

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner "What Are You Up To?"

What an interesting day to start Lent this year, Valentine's Day. On the day Hallmark celebrates love we will receive ashes and be reminded that "from dust we came and to dust we will go. Yet, there is another phrase that I like to share when imposing ashes, for I often say, "from love we have come and to love we shall go." So maybe Valentine's Day **is** an appropriate day for the start of Lent!

As First John reminds us, "God is love." And Genesis reminds us that we are made in this image of love. We are created by love and made for love. Yet, somewhere along the way we lose sight of this truth. We forget what that psalmist said of us that we are each fearfully and wonderfully made. We also forget the words of Isaiah that remind us that we are precious and honored in God's sight, because God loves us.

When was the last time you rested in this truth? God loves you plain and simple. You don't have to earn it. You can't garner more love by achieving certain things. God's love for you and for me is unconditional, a sheer gift of grace upon grace. So, why do we struggle to believe this truth for our lives.

I suggest it is because the human love we experience is often conditional. Love is doled out sparingly or not at all unless we behave or act in a certain way. Yet, this is not love. Love, as Apostle Paul reminds us, does not insist on its own way. It doesn't expect a return on its investment. It hopes but does not demand or coerce. That is, love isn't conditionally based on the actions of the one receiving love. Paul also says love bears all things and endures all things, which means love accepts us just the way we are. Love doesn't require us to change for love to be offered.

If only we humans, especially those of us who claim faith in the Triune mystery we call God, could grasp this truth. Completely and fully loved we

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February
2024



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SESSION MEMBERS

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

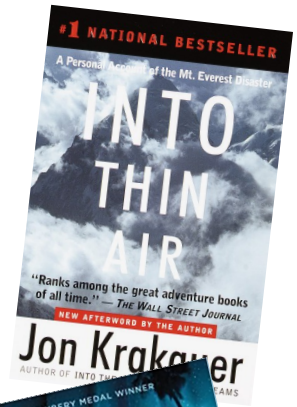


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The FPC Book Club will meet **Tuesday**, February 6, at Pastor Cheryl and Paul's home, to discuss *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer. Pastor Cheryl will lead the discussion.

The group chose *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle for March. Winner of the 1963 Newbery Medal, *A Wrinkle in Time* is the first book in Madeleine L'Engle's classic Time Quintet.

The discussion, on Thursday, March 7, will be led by Lillian Larsen. Stay tuned for the location of the meeting.



February 2	Sharoon Justine
February 2	Edgar Banta Ram
February 2	Ranita Tarigan
February 3	Joula Kussoy
February 7	Shazeb Suhail
February 7	Chris Kane
February 8	Karen Dwight
February 9	Sharoon Lal
February 9	DeAnne Morrison
February 10	Enu Ndipagbor



February 10	Pervaiz Akhter
February 13	Linda Cotton
February 28	Sabina Justine
February 28	Elise Evans

**First Presbyterian
Church of Redlands**

FEBRUARY 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)**



OUTREACH NEWS

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger.

Their focus for 2024 is the reauthorization of the Farm Bill which is a legislation that sets national policies for nutrition, agriculture, conservation, and forestry.

Bread for the World is asking that we help in this cause by writing letters to our legislators in Washington D.C. We will be having an Offering of Letters on **Sunday, February 25, 2024** in the Narthex after service. Sample letters will be available at the table. In addition, sample letters will be e-mailed to the congregation during the prior week for those of you who want to write the letters ahead of time. For those of us who live in Redlands, the three legislators who will receive letters are Rep. Pete Aguilar, Sen. Laphonza Butler, and Sen. Alex Padilla.



