

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner A Message from Pastor Cheryl Raine Faithfulness Amid Uncertainty

How are you feeling these days? If you are anything like me, maybe a bit uncertain. Fear and dread or celebratory anticipation might be creeping in too. Uncertainty abounds as polls keep showing divided results. None of us knows what the results of our upcoming national election will be or bring forth. None of us knows if the candidates, propositions, and local ballot measures we voted for will win or not. We don't really know much other than our uncertainty. So, what are we to do?

We are to continue to live our faith day in and day out, rooted in the love of God, authentically and intentionally. As the scriptures remind us, "Love God" and "Love Neighbor" and even as Jesus said, "Love your enemies." Love is to be the animating force of our lives. Love is to be our signature witness.

During these final days before the election let us remember that God is with us. No matter what the results are God will be with us. God will be with those who celebrate. God will be with those who grieve. God will be with us no matter what circumstances unfold. The question for us is will we be present to God?

Will we listen to the prophets and "do justly and love kindness and walk humbly with God" [Micah 6:8]? Will we manifest the fruit of the spirit with our lives, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" [Galatians 5:22]? As God's beloved children will we "clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing

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SESSION MEMBERS

- **Jim Appleton**
- **Gayle Timilione**
- **Paul Lambert**
- **James Rager**
- **Kasim Barus**
- **Harry Muaya**
- **Jeffry Suban**
- **Marcia Fagan—Clerk
of Session**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

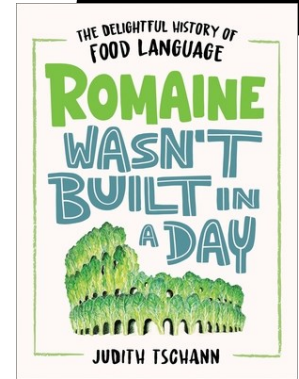
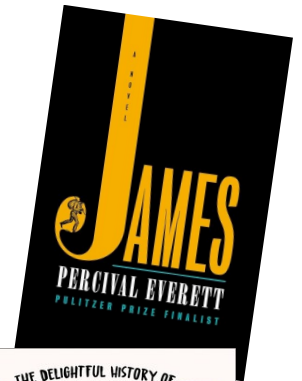
The next FPC Book Club meeting will be Thursday evening, November 7, at 7:00 P.M. at Dick and Mary Lou Jones' home.

The book selected for discussion is *James*, by Percival Everett. Gary will lead the discussion

December's read is *Romaine Wasn't Built in a Day: The Delightful History of Food Language*, by Judith Tschann.

"A truly delightful smorgasbord of history and linguistics that kept us entertained—and made us hungry."

—Apple Books



November 1	Erie E. Tan
November 3	Laura Dugan (Dwight)
November 3	Rich Cunningham
November 12	Jessica Arnold
November 16	Debbie Hamada
November 19	Grace Baldwin
November 20	Jetty Lesar
November 20	Steven Sihombing
November 21	Alison Kayange
November 23	Elke Liesl Zak
November 23	Mark Evans
November 26	Christine Evans
November 26	Diane Polchow



**First Presbyterian Church of Redlands
NOVEMBER 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)**

**November 3, 2024 All Church
Communion Sunday**

First Reading	Psalm 119:97-104
Second Reading	Luke 18:1-8
The Message	The Widow

**November 10, 2024 Stewardship
Sunday**

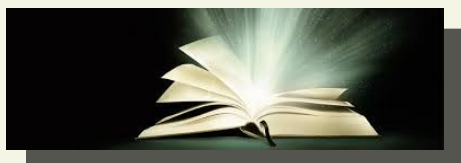
First Reading	Jeremiah 17:5-8
Second Reading	Luke 12:13-21
The Message	Why Be Generous?

November 17, 2024

First Reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Second Reading	1 John 2:7-17
The Message	Whose Will?

November 24, 2023

**Rev. Sylvia Karcher
Pulpit Exchange with Community
Presbyterian Church**



Fall Back!

**Daylight Savings Time
Begins November 3rd at 2:00 am!**

Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday evening, November 2, before you go to bed! If you forget to fall back, you will be an hour early for worship. If you are early, you could join the choir. If the Facebook feed is not live, then you may have forgotten to fall back! Remember to fall back and then we will see each other on time Sunday morning. Enjoy your extra hour doing what brings forth life most fully in you!



