

THE MESSENGER



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

“Renewing Our Commitments”

What a glorious way to start the summer, a wedding! It was a joy to gather with family and friends to celebrate my son, Jason, and my new daughter-in-love, Colette, as they committed to the covenant of marriage. I had the honor of officiating the wedding, which was just a delight. Talk about a front row seat!

In the opening prayer during the service, part of my prayer goes like this, “Loving God, we also pray for each of us here today. Bless us and renew us in all the commitments we have made to each other, and most especially the commitments we have made to you, for by your grace our lives are made continually brand new.”

“Bless and renew us in all the commitments we have made to each other.” Now in the context of a wedding, I am reminding those who are already married of their commitments to one another. But I sense that this prayer also has meaning for us as a church. When we become members, these are the commitments we make to each other as described in our Book of Order given the meaning of membership:

“Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church... Involvement includes reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership, and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.”

I asked those attending the wedding to renew their commitments to each other. Shouldn’t we also be asked to renew our commitments to each other as members of this church?

As a child, I remember being asked to put our hands together to form a
(Continued on page 7)



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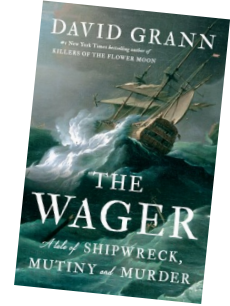
SESSION MEMBERS

- **Jim Appleton**
- **Gayle Timilione**
- **Luann Bangsund**
- **James Rager**
- **Kasim Barus**
- **Al Polchow**
- **Jack Brennan**
- **Marcia Fagan—Clerk of Session**
- **Paul Lambert**



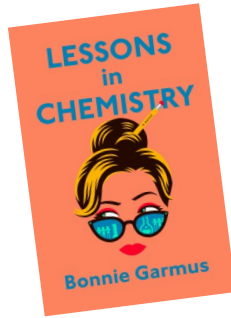
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The FPC Book Club will meet Thursday, July 6, to discuss *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder*, by David Grann.



The meeting will be hosted by Gary and Maricia Fagan, and Gary will lead the discussion.

The August meeting will be held at Luann Bangsund's home, on Thursday, August 3. Mary Lou Jones will lead the discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus.



July 1	Ezra Santoso
July 6	Aaron Roiballove
July 6	Aneeb Jacob
July 11	Lisa A. Kane
July 12	Tessa Mary Frederick
July 15	Paul Lambert
July 16	Bettie Losse
July 21	Linda Mihld
July 24	Sebastian Noel Purba
July 26	Jeremy Rager
July 29	Penelope Cunningham

August 3	Golda Gultom
August 6	Zeresh Justine
August 17	Helen Waitz
August 13	Sarah Eliza Khan
August 19	Jeffry Suban
August 19	Kristina Hine
August 20	Walter N. Smith
August 21	Lori Zak
August 25	Oldin Lumbanraja
August 25	Melissa Cunningham
August 27	James Lal
August 28	Wilson Kayange
August 28	Richard Paul Frederick
August 29	Veronica Cunningham
August 30	Zaira Azar
August 31	Furriha Bhatti
August 31	Susan Hunter

**First Presbyterian
Church of Redlands**

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Services Will Be In-Person and on Facebook Live:

10:00 A.M. English and 5:00 P.M. Indonesian – Weekly

11:30 A.M. Urdu – Second Sunday of the Month Facebook Live Only

July 2, 2023

First Reading
Second Reading
The Message

Communion

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Matthew 10:1-5a, 40-42
“Welcoming”

July 9, 2023

First Reading
Second Reading
The Message

**Move to John Knox
Hall for Worship**

Psalm 121:1-8
Exodus 13:17-21
“Leaving Home”

July 16, 2023

First Reading
Second Reading
The Message

Psalm 146:1-10
John 4:7-40
“The Encounter”

**July 23, 2023 All Church Sunday and Ice
Cream Social**

First Reading
Second Reading
The Message

Isaiah 65:17-25
Revelation 21:22-26
“Reflection”

July 30, 2023

First Reading
Second Reading
The Message

Psalm 36:5-9
John 15:1-17
“Returning Home”

August 6, 2022



Communion

**Rev. Dr. Bear Ride,
Preaching**

August 13, 2023

**Rev. Lee Ireland,
Preaching**



August 20, 2023

First Reading
Second Reading
Message

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Matthew 15:21-28
“Boldly Persistent”

August 27, 2023

First Reading
Second Reading
Message

Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 12:1-8
“Discerning Renewal”



ADULT FAITH FORMATION THE WIRED WORD

For three Sundays in July, the 2nd, 9th and 16th, Pastor Cheryl will facilitate a class on the intersection of faith and headlines. The Wired Word reflects on what is happening in our world and invites us to respond theologically. We will meet in Room One after church, starting at 11:20 A.M.

