

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner A Message from Pastor Rubens

My friends,

As I pen these words, my heart is filled with gratitude for the time we have spent together. The journey we have shared has been marked by moments of joy, growth, and mutual encouragement. As I prepare to say farewell, I am reminded of the powerful words from Hebrews 12:1-3:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

This passage has been a guiding light for me throughout my ministry, and I hope it will continue to be a source of strength and encouragement for you. As we part ways, I want to leave you with a few reflections based on this powerful scripture, *so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

1. Draw Strength from the Cloud of Witnesses

The lives of those who have gone before us—our ancestors in faith—are a testament to the power of perseverance. Hebrews 11 is filled with stories of men and women who, despite overwhelming challenges, remained steadfast in their faith. They ran their races with perseverance, and now they stand as witnesses, cheering us on in our own journeys.

Reflect on the biographies of faith that surround you—whether they are biblical figures like Abraham, Jacob, and David, or modern-day heroes who have faced persecution and hardship for their beliefs. Let their stories inspire you to keep pressing forward, even when the road is tough. Their lives remind us that we are never alone in this journey of faith.

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SESSION MEMBERS

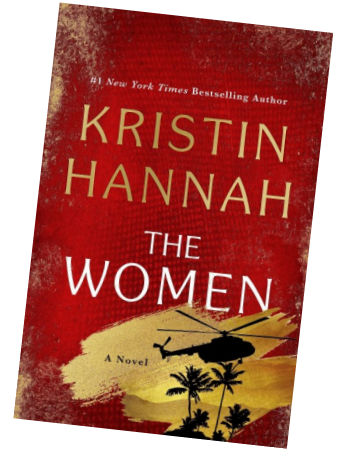
- Jim Appleton
- Gayle Timilione
- Paul Lambert
- James Rager
- Kasim Barus
- Harry Muaya
- Jeffrey Suban
- Marcia Fagan—Clerk
of Session



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The next FPC Book Club meeting will be Thursday evening, September 5, at 7:00 P.M. at the Fagan's house.

The book selected for discussion is *The Women*, By Kristin Hannah. Marcia Fagan will lead the discussion.



September 1	Dick Jones
September 6	Hina Barkat
September 7	Gabriella Sihombing
September 8	Izar Martinez
September 9	Steven Deon Sihombing
September 10	Jerri Rodewald
September 11	Katherine Damar
September 12	Kasim Barus
September 13	Tehseen Suhail (Sardar)
September 14	Tom Stewart
September 15	Hameed Barkat
September 16	Mahtab Bhatti
September 18	Monica M. Frederick



September 19	Mary Lou Jones
September 20	Patti Robertson
September 26	Hart J. Tan
September 27	Lenny Floortje Joseph (Muaya)
September 27	Enny Napitupulu

First Presbyterian Church of Redlands

AUGUST 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)

September 1, 2024 Communion
Rev. Ron

Duvall

September 8, 2024 Pastor Cheryl

September 15, 2024 Pastor Cheryl

September 22, 2024 Pastor Cheryl

September 29, 2024 Pastor Cheryl



The 17th annual Believe Walk

will be held **Sunday, October 6**. We will have an all church worship service in the afternoon at 4:00 P.M. on that Sunday.

The cost to register is \$35. You can register online <https://p2p.onecause.com/believewalk2024/> accept. Register under Team Presbyterian or ask Pastor Cheryl to register you. There is a small fee to register on line, but it appears that's the only way to register.



STAFF WHEREABOUTS

Judy will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from noon until 4:00 P.M.

Pastor Cheryl will return on Sunday, September 8.

(Continued from page 1)

The Pastor's Corner



2. Reflect on Your Own Journey

As you continue to run the race marked out for you, take time to reflect on your own life. What are the things that might be hindering your progress? What sins or distractions are entangling you, preventing you from fully embracing the life God has called you to live?

The word “entangles” suggests being ambushed or encircled. Sometimes, the things we desire—whether they be material possessions, comfort, or even seemingly harmless pleasures—can slowly take control of our lives, leading us away from God. It is crucial to identify these entanglements and, with God’s help, cast them aside.

Life is a marathon, not a sprint. It requires endurance, patience, and focus. Like the great French Protestant girl, Marie Durant, who endured 38 years of imprisonment for her faith, we too must resist the temptations to give up when faced with trials. Let us run with perseverance, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the ultimate example of endurance and faith.

3. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Finally, the most important encouragement I can leave you with is this: Fix your eyes on Jesus. He is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. His life, death, and resurrection are the greatest sources of inspiration we can ever have.

