

# THE MESSENGER



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**SESSION MEMBERS**

Current members of the Session are:

- Moses Bakhsh
- Mark Evans
- Wilson Kayange
- Marcia Fagan—  
Clerk of Session
- Harry Muaya
- Richard Frederick
- Luann Bangsund
- Kathleen Wilmot
- Ann Platz
- Jerri Rodewald
- Dick Jones
- Al Polchow
- Shirley Harry

## The Pastor's Corner



On my first Sunday with you, I welcomed all in attendance in worship saying, “Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands, an inclusive community of faith, hope and love.” This is printed on the front of our bulletin each week, but does this describe who we are to those visiting with us for the first time or to those beyond our walls? I ask this because a contractor at my home asked me just days before, “Are Presbyterians Christians?”

What seems obvious to us may not be so obvious to those in our community who are unfamiliar with our language, for we live in a post-Christendom context in America given the rise of secularism and pluralism. This means that the Christian church no longer has a privileged voice in society, nor does the Bible have any authority in public discourse. Some within the church contend that this is devastating news, yet I contend that this gives us the opportunity to know who we really are as followers of Christ.

What is distinctive about the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands as a community of faith in a city filled with houses of worship? One word that we use to describe ourselves is “inclusive.” Yet, do we know how those beyond our walls understand this descriptor? Merriam-Webster’s primary definition states, “comprehending stated limits or extremes,” such as “from Monday to Friday.” Would those who don’t know us think we are setting limits or

explaining extremes? The secondary definition has two parts: (1) broad in orientation or scope, and (2) covering or intending to cover all items, costs, or services. I wonder if others might think we are like an all-inclusive resort? How would you describe to others what “inclusive” means for our church?

One thing you will learn quickly about your new pastor is that I love to ask questions. I am certainly not as skilled as Jesus, but from scripture we know that he rarely answered the questions he was asked. Instead, he would turn the tables and ask a question that caused his questioner to think more deeply. I hope my questions this month help us to begin to ask ourselves clarifying questions, so that we are able to communicate what is distinctive about our faith community.

As we begin our journey together we will need to think critically about who we are and how we can communicate with those unfamiliar with the language of our faith. As Apostle Paul once said to the church at Corinth, “I have become all things to all people...for the sake of the gospel.” For the sake of the gospel we will need to develop new skills so that we will be able to share the incredible story of our faith with the diversity of our community. The gospel continues to transform lives today and I look forward to the story that we will write together!

In anticipation,  
Pastor Cheryl



## FPC-Redlands *Monthly Book Club*

The February book club meeting will be held on Thursday, the 2nd at the home of Helen and Fred Waitz. The book of the month is *Barkskins* by Annie Proulx.

Then in March, we have *But What if We're Wrong?: Thinking about the present as if it were the past* by Chuck Klosterman. Luann Bangsund will host this one.

“Kinetically slingshotting through a broad spectrum of objective and subjective problems, *But What If We're Wrong?* is built on interviews with a variety of creative thinkers—George Saunders, David Byrne, Jonathan Lethem, Kathryn Schulz, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Brian Greene, Junot Díaz, Amanda Petrusich, Ryan Adams, Nick Bostrom, Dan Carlin, and Richard Linklater, among others—interwoven with the type of high-wire humor and nontraditional analysis only Klosterman would dare to attempt. It’s a seemingly impossible achievement: a book about the things we cannot know, explained as if we did. It’s about how we live now, once *now* has become *then*.”

*Goodreads.com*

February 2017



<b>February 2</b> 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Thursday</b> Deacons Meeting FPC Book Club	<b>February 14</b> 5:15 p.m.	<b>Tuesday</b> Property & Finance
<b>February 3</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Friday</b> Knitting Companions	<b>February 15</b> 1:30 p.m.	<b>Wednesday</b> Wenonah Circle Mary Lou Jones hosts
<b>February 5</b> 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> English Worship Service Indonesian Worship Svc. Youth Study/Activities	<b>February 17</b> 11:00 a.m.	<b>Friday</b> Coffee Shop Circle Jean Vieten hosts
<b>February 7</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Tuesday</b> Personnel Committee	<b>February 19</b> 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> English Worship Service Indonesian Worship Svc. Youth Study/Activities
<b>February 9</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>Thursday</b> Christian Education	<b>February 20</b> 6:30 p.m.	<b>Monday</b> Session Meeting
<b>February 11</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Saturday</b> Deacon/Elder Retreat (at Cutler Building)	<b>February 26</b> 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> English Worship Service Indonesian Worship Svc. Youth Study/Activities
<b>February 12</b> 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b> English Worship Service Indonesian Worship Svc. Youth Study/Activities	<b>February 27</b> 12:00 p.m.	<b>Monday</b> Bridge Club
<b>February 13</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>Monday</b> Worship Committee		

## Session Highlights

January 2017

by Marcia Fagan



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regular scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday, January 16, 2017 and took the following actions at the meeting:

Received the Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2016:

Total Income:	\$35,908.62
Total Expenditures:	\$20,264.50
Excess Income/Expenses:	\$15,644.12
Balance in General Account:	\$75,848.85

- ◆ Approved the proposed 2017 Budget, to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2017.
- ◆ Approved \$2,500 to the General Mission Pledge for 2017.
- ◆ Approved the 2016 Statistical Report for the General Assembly (PCUSA) and the Annual Report to the Presbytery of Riverside.
- ◆ Received the 2016 Financial Report for the Board of Deacons.
- ◆ Received the 2016 End-of-Year Report for the Scrip Program.
- ◆ Approved the resolution revising the designation of Salary and Housing on Pastor Cheryl's Pastoral Call.
- ◆ Approved a Vouchered, Reimbursable Professional Expense Policy for FPCR staff.
- ◆ Approved dates for the 2017 Sunrise programs and the Choir Brunches.
- ◆ Approved an ad hoc Transition Team to serve as a mentor support group for Pastor Cheryl in her first year at FPCR.
- ◆ Approved the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the following dates in 2017: January 29, March 5, April 2, April 30, June 4, July 2, July 30, September 3, October 1, October 29, December 3, December 31, and, in addition, at the evening Maundy Thursday Service on April 13 (English-speaking and Indonesian) and Good Friday Service, April 14 (Indonesian).



**LEaD:  
Leadership,  
Education and  
Discipleship.**

Come join us for this annual Equipping the Saint event of Riverside Presbytery, Saturday, February 18, at First Presbyterian Church of Upland.

At LEaD, we get to know fellow disciples along the journey of faith, engage in workshops about practical matters of Christian service, and learn about subjects of interest for the Christian life.

This year's activities include meeting the PCUSA General Assembly's Co-Moderator, learning about ministry in your neighborhood, discovering ways to make giving easier for people in your congregation, connecting with other Church officers, discovering what we can learn about ministry from others, acquiring new expertise for ministry with social media, and much more.

See the 2017 LEaD Brochure for more details. You can find it in the Presbytery's "The UpDate" on the Presbytery Web site ([http://www.riversidepresbytery.com/uploads/2/3/3/5/23358004/final\\_2\\_lead\\_flier\\_2017\\_legal\\_size\\_8.pdf](http://www.riversidepresbytery.com/uploads/2/3/3/5/23358004/final_2_lead_flier_2017_legal_size_8.pdf)), or check with the Church office. Also, our own FPCR member Jack Brennan is actively involved in the planning and would be happy to answer questions. For other questions, you can call Bill Stanley at 909.844.3651.

**New Elders and Deacons Nominated**

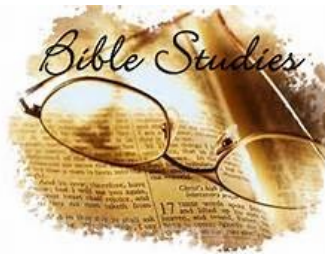
New Elders and Deacons were nominated and elected at the Congregational Meeting on January 29th. They will be installed on February 12th. The Elders nominated for the class of 2019 are: Marcia Fagan, Ann Platz, Al Polchow, and Sue Teele; and for the class of 2017, Jerri Rodewald. Deacons elected for the class of 2019 are: Lynn Jordan, Kasim Barus, and Terry Zeidler.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In February the Christian Education committee encourages you to use the time after Sunday morning worship for fellowship with each other and Pastor Cheryl. There are no **ADULT** Sunday classes planned.

Please share topic ideas for future classes with Al Polchow, Wilson Kayange, Moses Bakhsh, or Pastor Cheryl.

**Sunrise** will resume the first week of March. Look for more information in the March newsletter.



The **Coffee Shop Bible Study Group** meets the third Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Jean Vieten will be hosting the February meeting on the 17th.

The **Wenonah Circle** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, at 1:30 p.m. Mary Lou Jones will host the meeting this month on the 15th.