Here is the format of each class:

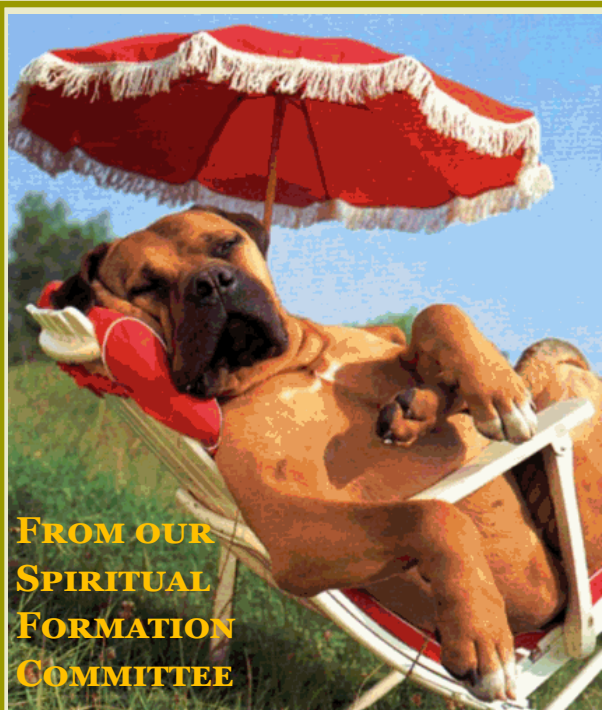
- In the News - A quick summary of the news item being focused on;
- Applying the Story – Theme of the day;
- Big Questions – A framework for the discussion;
- Confronting the News with Scripture and Hope – Biblical context;
- Discussion – Responding to the News.

Each Thursday, I will receive two possible news stories to focus on, and then on Friday, I can send the lessons to the participants. If you would like to participate, let me know so I can send the class information to you on Friday.

Here is a sampling of some of the recent class discussions:

- Southern Baptists Expel Churches Over Women Pastors – What does scripture say about the leadership of women?
- Search for Lost Children Unites Rescuers in Common Goal – What does scripture teach us about working together in hope?
- Utah Parent Wants School Book Bans to Apply to the Bible – How do we deal with the parts of the bible that are rarely preached?
- High School Valedictorian Invites Her Peers: Seek True Success – How does God define success?

So, drop by and let's explore the intersection of our faith with what's happening in our world today.



FROM OUR SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Happy Summer, to all our members -- I can't believe it is July already. The kids are out of school and probably busy with Big Bear Camp opportunities, Vacation Bible School at the Methodist church from July 10-14, and enjoying Special Sunday music time with Miss Dora. We will be offering an Ice Cream Social at Fellowship time on July 23.

Even though attendance tends to go down during the Summer months, we are still asking members to look at opportunities to sign up for Sunday Flowers, Greeters, and Fellowship providers. Please take a look at the sign-up boards in the Narthex to see where you can help out!

This is a great time to think about getting Scrip cards from Susan Hunter for graduations, weddings, baby showers, and other celebrations. E-Cards are very popular these days. Just let her know and look for her in the Narthex on July 2 and August 6 for Scrip Sales.

Blessings and Good health to everyone!

Gayle Timilione, Moderator of Spiritual Formation Committee



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

Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew has 23 parables of which eleven are unique. The parable I would like us to pray with during the months of July and August is the parable of the sower. It is a familiar parable, but one that can be looked at from multiple perspectives. Here is the parable:

“A sower went out to sow. As the sower sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen.”

So, how do you enter this story? Are you the sower or the soil? Are you the fragile plant trying to produce grain? Are you the birds or the thorns or the scorching sun?

When we take a few moments to reflect on our lives this metaphor offers a rich feast for us to explore. There have been times in my life when I have been like a thorn strangling the possibility of new ideas. At other times, I have been more like rich soil allowing for new growth. And frequently, as a preacher, I feel like the sower; though I often don't know whether the seeds being sown have taken root.

