

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner **"When You Pray"** **A Message from Pastor** **Cheryl Raine**

This Lenten Season, which starts with Ash Wednesday on March 5th, we will be exploring the Lord's Prayer through worship and educational opportunities. The Lord's Prayer is a prayer we recite every Sunday, yet do we really understand what we are saying when we pray it? Do we understand the implications of the pronouns of "our" and "us" in this prayer? Do we even know what "hallowed" means or what that requires of us when speaking of God's name or being present before God?

I have been joined by Rev. Dr. Shawn Zambrows, Rev. Sylvia Karcher, Rev. Rachel Reeder, and Rev. Karin Mazzeo in the planning of this Lenten Season. You will notice in our daily devotions these different authors, each sharing from their own perspective about a particular phrase or petition in the Lord's Prayer each week. I am so very grateful to be working with these wonderful pastoral colleagues in our community this Lenten Season.

Now, we all pray other prayers besides the Lord's Prayer, not only in corporate worship but also as individuals and groups outside of worship. From our experiences we know that prayer isn't just words, but so much more. It must be something more given that we are encouraged by the writers of First Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing," for this would only be possible if our whole lives were to be a prayer!

So, what really is prayer? Anne Lamott describes prayer this way, "Prayer means, that in some unique way, we believe we're invited into a relationship with someone who hears us when we speak in silence." She continues, saying, "So prayer is our sometimes real selves trying to communicate with the Real, with the Truth, with the Light. It is reaching out to be heard, hoping to be found by a light and warmth in the world, instead of the darkness and cold."

(Continued on page 4)

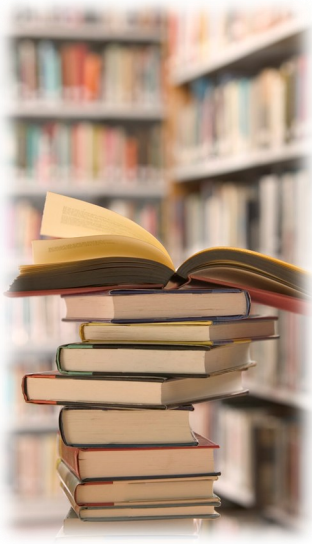


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SESSION MEMBERS

- **Mary Lou Jones**
- **Paul Lambert**
- **Luann Bangsund**
- **Kasim Barus**
- **Harry Muaya**
- **Lucille Castro**
- **Jeffry Suban**
- **Marcia Fagan**
- **Debbie Law**
- **Patti Robertson**
- **Mark St. John**
- **Gayle Timilione**
Clerk of Session

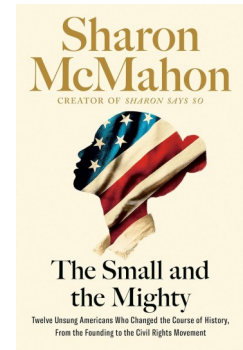
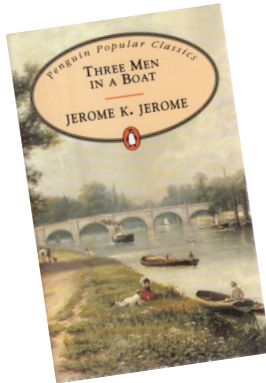


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The next FPC Book Club meeting will be **Thursday evening, March 6, at 7:00 P.M.** at Luann Bangsund's house. This month the book under discussion will be *The Small & the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who*

Changed the Course of History, by Sharon McMahon.

The book selected for April is *Three Men in a Boat: (to say nothing about the dog)*, by Jerome K. Jerome. If this book doesn't have you laughing aloud, you might want to listen to it on an Audible book. The narrator's posh English accent is perfect!