STAFF WHEREABOUTS

The office will be closed for the Veterans Day holiday on Monday, November 11 and for the Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29. Otherwise, Judy will be in the office 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



with one another and forgiving one another, and above all cloth ourselves with love?”

As part of my sabbatical season, the Spirit nudged me repeatedly to continue growing my ability to respond to life's situations, rather than react. You might know that our stress (reactive) response is orchestrated by the amygdala, which resides in our reptilian brain, our most primitive cerebral structure. The part of the brain that allows us to think before responding to stimuli is the prefrontal cortex and it is responsible for complex cognitive functions enabling us to consider options before acting or responding to a stimulus.

I learned a long time ago that simply taking the time to take a deep breath when faced with a stimuli helps me engage my prefrontal cortex. Yet, this is the lesson the Spirit nudged me to relearn again and again. It's a lesson that is essential in the uncertainty of our times. Remembering to take this deep breath recalls these words from the psalmist for me, "Be still and know that I am God" [Psalm 46:10]. Here is a meaningful way I discovered to pray this phrase:

Be still and know that I am God (pause and breathe deeply)

Be still and know that I am (pause and breathe deeply)

Be still and know (pause and breathe deeply)

Be still (pause and breathe deeply)

Be (breathe deeply and just be)

This simple prayer practice can help us ground ourselves in the Ground of our being, in the deep and abiding love of God. Faithfulness in uncertainty is possible. Let us listen to the wisdom of God, the One who is our Prince of Peace and wellspring of love.

Listening to God's Wisdom,
Pastor Cheryl



Thank You Team Presbyterian!

**On Sunday, October 6, 2024,
Team Presbyterian raised
\$740** (donations above our
registration fees of \$990) for the
2024 Believe Walk.

We had 29 registered walkers with
2 additional walkers from our
church on other teams, so 31 in
total! Thank you to all our donors
and walkers!

I couldn't find totals for 2024, but
since its inception, the Believe
Walk has raised 9.8 million dollars
which has been invested in local
cancer-fighting organizations to
advance cancer care and support
service in our community.

Get ready to support Team
Presbyterian next year on Sunday,
October 5th! We value all walkers,
prayer warriors, and donors!
Together we can make a difference
with our community



Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Mark

“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

This month I invite us all to spend some time reflecting on the request of James and John of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Mark. You might remember what they wanted Jesus to grant: “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” I am certain that James and John didn’t expect Jesus’ response even though they might have anticipated the response of their peers. Jesus uses this opportunity to teach all of them saying,

“You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

As the month of November unfolds how might God be calling us to not to be served, but to serve others? How might God be reordering our understanding of what it means to be great? This month read the whole passage Mark 10:35-45 and listen for the ways that the Spirit is nudging your spirit. Share with others what the Spirit has shown you.



Stewardship Commitment for 2025

Sunday, November 10, at Both Services

A fruit of the Spirit is generosity and our ministries are made possible by our collective generosity as a congregation. You will have received in the mail a pledge card for 2025, and the Session asks for your prayerful consideration in making your decision. How is the Spirit nudging you to share generously of your financial resources to further the ministries of this church?

On Sunday, November 10th during both worship services you will be invited to share your Stewardship Commitment for 2025 as part of your offering. The Session will begin planning for 2025 after November 10th, as understanding our collective financial commitments will help them make wise decisions.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and support.



'Tis the Season

Scrip Preorders for Christmas

As you consider your Christmas plans, remember that you can preorder scrip that goes beyond our normal inventory for Christmas gifts for family members, friends, colleagues and even your non-profit of choice. Wilson Kayange is our coordinator, and he is ready to receive your orders!

Please let Wilson know of any special scrip orders by December 1, so that an order can be made and delivered mid-December. Remember that beyond our normal inventory of scrip physical cards, E-scrip (electronic orders) are available year-round! Just let Wilson Kayange know what you need.

We look forward to a great season of giving that also gives to the Christian Education endeavors of the church through our everyday shopping and gift giving!