February 4, 2024

First Reading

Second Reading

The Message

Communion Sunday

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mark 1:29-39

Made Whole

February 11, 2024

First Reading

Second Reading

The Message

Transfiguration of the Lord

Psalm 50:1-6

Mark 9:2-9

An Epiphany

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

First Reading

Second Reading

The Message

**All Church Worship and
Congregational Meeting**

Isaiah 58:1-12

Mark 6:1-6, 16-21

Store Up

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading

Second Reading

The Message

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8:31-38

Take Up

Happy 2024...
Start the new year by joining a Presbyterian
Women's Circle

We have two Bible study Circles here at First Presbyterian Church and now is a good time to join us. We meet monthly: Sarah Circle meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in Room 1 at church. Starting in March, Eve Circle meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jerri Rodewald. Both Circles enjoy lively conversation — a good way for us to get to know one another better!

This year's study is ***Sacred Encounters***, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. Each lesson is a different story of Jesus and his encounter with someone who has been excluded by the community. We will begin this month with Lesson Five, ***A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus***. We hope you'd like to join us.

Sarah Circle: Wednesday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.

Eve Circle: Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions, please be in touch with Jerri Rodewald,
jerri.rodewald@gmail.com.

We hope to see you!

Bible Study
everyone is welcome

Sarah Circle
2nd Wednesday
At 10:30 A.M.
Classroom 1

Starting in March
Eve Circle
4th Thursday
7:00 P.M.
Jerri Rodewald's
House

Staff
Whereabouts



Judy will be out of the office the entire week of February 5, returning on Monday, the 12th.

The office will be closed on Monday, February 19, in observance of Presidents' Day.

What's next for David Lines?

Hopefully you've all heard by now that Sunday February 4th is my last time with you at the organ. My older daughter Deanna has been in Akron Ohio for the past three years where she works as an OBGYN at Akron General. I've been aware of the low cost of living there and when a good job fell in my lap, I made the decision to move there. My younger daughter Alex has been in Asheville NC for ten years so I'll be much closer to her as well.

I'm sorry to leave FPCR just as the organ has come back, but will be playing the organ at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Downtown Akron beginning on Ash Wednesday. Reach Out And Dance has also hired me to accompany some of their dance classes on piano.

I'll be very happy to be closer to my daughters, but will miss the many friends I've made in California over the past ten years since my last big move from Seattle. I wish you all the best and I will stay in touch!

Blessings

David Lines

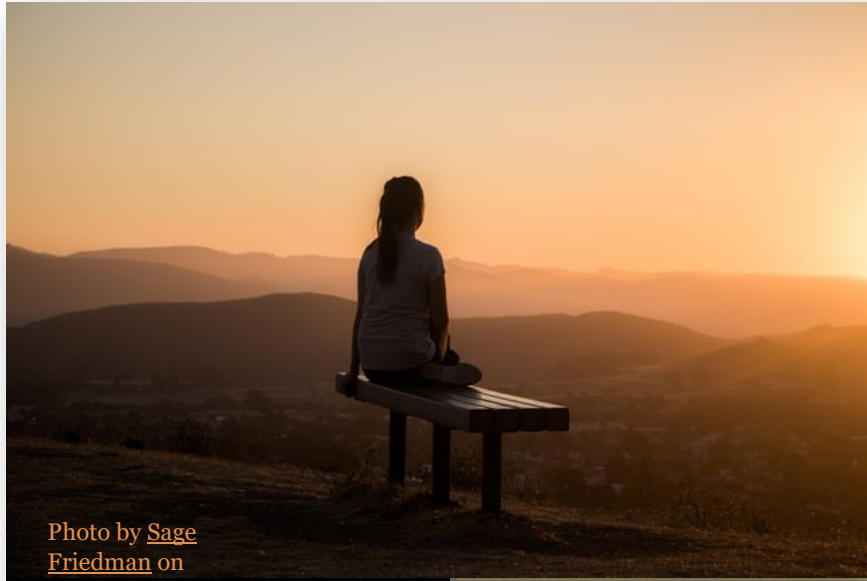


Photo by [Sage Friedman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Contemplative Corner

Praying the Gospel of Mark

What healing are you
longing for in your life?

