#### First Presbyterian Church of Redlands Living the heart & mind of Christ at the heart of the city

# THE MESSENGER



## The Pastor's Corner My Prayer

"I kneel before Abba God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. And I pray that God, out of the riches of divine glory, will strengthen you inwardly with power through the working of the Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, so that you, being rooted and grounded in love, will be able to grasp fully the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love and, with all God's holy ones, experience this love that surpasses understanding, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine – to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end! Amen!"

This is Apostle Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus. It is also my prayer for us during this sabbatical season. That we would more fully grasp the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love for us. That this season would more deeply root and ground us in God's deep, deep love. That we would all be open to God's power at work in us helping us do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, so that whatever is accomplished through us will bring glory to God!

I am so grateful for everyone who helped make this possible: for those who participated in the listening sessions at the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023; for Chris Kane and Angela Lambert who wrote the congregational section of the grant; for the travel agent who helped me price things so that I could complete the grant application; for the Session who helped finalize and approve the plan; for those who read all the grants received and chose to grant ours; to the granting organization – the Lilly Foundation; to my family that supported my envisioning of the sabbatical plan and for their *(Continued on page 7)* 

### June/July, 2024

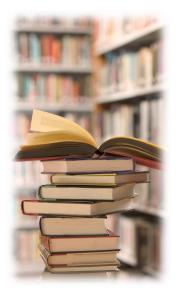


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#### **SESSION MEMBERS**

- 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 FPC Book Club will meet Thursday evening, June 13, at 7:00 P.M. at Luann Bangsund's house, to discuss *Erasure* (American Fiction), by Percival Everett. Aleta Rudrich will lead the discussion.



Everett's writing has earned him the PEN USA 2006 Literary Award (for his 2005 novel, Wounded), the Academy Award for Literature of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award (for his 2001 novel, *Erasure*), the PEN/Oakland-Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature (for his 1996 story collection, *Big Picture*) and the New American Writing Award (for his 1990 novel, *Zulus*).

No plans have been made for July and August.

June 2	Perry Erwin Hayes
June 2	Zara Justine
June 8	Ann Elizabeth Platz
June 8	Verbina Sanchez
June 9	Nabeel Barkat
June 9	Adeel Barkat
June 11	Sally Rehfeldt
June 15	Annika Bhatti
June 15	Jamaris Purba
June 17	Zack Hamada
June 17	Sajeel Barkat



June 18	Alexandra Anastasia Zak
June 19	Sandra Ann Hayes
June 21	Harry Muaya
June 26	Jeremy Dean Platz

## First Presbyterian Church of Redlands JUNE/JULY 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)







## Summer Sunrise Thursdays at 7:30 A.M. via Zoom

Our Summer Sunrise Series begins Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 7:30 A.M. via Zoom. We will meet for six Thursdays in a row, concluding on Thursday, July 11, 2024. Chris Kane and Jerri Rodewald will be facilitators for Sunrise.

The Sunrise Series is a time to reflect on scripture that is scheduled as the preaching text for the coming Sunday. We listen for the stirring of the Spirit in our lives through the text. We will use Lectio Divina, which is a contemplative way to encounter the biblical text, which is God's word to us. The question explored in this process is: "How is God speaking into one's life at this particular time through this particular text?" The Spirit always surprises participants in ways that bring fresh insights into our lives. Come and listen for the Spirit's stirring in your own life with others.

## PASTOR CHERYL'S SABBATICAL WHEREABOUTS JUNE 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024

For the sabbatical grant Pastor Cheryl wrote, "Nurturing my own embodied faith in God fuels my ministry. My rhythm of renewal is threefold: time with family, time in the natural world, and time in solitude and silence." You will notice these elements in her whereabouts. Please continue to pray for Pastor Cheryl and her family throughout this sabbatical season.