What about you? What kind of soil are you most often? If you are the sower, how would you cultivate good soil to promote growth? Spend some time with this parable this summer. Reflect on how you are sowing. Reflect on what type of soil you have been for other sowers in your life. Just allow the parable to reach deep and uncover where the Spirit is working in your life.

Who knows what might grow? Hopefully, it will produce an abundant crop that brings glory to God.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 2023



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, June 19, 2023, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

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

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$30,428.03
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$23,908.13
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$6,519.90
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	\$655.81
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$5,864.09
Balance in General Account:	\$116,040.16

- Received information about the work of the committees and the Board of Deacons during the months of May and June 2023.
- Approved, with sadness, removing Fred Waitz (member #2433) from the active membership roll of First Presbyterian Church of Redlands. Fred passed from life to life eternal on Sunday, May 21, 2023.
- Approved the raising of \$1,000 for the commission of a piece for our Sanctuary organ. This composition will be written and created by Noah Parady.
- Approved the Property & Finance Committee recommendation to authorize James Rager to transfer \$100,000 from the Anderson Investment Account to the FPCR Restricted Account for the Sanctuary Remodel.
- Approved moving from a semi-monthly payroll period to a bi-weekly (two week) payroll period for all staff, beginning July 1, 2023.
- Approved appointing Paul Lambert to serve as a FPCR Commissioner to the Presbytery of Riverside.
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Elder Tom Stewart from his active role on Session, due to his upcoming move with his wife, Marcia, to Central California.



SUMMER SUNRISE

THURSDAY AT 7:00 A.M.

Summer Sunrise concludes on Thursday, July 6th, at 7:00 A.M. with Pastor Cheryl as the facilitator.

Sunrise is an opportunity to be a spiritual companion with others, as we reflect together on the 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, 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 stirrings in your own life with others.

STAFF WHEREABOUTS



Pastor Cheryl and her family will be heading to Lake Powell after worship on Sunday July 30th. This is her bi-annual house boating trip where she enjoys the sheer canyon walls, graced by crystal blue skies, and at night, the expanse of stars. Pastor Cheryl will return to work on Monday, August 14th.

At the end of August, Pastor Cheryl will also have a few days of vacation with her family at the Colorado River, starting Wednesday, August 30th through Labor Day Monday, September 4th. She will be back in the office on Tuesday, September 5th.

Please pray for her time away with family on vacation. May she find rest and renewal for her ministry among us.

(Continued from page 1) The Pastor's Corner

church, with our two index fingers being the steeple and our thumbs being the front door of the church. We would sing a little song and open the doors and then wiggle all our fingers, which represented all the people. This little song reminded us that the church was not a building. The church was not the pastor either. The church was all the people committed to working together to love God and love neighbor .



So let us all ponder what it means for us to review and evaluate the integrity of our membership. Are we proclaiming the good news in word and deed, and taking part in the common life and worship of the congregation? Are we lifting one another up in prayer and studying the scriptures? Are we responding to God's activity in the world through service to others? Are we working in the world for peace and justice and caring for God's creation? Are we participating responsibly in the life and ministry of this church? How might your participation be increased and made more meaningful?

The prayer continued, "And renew, especially, the commitments we have made to you, O God." What commitments have you made to God about the way you live and move and have your being in the world? Are you spending time with God? Are you listening for God's still small voice or the stirring of the Spirit in your life? We worship a living God, a God whom we cannot NOT be in the presence of. Yet do we recognize this truth? Do we understand that God desires to be actively engaged in our lives?

During the summer we often have time to slow down and reflect on our lives. May all of us spend some time renewing our commitments to each other as members of this church and as God's precious and beloved children.

Willing to slow down and reflect,
Pastor Cheryl

PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Sanctuary Renovation has Begun!

On Saturday, July 1st a crew of volunteers began to move a few things to prepare for the contractors to start their work. Lighting work will begin first and then construction will start on July 10th.

Women's Bathroom in JKH Complex

New parts had to be ordered to fix one of the sink fixtures in the women's bathroom. Thanks to a volunteer the labor was free! Thank you!

