

JUNE 2026

The Messenger

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

We Belong to Each Other

By Rev. J.T. Kim, Pastor

As I write my message this month I am thinking about the world, especially about the fact that on May 18, three people died in the Islamic Center of San Diego when they confronted shooters inside the mosque. It is not a United Methodist Church, but it is still full of faithful people who deserve to live in safety and dignity.



We have seen this pattern before and I do not feel I can ignore it. When violence is directed at people it is because they have been branded as “the other” or “the enemy.” These attacks can make us fearful, but they can also make us more loving and more grateful for our community.

I do not want to ignore the national climate that fuels this violence. I must do more to call it out.

I have asked myself how I can respond and the first thing that comes to mind is to respond with prayer. So I share this with you. Know that I am grateful to be in this church family and that I am confident we know how to help each other through the good times and the bad times.

We belong to each other and we are strong.

Please pray with me:

Gracious and Loving God, we come before You now with heavy hearts, shaken by the senseless violence that has shattered the peace of this house of worship. How long, O Lord, must we bear sorrow in our hearts and witness such profound pain in our communities? We gather in the very place where we seek Your refuge, where evil has dared to enter, and we cry out to You for Your divine presence. We lift up to You those who were injured and the families of those who have lost their lives. Wrap Your loving, healing arms around them in this deep valley of the shadow of death. Comfort their spirits, grant them Your peace, and let them know they do not grieve alone. We give You thanks for the first responders and bystanders who courageously ran toward the danger to protect the innocent and save lives. Sustain them with Your strength and grant them peace from the trauma they have witnessed. (cont. on page 2)

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First United

Methodist Church
of Riverside

Belong (cont.)

Lord of Justice, do not let our grief give way to despair. Break our hearts where they have grown hardened, and stir within us a holy resolve. Empower us to stand together, to speak out against violence in all its forms, and to be instruments of Your peace.

Strengthen our commitment to one another, to building a society rooted in fairness, and to protecting the sacred worth of every human life. Turn our deep sorrow into a catalyst for positive change. Guide our leaders, comfort our neighborhoods, and let Your light shine in the darkness.

In the name of the One who is our ultimate refuge and strength, we pray.

Amen.

=====

My Beloved Church Family and Friends:
May God embrace you with His love, care, and strength more than ever!
Love and Blessings,
Pastor J. T. Kim



(Photo of the Islamic Center in San Diego by Sandy Huffaker/Getty Images)

News Briefs

A Different Kind of July 4th Event



We are adding a waterslide on the front lawn of the church to our Fourth of July celebration. The evening starts from 5 to 7 pm with a waterslide and a school supply giveaway. The fireworks don't start until 9 pm. Bring kids and we will have some fun. Thanks to the Outreach Team for this good idea.

Helping Hands Are Here for You

"His Helping Hands" is what we call a team of people who do simple home repairs in exchange for a freewill donation to the missions fund. At right, Ron Bayer and Greg Laird work on blinds in the home of Roy and Cheryl Riggs.



If you need a helping hand, give Greg Laird a call at [951 276 4490](tel:9512764490).

They do not work with electricity but they are handy with a lot of other kinds of things, including painting, hanging doors, installing grab bars and more. They also accept new people on the team if you have some skills to add. This is for church members who are in need of a little extra helping hand.

Kudos to Dads June 21

We're having a cake walk to celebrate Father's Day on June 21. 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.



Socks You Say?

We will pull the basketball hoop out on June 21 for some tossing of socks that will be donated to the HOPE room at Wesley UMC. Find a sale and bring some bags of socks to church on Father's Day. We will practice tossing them through the basket for fun. Cindy Marr will help deliver them to Wesley UMC.

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 open the lot about 5 pm and the fireworks start at 9 pm. There will be a water slide on the front lawn and boy scouts selling food near the Scout House. It is a Saturday night this year! Donation is \$5 per car. Come celebrate Independence Day!



Bells Got Rhythm

5 pm June 14



Yes. It's that time of year for the musical extravaganza bell concert.

The Allegro Ringers will present songs they have performed throughout the year. We have songs that are original compositions, songs from classical settings and songs from the contemporary landscape. We use a variety of bell techniques to make the songs interesting and visually appealing.

In addition, we have invited our musical friends to join us. Our organist will accompany not only our ringers, but also our singers. Our praise band, The Response, will be lending their talent to the hour-long concert as well. As you can see, the bells are a versatile instrument that plays well with others: piano, electric guitar, drums and vocalists of various styles.

This year's event promises to be another engaging hour showing that yes, bells **do** have rhythm. The bell concert is 5 pm Sunday, June 14 in the Sanctuary. The concert is free and you are welcome!