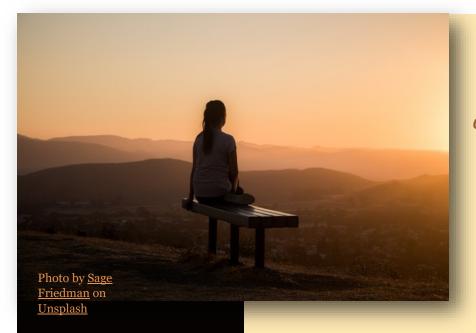
June 1	First Day of Sabbatical and Service – Participating in the Hunger Walk and the Synod PW Gathering
June 2 -7	Time to let go and settle into the sabbatical season
June 8-15	Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center Cabin with Family
June 16-19	Time of resting
June 20 -25	Idyllwild Cabin – Silence and Solitude while enjoying the natural world
June 26 -30	Time of resting
July 1-2	Final preparations for travel to South Africa
July 3-4	Travel from Los Angeles to South Africa
July 4-9	Johannesburg and surrounding area
July 9-16	Kruger Game Reserve
July 16 -28	Cape Town and Knysna, the Southern Coast of South Africa
July 28-29	Travel from South Africa to Los Angeles
July 30-31	Time of resting
August 1-9	Reconnecting with Family
August 10-17	Travel to Springfield, Oregon to visit her Sister and family
August 18-19	Time of resting
August 20-25	Idyllwild Cabin – Silence and Solitude while enjoying the natural world
August 26-27	Time of resting
August 28-30	Colorado River with family and friends
September 1-2	Colorado River with family and friends
September 3-4	Prepare to Return to Active Ministry

How do you nurture your faith? What renews you? Find your rhythm of renewal and practice it this summer!



#### **STAFF WHEREABOUTS**

Judy will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from noon until 4:00 P.M. She will be out of the office Thursday, June 27, and Monday and Tuesday, July 1 & 2.



Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Mark

During the upcoming sabbatical season, spend some time with the parables. Parables use common elements to convey deep meanings. Parables can be found mostly in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the synoptics gospels. I have chosen one found in Matthew 13:31-32, Luke 13:18 and Mark 4:30-32. Here is Mark's version:

"Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." [Mark 4:30-32]

What small thing have you done that has grown in its ability to benefit others? The kindom of heaven is at hand in small things that are done with great love, when small acts of kindness ripple throughout a community, when small offerings are multiplied to create impact. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta reminds us, "Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." What small thing might grow in and through you this summer to bless others?

# Per Capita

## THE GIFT OF THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH PER CAPITA—ABOVE AND BEYOND GIVING

Calling all members! If you are a member and haven't had the opportunity to contribute your per capita for 2024, please do! As members within the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., we are part of a connectional church that has global reach. As of May 26th, we have received **\$3,030.** towards our commitment of **\$6,600**, which represents \$40.00 per member. Here is how this gift will be distributed:

Presbytery	\$24.20
Synod	\$ 2.85
General Assembly	\$ 8.95

Our gift is paid in six increments, which started in February.

Your contribution above and beyond your regular giving to this per capita commitment, frees us to support other areas of our mission, as the church is responsible for the total \$6,600 whether we receive your per capita gifts or not. Thank you in advance for your contribution.



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

## NEXT STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF RIVERSIDE SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

When asked, "Who is the Presbytery," the simple answer is we are! We are a part of a greater whole known as the Presbytery of Riverside, which encompasses all Riverside County, San Bernardino County and even part of Kern County! The Presbytery of Riverside currently has 25 churches.

On June 15, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. clergy and elder commissioners of these 25 churches along with Presbytery staff and committee leadership will meet to worship and make decisions together at Little Church of the Desert located in Twentynine Palms. This meeting will be in-person only. The Presbytery Assembly is organized to have 50% clergy and 50% elders as its voting members, which are called commissioners. Of course, it will depend on who attends each meeting!

The Presbytery Assembly is an open meeting, which means observers are welcome to experience a Presbytery meeting firsthand by simply registering at least five days before the meeting and then physically attending on the day of the meeting. To register for

<u>www.riversidepresbytery.com</u> and click on Stated Meetings.

**Please pray** for all commissioners who will work together to discern God's leading for our Presbytery.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

It's not too late to join the Synod Presbyterian Women's gathering on **SATURDAY**, **JUNE 1, AT 10:00**, right here at First Presbyterian Church. You will be glad you did!



#### A Moment for Deacons

By Angela Lambert Moderator of Deacons

Summer has arrived. The warmer temperatures bring outdoor fun in the sun. God kissed us with gorgeous weather in our part of the country. We all have fond memories of summer fun with later bedtimes, playing endless hours outside with our friends, eating a popsicle before it melts, swimming in the creek (even though I was afraid I would scare the frogs from their homes) and catching lighting bugs and asking God for just a little longer summers before school started. As we start this summer a little different, we all have something in common, the love of God who binds us together. Where there are two or three gathered in my name, there I am with them. (Matthew 18:20)

Mark your calendars for some fun things in the months of June and July.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 1) The Pastor's Corner

participation in helping me live it out; to my South African foreign exchange

my South African foreign exchange sister's gracious hospitality; to the South African pastors willing to schedule time to talk with me in the coming months; to Pastor Ron and Pastor Hart who will come along side of Pastor Rubens Muzio during this season; and to everyone who will engage in the life and ministry in this church during this season. Yes, I give thanks to everyone who has made and will make this sabbatical possible.