March 3	Michael Sihombing
March 4	Grace Muaya
March 4	Lorence Kayange
March 6	Margaret Ndipagbor
March 8	Alice Munde
March 14	Sereena Shahid
March 17	Sana Shad
Mar 18	Evelina Sitompul
Mar 18	Cathy Smith
March 26	Jennifer Shad
Mar 27	Nayab Sanchez
March 29	Nevil Cunningham

First Presbyterian Church of Redlands

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All services will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday and available on Facebook Live on demand .

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Redlands-106569590974548>

English Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Indonesian Worship Service 5:00 P.M.

Third Sunday of the Month—11:30 A.M. Urdu
(Facebook Live Only)

March 2, 2025	Transfiguration Sunday
First Reading	Exodus 34:29-35
Second Reading	Luke 9:28-36
The Message	Monument or Movement?

Spring ahead Saturday night March 8 before you go to bed or you will be late for service on Sunday, March 9!

March 9, 2025	1st Sunday in Lent
First Reading	Psalms 5:1-7
Second Reading	Matthew 6:5-15
The Message	Our Father

March 16, 2025	2nd Sunday in Lent
First Reading	Psalms 8:1-9
Second Reading	Luke 11:1-4
The Message	Hallowed Be Your Name

March 23, 2025	3rd Sunday in Lent
First Reading	Isaiah 11:1-9
Second Reading	Matthew 6:9-15
The Message	Your Kingdom Come

March 30, 2025	4th Sunday in Lent
First Reading	Romans 12:1-2, 9-21
Second Reading	Matthew 6:9-15
The Message	Your Will Be Done



Faith Formation - Sunrise

Thursday Mornings at 7:30 A.M. via Zoom

Our Lenten Sunrise series will begin on Thursday, March 6th at 7:30 AM via Zoom and continue each Thursday morning through Maundy Thursday, April 17th. Here is the Zoom Meeting ID: 845 8385 8790 and Passcode: Sunrise. Pastor Cheryl, Chris Kane, and Jerri Rodewald will be facilitating our times together.

Sunrise is an opportunity to explore the spiritual practice known as Lectio Divina, which simply translated means divine reading. This is a contemplative way to enter the text being explored. It is an opportunity to discern how God might be speaking into one's life at any given moment through a particular word or phrase from a text. It is not about knowledge; it is about being known by our God. As the psalmist reminds us in the chaos of our daily lives, "Be still and know that I am God." Sunrise is an opportunity to listen for the stirring of the Spirit in our lives as we walk the way of Jesus together. All are welcome so invite friends.

STAFF WHEREABOUTS



The office will be staffed by Judy Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from noon until 4:00 P.M.

Pastor Cheryl is always available by phone and by appointment.

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The Pastor's Corner

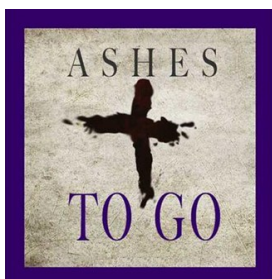


Prayer connects us with this mystery we call God and The Lord's Prayer is just one form of communicating with God, albeit the way Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. Yet, there are many other ways to pray as well because prayer is not only about using words. It can also take the form of silence or meditation, when we empty our hearts and minds of what we want and open ourselves to what God wants of us. Creating art or doing gardening can be a form of prayer, too. Some prayers happen through music or exercise or just by being immersed in the natural world.

Prayer also just doesn't happen when we close our eyes and bow our heads. Prayer happens when we are on our knees or when we are standing tall with our arms flung wide open skyward. During Lent I invite you to experiment with different body postures as you pray. Explore how different postures impact your prayers and notice if one body posture helps you open more easily to the whispers of the Spirit at work within you and around you. What posture helps you listen more attentively?

Anne Lamott reminds us that our prayers can be as simple as "Help," "Thanks," and "Wow." May this Lenten Season help us to be more attentive to the God whom we worship as we pray, as we commune with the Divine Lover who knows each of us as a beloved.

With anticipation,
Pastor Cheryl



One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks Arrive March 9th!



