

THE MESSENGER



THE PASTOR'S CORNER "Move Among Us with Holy Fire"

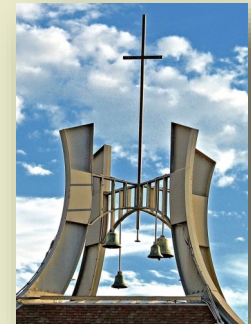
Our sacred scriptures are filled with metaphors and our celebration of the gift of another Advocate was no exception. In the Acts of the Apostles, we heard that the Spirit came with the rush of a mighty wind and danced as if tongues of fire on those who were gathered. We also heard that the gift of the Holy Spirit causes rivers of living water to flow from our hearts. Fierce winds, dancing flames, and rivers of living water can all be experienced and that is exactly what Jurgen Moltman says of the Holy Spirit, "It is the experienced presence of God."

So, what is our experience of the Spirit at work in us? The creation of Vine Street Community Park was certainly the Spirit's mighty wind blowing through us. During a pandemic that shuttered life in so many ways, our dirt chain link fenced eyesore was transformed into a beautiful outdoor space for not only us, but for our community. On Memorial Day weekend Vine Street Community Park came alive with energy as young children and youth made their own musical instruments and shared music throughout the day from its stage, including an impromptu concert by our very own young disciples and Dora, after church with ukuleles and kazoos.

Dancing flames have been afoot since May of 2019, as a small task force blessed by Session began to imagine a sanctuary chancel redesigned to be more flexible for our worship as well as for use by our community throughout the week. The flames continued to dance throughout the pandemic as designs were considered and the feasibility of the project was determined. Then the Spirit moved more powerfully as initial donors made commitments and our larger church contributed \$130,000 to our vision. With a goal of \$485,000 to fully fund the project we have approximately \$20,000 yet to raise! This could only be the Spirit at work through us as we seek to live the heart and mind of Christ at the heart of the city.

Examples of living water flowing through us happens weekly, if not daily as

(Continued on page 7)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Birthdays.....	2
Worship Schedule	3
Contemplative Corner...	5
Session Highlights.....	6
Staff Whereabouts.....	7
Property & Finance.....	8
Young Disciples	9

SESSION MEMBERS

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

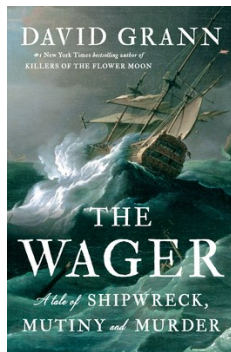
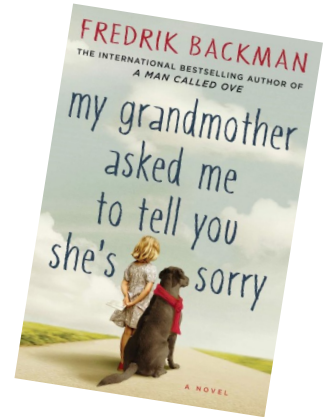
The FPC Book Club will meet Thursday, June 8, to discuss *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, by Fredrik Backman.

The meeting will be hosted by Rich and Monica Frederick and Ron Duvall will lead the discussion.

A charming, warmhearted novel from the author of the New York Times bestseller *A Man Called Ove*. *

*Goodreads.com

Then for the July meeting, we look forward to reading *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder*, by David Grann.



June 2	Aleta West
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 Zak
June 19	Sandra Ann Hayes
June 21	Harry Muaya
June 26	Jeremy Dean Platz
June 28	Sundus Jacob
June 28	Stephen Teele

**First Presbyterian
Church of Redlands**
JUNE 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**

June 4, 2023	Communion
First Reading	Psalm 8:1-9
Second Reading	Matthew 28:16-20
The Message	What's a Disciple?
June 11, 2023	
First Reading	Hosea 5:15-6:6
Second Reading	Matthew 9:9-14
The Message	Sinners Welcomed
June 18, 2023	Men of the Church Day and Father's Day
First Reading	Isaiah 6:1, 8-13
Second Reading	Matthew 9:35-10:5a
The Message	Sent Out
June 25, 2023	Rev. Ron Duvall
First Reading	John 9:1-23
Second Reading	John 9:24-41
The Message	The Beggar's Story



Outreach Updates

Thank you to everyone who helped with Share Ministry on Saturday, May 27, 2023. 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 22, 2023.

