

The Messenger

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

Welcome Back to Church!

By the Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

Dear First United Methodist Church of Riverside Family and Friends:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Welcome to September! Welcome to "Back-to-Church" month! It is time to remember that "so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:5). After having taken a summer break, our amazing Aldersgate Chorale will be resuming their music ministry on Sept 13. We are calling this our "All Church Sunday" (also known as "Back-to-Church" Sunday). I would like to invite everyone, especially those who have not been active recently, especially in person, to come back to church! Better yet, I would like you to invite someone, a family or a friend, to church as a tangible and delightful "fruit" as your application of the lessons from the sermon series, "Bearing Fruit," that was completed in August.

My new six-week sermon series, "Embracing Acts of Faith," began on August 30, and it will be continuing throughout September. Finally, on October 4, World Communion Sunday, the final part of the sermon will explain "Miracle Sunday," designated to support our UMC global leaders in training, with a special free-will offering. This celebration will not only help our own Cal-Pac Conference but The United Methodist Church Worldwide. Moreover, a new six-week study series on "Social Principles of The United Methodist Church" will be offered to everyone who is interested. This course will be sponsored by the Church & Society Committee and will be led by the Rev. Roy Riggs starting Sept. 17. (see story on pg. 10.)



John Simmons shows Pastor Kim his double ukelele. John says it is his "silly ukelele."

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First United
Methodist Church
of Riverside

Welcome Back...

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Furthermore, on "New Members Welcoming Sunday," Sept. 27, we will be joyfully welcoming our new Sisters and Brothers in Christ through Baptism and Reaffirmation of Faith. We are faithfully and fruitfully reminded of the words of Jesus: "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples" (John 15:8). Please contact me if you'd like to join the church or have any questions regarding membership or anything related to your faith journey.

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

What's Playing at the Players?



Buy tickets for the Community Players show at 2:30 pm Saturday, Sept. 19. Ask for section D. Arrive early! Look for FUMCOR friends! Box office is (951) 686-4030.

A New Outreach Event!



Volunteers in Action

Pasta for the Preschool!



A fundraising dinner is set for 5 to 7 pm Friday, Sept. 18, in the Fellowship Hall to raise money for preschool snow days. Cost for dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 5 and under. Bring a friend.



Mercy House Still Collecting

Mercy House helps provide food to veterans in need, and we have a collection box in our narthex each Sunday. Bring shelf-stable items and put them in the box. Some examples: soup, pancake mix, peanut butter, canned goods of all kinds. A member of the Church and Society Committee will deliver the food each month.



A Farewell to Summer

Our traditional July 4th Fireworks bash added a backpack giveaway and a water slide to the festivities. Our outreach committee and our trustees did a great job as usual. Thanks to all the volunteers.





Raising Food for the Garden

Inspired by Rev. Kate Hunter and a project in Bishop, CA, the Church and Society Committee has decided to raise worms and collect castings (AKA worm poop) to improve gardening soil.

Worms eat kitchen scraps, they live in damp newspaper, and over time, we will be able to offer something of value to gardeners. We will start with gardeners in the congregation and then branch out to community gardens and school gardens.

Our worms are housed in a nice basement area that stays a very consistent temperature. They live in plastic bins that have been customized with some screens for airflow and a layer of water on the bottom.

About nine United Methodists took a class from Riverside County to become worm farmers, and we have a couple of experienced hands in the congregation: Margie Baillod and Scott Kirkwood.

We intend to keep the worms happy, they will reproduce, then we will have more worms making compost to offer in the community. Can you imagine it? Where there's a worm, there's a way!

Let us know if you want to be a worm farmer too.



Rev. Dr. Kate Hunter preached on "Wonder and Worms" in June



Sophie and Greg at the class offered Aug. 1 by Riverside County



Grayson, Greg and Margie feed the worms

Music Calendar

Choir Begins Sept. 3

The Aldersgate Chorale has had a two-month break, and will begin again this month. We welcome new members! No audition is necessary. Rehearsals begin 7 pm Thursday, Sept. 3. We will begin singing for our worship services on Sept. 13. On Sundays, we meet at 9:15 am for our Sunday warm-up session.

If you would rather be part of The Response praise band, talk to Jeff Ashworth about joining. Come sing in harmony as one body in Christ!



Ring the Bells!

The adult bell choir starts rehearsing on Tuesday, Sept. 1. This is a fun, supportive group learning music for Sunday services.

No previous music experience is required. For more information, contact Gayla Lonsbery at church or via email: Belldirector@firstchurchriverside.org



Our Carillon Tower Calls

The history committee has discovered how to make our carillon tower play music for the neighborhood again after a long time of silence. Robert Nelson's son-in-law Mike Rapp volunteered some time to reconnect the system. Now listen for the church chimes at 9 am, 12 noon and 6 pm!

Bob Nelson, Mike Alfred and Greg Laird continue to dig into church history, organizing and repairing as they go.

Next steps on this project might include playing hymns from the tower for special occasions. Can you imagine "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve? What about "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing," on Thanksgiving?