Hopefully you have had the chance to begin reading the Gospel of Mark this year. I enjoyed reading through Mark again in various translations. In this gospel it takes only 15 verses for us to hear Jesus say, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.” So, this month I offer some good news that happens in the first chapter of Mark:

“A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to Jesus, ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I do choose. Be made clean!’ Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.”

Prayerfully read the first chapter of Mark this month and spend a bit more time on this last story in this chapter about the healed leper. Questions that may help you listen more deeply to this text could be: What healing are you longing for in your life? Are you able to voice your needs to Jesus and to someone who might come along side and walk with you? What else might the Spirit be nudging you to consider as you pray with this story?

As I shared recently, I so appreciate that our scriptures are living as the Spirit animates our reading and speaks into our lives.

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 18, 2024 – In John Knox Hall

We will gather as a whole church for our Annual Congregational Meeting, after our All-Church worship service, in John Knox Hall, on Sunday, February 18, 2024. We will have a Zoom link available. We will start the meeting 15 minutes after the close of worship, so that we can move to JKH and give the folks on campus time to get some refreshments. Bring your own refreshments if you join us on Zoom!

The Annual Reports will be emailed and for those without email addresses, the report will be mailed in advance of the meeting. Judy Tanner is working to have it available and, in your hands, a week before the meeting.

A quorum of the congregation is required for the meeting, which is 10% of our current membership as of January 1st, which is 15 members. Of course, the hope is for participation that far exceeds this minimum!

What will we do at the annual meeting? The following business will be conducted:

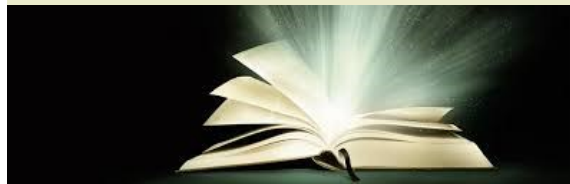
1. Receive the Annual Report for the Congregation and answer any questions you may have about it, including a presentation of the 2024 budget.
2. Approving Pastor Cheryl's terms of call due to a change in reimbursable expenses for 2024.
3. Electing an elder to the Session.
4. Electing at Large Members of the Nominating Committee.
5. Remember those who joined the Church Triumphant in 2023.

Other business could be conducted, according to the limitations noted in the Book of Order.

Let's gather to give thanks for our staff and countless volunteers who make ministry possible among us, as we give thanks to God for this church and the sharing of the gospel through us.

Biblical Reading Challenge

Have You Started Reading Mark Yet?

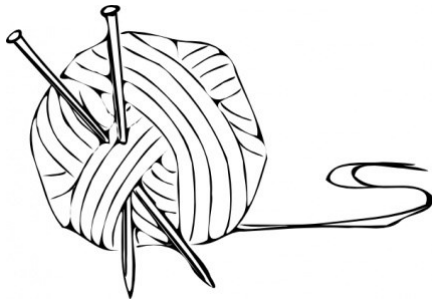


In the Revised Common Lectionary, we are in Year B, which is the Gospel of Mark. “Mark wastes no time in getting down to business – a single sentence introduction, and not a digression to be found from beginning to end,” according to Eugene Peterson. This Gospel is generally recognized as the earliest attempt to put the apostolic tradition concerning Jesus the Messiah in written form. The Evangelist presents Jesus as the Son of God whose ministry was characterized by a succession of mighty works that, to those who had eyes to see, were signs of the presence of God’s power and kingdom.

The Evangelist makes it clear that something has taken place that radically changes the way we look at and experience the world. The sooner we get the message, the better off we’ll be, for the message is good, incredibly good: God is here, and God is on our side.

This Gospel, the shortest of the four, is largely a collection of narratives that depict Jesus as being almost constantly active. A favorite word in Mark, is the Greek word meaning *immediately* or *at once*, which occurs forty times in sixteen chapters. As you read through Mark, see if you notice all these occurrences!