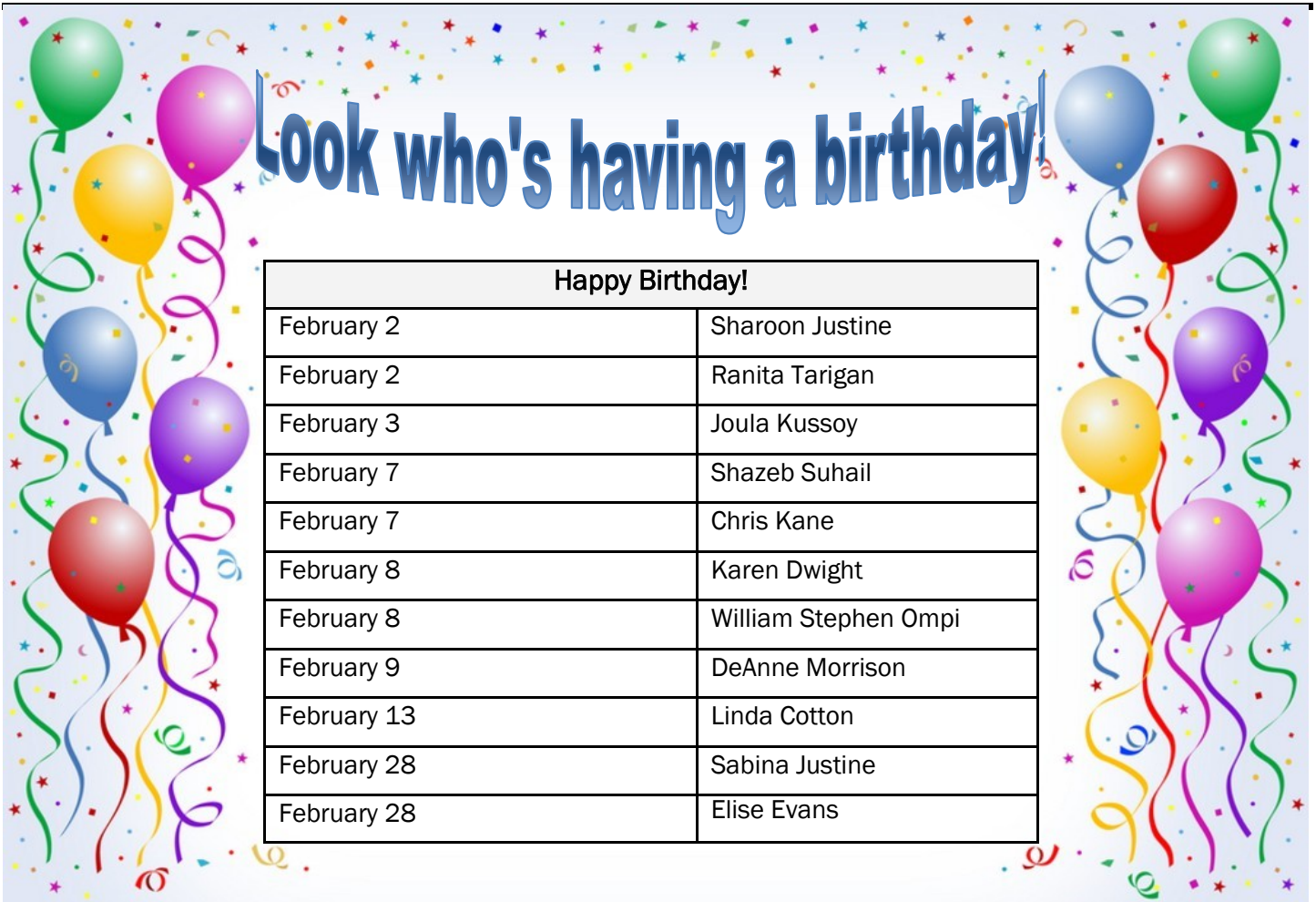
Have you ever thought that you would like to contribute towards the cost of providing flowers for the sanctuary but have been daunted by the cost? I know that the \$50, \$55, or \$60 required for an arrangement can put a dent in my modest budget but I can usually scrape up an extra \$10 or \$20 by simply avoiding Barnes & Noble for a week or two.

If you would like to dedicate flowers, please don't hesitate to let me know. I can always find others to make up the difference between what you contribute and the full cost of an arrangement. As of this writing, I have (thanks to one generous contributor) a surplus of \$65 in our flower account.

So, remember a loved one, or celebrate an event with your church family, with an affordable flower donation that fits your budget.

Church Secretary, Judy Tanner





### Contemplative Corner

Reflecting on God's presence in our lives...

Love Doesn't

Each month, I will offer a contemplative corner that allows us to reflect on God's presence in our lives. This month I begin with a familiar passage from 1 Corinthians 13, which is included in the descriptor of ourselves as a community of faith: "faith, hope, and love (verse 13)."

I believe looking at what love doesn't do is a way for us to figure out what love does! What does love look like in our community? According to Eugene Peterson's translation:

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't have a swelled head. Love doesn't force itself on others. Love isn't always "me first." Love doesn't fly off the handle. Love doesn't keep a score of the sins of others. Love doesn't revel when others grovel.

As you reflect on these statements about love, what can you discern about the quality of love for yourself, for others and for our faith community? Do you always clamor "me first," or are you willing to care more for others than for self? Do you want what you do not have or are you content with what you have? Do you fly off the handle and hold grudges or do you let go and let God guide your affairs? Of course, we could ask all of the questions as a community of faith as well.

Reflecting on our own lives, whether individually or communally, is never easy, because we often find things that need to change within ourselves. I hope that God's love for you and for us will make possible any changes that need to take place. I also trust that God's love will shape you into a person and us into a church that loves others as God loves us.

Pastor Cheryl

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## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF REDLANDS

An Inclusive Community of Faith, Hope and Love

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands is to grow spiritually with the community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all who seek to know God through worship, prayer, fellowship, and evangelism.