The young disciples will receive their fish banks on Sunday, March 9 and there are some for the congregation as well! Of course, all of us can gather loose coins whether we have a fish bank or not as well as consider a larger gift to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering that will be received on Palm Sunday, April 13.

This offering supports three PC(U.S.A.) programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People, which all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

This is certainly an offering that helps us love our neighbors! Thank you in advance for supporting this special offering of our denomination.

Together we have even greater impact around the globe.

Wednesday, March 5th Ashes on the Go

Corner of E. State Street and N. 5th Street

Historic Downtown Redlands

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM



Photo by [Sage](#)

Let us be attentive to the One who listens and responds to our prayers, even if the answer is “No” or “Not yet.”

Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Luke

As we prepare to start our journey through Lent this month, I offer this passage from Luke on perseverance in prayer for our reflection:

5-6 Then Jesus said, “Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don’t have a thing on hand.’” 7 “The friend answers from his bed, ‘Don’t bother me. The door’s locked; my children are all down for the night; I can’t get up to give you anything.’” 8 “But let me tell you, even if he won’t get up because he’s a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he’ll finally get up and get you whatever you need. [Luke 11:5-8, *The Message*]

The disciples asked, “Lord, teach us how to pray.” Jesus responded by teaching them what we know as The Lord’s Prayer. Then immediately following this teaching Jesus tells a story of perseverance. Have you ever had to ask someone repeatedly for something that you desperately needed like the one in Jesus’ story? Have you ever asked God repeatedly through prayer for something? If so, how was your perseverance answered? Yet is asking with persistence the only thing that prayer is for? As we move through Lent this year we will be exploring prayer in the context of the Lord’s Prayer. How do you persevere in prayer with both our asking and our listening? Let us be attentive to the One who listens and responds to our prayers, even if the answer is “No” or “Not yet.”



Lenten Faith Formation Series
Including Ash Wednesday
Soup Suppers at 6:00 PM

We will begin each evening at 6:00 PM with a simple meal of soup, bread, and cookies for dessert. Then we will explore the topic for the evening as we dive into the Lord's Prayer in a deeper way. We will be meeting in Room One this year, as we have lots of young families in the hall on Wednesday evenings. We can also use the room adjacent to Room One, so there is plenty of room for us!

Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday - "Our Father, who is in heaven"

Wednesday, March 12 "Hallowed by Your Name"

Wednesday, March 19 "You Kingdom Come"

Wednesday, March 26 "Your Will Be Done"

If you would like to contribute a soup, bread, or cookies, please reach out to Patti Robertson or Angela Lambert as they will be coordinating these suppers, while Pastor Cheryl will be organizing our conversations around the Lord's Prayer. Let us come together this Lenten season around tables of grace.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
FOR January, 2025
Submitted by Luann Bangsund



	Month of January		Year to Date		Variance YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Unrestricted Revenues					
Donations	12,864.00	17,028.34	12,864.00	17,028.34	(4,164.34)
Rent	11,701.95	11,738.88	11,701.95	11,738.88	(36.93)
Other	7.24		7.24		7.24
Total Unrestricted Income	24,573.19	28,767.22	24,573.19	28,767.22	(4,194.03)
Unrestricted Expense	(26,551.83)	(28,546.01)	(26,551.83)	(28,546.01)	1,994.18
Unrestricted Income	(1,978.64)	221.21	(1,978.64)	221.21	(2,199.85)
Principal Payments on Loan	(582.72)		(582.72)		
Cash for Operations	(2,561.36)		(2,561.36)		

As we start a new fiscal year, I thought I would take some time to provide a refresher on our financials. This month – revenue.

FPCR has two primary sources of revenue: donations and rental income. Rental income does not need definition but you might not know that while some of our rental income comes from infrequent users such as the Redlands Symphony, the Spinnet Club or student recitals, approximately 65% of our monthly rental income comes from three renters: The Well (providing care for special needs adults in John Knox Hall Monday through Thursday), Optum (west parking lot) and TMobile (the cell tower on the top of the sanctuary). We are certainly blessed to have such a large property that can provide a source of income.