Do you remember all those fish banks our young disciples collected? Well, together our offerings totaled \$727.64 for the One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering goes to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People program of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Wherever people experience a disaster or hunger these dollars are available to help. These dollars also help disadvantaged people self-develop programs to lift them from poverty. Thank you for your generosity!

Through your generosity to our operating budget the Outreach Committee also recently sent \$800 to Presbyterian Education Board. This donation will help two elementary aged students in Pakistan receive a year of education. Thanks be to God for ministry that supports the education of young people.

GIVING

Per Capita

Above and Beyond Giving

The Spirit is blowing through us this month reminding us of our communal commitment of Per Capita, which supports our connectional bonds.

Per capita giving can be received at any time during the year, but the church pays our per capita in full by July of each year. If you are a member and haven't had the opportunity to contribute yet, 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 28th, we have received **\$2,170.36** towards our commitment of **\$6,804**, 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 generous contribution above and beyond your regular giving to this commitment, frees us to support other areas of our mission.



Greetings from your Presbyterian Women's Circles.

We are planning our Spring Birthday Gathering on June 4, Sunday, at 11:30 AM after Church. Our program will be a Dedication Service honoring the Gifts of Women and the Birthday Offering. We will start with a boxed lunch consisting of a subway sandwich, bag of chips and cookies. Coffee, tea, and drinks will also be available. Everyone from the Congregation is invited, but you need to let Karen Dwight know before May 31. Also an attendance donation will be asked to be sent to Karen either by cash or check, written out to Presbyterian Women, for \$10.00. This will help with the cost of lunch and provide a small donation to the Birthday Offering. We hope that many of you will attend and enjoy our late Spring Gathering.

Blessings from the PW Coordinating Team - Gayle Timilione, Karen Dwight, and Jerri Rodewald





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

Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Matthew

In June we will be exploring what it means to be a disciple. In Matthew's Gospel the eleven disciples were commissioned by Jesus. Here is the excerpt from the Gospel:

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What does it mean for you to be a disciple of Jesus? How are you engaged in continually deepening your commitment as a disciple of Christ? Do you have spiritual companions that challenge you, Christ's witness, as you walk through life? How are you trusting Jesus to be with you always? Are you teaching others about the faith that you claim? To be a disciple, as we learned last month, is a lifelong commitment of tangibly loving God and loving our neighbors. This is not an easy commitment, but together we can help each other along the way. As you pray with this passage this month, ask for the Spirit to equip you to be a faithful disciple.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
MAY 2023



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, May 15, 2023, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending April 30, 2023.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$31,248.32
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$25,828.36
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$5,419.96
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$654.31)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$4,765.65
Operating Fund Amount in General Account:	\$43,434.05

- Received information about the work of the committees and the Board of Deacons during the months of April and May 2023.
- Approved the Personnel Committee recommendation for a new position of Director of Youth Music Ministry for the summer 2023 (July and August), with Dora Ridgeway being hired for this position at a rate of \$100/week.
- Approved the Property & Finance Committee recommendation that the FPCR-chartered Boy/Cub Scouts be granted exclusive use of the designated areas of the John Knox Hall basement area for their tenured stay as our chartered organization, with the exception of official church use as approved by the Property & Finance Committee.
- Approved the Property & Finance Committee recommendation for approval of the FPCR-chartered Boy/Cub Scouts' fundraising efforts, pursuant to the renovation of the basement area and other Scout needs, in accordance with the church's values, in communication with the FPCR Outreach Committee, and in accordance with FPCR 501(c)(3) requirements.
- Approved the Property & Finance Committee recommendation that all future permanent endowment fund disbursements be sent directly to the investment account at the New Covenant Fund.



Summer Sunrise Thursdays at 7:00 A.M.

Our Summer Sunrise Series begins Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 7:00 A.M. via Zoom. We will meet for six Thursdays in a row, concluding on Thursday, July 6, 2023. Pastor Cheryl 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 stirrings in your own life with others.