In June We Celebrate Music

On Sunday, June 28 we will celebrate our many musical groups on Music Recognition Sunday. For all the practice, for all the inspiration and leadership, we are grateful. Thanks to Yvonne Flagg, Robert Phillips, Gayla Lonsbery and Jeff Ashworth for directing our musical groups.



VBS Begins June 8

Be cool at Vacation Bible School!

Don't miss this exciting opportunity June 8 to 12 from 9 am to 12 noon for children TK/K - 6th grade.

1. Cool mountain challenges and fun for new friends and familiar faces.

The cost is \$25 for the first child and \$15 for siblings or any other child in your carpool.

Bring your neighbors and friends!

To register, go to our website at <https://firstchurchriverside.org>



CALPAC SUMMER CAMPS 2026

Cedar Glen Elementary:
June 22-26

Jr & Sr High:
June 27-July 3

Elementary
Camp: \$395

Jr & Sr High
Camp: \$525

Camp Wrightwood Elementary:
July 5-9

Jr & Sr High:
July 12-18

Lazy W Ranch Elementary:
July 12-16

Jr & Sr High:
July 19-25



[@campcedarglen](#) | [@camplazywrench](#) | [@campwrightwood](#)

Summer Camp is Here

This summer, campers are invited to explore what it means to Turn the World Around through stories of faith, justice, environmentalism, and joy. Come ready for adventure, community, and a week that will change the way you see the world, and hopefully your place in it. Camperships are available and can be requested during registration.

childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Do You Have a Grad?

From kindergarten to grad school, we would love to celebrate your accomplishment during our worship service June 8. Send a picture and description to Christina by June 5



United Methodist Men

Sunday, June 14



How Do You Land a Plane on a Short Field?

The UMM Luncheon will feature Bob Nelson, long-time member of FUMCOR, speaking to us about his life and experiences, especially about Short Field Landings when he served as a pilot for three years during the Viet Nam conflict.

Raised on a farm in South Dakota, Bob had a long career with Riverside County Flood Control and then as the Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Waste Management Department. The Robert A. Nelson Transfer Station & Recycling Center near the old cement plant on the north edge of Riverside is named after him.

How do you land a plane on a short field? Bob Nelson will tell us in ways that will have lessons for life. Come and enjoy a delicious \$7 lunch prepared as usual by David Fraser and learn a bit about Bob's experiences as a young lad. Our monthly meetings are open to the entire congregation. The cost is \$7 per person, or \$20 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!

Christian Education Scholarships Can Help

Deadline is June 15

If you are actively participating at church and you need more money for college or vocational studies, please email your request to cec@fumcor.com.

The Christian Education Committee will reply. Tell them if you are a first-time student or if you are a continuing student, as there are different applications for each one.

The selections will be made on the basis of financial need, activities at church and in the community and educational objectives. Scholarships can be awarded for accredited vocational schools, community colleges or universities.

The application process will be handled via email, so it is important that you use an email address that will be valid through the end of August. **The submission deadline will be June 15.**

For questions look for Loretta Cudney and Regan Pope





United
Women
in Faith

Summer in Bloom

Calendar

June 11 - Lunch Bunch at Lazy Dog, 380 McKinley St., Corona. - 11 am (Behind Chase Bank)

The Lazy Dog is a ways out, so if you want to go but don't want to drive, call Pam Conlin at 951-237-5470 to arrange a ride.

June 17- Friendship visits. Meet at the church at 10 am



We meet at Bonaminio Park in the back parking lot near the playground. Come out for a morning walk with us. As the temperature goes up we may go to an earlier time. Get on our email list to know about time changes



It is never too early to start making things that the UWF can sell at the Alternative Gift Fair Sunday, Dec. 6. If you would like more information or ideas call Pam Conlin 951-237-5470. All the money we make goes to our annual mission giving.



Prayers & Praises

We pray for

Roy Riggs, Eric Rusler, Terri Whieldon, Tom Kennedy,
 Christina Graves, Bob Bahnsen, Lee Ann Salmon,
 Don Larsen, Neko Williams, David Cardenas,
 Regan Pope, Bill Ashworth, Lupe Vela,
 Eduardo Reyes, Tina Dungan, Ronnie Tovar,
 Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes,
 Sharon Henry, Jun Valino, Marie Madden,
 Gitanjali Spencer, Norma Nelson, Melva Cooke,
 Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, Pat Beals,
 Michael Thompson, Marge Wolter, George Callow,
 John and Susan Logger, Melissa Williams,
 Jim Ashworth, Mary Herrmann, Mary Boon,
 Bill and Helen Nuchols, Gary Bruggeman,
 Michelle Arguelles, Robert and Benita Roberts,
 Scott and DeAnn McWilliams
 our families, our neighbors,
 our country, our world



*Go now
 as
 the people of God
 a
 family.*

June Anniversaries and Birthdays

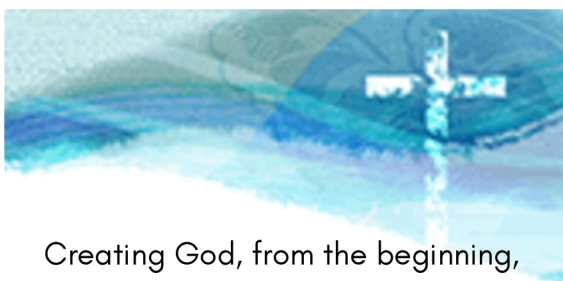
Please join with us in giving thanks for the
 birthdays and anniversaries in our congregation.

