promise of Riverside, a nonprofit organization that coordinates shelter and food for homeless families with children. Church and Society donates money regularly. Steve Kerrick makes sure they get a dinner from us once a month, in concert with our UMM chef David Fraser.

On Saturday, May 16, they will move back into shelter at our education building. Thanks to the Trustees for making sure the A/C and the showers are ready for use.

Holy Week 2026



Rejoice!

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the celebration on Easter morning, April 5, brought new members, powerful music and a butterfly release symbolizing Christ's resurrection.



Let us welcome our new church family members! (From left: Evelyn Turkson, Stephen Turkson, Jr., Nana Gwira, Pastor J. T. Kim, Grayson Millias, John Thomas Kennedy, Beth Waddell (Existing Member), and Eileen Walker) Welcome Home! Thanks be to God!!

Josie's expression says it all

Giving is Slowing

A Financial Reality Check

By David Fraser, Chair, Finance Committee



In the first quarter of this year, January through March, our giving is 81% of our budget for giving and only 55% of our actual expenses. Our total income including facility use rentals, cell tower revenues, pre-school apportionments, and interest and dividends make up the rest of the total income of \$134,855. However, looking at total income versus expenses we were short by \$23,186. We covered that difference by withdrawing money from our trust account.

We will almost certainly need to withdraw more from our trust account this year than is financially wise.

With the stock market as volatile as it is, we are trying to avoid losses in our portfolio value. Things could change dramatically over the rest of the year. We pray that our members will be able to dig a bit deeper over the next several quarters and not only get caught up to our budget projections but exceed our expectations. We are grateful for the generosity people have shown over the years and we ask that you pray on this and may the spirit guide you to greater giving.



Make a Lasting Gift That You Can See

The Estate Planning Committee has gathered a list of potential projects that would make good legacy gifts, as a memorial honoring a loved one or as a gift that would be part of the estate planning process.

Examples might be a refurbishing of the front doors of the sanctuary, or a renovation of the fountain on the patio. Smaller items might be a new piece of sheet music for the choir, a trumpet player for Easter, or a piece of audio equipment for the Fellowship Hall.

Bob Nelson, Loretta Cudney and Bill Ashworth created the list, and it is available in the church office. The items are intentionally not priced or prioritized, but if you show interest, one of the committee members will talk through estimates and discussions with trustees, who will approve and manage the installation of physical improvements to the property.

"But maybe your gift would be to support a staff member, or new curriculum for the Sunday School?" Bob Nelson asked. "We hope the members will give this one some thought."

Questions go to Bob (bobnelson01@icloud.com), or Loretta (atterol@me.com) via email or just ask them on Sunday.



Vacation Bible School

June 8th-12th, 9am-12pm

Calling all challengers in TK to 6th grade! Join us for fun, friends, food and faith in our Fellowship Hall!

\$25 First Registration / \$15 for Siblings.



First United

Methodist Church of Riverside



Scan for registration!

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner, and we're still looking for volunteers to help make this an exciting week full of fun, faith, and fellowship!

*If you're interested in being part of this special experience, there is a process that takes some time to complete, so please reach out to Christina soon for more information about volunteer opportunities:



CALPAC SUMMER CAMPS 2026

Cedar Glen | Lazy W | Camp Wrightwood

Elementary Camp: \$395

Jr & Sr High Camp: \$525

Register by March 1st for an early bird discount!

Registration Opens January 5th, 2026

Volun

Turn the World Around

@camp_cedar_glen | @camplazywrench | @campwrightwood



YOUTH GROUP

May 17, 5 pm to 6:30 pm



Come enjoy a fun and meaningful evening at Youth Group! Pizza, fellowship, and focus on relevance of the Bible in your life. Interactive lessons and games for children and youth.

CONTACT:

Christina Graves 951-212-5725

childrensdirectore@firstchurchriverside.org



Preschool News

By Lisa Skiver



The Year is Almost Over



Our First United Methodist Pre School (FUMPS) 2025-2026 school year is sadly coming to an end. We celebrated our students and their families at a successful open house on April 24 with a silent auction and raffle items that raised \$5,000 for future programming. The classes will be busy the last couple of weeks with field days, Mothers day teas and ice cream parties. We are having our first FUMPS summer camp from June 2 to 25. We are full with 32 children. There will be some crossover with the FUMCOR VBS program on some days. Our fall enrollment is blooming as well. Enjoy summer and we will see you in the fall.



United Methodist Men

Home@LaSierra



A Gift to Make More Young People Feel At Home

The United Methodist Men have donated \$1,000 to La Sierra University to help fund a new program called Home@LaSierra, which will help former foster youth thrive on campus.