From Advent to Christ the King, we will be exploring texts from the Gospel of Mark this year. So, read this Gospel in a variety of translations expecting the Spirit to stir something new in you! God is here! God is now! Let’s respond immediately to this good news for our lives and for the life of this church!



The Knitting Group is Expanding

Well, we've grown from 4 to 5! And we hope to expand even more!

Our purpose is to make prayer shawls and distribute them to people in the congregation who are experiencing serious illnesses. We also give them to other friends beyond the church when we know of their illnesses. We meet monthly, usually on a Friday, and can hardly wait to get to knitting so that Lina Tan can help us when we've made errors.

Lina is our "expert"! Our next knitting date is Friday, February 16, at 10:00 A.M. at the home of Jerri Rodewald. Bring a skein of yarn and join us! The conversation is non-stop. Don't hesitate to be in touch, jerri.rodewald@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to our expanding knitting group!

What is a group of knitters called?

a cozy of knitters [collective noun]
A group of knitters. —K.T. Much to her delight, a cozy of knitters was gathered around the campfire.

(Continued from page 1)

The Pastor's Corner

have nothing to prove. Completely and fully loved we are then invited to share this love we receive with others. And that is why our Lenten Season theme is "What Are You Up To?" Are we up to love? Are we up to being God's love in the world?



During Lent we will explore stories in the Gospel of Mark and we will see what Jesus and the disciples are up to. We will see what lessons we can learn about what it means to be this love in the world in which we live right now. We will not be trying to "measure up" to some worldly or even church standards. We will just be celebrating the small things we can do right now to respond to God's love with our lives in this place and time in which we find ourselves.

So, let's be willing to share our stories with each other about what we are up to this Lenten season. Let's be up to something as simple as engaging a stranger, like I did recently. I stopped to say hello to a young dad with twins. We had a delightful conversation and he invited me to drop by and see him again, as he hangs at a coffee shop every other Friday with his two-year twin daughters to give his wife a morning off. Who knows where this simple conversation will lead? Let's be up to doing something for a neighbor, a member of this church, for a stranger or even an enemy for God's love knows no bounds.

Love is relational, so let's be up to relationships this Lenten season. Deepening them and widening them, trusting that the Spirit will lead us. God's love is with us here and now.

Willing to be up to something,
Pastor Cheryl



Photo by [unsplash.com/Ahna Ziegler](https://unsplash.com/AhnaZiegler)

**PROPERTY AND
FINANCE UPDATE**



Financial Update as of December 31, 2024

Here are some broad highlights from our financial reporting Year to Date December 31, 2023:

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Pledges and Donations	\$183,696.00		\$206,000.00		(\$22,393.70)
Rental Income	\$115,040.86		\$117,850.00		(\$ 2,809.14)
Total Income	\$319,577.11		\$338,375.00		(\$18,797.89)
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$321,926.32</u>		\$331,926.11		(\$ 9,220.40)
 Net Unrestricted Income*	 (\$ 2,349.21)				
Adjusted *NUI	(\$ 10,246.28)				

So, what do these numbers mean? We ended the year spending \$10,246 more than we received for our operating expenditures. The Adjusted NUI happens below the Net Unrestricted Income (NUI) line because the principal on the loan payments are not an expense, but a reduction in liability. We reduced our loan liability by \$7,879.07 in 2023.

Our pledges and donations were lower than anticipated in 2022, by \$22,393.70 or about 9%. Our rental income was slightly lower than anticipated by \$2,809.14 less than 1%. We did see some significant end of the year bills including a \$5,200 sanctuary A/C repair for a part that was not part of the new A/C unit. As well as the initial payment of our Property and Liability insurance of \$6,417.25 (and that's only the first of 4 payments for the year).