As to the category of Donations, this includes pledges (from those who filled out a pledge card last year), donations not from a pledge, and loose plate. Per Capita giving is also included in Donations.

What does not get reported in “Unrestricted revenues” are special gifts that are either given for a specific purpose (such as gifts to the Building Fund) and donations that will be passed on and not available for use for the church’s operations, such as donations to the Deacons or other special donations to outside entities like Presbyterian Disaster Relief.

This month, revenues received were less than what was budgeted for the month and less than the expenses that were paid. Both our annual revenues and expenses are “lumpy” (a technical accounting term), meaning although the budget has been spread out evenly over the twelve months of the year, that is not how our donations come in or how our payments go out. Several of our donors pay less frequently than every month with some paying in a lump sum at some point to the year. Similarly, payments such as Per Capita and Insurance are paid either quarterly or in a lump sum. So one month does not a year make.



Deacons' February Moment

By Angela Lambert, Moderator



Spring is nearly upon us as it officially arrives on March 20, 2025. It is time to change our clocks and enjoy the glorious sunshine that the Lord Almighty has blessed us with. We were recently blessed with a Spring rain which will bring our dormant flowers to bloom and the leaves to return to the trees around us. This is just one more reminder of the beauty God has created for us. As I look around and start to see some of the tulips, daffodils and bearded Iris start to bloom, it reminds me of God's blessing of Easter he has in store, but first we must prepare ourselves for a time of spiritual renewal during Lent.

The Deacons continue to support our congregation and community. In doing so, we support those who have bravely and selflessly served our country. We provide bus passes for transportation to the VA medical facilities. With your generous contributions, no veteran will be left without a ride. We continue to work hand in hand with Family Services Association. Food prices have recently increased and the need for FSA's services is higher than ever. We also support Youth Hope, which serves the younger of our generations, by encouraging them and supporting them 100% every day. As God taught us to love others no matter what the circumstances, we support the amazing group that loves those in the biggest need. Refresh and Renew shower ministry provides for those experiencing homelessness who deserve the opportunity to be treated with respect and dignity, like all of God's children.

We could not assist in these critical programs in our community without your support. It is with your generosity and loving kindness of donations that we can support those both in our community and those who need it in our church.

I would love for all of you to SAVE THE DATE for our Easter Lily campaign. Next month we will be

celebrating Easter and one way to support our community and our church families will be to sponsor an Easter Lily. So mark your calendar now for your Easter Lily contribution.

It has been an absolute joy and delight to welcome you before service each week. Would you like to join me and get to know a few others? It brings such joy to your week and you get to know your pew neighbor just a little better. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to be a greeter on the Sunday morning of your choice, or better yet join me!

The flower sign-ups have been blossoming with joy! Do you have an upcoming special birthday or an upcoming anniversary like Paul and I do? It is our 25th Wedding Anniversary and we couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than with all of you. The Deacons would love to arrange your color of choice for your special occasion. Please feel free to sign up in the Narthex and complete your dedication sheet.

What an amazing variety of treats we have been having for Coffee Fellowship! The Deacons are always looking for people to provide food and snacks for a time of fellowship. Or, if you are too busy and would like to provide a donation, the Deacons would be willing to make arrangements for you. Sign-ups for this important time of getting to know one another are in the Narthex.

We will be doing a special Coffee Fellowship this month for the January, February and March birthdays so make sure you come and join us after church. You won't want to miss out.

My prayer for all you during this Lenten season is to put aside our differences, work together for the good of our community, enjoy the beauty that God has created on this Earth, and grow closer to one another.

Together we can do amazing things.