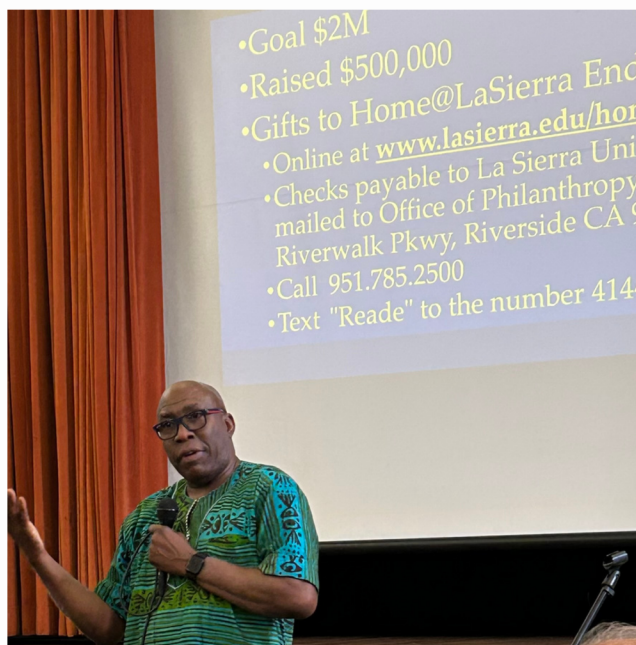
The speaker at the April UMM lunch, La Sierra University President Christon Arthur, described the benefits of offering mentorship and financial support to young people who have spent time in foster care.

Arthur has spent 30 years in education. He was a professor and associate dean at Tennessee State University and then in multiple roles at Andrews University in Michigan, as provost, dean of graduate studies and dean of research. A native of Grenada, he is married and has one grown son.

The Home@LaSierra Endowment aims to raise \$2 million. A gala is planned for this October as a public launch and fundraiser for the scholarship program. Further information and an online donation link is at <https://lasierra.edu/donate/>.

The UMM lunch will take a break in May so as not to conflict with Mother's Day Sunday and then June will bring the last lunch and program for this season.

David Leonard is ending his term as president in June. The UMM Friday Prayer Breakfast continues in Mary's Kitchen at 7 am each Friday with treats and prayers for those in need of comfort and healing.



La Sierra University President Christon Arthur,



United Women in Faith

A Big Thank You

Thank you to the many people who volunteered over several months to make this year's UWF Yard Sale a success! We raised \$645 for missions.

You contributed items, volunteered many hours to organize, price, sort, shift, plan, execute, and clean up as the Yard Sale Team! We value your time and energy. clean up the Yard Sale.

Your help was very much appreciated!



Service is an expression of faith and love.

Women who serve with joy embody God's grace and impact their communities positively.

Prayer ensures that service is not burdened but energized by divine purpose and love.

May we, the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Riverside, support our United Methodist Women In Faith, by praying for them and serving with them, in gratitude.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10

Prayer for Joyful Service

**Lord, guide me to serve others with a joyful heart.
May my actions reflect your love and bring comfort, hope,
and inspiration to those I encounter. Amen.**

Events and Meetings

- May 4 Executive Meeting (Zoom) - 1 pm
- May 6 Flower Garden (5 pm carpool from church)
- May 7 Bible Study is finishing up. We will let you know when a new study begins!
- May 9 Tea at Wesley UMC, 5770 Arlington Avenue - 10 am
- May 14 Lunch Bunch at "Hero's" at 3397 Mission Inn. We will eat on the patio. - 11 am

Every Wednesday, WALK ABOUT meets at Bonaminio Park - 8:30 am
4706 Mt Rubidoux Dr., back parking lot.

Walk at your own pace and for as long as you are comfortable.

For more information contact: Pam Conlin, 951-237-5470.

Prayers & Praises

In Our Hearts and Prayers

David Cardenas, Gary Bruggeman, Lee Ann Salmon, Regan Pope, Bill Ashworth, Eduardo Reyes, Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela, Ronnie Tovar, Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes, Sharon Henry, Jun Valino, Jon Dugan, Marie Madden, Gitanjali Spencer, George Callow, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, Pat Beals, Michael Thompson, Marge Wolter, John and Susan Logger, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Michelle Arguelles, Robert and Benita Roberts, the family of Robert Schiffer our families, our neighbors, our country, our world