The negative balance at the end of the year reduced our financial cushion in our general checking account. What is clear is our ministries are made possible by our collective generosity and our facility use by community groups as well as the wise stewardship of our buildings. Please direct any questions you might have about Property and Finance issues to James Rager, Moderator of P&F or Pastor Cheryl.



YOUNG DISCIPLES
CORNER
FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

In the Gospel of Mark Jesus says to Simon and his brother Andrew, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” These brothers immediately drop their nets and follow Jesus as his first disciples. young disciples are learning how to follow Jesus thanks to the dedication of our teachers and teaching assistants! Here is the teaching schedule for February:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday, February 4 | Everyone stays in worship |
| Sunday, February 11 | Class is in Session |
| Sunday, February 18 | Class is in Session |
| Sunday, February 25 | 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. Exuberance usually abounds as they are dismissed and then they rejoin us for Fellowship. If you have any questions about what your young disciples or youth disciples can expect please ask!

Young Disciples help with worship by the leading the Prayer for Illumination. In January Arianna Emmanuel, Nevil Cunningham, Penelope Cunningham, and Alison Kayange helped lead worship. 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 relationships with God!



Winter camp program at Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center still has space available.

Winter camp will be the weekend of March 15th - 17th. The cost for Junior and High School kids is \$135. This year's March Madness includes crafts, worship, and other activities.

If you would like more information, go to www.bblccc.com.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2024

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, January 15, 2024, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:



- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2023.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$27,372.38
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$36,249.19
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	(\$8,876.81)
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$666.41)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	(\$9,543.22)
Balance in General Account:	\$112,342.61
Total Operating Funds:	\$32,616.94
Total Reserve/Restricted Funds:	\$79,725.67

- Elected Marcia Fagan as FPCR Clerk of Session for 2024.
- Elected James Rager as FPCR Treasurer for 2024.
- Approved the following members as Counters and Recorders for Sunday offerings for 2024: James Rager, Luann Bangsund, Kasim Barus, Marcia Fagan, Norm Hamada, Chris Kane, Paul Lambert, Izar Martinez, Harry Muaya, Evie Sitompul, Jeffry Suban. Two Counters must be involved in the counting and recording of monies at all times.
- Approved the following members as Check Signatories for the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands' accounts for 2024: James Rager, Paul Lambert, Luann Bangsund, Izar Martinez, Marcia Fagan. Two Check Signatories are required for all checks at all times.
- Approved the following members as Check Signatories for the FPCR Scrip account for 2024: Susan Hunter, James Rager, Al Polchow, Gayle Timilione. As with other FPCR accounts, two Check Signatories are required for all checks at all times.
- Approved the Sacrament of Holy Communion for 2024 at the Worship Services held the first Sunday of each month, as well as services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Approved the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. as the regular date and time for monthly Stated Session Meetings for 2024.
- Elected Jack Brennan (since deceased), Wilson Kayange, and Paul Lambert as FPCR Commissioners to the Presbytery of Riverside for 2024.
- Elected Gayle Timilione as the Session representative (and Moderator) of the 2024 FPCR Nominating Committee.
- Approved the Elder Committee and Leadership Structure for 2024.
- Approved \$3,500 as the General Mission Pledge to the Presbytery of Riverside for 2024.

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A MOMENT FOR DEACONS

Angela Lambert,
Moderator of Deacons

I would like to take a moment and thank our outgoing moderator of Deacons, Patti Robertson for her tireless work. She is a ray of sunshine that continues to shine on us all and especially upon myself as I take over. Thank you, Patti, for your dedication, commitment, and endless kindness to us all. We look forward to seeing you in church on Sundays.

Let me take this next opportunity to introduce your new Board of Deacons: Angela Lambert, Chris Kane, Izar Martinez, Lynn Phelps, Ann Platz, Sereena Shahid, Deborah Smith, Christina Tampi, and Lina Tan. This is an amazing group of people who look forward to serving God through this congregation and our community.