(Continued from page 1)

The Pastor's Corner

we attend to the thirsts among us and in our community. Rivers of living water flow through us as we pray for another with our Prayer Chain, being led by Lynn Phelps, a member of the Board of Deacons. Seventeen walkers along with additional donors will be living water to our thirsty and hungry community as they participate in the Hunger Walk on June 3, 2023. With rivers of living water, we are quenching the thirsts of each other as well as those in our community with the life-giving presence of God.



Although we celebrate the Holy Spirit only one Sunday a year on Pentecost, let us not forget that the Spirit is at work in us three hundred sixty-five days a year. Let us welcome the transforming winds and dancing flames of the Spirit in our church as well as in our individual lives for we worship a living God who supplies the source of living water that is to flow through our lives.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Not just once, but continually as a palpable presence in our lives. Melt us, mold us, fill us, and use us we pray!

With trust in the presence of the Spirit,
Pastor Cheryl

STAFF WHEREABOUTS



Pastor Cheryl will be on vacation from Thursday, June 22 through June 25. She will be officiating her son's, Jason Raine's wedding to Colette Rackleff on Friday, June 23rd and hosting out of town guests the remainder of the weekend. Please pray that this will be a celebration of joy for Jason and Colette, and all who surround them with love in support of their commitment of marriage.

Judy will be in the office Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, from 11:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Pastor Cheryl's office hours vary each week, given her schedule, so check the Sunday Updates. She can be reached at (714) 801-4345.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Vine Street Community Park – Redlands Festival of Arts!

- What a joy to see our park filled with visitors, as the Redlands Festival of Arts hosted the Symphony’s children’s music exhibit and hosted young people sharing their music. Children had the opportunity to make musical shakers and explore various percussion instruments! It was an exciting weekend. I hope you had the opportunity to drop by.

Sanctuary Renovation

- The plans are still with the city, but we are hoping for final approval soon. Once the plans are approved we can move forward with setting the date for moving out of the sanctuary and starting construction!

Financial Update as of April 30, 2023

- Here are some broad highlights from our financial reporting Year to Date April 30, 2023:

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$ 61,987.84		\$ 68,666.64		(\$6,678.80)
Rental Income	\$ 39,788.20		\$ 39,283.36		\$ 504.84
Total Income	\$109,944.15		\$112,791.72		(\$2,847.57)
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$104,284.44</u>		<u>\$111,502.34</u>		<u>(\$7,217.90)</u>
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 5,659.71				
Less Principal on Loan	(\$ 2,608.29)				
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 3,051.42				

So, what do these numbers mean? Our donations and pledges YTD are less than anticipated by \$6,678.80. As we head into the summer months and travel begins, let’s remember to be generous with our giving. Because we have managed our expenses well, we had a positive Net Unrestricted Income (NUI) of \$5,659.71. 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 April our income was \$3,051.42 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 or Pastor Cheryl.



We are so blessed to have awesome teachers for our Sunday School! A big thank you to all our readers of the amazing Pentecost story from Acts on May 28th! Our teachers will have classes the remaining three weeks of June.

Starting June 25th our students' main teacher will be Dora Ridgeway. Dora is excited about introducing all sorts of musical options for our students along with the good news of the Gospel. Who knows what fun will be included, so be sure to invite some friends to join us this summer!

Here is the schedule with Dora for the summer:

Sunday, June 25th	The Summer begins!
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

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: Ananya Bhatti, Arianna Emmanuel, Ryan Shad, Zachary Emmanuel, and Jonah Cotton. 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 this opportunity.

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

Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside
Saturday, June 17, 2022
Hybrid at Calvary in Riverside and on Zoom

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 of Riverside County, San Bernardino County and even part of Kern County! The Presbytery of Riverside currently has 25 churches.

On June 17, 2023, 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. 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 welcomed to experience a Presbytery meeting firsthand by simply registering at least five days before the meeting and then signing onto Zoom or physically attending on the day of the meeting. To register for www.riversidepresbytery.com and click on Stated Meetings.

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



Celebrate Music!

Join the choir after church Sunday morning worship, June 11, for a light brunch and “talent” show featuring members of the choir. This tradition (which has been on hiatus during the pandemic) raises funds to help pay the section leaders and for special music for Easter and Christmas.

This year, we will have performances including a father-daughter duet by Tom and Grace Stewart, solos by Joe Modica, Linda Cotton, Dora Ridgeway, Daniella Gonzalez, and a special performance by the choir.