Remember the last day to order special holiday scrip is **December 1**.

Hanging of the Greens – Save the Date!

Saturday, November 30, 2023

We will gather at 3:00 P.M. to adorn the sanctuary for Advent! There are lots of different ways to help, so come and help make our sanctuary beautiful for the season. We will be hanging wreaths and garland, Advent banners, and adorning a Christmas Tree in the narthex, all while Christmas music is putting us in the spirit of this season of expectant waiting. **See you Saturday, November 30!**



PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Finances and Property Usage

Here are some broad highlights from our financial reporting Year-to-Date September 30, 2024:

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$137,780.72		\$144,375.00		(\$ 6,594.28)
Rental Income	\$108,508.63		\$ 98,260.26		\$ 7,248.37
Total Income	\$254,559.11		\$254,147.81		\$ 411.30
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$243,659.42</u>		<u>\$249,906.44</u>		<u>(\$ 6,247.02)</u>
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 10,899.69		\$ 3,741.20		\$ 5,370.57
Less Principal on Loan	(\$ 5,960.17)				
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 4,939.52				

So, what do these numbers mean? Our donations and pledging are \$6,594.28 less than anticipated and our expenses are lower than anticipated at this point in the year. Therefore, the good news is we have an Adjusted NUI that is \$4,939.52 more than our expenses. The Adjusted NUI happens below the NUI line because principal on our loan is not considered an expense for accounting purposes, although the principal payment does come out of our checking account.

Maintenance and repairs continue throughout the campus with the help of vendors and volunteers. Several minor repairs and plumbing repairs were completed by volunteers on campus.

The question was recently asked whether it's possible to give to the church with a credit card, and the answer is YES! The church website has an online giving option.

- Just go to the website at <https://www.fpcrlands.org>
- At the top right-hand corner click on **Give**
- Then you can select an amount, give to deacon's or the general fund, set up recurring gifts or just one time, and decide how to transfer your gift including by using your credit card.

This is all powered by The Presbyterian Foundation. They do charge a fee for the convenience to our worshipers, but there is even a button to give a little bit more to help the church offset this cost. You will be asked to set up an account so that we can make sure your tax-deductible gift is credited to the right place.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about finance or facility issues, please ask James Rager or Paul Lambert, Co-Moderators of Property and Finance, or Pastor Cheryl.

Deacon's November Moment



The fall colors are slowly beginning to change and the time is falling back to begin the month of November. November is a time of a light jacket in the morning with warm cinnamon and apple spices in the air and the time to remember how grateful we truly are blessed as children of God. As I look back at this past year I have been continually blessed by God's patience, love, grace, and joy.

As fall creeps its way upon us let us not forgot those who are amongst our community who may not be so fortunate with a warm bed and cozy house. If you should see someone out and about who may need an extra jacket or blanket dig in your closets and see what is collecting dust and provide for those who cannot. When you are buying a warm cup of coffee or tea buy an extra for the person who is needing a little warmth too. God gives us the opportunities so many times to just share our kindness and His love in the littlest of ways.

The Deacons thank each and every one of you who continue to give generously which allows us to continue to be good stewards to each of you and in our community.

Thank you can't even begin to express our gratitude for all of the sign-ups for the Sunday Morning flowers. It is a joy to share with you and then spread within our community our flower blessings.

We would love for any of you to come join us any Sunday Morning to greet each other and start the week with tons of blessings.

For upcoming calendar events we have as follows:

Memorial Service for Kristina (Merkley, Hines) Cooke, November 2, 4:00 P.M.

The Pulpit Exchange on November 24, 2024 which will be led by Sylvia Karcher.

Thanksgiving is November 28, 2024 (Gobble, Gobble)

Do you like to decorate? Do you enjoy the Christmas season? On November 30 we will be decorating for Christmas in the Narthex and in the Sanctuary at 3:00 P.M. Please come join us as we prepare to celebrate Advent on December 1, 2024

I encourage each of us to slow down and enjoy this fall season. To look for the changing colors of leaves, the birds fluttering looking for the seeds, the mid-afternoon sun and to grow closer to God with our cup of tea, hot coffee and warm blanket. I am truly blessed and thankful for each and every one of you. May God bless you just a little extra this fall season.