The Deacons ended last year celebrating the life of Jan Opdyke, who served as Lay Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church of Redlands as well as in varying capacities for our Presbytery. We also recently celebrated the life of our beloved Veta Arnold. I want to thank all of the Deacons who stepped up and beyond to help in both celebrations. They are all blessings from God.

As your new Moderator of Deacons I am very excited to share my gift of “presence” with you all. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. I have been abundantly blessed in my life in so many ways. I recently received my “remission” for my breast cancer and along that journey laid a path for me of disciples strong in his word. More than ever God whispered in my ear it is time to serve others as they have served you.

Do you have an upcoming birthday? How about that anniversary? Is there a celebration of a life you would like to honor? If you would like to remember someone or celebrate something, you can sign-up to provide flowers for worship service. Then fill out the dedication form and we will share your memory with the congregation in the Sunday bulletin. The sign-up board is in the narthex as are the dedication forms. For a \$50 donation, your Deacons will make up a beautiful arrangement of your liking. You are welcome to take it home after worship, or it may be donated to someone you know of that might need a little cheering up. Let’s turn those frowns upside down, from a frown to a smile.

Do you have a favorite coffee fellowship treat you would like to sign-up to share with the rest of the congregation? Sign up to bring your tasty treats and the Deacons would be happy to help set those coffee pots up! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex so choose the dates that best fit your schedule. It would be a great time to meet others you normally don’t get to see.

Finally, please take a few minutes to welcome your friends and fellow guests to our church by serving as a greeter before worship. It is a perfect way to start off your worship experience. Please help make our church feel welcoming to all those who enter. Sign-ups for greeters are in the Narthex as well, or feel free to speak to any of the Deacons and we would be more than happy to help you.

UPCOMING: EASTER LILIES – Mark your calendars as the Deacons will once again be purchasing lilies for their Easter fundraising campaign. Every year, this campaign raises funds to support local social services. Groups like Family Services of Redlands, Refresh and Renew, and Veterans’ Services have come to depend on our generous support.

If you would like to make a gift this year, complete the dedication form you will find in the Narthex, or simply call the office. Don’t forget to note on the face of your check that it is for “Lilies.”

God has blessed us all with our own gifts. Some are quiet and unseen, some are up front and center, however, no gifts are too small in God’s eyes. We are all a child of God. As your Moderator of Deacons I look forward to seeing all of your gifts – none too small.

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- Approved the FPCR 2023 Statistical Report to PC(USA). Clerk of Session Marcia Fagan will submit this report electronically.
- Received information that the Review of Records was conducted for the Session Minute Book and the Church Register of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands (covering the years of 2020, 2021, and 2022). FPCR Clerk of Session Marcia Fagan expressed appreciation to former FPCR Clerk of Session Izar Martinez, for his continued mentoring and support of her as Clerk, as well as his time reviewing the FPCR records for 2020 and 2021. Gratitude was also expressed to FPCSB Clerk of Session Amy Smith for her time and effort in reviewing the FPCR records for 2022.
- Approved the Property & Finance Committee recommendation to purchase a new current technology hearing-impaired system for the Sanctuary that will broadcast via Wi-Fi directly to cell phone-connected hearing aids, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000, with funds coming from the Sanctuary Remodel Budget.
- And, for the FPCR Corporation, Session approved the following Corporation Officers for 2024:
President: Paul Lambert Secretary: Marcia Fagan Treasurer: James Rager

Ways to Give Generously!

As you consider your planned tithes and offerings for this year to the church, here are the multiple ways you can give to the ministries of this church:

You can place tithes and offerings in the plates during worship.

You can mail tithes and offerings to the church:

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 2009
Redlands, CA 92373

You can use the bill pay function through your bank.

You can also give through Vanco Payment Solutions, which partners with the Presbyterian Foundation as our online giving platform through our website or through its mobile app.