I will be praying for you as you experience the leadership of Pastor Rubens Muzio, Pastor Ron Duvall, and Pastor Hart Tan. I will be praying for your own explorations of faith with these leaders. I will be praying that this sabbatical season will be rich with stories to be shared with each other.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come and move among us with holy fire during this sabbatical season. Amen.

Trusting in the power of prayer, Pastor Cheryl



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Share Ministry on Saturday, May 25, 2024. The Tortilla Mexican Casserole was enjoyed by all. Thanks to our cooks, bakers, donors, and servers alike. We served 18 individuals and made 7 to go plates. Our next opportunity to serve through the Share Ministry will be July 27, 2024, at the First United Methodist Church located at 1 Olive. Angela Lambert will take the lead for Outreach and Lina Tan will take the lead in preparing the Indonesian menu to be served!

## **PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE**



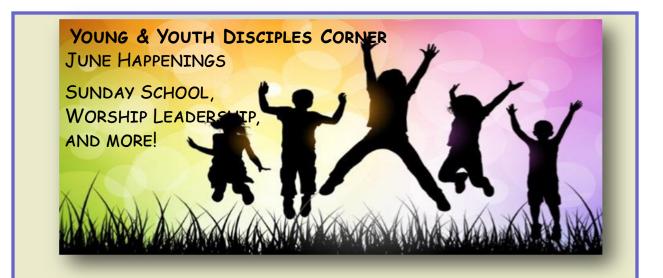
#### Financial Update as of April 30, 2024

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

	Actual -	Anticipated =	Difference
Donations, Pledges, loose plate	\$ 67,061.59	\$ 66,500.04	\$ 561.55
Rental Income	\$ 47,435.52	\$ 43,671.24	\$3,764.28
Total Income	\$119,882.13	\$113,788.00	\$6,094.13
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$107,567.37</u>	<u>\$111,631.10</u>	<u>(\$4,063.73)</u>
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$12,314.76		
Less Principal on Loan	( <u>\$2,681.19)</u>		
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 9,633.57		

So, what do these numbers mean? Our donations and pledges YTD are more than anticipated by \$561.55. As we head into the summer months and travel begins, let's remember to continue to be generous with our giving. Our YTD Net Unrestricted Income (NUI) is \$12,314.76. This strong position will prepare us for our next large quarterly insurance payment. The Adjusted NUI happens below the NUI line because the principal on our loan is not considered an expense for accounting purposes, although the principal payment does come out of our checking account. Therefore, at the end of April our income was \$9,633.57 more than our total expenses. Our continued generosity is necessary to help us to be financially strong as the year progresses.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of the Property and Finance Committee: James Rager, Moderator.



Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid will continue to teach our students in June. Sereena Shahid will be the main teacher in July and August, assisted by Gayle Timilione. They will be exploring parables this summer with our young disciples. If you would like to help, let them know.

A big thank you to all our readers of the amazing Pentecost story from Acts on May 19<sup>th</sup>: Arianna Emmanuel, Zachary Emmanuel, Alison Kayange, Lorence Kayange, and Penelope Cunningham. And a big thank you to each Young Disciple and Youth who have helped lead worship through the sharing of the Prayer for Illumination this past month: Rich Cunningham, Hunter Polchow, Veronica Cunningham and Zachary Emmanuel.

Thank you, parents, for helping your Young and Youth Disciples 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 worship opportunities.

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

Vacation Bible School July 8-12

Vacation Church School – Save the Date! Monday, July 8-12 First United Methodist Church

**The theme for Vacation Bible School (VBS) is** "*Camp Firelight.*" You won't what to miss this opportunity to participate in VBS at the First United Methodist Church, as we join forces with them and Redlands First Baptist. Registration takes place online, so please use the following link: <u>https://redlands.mycokesburyvbs.com/</u> There is no registration fee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Pastor Cheryl (before May 31<sup>st</sup>) or Wilson Kayange (after May 31<sup>st</sup>), for they can both assist with online registrations as needed. It will be a great week with bible study, crafts, science, and more! Register today!