If you are not able to join us on the 11th, we will happily accept donations for the music fund sent directly to the church office or dropped in the offering plate on another Sunday. Just make sure to make a note that it is for the “Music Fund.”

Vacation Church School
Save the Date!
July 10-14, 2023
First United Methodist
Church



H E L P I N G H A N D S

The theme for Vacation Bible School (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/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Pastor Cheryl, who can help assist with online registrations as needed. 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!

Regarding Your Donations

By Judy Tanner

When we give to the church, whether it be our time, our talents, or our money, we probably don’t give a whole lot of thought to the impact our contributions have on any particular individual. We give for many reasons and each of us maybe prioritizes those reasons differently. Near the bottom of the list is likely the expectation of gratitude. But I see the letters and notes that come into the office on a regular basis from people and groups who express their thanks.

From John Bischler at the Center for Development & Civic Engagement, at the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, “It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans.” Your donations provided 120 1-day bus passes, in April. That means 120 veterans had reliable transportation to their health care appointments. You helped each of those 120 people.

Heidi Mayer of Youth Hope has now helped 4,628 young people continue their education and find job training. Youth Hope helps homeless, run-away, at-risk, and trafficked kids with food, clothing, medical care, counseling, and housing. She and her staff are able to steer these kids into a life of hope because of your support. Heidi’s note says, “Thank you for standing with us to help support and encourage our youth.”

Redlands Family Services frequently sends letters thanking the church and the Deacons “...for all of the support the church has provided over the years.” They have been assisting the homeless, at-risk homeless, and low-income residents in our area for 125 years and First Presbyterian has been an integral partner for most of those years. Your contributions make a difference in countless lives!

Vernon Hoffs at Refresh and Renew reports that, thanks to your generous support, they provided 2,016 showers in 2022, an increase of 833 from 2021. If you have ever gone on a multiple-day camping or backpacking trip, you can well appreciate what a hot shower means to someone who is living rough!

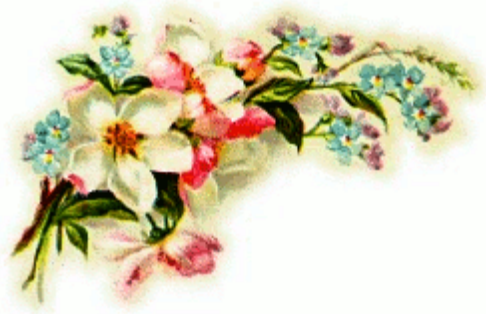


A MOMENT FOR DEACONS

Happy June to everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying the beauty God brings to us during the month of June. There are so many beautiful flowers and trees blooming, all the birds singing, and the temperature is almost perfect! Our Lord keeps providing us with so many treasures every day. As a deacon that is how we feel about our congregation. You are all treasures and are blessings to each other as well as our community. Because of your generosity, the deacons are able to keep commitments to those in our community, helping to provide food to those who are hungry and showers to those in need of refreshing, as well as transportation to our vets that need to get to medical appointments at the VA. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We also have commitments to our congregation. We set up and serve communion; we arrange flowers for the sanctuary to bring beauty into church in memory and in celebration of church members and family members; we help provide that all important cup of coffee on Sunday morning, as well as recruiting members to greet everyone Sunday mornings. Here is where we need your help. Some of our signup sheets, that are in the narthex every Sunday, are looking very open. We would love to have you sign up to say, "Good Morning!" to everyone on Sunday morning. It is a great way to start your church morning and it is fun!

We are getting back to actually having homemade goodies for coffee fellowship. If you have a favorite cookie recipe or other yummy goodie that you would like to pair with a cup of coffee following service, please sign up to help with coffee fellowship.



With graduation just around the corner, if you have a graduate you would like to celebrate, a birthday or celebration or a remembrance, please sign up for flowers. Deacons will provide the flowers and if you wish, deliver to someone, or you can provide your own flowers. Just fill out one of the flower sheets and turn it in to the office so Judy can add your wishes to the bulletin on the Sunday you choose.



Deacons are here to serve and we really appreciate our congregation! Thank you for your continued support!

God Bless, Patti Robertson,
Moderator of Deacons

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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