Financial Update as of May 31, 2023

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

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$ 80,891.82		\$ 85,833.31		(\$ 4,941.49)
Rental Income	\$ 50,418.550		\$ 49,104.19		\$ 1,314.31
Total Income	\$140,372.18		\$140,989.63		(\$ 617.45)
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$128,192.57</u>		<u>\$139,657.88</u>		(\$11,465.31)
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 12,179.61				
Less Principal on Loan	(\$ 3,264.10)				
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 8,915.51				

So, what do these numbers mean? Our donations and pledges are less than anticipated by \$4,941.49. At the end of May, we have spent \$12,179.61 less than we have received (Net Unrestricted Income number). 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. Therefore, at the end of May our income was \$8,915.51 more than our expenses, which is great news! Our continued generosity is necessary to help us to be financially strong as the year progresses. If you have any questions about your pledge progress year to date, please let the office know.

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



It is summertime and things are changing! Our lead teacher this summer is Dora Ridgeway. She will be accompanied by other adults as she helps our young disciples explore music this summer! Here is the upcoming schedule for July and August:

Sunday, July 2 nd	In Worship or heading to camp at Big Bear!
Sunday, July 9th	Come and join the fun!
Sunday, July 16 th	Vacation Bible School Sunday, Youth will be singing at three churches!
Sunday, July 23rd	Summer Program continues
Sunday, July 30th	Summer Program continues
Sunday, August 6 th	Students are in worship today!
Sunday, August 13th	Summer Program continues
Sunday, August 20th	Summer Program continues
Sunday, August 27th	Summer with Dora Concludes

Vacation Bible School July 10th through July 14th

Don't forget to sign up for Vacation Bible School (VBS), which is scheduled for July 10th through 14th at the First United Methodist Church. The theme for VBS is "*Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God.*" You won't want to miss this opportunity to participate in VBS at the First United Methodist Church, as we join forces with them and Redlands First Baptist. There is no registration fee. Registration takes place online, so please use the following link: <https://redlands.mycokesburyvbs.com/>. Pastor Cheryl will be participating from 9:00 A.M. to Noon each day, so our young disciples will see a familiar face. It will be a great week with bible study, crafts, science, and more. Register today!

I want to thank our June Young Disciples and Youth for assisting in worship: Alison Kayange, Melissa Cunningham, Arianna Emmanuel, and Lorence Kayange. Mr. Wilson schedules our Prayer for Illumination readers, so contact him if you have a child or youth who would like to participate in leading this part of worship.

OUTREACH

SHARE MINISTRY – VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED!

Our next Share Ministry is scheduled for Saturday, July 22nd, at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1 Olive Street. We will be at this location until November.

Share Ministry is an opportunity to serve those in our community who are most in need. Members of our evening Indonesian Language worship service are already planning a wonderful meal. They will need the help of extra servers on July 22nd from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., so please let Pastor Cheryl know if you are available to assist. We anticipate serving 20-25 people.

HUNGER WALK

A big THANK YOU to all the walkers and contributors to the Hunger Walk on June 3rd. We raised \$680 dollars to help alleviate food insecurity in our community. The Family Service Association of Redlands expresses their gratitude for our generous participation in the event! A big THANK YOU to Marcia and Gary Fagan for being a sponsor of the event, too. What a wonderful way to live the heart and mind of Christ at the heart of the city!



THE SANCTUARY RENOVATION BEGINS JULY 5TH

When you arrive in the sanctuary on July 2nd for worship, you will notice some things have been moved in preparation for the start of work by contractors on July 5th. I want to thank all who

came to assist with moving and removing liturgical furniture on July 1st. Many hands made the work lighter.

On July 5th the lighting contractors will be in the sanctuary redirecting lights for the new chancel layout. There will be a boom lift that can make it all the way to our ceilings, which is no small task.

Then on July 10th the construction contractors will begin their work. The front chancel area will be reconfigured, and the bathrooms will be remodeled in accordance with the America Disability Act (ADA).

The actual date for a return to the sanctuary is not yet known, but Property and Finance will keep us updated with progress reports.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN GOES TO EUROPE

By Angela Lambert

In May, I took a Viking River Cruise from Budapest, Hungary to Bucharest, Romania.

On Sunday, May 21, as we were finishing dinner, I looked at my watch and realized it was the time that church services were going to be starting in the U.S. I excused myself from dessert and shared that I was going to be joining my church online for services. The other four couples at the table inquired as to what church I went to and could they join me. I was eagerly delighted.