### Session Highlights May 2024



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, May 20, 2024, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

- Welcomed Rev. Ann Laudermilk from Riverside, who will serve as the FPCR Session Moderator during Pastor Cheryl's upcoming sabbatical. Pastor Cheryl invited Ann to attend the Session Meeting in order to introduce her to Session members.
- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending April 30, 2024.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$27,451.95
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$24,865.06
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$2,586.89
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$672.54)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$1,914.35

Balance in General Account:	\$114,532.10
Total Operating Funds in General Account:	\$35,828.46

- Received information about Max Rager's Eagle Scout Project in the Community Park at FPCR, and approved Max making presentations at upcoming Worship Services to seek gifts of time and/or funds for the project.
- Received information about plans for the arrival of Rev. Rubens Muzio, the Sabbatical Pastor who will be serving FPCR during Pastor Cheryl's sabbatical.
- Approved the recommendation from the Property & Finance Committee to appoint Paul Lambert as Co-Moderator of the Property & Finance Committee. James Rager will continue as the other Co-Moderator of this Committee.

#### (Continued from page 7)



On June 9th, join the Deacons and Pastor Rubens Muzio to welcome him to lead us in our journey through the summer. We will be having some goodies in John Knox Hall after worship so please join us to get to know him.

On June 16th, we will be honoring our fathers for Father's Day. Come to service and see the special surprise we have for you. We celebrate the men in our lives whether they be our biological fathers, our adopted fathers, our mentors, our brothers, or those we strive to be more like in our lives.

Upcoming in the month of July, of course, is July 4<sup>th</sup>. Please be safe out there celebrating however you decide to do. Especially be mindful of your neighbors who may be home alone or have pets who are afraid of the loud fireworks. This can also be a difficult time for our veterans. If you should be out and about at the fireworks show, please take a flashlight to help others see you. It is a simple thing that can help in the littlest of ways.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have an All Church Worship and Ice Cream Extravaganza after service in our gorgeous Vine Street Community Park. Come to service and be fed spiritually, get to know someone you may not otherwise know and enjoy a heavenly ice cream delight. Mark your calendars for some frozen fun!

For a little extra fun, would you like to win a prize at the end of the Summer? Read the Moment for Deacons in the Summer's Newsletters and respond with your answer to <u>eagleeyephoto3@gmail.com</u>. Here is the question: How do you spell Pastor Rubens' last name?

Even though it may be Summer, your Deacons continue to be busy and hard at work helping those who need a helping hand in our community with your generosity. With your gracious donations we are providing Bus Passes for the Veterans to make their appointments for medical care on a routine basis both in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties which are desperately needed. For Refresh and Renew, which is a shower ministry that is blessing in

every way during the summer months. To Youth Hope Foundation who provides continued education and job training, Food and Clothing closet, medical and counseling services, and housing so each young person who wishes God's help may receive it. And, the Family Service Association of Redlands, who provides a little extra helping hand of food on a table who may not otherwise have one or simply go to bed hungry so their children can have something to eat during these challenging times. The summer months are especially hard on families as rising prices for utilities and transportation soar. I am truly thankful for all of God's helping hands in these organizations as each and every person helped will feel God's love. With your generosity we are truly making a difference in our community.

Now that summer has arrived and schedules aren't quite so hectic, would you like to provide your summertime fun to share with us all for a Sunday Fellowship? We would love to have you sign up for a Sunday of your choosing to share a little Sunday Fellowship with us. Getting to know your pew neighbor is the most rewarding gift you can receive. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Do you have a summer birthday? Do you enjoy Sunflowers and Dahlias? Would you like to spread some summer flower joy with not only those in service but those on-line. We would love to celebrate a special occasion, birthday, or just plain old fun on any Sunday of your choosing with flowers. Your Deacons would love to go to work for you celebrating or acknowledging whomever you would like. You may talk to any one of the Deacons if you have questions or you may sign up in the Narthex.

Has God called you to spread your beautiful smiles and welcoming heart with others? We would love to have you as a Sunday morning Greeter. We are flexible to your schedule that works best for you. I would be more than happy to show you the ropes. It has been a blessing and joy to see so many of you sharing your Sunday mornings helping us greet.

As we start our journey through the next chapter and summer together, let us never forget that God is the leader of our journey. We are blessed to have each other as a church family and a child of God. We are never left alone, for we must listen for God's guidance on our journey.

### SABBATICAL WORK OF THE CONGREGATION



The Sabbatical work of the congregation is multifaceted. The grant has some plans, which will be shared next. But prayer is our first work. Listen to some of the prayers shared during Leave Taking fellowship:

- I ask God to give each of us an open mind and heart to learn and accept new experiences. May the Spirit move in us.
- I pray that our church uses this sabbatical time to reflect and renew our spirit and commitment.