Anniversaries and Birthdays

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

May Anniversaries

- 21 Jaeman and Angela Lim
- 26 Uldis and Peggy Stepe

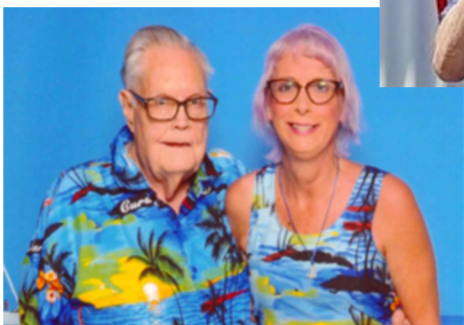
May Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Overton-Fraser
- 2 Bob Banks
- 2 Clayton Erickson
- 2 Don Andres
- 4 Marge Baillod
- 5 Samuel Britain
- 10 Cindy Lonsdale
- 12 Lee Ann Salmon
- 12 Scott McWilliams
- 13 Jennifer Mahl
- 14 George Callow
- 15 Rebel Harrell
- 15 Joan Roberts
- 17 Roger Murray
- 18 Karen Wilson
- 21 Vivian Lowe
- 21 Chandra Roberts
- 25 Beth Waddell
- 25 Lynn Wright
- 27 Jocelyn Williams
- 28 Garrett Hough
- 28 David Vela

*Happy
Mother's
Day!*



*On May 2
We celebrate the life
of
Robert "Bob" Schiffer*



Bob Schiffer and his wife, Lisa Thomas

Lord of the Heavens,
we thank you for the beauty of your creation.
May the works of your hands— sun, moon, and
earth, be a testament to your glory, and
may we live as faithful stewards of this world,
now and forever. Amen.



Sunrise



Earthset

April 6, 2026

Upcoming Events



Sweets for Moms

On Sunday, May 10 the Faith and Fellowship Committee will celebrate mothers with muffins and other treats on the patio. All are welcome to share the celebration. Note to the congregation: Let the moms go in front of you in line!

Time with the Bible

Thanks to our Bible Study leaders who have selected different styles and different times for studying the good book. There is room for everyone in these small groups.

Leaders are: James Herron, Richard Rajaratnam, Lucinda Edmunds, Brent Levine, and Sophie Weiss. Lucinda has the most sessions on Zoom.

Look for sign up sheets on the patio or contact the leader via email.

Scholarship Time

Are you going to college, or headed there? Please apply for a scholarship through the Christian Education Committee by June 15.

The scholarships will be awarded to people active at church, participating in community service, and enrolled in a college or vocational school.

Financial need is also considered. The application will be sent via email, so use an email that will be good through August.

Loretta Cudney will have applications available at church and she can answer questions. Please e-mail your request for the application to cec@fumcor.com

—Christian Education Scholarship Committee
Loretta Cudney and Regan Pope, Chairs



“The Stars and Pipes Forever” on July 11



Celebrate our nation’s semiquincentennial in style with a concert—“The Stars and Pipes Forever” — featuring organ music written in the U.S.A. from 1776 to the present.

Come to FUMCOR’s sanctuary at 7 pm Saturday, July 11, and you’ll hear songs from America’s earliest days, such as a musical depiction of the Battle of Trenton, as well as a piece by one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. You’ll hear selections by well-known American orchestral composers who you didn’t know also wrote for the organ. You’ll hear tonal tableaux describing our nation’s landscape. You’ll hear shape-note tunes, spirituals, ragtime, and jazz, and we’ll even throw in a few patriotic numbers and some delightful ditties with a sense of humor.

Organist Robert Phillips will be joined by saxophonist Jeff Benedict and vocalists. More details will appear in upcoming editions of the Messenger, but mark your calendars now!

Ongoing Events

- Sunday Worship: 10 am
- Sunday School for Children: 10:15 am
- Sunday School for Older Youth 10:15 am (Narthex (second and fourth Sundays typically))
- First Sundays-Holy Communion.
- Third Sundays - Response Band leads Worship
- Bell choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7 pm
- The Response rehearsal, Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
- Adult choir rehearsal: Thursdays, 7 pm
- Men's Friday Prayer Breakfasts 7 am
- The Habit fundraiser, last Sunday of the Month



The annual bell concert is at 5 pm Sunday, June 14 in the Sanctuary. The Allegro Ringers will be ringing all of their songs performed since October during this hour-long celebration of music. And, they have a special song to perform for the finale.

Joining the ringers, are the church's organist, select choir members as well as The Response praise band.

Please mark your calendar for this annual event.

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

Rev. J.T. Kim, Senior Pastor
pastorjtkim@firstchurchriverside.org

Christina Graves, Children and Youth
childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Stephanie Chandler, Interim Finance
officemanager@firstchurchriverside.org

Beverly Devine, Secretary
secretary@firstchurchriverside.org

Yvonne Flagg, Choir Director
choirdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Gayla Lonsbery, Bell Director
belldirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Robert Phillips, Organist
organist@firstchurchriverside.org

Lisa Skiver, Preschool Director
fumps@sbcglobal.net

Jesse Ruiz, Custodial Manager
jruiz28880@aol.com

Brad Tomlinson, Campus Supervisor
bradtomlinson4@yahoo.com



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