Spiritual Formation Committee Update

By Patti Robertson, Moderator

Hello church family! The Spiritual Formation Committee met for the first time this year on February 20. There are some exciting events coming up quickly. Lent is just around the corner and we hope to start Soup Suppers up through Lent. We will notify everyone on the dates when they are confirmed. It will be fun to get together again for a bowl of soup, fellowship, and devotion.



We also have 2 young people, Jonah Cotton and Richard Cunningham, going to the Triennium in Kentucky July 28-31. It will be a great experience for them. It is wonderful seeing our young people continuing their faith journey. We will be doing some fund raising to help with the cost of getting them there so watch for ways we can financially help them. We also have other youth wanting to go to Big Bear Camp again this year. They went last year and it was so good for their spiritual growth. They are the future of our church so it is wonderful they are wanting to be involved in their faith growth.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 16-20. It is a collaboration of the churches in Redlands and will be held again at the United Methodist Church. Keep the dates in mind and if you have some free time on your hands, they can use teachers and just helpers. No special training needed, just the love of working with children.



Wilson Kayange is our SCRIP contact. We carry American Express Visa \$25, Stater Bros \$25 \$100, Target \$100, and Walmart \$25 \$100. In addition was have some Panera and Starbucks in small denominations. There are others



that can be purchased and E-Script makes it so easy See Wilson during coffee fellowship after church. It makes shopping easy and it helps to raise funds with the percentage that we receive for selling the script.

(Continued on page 12)



March Happenings

This Lenten season we are exploring together the Lord’s Prayer through worship and education. We pray this prayer every Sunday, but do we really understand what we are praying. The Young and Youth Disciples will also be exploring the Lord’s Prayer with their teachers. During March our capable teachers will be teaching according to the following schedule:

Sunday, March 2 nd	Everyone stays in worship for communion!
Sunday, March 9 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 16 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 23 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 30 th	Class is in Session

Young disciples come to worship, participate in the Young Disciple time, and then listen to one of their own lead the Prayer for Illumination before they are dismissed to class and then they rejoin us for Fellowship. If you have any questions about what your young disciples or youth disciples can expect please ask our gifted teachers Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid!

Young Disciples help with worship by the leading the Prayer for Illumination. A big thank you to each young disciple and youth who have helped lead worship through the sharing of the Prayer for Illumination in February: Lorence Kayange, Veronica Cunningham, Arianna Emmanuel, and Alison Kayange. Thank you, parents, for helping your young disciples and youth participate! If your child or youth has not had an opportunity and would like to, please let Wilson Kayange know. Wilson schedules our young disciples and youth for this opportunity.

Save the Dates: June 16-20 Vacation Bible School

Once again our church will be partnering with First United Methodist Church and First Baptist to hold a Vacation Bible School on the campus of the First United Methodist Church. This year the theme is Road Trip: On the Go with God. More details to come, but save the date!



May we instill in our children and youth a lifelong passion for nurturing their relationship with God!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—FEBRUARY 2025



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, February, 17 2025, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2025. (The Property and Finance article in this Messenger has the numbers)
- Approved the following Elder Committee Structural changes for 2025
Outreach: Harry Muaya (Moderator), Lucille Castro, Debbie Law
Personnel: Mary Lou Jones (Moderator), Marcia Fagan
Property and Finance: Luann Bangsund (Moderator), Paul Lambert
Spiritual Formation: Patti Robertson (Moderator), Kasim Barus, Jeffrey Suban, Gayle Timilione
- Approved giving voice, without vote to Debbie Law and Mark St. John for this Session meeting.
- Approved Debbie Law as Moderator of the 2025 Nominating Committee
- Approved the following policies to comply with State regulations:
FPCR Mandated Reporter Policy
FPCR Mandated Reporter Acknowledgement Form
FPCR California Live Scan Annual Waiver Form
FPCR California DOJ Security Awareness Policy
- Approved un-audited financial statements for the month of December 2024 (Year End 2024)
- Approved un-audited financial statements for the month of January 2025
- Approved transfer \$500 of the Flower Fund to Deacons, Note: The current balance of the monthly flow through for flowers as of 1/31/25 is \$936.98
- Approved to release the following funds to the General Checking account to clean up flow accounts:
Malawi Hunger: \$50
Noah Parody: \$50
Pastor's Fund: \$50
- Approved to spend \$2,500 to reroute heating and cooling condensate lines in the Sanctuary basement from 5415 Building Maintenance using Beaumont Plumbing.
- Approved that \$20,000 of the \$30,403.50 in excess revenue received in 2024 be allocated to the Building Fund.
- Approved to move the following Session designated restricted accounts to the Building Fund:
John Knox Hall Capital Improvement Fund: \$12,768.36
Transfers in New Covenant designated to Sanctuary renovation: \$25,333.60
Dorothy Moore Bequest: 42,751.01
Security Upgrades: \$226.61