Please guide our church in love and peace during the sabbatical season. May Pastor Rubens guide us as he preaches his sermons so we may show love in all we do.

- I give thanks for God's faithfulness.
- I pray that God will help us serve others, especially the poor.
- I pray that we will present to the Spirit's presence among us as we grow, share, and support one another in this special season.

Session envisioned the following activities for our summer with a sabbatical pastor, whom we now know is Pastor Rubens Muzio.

- A church fellowship event in Vine Street Community to informally gather and talk with Pastor Rubens enjoying some desserts or ice cream!
- A gathering after morning and evening worship to reflect and share together about pivotal turns in our own faith journeys with each other. Pastor Cheryl is returning to South Africa during her sabbatical as her year abroad was a pivotal turn in her faith journey. Where is your place or places? What new insight or conviction did you experience? Let's share our stories!
- A community service opportunity, where you could help Angela Lambert and Lina Tan for the July 27<sup>th</sup> Share Ministry as a first-time volunteer. How might God stretch you as you serve others? Or maybe you can suggest an additional opportunity to serve others in our community, too! Remember Jesus came not to be served, but to serve.
- On September 8<sup>th</sup> there will be an All-Church Worship Service with fellowship as we welcome Pastor Cheryl back into the fold. Come and welcome her home.

As was shared on Pentecost Sunday, God enlists Ezekiel in bringing forth life. Well, God enlists us, too! The question is will you participate this summer in bringing forth life in our faith community? Let's pray, so!

Pastor Cheryl is now on Sabbatical until September 5. Pastor Ron Duvall (909) 478-4603 and Pastor Hart Tan (909) 213-1175 are available for Pastoral Emergencies. Pastor Rubens will arrive in Redlands on Friday, June 7. He will be preaching for the first time at the 10:00 A.M. English language service on Sunday, June 9, 2024



#### INTRODUCING Pastor Rubens Muzio

My name is Rubens Muzio, I'm Brazilian, I live in Londrina, and I'd like to share a little bit about my life, because I'll be with you soon.

I grew up in a Presbyterian family in the countryside of Brazil and decided to study theology at the age of 17. I immersed myself in the waters of theology in Campinas, a journey that led me to deepen my knowledge in the USA, with a master's degree at Calvin Seminary and a doctorate from Westminster Seminary in pastoral theology, and then in Scotland, at the prestigious University of Aberdeen, where I explored theology more systematically.

But it wasn't in the academic rigor in the halls of renowned institutions that I experienced the true spiritual energy that highlights my journey. It happened in the tapestry of daily life, as a pastor of local churches in Brazil and Canada, training church planters for less evangelized regions, in friendship and mentoring of leaders, and in missionary work. As a SEPAL missionary, I have taken this spiritual and practical theology beyond the academic walls, integrating it into the lives of people of faith and religious organizations. And as the coordinator of the Doctor of Ministry at FTSA, my goal is to guide and learn along with those who, like me, are on an ongoing journey of discovery and spiritual growth. In addition, I have found the constant Presence of the Eternal in the arts, music, yoga, hiking, biking, and breaking bread with friends.

As a pastor, theologian, and writer, therefore, I

have sought to integrate theory with practice, theology with spirituality; searching in the pages of library books, in the struggles and pains of life, in the stillness and contemplation of nature and in the connection with friends, a vocation that still reverberates through my videos, texts, courses, mentoring and classrooms. On a path woven between faith and understanding, my journey has been a constant search for depth of reflection, individuation, meaning in life, and bliss of soul.

I'm so excited to meet you and spend this summer together!

Many blessings, my brothers and sisters. Rubens Muzio - @rubensmuzio



What a joy to see all the reds, oranges, and yellows aflame as we worshiped together on May 19<sup>th</sup>! The waters of baptism flowed as Maxwell Jamison Rager was baptized. The faith statements shared by Max and Jonah Cotton

demonstrated their willingness to be actively engaged members of our congregation, bearing witness to the love God has poured into them.

Listen to someways we experience the movement of Spirit in our own lives:

- The Spirit moved in me as Jonah and Max shared their faith.
- The Spirit is moving in my life, encouraging me as I care for a loved one.
- The Spirit moves in my experiences of nature, especially in sharing nature with others.
- The Spirit moves me powerfully in my daily work with students and families.

How is the Spirit moving in you?

Each Pentecost we exclaim, "Come, Holy Spirit, Come," yet the Spirit is already here! So, let us be aware of the Spirit at work in each of us and in the life of this faith community! Move among us with holy fire this summer!

#### 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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