Exciting news !!!

**Our Sunday School attendance is
*growing...***

and there is *always* room for more children!

***We look forward to seeing you and your family
this September!***

AND...

With that growth comes a need for more helping hands.
We would love to have you be part of what God is doing!

We are happy to announce
we need more Sunday School teachers!
Your time and love can make a lasting impact
on our children and youth.

If you are interested in serving and helping with our
Sunday School ministry, please reach out to Christina.

Christina Graves 951-683-7831

childrensdirector@firstchurchriverside.org



Parents Morning Out

**Wednesdays
beginning Sept. 2
9 am to 12 pm**

We welcome children
18 months to 5 years old
for childcare
from 9 am to 12 pm in Room 2.

The cost is \$25 per child, and
\$15 more per additional sibling.

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U.P.L.I.F.T. for Youth!

Come enjoy a fun Fall-themed
Youth Night filled with pizza and
time for fellowship together!
We'd love to see you there.

All school-age kids and their friends
are invited to meet for dinner,
friendship, and fun
in the Youth Room!

**Sunday, Sept. 13
5 pm to 6:30 pm**



WE WANT YOU

Acolyte Program

We hope everyone had a joyful and restful
summer! As we head into a new season,
we're excited to bring back the Acolytes —
a beloved tradition for both youth and adults.
Acolytes have the honor of bringing the light
of Christ into our sanctuary for worship
and then taking his light out to the world!
Let's revive this special ministry together!

United Methodist Men

Sunday, September 13



Back to the Classroom

We go back to class in the first lunch meeting of the season hosted after worship by the United Methodist Men on Sunday, Sept. 13.

The speaker will be Valerie Othon, a member of our church who teaches at Pedley Elementary School in the Jurupa Unified School District.

Teaching is a family tradition. Both Valerie's parents were school teachers, and her grandfather, Neil A. Williams, Sr., was the superintendent in Jurupa and the principal of Troth Street Elementary School while her grandmother Edith was a teacher at West Riverside Elementary, also in Jurupa.

All are welcome to this luncheon and the cost is \$6 per person or \$20 per family.

In addition, the UMM meets at 7 am each Friday in Mary's Kitchen for fellowship, faith, coffee, donuts, and pastries.



Valerie Othon in the classroom at Pedley Elementary School teaching a lesson on empathy

Create a Legacy Gift for Your Family

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 and Loretta Cudney 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.



Bible Study September 10 - October 29

We will continue with
"how to pray" by pete grieg
through September.

This Bible Study will be 8 sessions via Zoom,
starting Thursday evening, September 10th and
going through October 29th.

Social Time 6:45 Bible Study 7 pm

If you haven't attended one of our Bible Studies
before, and would like to join us, contact:

Lyn Knowles 961-743-7490

Karen Eagans kkeagans@aol.com

The book is available in several formats on
Amazon.



6:30am
*Walk About -
every Wednesday*

Ryan Bonaminio Park in the last parking
area near the playground.

One loop around the park is a mile.

Walk at your own pace and as long as you
want. When the weather cools we will meet
later in the morning. Keep an eye out for
time change notices.

SEPTEMBER 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 - Executive Meeting via Zoom - 1 pm This is an important meeting. 2027 officer nominations and decisions on Mission Recognition awards.						
10 - Lunch Bunch at Pietro's - 11 am 6788 Brockton Ave.						
10 - Bible Study via Zoom - 6:45 pm						
16 - Friendship visits. Meet at the Church - 10 am						

For September - Lunch Bunch is going for Italian!



Prayers & Praises

We pray for...

Lisa Thomas, Julie Williams, Reko Williams,
Neko Williams, David Cardenas, Patrick Russell,
Isaiah Whisner, Cynthia Diaz, Ruth Martinez,
Don Larsen, Susan Reardon, Rollin Edmunds,
Lee Ann Salmon, Dean Michalka, James Herron,
Eric Russler, Tom Kennedy, Christina Graves,
Bob Bahnsen, Regan Pope, Eduardo Reyes,
Gary Spencer 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, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann,
Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke,
Michelle Arguelles, John and Susan Logger,
Bill and Helen Nuchols, Robert and Benita Roberts,
Scott and DeAnn McWilliams,
the family of Uldis Stepe



It is our church family's
privilege to pray on your behalf.

Please contact:
secretary@firstchurchriverside.org,
951-683-7831
with your initial request for prayer,
updated request that your name
remain on the list, or request that
your name be removed from the list.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into
Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's
mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through
water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.
Through confirmation and through the reaffirmation of
our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,
acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our
commitment to Christ's holy Church.