Jesus endured the cross, scorning its shame, because He saw the joy that was set before Him—the joy of reconciling us to God. He faced opposition, pain, and death, yet He remained steadfast in His mission. When you are weary, when you feel like giving up, remember what He endured for you. Let His example give you the strength to continue running your race with perseverance.

In the words of the Scottish preacher Robert Murray M'Cheyne, “For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ. He is altogether lovely. Such infinite majesty and yet such meekness and grace, and all for sinners, even the chief.”

Farewell, But Not Goodbye

As I take my leave, my friends, please know that I carry you all in my heart. The memories we have created together will remain with me always. I ask for your prayers as I continue my journey, just as I will continue to pray for you.

Remember that we are not running this race alone. Jesus is with us, guiding you, strengthening you, and cheering you on every step of the way. Keep your eyes fixed on Him, and let His love and grace be your constant companions.

May the love of God uphold you, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ empower you, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Go in peace, my friends, and run your race with perseverance.

**With deep gratitude and love,
Your friend,
Rubens**



PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Financial Update as of August 30, 2024

There wasn't much going on in August, so there's nothing to report. Stay tuned next month as we plan our work for the coming months.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of the Property and Finance Committee: James Rager and Paul Lambert, Co-moderators; Gerardo Castro; Dick Jones and Paul Raine.



Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Presbyterian Women will begin their monthly Circle Bible study in September. They will be discussing lessons from the 2024-2025 PW/*HORIZONS* Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down- God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by Patricia K. Tull. We will learn about the ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. We will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in small and large ways.

The Bible Study books are here. The cost is \$10.00.

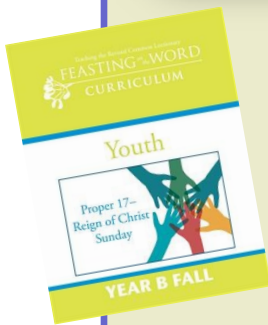
Presbyterian Women (PW) has two Circles. Sarah Circle meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 A.M. in Classroom 1. This month they will meet on September 11, 2024. For those who work, the Eve Circle meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the home of Jerri Rodewald. This month they will meet on September 25, 2024.

SAVE THE DATE!

The PWCT is planning the **Thank Offering Luncheon on Saturday, October 12, 2024**, in John Knox Hall. More information to come.

YOUNG & YOUTH DISCIPLES CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL,
WORSHIP LEADERSHIP,
AND MORE!



With Kickoff Sunday in sight, we look forward to resuming regular Sunday School classes. We will have a new curriculum for our young disciples, starting with “Who is Jesus”.

Our youth will continue the “Feasting on the Word” series.

“Feasting on the Word Curriculum follows the Revised Common

Lectionary and allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage each week. This makes it easy for families to live out their faith together. This curriculum invites learners from children through adults into the rhythm of the church year. Leaders of each age group are provided with a solid biblical background from the well-known commentary *Feasting on the Word*. Explore the what, where, so what, and now what of each biblical passage from the lectionary through a variety of learning and teaching styles. *Joining the Feast* connects education with worship offering suggestions to use during the worship service.”

A Word from the Spiritual Formation Committee

Blessings to everyone!! We just experienced a wonderful summer enjoying our Interim Minister, Pastor Rubens Muzio, learning about his country, Brazil, and gleaned educational and inspiring messages from his sermons on Sunday mornings.

The Young Disciple time during the summer was given by Wilson Kayange, Chris Kane, and Gayle Timilione, and Summer Sunday School focused on the meaning of Jesus' Parables from the book of Luke. In September the Fall curriculum will begin for our young disciples.

This August we returned to our pre-pandemic procedure for Offering time. Three members resumed proceeding down the aisles with the offering plates to receive gifts from the congregation. This was followed by placing the plates on the Communion table while singing the Doxology. Everyone seemed to enjoy returning to this tradition.

With the return of our rested Pastor Cheryl, on September 8, we will be looking forward to the fall events leading up to Advent Season.

Love from the Moderator, Gayle Timilione

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST 2024



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday, August 19, 2024. The meeting was held via a Zoom Meeting, and the following actions were taken:

- Approved giving the Rev. Dr. Rubens Muzio “voice” to participate at the Session meeting.
- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending July 31, 2024.

Report for the month ending July 31, 2024:

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$27,799.84
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$28,847.90
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	(\$1,048.06)
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$677.17)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	(\$1,725.23)
Balance in General Account:	\$81,627.58
Total Operating Funds in General Account:	\$31,501.94

- Received information from the Property & Finance Committee Co-Moderators about the committee meeting on August 13, 2024.
- Even though other committees did not meet in the month of July, received information from each Committee Moderator about plans and the upcoming work of the Outreach Committee, Personnel Committee, and the Spiritual Formation Committee.

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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