Here is the symbol you are looking for when you download the mobile app:



To find our church you can do it using our name, city, or this unique invitation code: 55F928.

You have choices in this online app:

Give to: General Operating Fund, Vine Street Community Park, or Deacons

Frequency: once, now; once, on a future date; every week; every two weeks; or monthly

As with all online services there is a fee, but through the Presbyterian Foundation we have the lowest fee on the market, which is a flat 2% of the gift. You do have the option to contribute the 2% fee if you would like or the church will receive your donation minus the 2% service fee. Ease has a price as they say!

Thank you for generously giving to the ministries of this church, no matter how you give!

The Gift of the Connectional Church

GIVING Per Capita

Why Per Capita?

Are you a member of a group or club around town? I imagine that there are annual fees that help the organization run. Well, the PC(USA) has an annual per member fee as well and it is called Per Capita. A member's annual Per Capita helps support our connectional church at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels and together we accomplish far more than we could do individually.

As of January 21st we have received **\$1,390.00** towards our commitment of **\$6,660**, which represents \$40.00 per member as of 12/31/2022.

Per Capita is always based the previous year's membership, year-end 2022 instead of 2023. This happens because yearend of 2023 was not known when the amount was set. Here is how this gift is distributed:

Presbytery	\$27.30
Synod	\$ 2.85
General Assembly	\$ 9.85

Our gift is paid in six equal increments and is paid monthly February through July.

Yet, you might wonder what the theology is behind annual per capital. Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Anderson writes, "There are good theological and biblical arguments in support of per capita. It is the connective tissue in the body imagery of the Apostle Paul — "But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be (1 Corinthians 12:18, NIV)."

Per capita provides the wherewithal for the ecclesiastical democracy of the priesthood of all believers to run smoothly.

It fuels the machinery of doing church the Presbyterian way, which is quite different from independent congregational and bishop-based systems. Per capita is much more than an annual fee. It's a statement of our values. What a gift it is to know that we are in ministry with others.

If you are a member, please make your Per Capita contribution of \$40 per member this year. Thank you!



**Monday, February 19,
is a national holiday.
The church office will be closed.**



LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 14, 2024
OUR THEME IS
“WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?”

Did you know that Lent began as a season of preparation for baptism? But in the middle ages, the flavor of Lent skewed towards penitence, and the practice that became more prevalent was “giving up” something to be restored to a right relationship with God and the church. In the Western world, which are our roots, the donning of ashes and sackcloth became the norm to restore one to the church’s table.

Since its inception Lent has always been associated with spiritual practices such as praying, fasting, scripture reading, meditation and service. This year I hope to help all of us see that the seemingly small things we do for others is a way for us to be up to something good. In a world wrought with expectations, we will focus on micro practices that can make a world of difference for someone we cross paths with. Let’s be up to something this Lent! Below is a list of what is happening beyond our Sunday worship services!

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 14 | Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes by Community Pastors
Ed Hale Park Corner between 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. |
| Thursday, February 15 | Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Room One – “Store Up” |
| Thursday, February 22 | Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Via Zoom – “Take Up” |
| Thursday, February 29 | Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Room One – “Raise Up” |
| Thursday, March 7 | Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Via Zoom – “Light Up” |
| Thursday, March 14 | Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Room One – “Lift Up” |
| Thursday, March 21 | Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Via Zoom – “Sit Up” |
| Thursday, March 28 | Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 6:00 P.M. JKH |
| Friday, March 29 | Indonesian Language Service at 5:00 P.M. in our Sanctuary
Ecumenical Service at 7:00 P.M. at First Congregational |
| Sunday, March 31 | Community Easter Sunrise at 7:00 A.M.
Vine Street Community Park
All-Church Easter Worship at 10:00 AM in our Sanctuary |

Let us be up to something this Lent that bears witness to the good news we have found in Jesus the Christ.

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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.



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