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

September Anniversaries

- 3 Robert and Linda Hice
- 7 Ron and Dianne Purkey
- 9 Dan and Gayla Lonsbery
- 11 Dan and Dani Cork
- 13 Jennifer and Eric Mahl
- 15 David and Kim Leonard
- 16 John and Katrina Zeeb
- 17 Jonathon and Melissa Williams
- 22 Matt Gorder and Anita Kramer

September Birthdays

- 1 Michael Othon
- 8 Carli Renteria
- 9 Bob Nelson
- 9 Dianne Purkey
- 10 John Zeeb
- 10 Noemi Compton
- 11 Alissa Ashworth
- 12 Frederica Turkson
- 17 Jeff Benedict
- 21 Scott Kirkwood
- 22 Billy Gwira
- 23 Gretel Noble
- 23 Joyce Brown
- 24 David Rajaratnam
- 27 Marie Madden
- 28 Preston Hanson

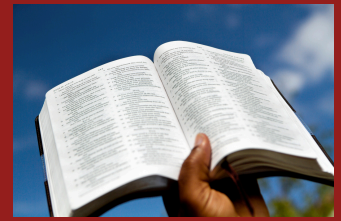


We will welcome
and celebrate
our incoming New Members
Sunday, September 27 - 10 am

To learn more about the meaning
and process of becoming a member,
please contact Pastor Kim at:
pastorjtkim@firstchurch.org

Scripture
Experience
Tradition
Reason

Living
the
Vision



Find Your Inspiration in the Bible

If your soul would benefit from some Bible study, we have options. All are welcome!

7 pm Wednesdays in the Chandler Lounge – Sophie Weiss offers a casual class with the “Bible Moths.” Come as you are and do some Bible reading together and chatting about surprises and insights. We are going through 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. Come in the door near the preschool and join us! Contact: sophieweiss23@gmail.com

8:30 am Sunday in the Chandler Lounge – Brent Levine asks how the news of the day relates to scripture and our daily walk as compassionate Christians. Recent topics have included LeBron James' retirement and what the Bible can teach us about transitions and navigating major life changes, as well as an exploration of Christian themes in "The Odyssey" and studying passages from the Bible about the Golden Rule and welcoming strangers. Topics and Scripture passages for the week are sent to participants every Thursday ahead of each Sunday meeting. Contact: brentlevine@gmail.com

5 pm Sunday, Sept. 13 to Nov. 8 via Zoom – Lucinda Edmunds starts in on an eight-week study of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. We will focus on key stories of how Israel became a nation. We'll read about their mistakes and successes along the way to the promised land. Expect to have some lively discussions about how we might apply these stories as Christians today. While most sessions will be online, two sessions will be in-person. The dates to be decided by the group. Those unable to attend in person will still have access to participate online. Chapter assignments and study materials will be emailed to participants in advance along with the Zoom link. Contact: lucindaedmunds1@outlook.com

What Are the Social Principles of the UMC?

So Glad You Asked



You may have been a part of The United Methodist Church for all of your life, or just since this past year, but you may not know that The United Methodist Church had Social Principles.

We do! Rev. Roy Riggs will be leading a brief class on them beginning at 7 pm Thursday, Sept. 17, in the Chandler Lounge and continuing each Thursday for six weeks.

Sign up for the class on the church patio on Sept 6 and 13.

The Social Principles are not church law. Instead they represent the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to issues of the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist tradition.

The class will talk more about the church's stance on economic justice, creation care, voting rights, LGBT marriage and ordination, corporate responsibility, racial justice and more. Questions? Contact: Rev. Roy at rrriggs@earthlink.net

Events to Remember

- Labor Day is Sept. 1, Church campus is closed
- Sunday Worship: 10 am
- Sunday School, Children (weekly): 10:15 am
- Sunday School, Youth (2nd & 4th Sundays): 10:15 am
- First Sundays - Holy Communion
- Third Sundays - Response Band leads Worship
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal: 7 pm Thursdays
- Bell Choir rehearsal: 7 pm Tuesdays
- The Response rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
- Men's Friday Prayer Breakfasts: 7 am
- The Habit fundraiser: Sept. 27

Make No Bones About It



Mark your calendar now for "Skeleton Keys, a Halloween Organ Concert," set for 7 pm Saturday, Oct. 24, in our sanctuary. Come hear organist Robert Phillips play a spine-tingling selection of terrifying tunes and chilling classics, topped off by "Ghoultime Carols" and, of course, J. S. Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor."

As always, admission is free, with a freewill offering to support the Organ Dedicated Fund. Look for more details in the October "Messenger."

July's "Stars and Pipes Forever" concert was a success, raising \$4,053 (including the dollar-for-dollar match by our extremely generous anonymous donor). Your support of our ongoing efforts to refurbish our magnificent pipe organ is greatly appreciated. In late August, our organ technician replaced the "nuts and felt" under all 183 of the manual keys to ensure proper contact and a level playing surface. Our next project will be a new screen between the pipe room and the chancel.

Need to Reach Us?

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4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506
(951) 683-7831

Office Hours: weekdays, 10 am to 2 pm)

secretary@firstchurchriverside.org

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choirdirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Gayla Lonsbery, Bell Director

belldirector@firstchurchriverside.org

Robert Phillips, Organist

organist@firstchurchriverside.org

Lisa Skiver, Preschool Director

fumps@sbcglobal.net

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