Blessings,
Angela Lambert

**Seeking Nominations For Such a Time as This...
Are You Called to be an Elder or Deacon?**



Your Nominating Committee is at work seeking those who may be called to serve as Elders and Deacons. If you are feeling a nudging by the Spirit, please let Pastor Cheryl or Moderator Gayle Timilione know as soon as possible! The slate of new Elders and Deacons will be voted on at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2024, immediately after our All Church Worship Service.

Here is what the Book of Order and our Standing Rules say of the positions needing to be filled. Twelve elders along with our pastors comprise the Session, which “exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation.” Nine deacons along with our lead pastor comprise the Deacons, which is a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ” for those in need within our congregation and in our local community. Both callings nurture and serve the health and wholeness of our faith community.

This sacred work is a labor of love for our faith community, as we live the heart and mind of Christ at the heart of the city. Being the church is an exciting adventure as we seek God’s wisdom and trust in the power of the Spirit at work within, which enables us to do far more than we can ask or imagine.

Save the Date—Congregational Meeting, December 1, 2024

Immediately after our All-Church Worship Service on December 1, 2024, we will take a short tech break and then hold this Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary. The items for business will be the Election of Deacons and Elders as well as approving Pastor Cheryl’s Terms of Call for her 2025 Compensation package. So, save the date as we need a quorum, which is at least ten percent of the total membership. Of course, we should far exceed this minimum of 15 people, given that our membership currently stands at 147 members as of October 1, 2024.



**Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration
Host Congregation is Emanu El
1495 Ford Street, Redlands 92373
Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 4:00 P.M.**

The Redlands Area Interfaith Council is sponsoring its Annual Service of Thanksgiving to be held at Congregation Emanu El, located at 1495 Ford Redlands, CA 92373 on November 17, 2024.

The celebration will feature numerous choirs from the community, the singing of hymns of gratitude together, and readings of gratitude from multiple faith traditions. As members of the Interfaith Council, let us come together with others to give thanks!

YOUNG & YOUTH DISCIPLES CORNER
SUNDAY SCHOOL,
WORSHIP LEADERSHIP,
AND MORE!



November

What's happening this month?

Sunday, November 3 rd	Young Disciples will be in the church service
Sunday November 10 th	Sunday School with Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid
Sunday November 17 th	Sunday School with Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid
Sunday November 24 th	Sunday School with Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid

And of course, we will have Young Disciple Time every Sunday in worship, and you don't want to miss this, as Pastor Cheryl and others share God's good news.

A big thank you to Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid, our wonderful teachers. We are thankful for their commitment to pass along our faith to future generations. If you enjoy being with the young disciples, consider coming along side of Wilson and Sereena to assist with these efforts!

We give thanks to everyone who helped with the Prayer for Illumination during October worship services: Rich Cunningham (in Spanish!), Veronica Cunningham, Alison Kayange, and Penelope Cunningham.

Parents, please remember that all children and youth elementary age and older are invited to participate in worship by leading the Prayer of Illumination or more if they would like. Just let Mr. Wilson know. If your children and youth would like other opportunities let Pastor Cheryl know.

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2024



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday, October 21, 2024. The meeting was held via a Zoom Meeting, and the following actions were taken:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2024.

Report for the month ending September 30, 2024:

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$25,565.02
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$29,770.79
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	(\$4,205.77)
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$573.39)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	(\$4,779.16)

Balance in General Account:	\$76,346.29
Total Operating Funds (in General Account):	\$34,628.78

- Approved the following as teachers in the FPCR Christian Education (Adult & Youth) Programs for 2024-2025: Wilson Kayange, Sereena Shahid, Gayle Timilione, Chris Kane, and Parish Associate Ron Duvall.
- Approved Douglas Newton as the Temporary Church Organist for the period November 1, 2024 through January 26, 2025, at the rate of \$1,000 per month, and with one paid vacation day during this time period.
- Approved November 3, 2024 as an All-Church Worship Service at FPCR. The Worship Service will begin at 10:00 a.m.
- Received information on their work from each of the FPCR committees.

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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tab at the top of the page.

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CHURCH OF REDLANDS

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