Anniversaries

- 11 Jeff and Alissa Ashworth
- 13 Bob and Norma Nelson
- 15 Michael & Charles McFall Thompson
- 23 Dennis and Terri Whieldon
- 26 Bernd and Nancy Neumann
- 29 Ji Tai and Kwang Jin Kim

Birthdays

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



Creating God, from the beginning,
 you formed light out of darkness, breath
 from dust, and life from love.
 In Christ, you walked among us, and
 through your Spirit, you empower us still.
 Today, we offer our gifts—signs of our
 desire to partner with you in your
 ongoing work of creation, healing, and
 discipleship. Use these offerings to build
 communities of compassion, to welcome
 the stranger, and to teach your ways of
 justice and joy. May our giving reflect
 the wonder of your Triune love and our
 willingness to go and grow disciples
 in your name. Amen.

(Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Matthew 28:16-20)



Ongoing Events

- 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 5, 6 - VBS set up in Fellowship Hall
- June 8 -- Vacation Bible School begins at 9 am
- June 14 -- UMM Lunch (Bob Nelson speaks)
- June 14 -- VBS recognition in church
- June 14 -- Bell Concert, 5 pm
- June 17 to 20 -- Cal-Pac Annual Conference
- June 21 -- Father's Day Cake Walk and Sock Toss
- June 28 -- Fundraiser at The Habit
- June 28 -- Music Appreciation Sunday



Welcome
Crystal
Foote!

*A Few
Reminders
from the
Office*



- Do you have a graduate in your family? Let us know. We are ready to celebrate!
- Would you rather be receiving your "giving statements" via email? Let Crystal Foote, our new office manager, know. (picture above.)
- If you can give to the church direct from your bank account, you avoid all kinds of credit card fees.
- Do you lead a committee taking a break during the summer? Make sure to update the church calendar.
- Now is the time to get your committee budget requests for next year to the church office.

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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Robert Phillips, Organist
organist@firstchurchriverside.org

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fumps@sbcglobal.net

Jesse Ruiz, Custodial Manager
jrui28880@aol.com

Brad Tomlinson, Campus Supervisor
bradtomlinson4@yahoo.com





The Stars and Pipes Forever

By Robert Phillips

As our country celebrates its 250th birthday, FUMCOR will celebrate the first 250 years of American organ music with a concert at 7 pm Saturday, July 11, in our sanctuary. In a program entitled "The Stars and Pipes Forever," we will present an astonishing variety of music, all composed in the United States.

The first half of the concert will cover the period from the American Revolution to about 1900. We'll hear music written for the first organs to appear in America, and we'll explore how the various religious affiliations of the colonists affected the spread of those instruments. (The Puritans decidedly were not fans of pipe organs!) After a set of three pieces dedicated to George Washington, we'll survey several works by organists freshly arrived in the New World from England, Spain, Germany, and elsewhere. We'll hear how the establishment of American organ-building firms by the mid-1800s led to the construction of substantial instruments and the creation of more complex music to be played on them.

Soprano Kris Lovekin will sing "When Winds Are Raging," composed by Salem-born organist/pianist Arthur Foote in 1896 and based on a poem by Harriet Beecher Stowe. We'll finish off the 19th century with John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever," also composed in 1896.

The second half of the concert will feature a wide spectrum of music from the 20th and 21st centuries. We'll open with "Sweet Sixteenths," peppering the distinctly American art form of ragtime with a healthy dose of humor. Then we'll hear modern organists' tributes to the Quakers, William Billings (early American choral composer), spirituals, shape-note hymns, our 50th state, and a notorious ukulele-toting folksinger from the 1960s.

We'll explore rarely heard organ works by Aaron Copland and Dave Brubeck. Saxophonist Jeff Benedict will perform "Prayer of St. Ambrose," a lyrical meditation written by organist Carson Cooman in 2003. The program will conclude with Emma Lou Diemer's moving arrangement of "America the Beautiful," followed by Michael Burkhardt's rousing "Festival March," combining "Battle Hymn of the Republic" with "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The concert is free, and a free-will offering will be collected to support the Organ Dedicated Fund.