The table behind me heard me talking about church services and asked if there were some on board ship. The conversation then spread like wildfire. We all cancelled dessert and went upstairs to the media lounge area. I asked the staff if we could stream the service on the screens in the lounge.

Much to my delight, most of the staff also attended and they pulled down the big screens around the room. The crowd included many denominations, from Catholic to Baptist, to Lutheran, and even a Presbyterian Pastor and her husband. Members of the ship's staff, from Golubac, Serbia, and passengers, totaling 172, attended worship that Sunday.

What a blessing to be able to share God's love no matter where we are in the world!

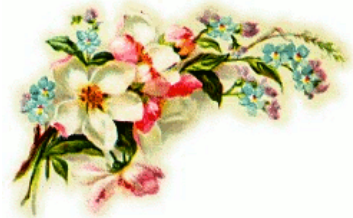


A MOMENT FOR DEACONS

By Patti Robertson, Moderator of Deacons

The deacons are really excited to welcome Angela Lambert to the Board of Deacons! We finally have a full board and with Angela's help we will continue to serve those in the congregation and those in the community. It is such a blessing to have a congregation that is so generous in giving to the deacons, so we can help those that need help.

We would like to thank those that are signing up for flowers for church on Sundays. Debbie Smith and I are enjoying arranging flowers for celebrations and in memory of



loved ones. The flower chart is always in the Narthex on Sundays so if you have not had a chance to provide flowers please feel free to sign up. If you like, you can provide your own flowers if your garden is in bloom, just fill out the form to let Judy know what your wishes are and she will let us know. If you would like us to do the flowers, once again just fill out the form and get it and your check to Judy. She will put it in the bulletin on the correct Sunday.



Another thank you to those who are signing up to help with coffee fellowship! The sign-up sheet is also in the Narthex every Sunday. We will always have coffee ready after church but if you enjoy those yummy tidbits, please help out and sign up to bring your favorite cookie or anything else that strikes your fancy!

The one sign up sheet that we really need a bit of help with is the Greeter sign up, also in the Narthex every Sunday. It really is rewarding to say "good morning" to the congregation and visitors as they come for the service. All it takes is being at the church at around 9:30 A.M. to hand out bulletins and say "Hello!" One of the perks of greeting is standing in the Narthex and listening to our choir practice. Love that music!

We help Family Services, Refresh and Renew, Youth Hope, Citrus Counseling Services, the veterans with bus passes to get to medical appointments and so much more, none of which would happen without your generosity. Thought I would include a thank you note we recently received from Citrus Counseling.

It read, Dear First Presbyterian Church of Redlands, Thank you for your donation to Citrus Counseling Services. We depend on the generous support of individuals like you to achieve our mission. We are grateful for your generosity and hope you take great pride in the important difference that your gift makes to provide comprehensive mental health services and bridge clients to community services. It was signed by the CEO.

Thank you all for helping us help others!



THE REDLANDS BOWL (<https://redlandsbowl.org/100th-season-schedule/>) is celebrating its 100th season this year with a line-up of programs that exemplify the quality programming Redlanders have come to expect.

Thursday, July 6th - Air Force Band of the Golden West Commander's Jazz Ensemble

Friday, July 7th—Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea

Tuesday, July 11th—The Rob Ickes and Trey Hensley Band

Friday, July 14th - Jazzy Ash and the Leaping Lizards

Tuesday, July 18th - The Spinners

Friday, July 21st - Diego Figueiredo & Chuchito Valdés: Brazil Meets Cuba

Wednesday, July 26th—Sunday, July 30th (Dress Rehearsal Tuesday, July 25th) *Hello, Dolly!*

Tuesday, August 1st—Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band

Friday, August 4th - The StepCrew

Tuesday, August 8th - 7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience

Friday, August 11th—H.M.S. Pinafore in One Act and Other Gilbert & Sullivan Favorites!

Tuesday, August 15th - Frankie Avalon

Friday, August 18th—Classics Under the Stars Featuring the Redlands Symphony

Saturday, August 26th—A Grand Centennial Spectacular!

Historically, FPC Redlands members have volunteered to help usher and collect donations at one of the programs. If you would like to volunteer, please visit <https://redlandsbowl.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Community-Ushers-Sign-Up-Form-2023-1-For-website.pdf>.

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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