Outreach Update

Did You Know?

In February, your Session Outreach Committee sent off some of your budgeted mission dollars locally and globally. Outreach sent \$250 to the Redlands Area Interfaith Council. Outreach also sent \$800 to the Presbyterian Education Board that will support two elementary students' education in Pakistan. Your generous giving to our church's annual funds is making a difference locally and globally. Thank you!

Redlands Area Interfaith Council (RAIC)

RAIC seeks to support positive interfaith relationships, enhance non-violent attitudes and behaviors, supports peace, and promotes goodwill in the Redlands community. RAIC's meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 A.M. at Redlands 7th Day Adventist Church, located at 520 Brookside Ave, Redlands. Al Polchow serves as their treasurer and others attend as members.

Share Ministry

On Saturday, March 22 you can help serve those without homes through the Share Ministry. Together we prepare a hot meal and serve the meal to about 25 individuals in our community at University United Methodist Church.

Here are ways you can assist:

- Volunteer from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on March 22 to serve.
- Volunteers have already arranged for all the food, but if you would like to participate in the future, let Outreach know.
- Pray for those whom we will serve and for those serving.

Contact Harry Muaya or Pastor Cheryl with any questions.

(Continued from page 9)

**Spring ahead
Saturday night
March 8 before
you go to bed!**





The Gift of the Connectional Church

Why Per Capita

It is that time of year when we consider our annual commitment called “Per Capita” to the church. This annual commitment is tied to membership. **If you are a member of the church, then this commitment is currently \$44 per year.** Per capita is our contribution to the connectional church, the PC(USA). This annual giving supports ministries at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly level, while helping us to do things together that would not be possible as a single local church. Through our denomination we can serve the cause of Christ around the globe because of our generosity. Our church is responsible for the whole amount, so as more members contribute their \$44, the more funds we have available for other ministries of the church. Please consider fulfilling your 2025 commitment.

As of February 23 we have received **\$1,820.00** towards our commitment of **\$6,380**, which represents \$44.00 per member. Here is how this gift will be distributed:

Presbytery	\$30.31
Synod	\$ 2.85
General Assembly	\$ 10.84

Our gift is paid in six increments, starting in February. Please consider your membership gift of \$44 per member. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministries!



World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 7, 2024

World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement lead by Christian women, takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. Our sisters from the Cook Islands have spent the last few years deepening into the theme: “I Made You Wonderful,” based on Psalm 139:1-18. The 2025 program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderfully by God. Let us pray for these women and with all Christians around the globe for a world that recognizes the dignity of all through God’s reign of love and justice.

First Presbyterian
Church of Redlands

Living the heart & mind
of Christ at the heart of
the city

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, relationships,
exploration, and prayer.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF REDLANDS

AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
OF FAITH, LIVING THE HEART
AND MIND OF CHRIST AT THE
HEART OF THE CITY

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We are pleased to share our newsletter with you and we
welcome your comments!

You may also view this newsletter on our web site. Go to
www.fpcredlands.org and then click on The *Messenger*
tab at the top of the page.

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