

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner A Message from Pastor Rubens

The Future of the Church in a Post-COVID World

As we have reflected on the past few weeks, the challenges faced by humanity during the COVID-19 pandemic have prompted a profound re-evaluation of our purpose and mission as a community of disciples of Christ. Klaus Schwab, president of the World Economic Forum, termed this period the "Great Reset," a concept that can equally apply to the church. This reset calls us to rethink and realign our focus on the core values of *koinonia* (fellowship), *kerygma* (proclamation), *diakonia* (service), and *martyria* (witness). These values, rooted deeply in the New Testament, offer a blueprint for the church's renewal and growth in the post-COVID era.

Koinonia: Reimagining Fellowship

The Greek term *koinonia* describes the essence of Christian community and fellowship. It reminds us that the church is more than just a collection of activities and gatherings; it is the body of Christ, animated by the Holy Spirit. Our fellowship must go beyond mere social interaction to embody a true community of love. Jesus emphasized that His disciples would be known by their love for one another (John 13:35). This love transcends cultural, ethnic, and social boundaries, creating a diverse yet unified body of believers.

However, the reality often falls short of this ideal. Ronald Enroth, in his book "Churches That Abuse," highlights the dangers of control-oriented leadership, manipulation, and emotional abuse within some church communities. To avoid these pitfalls, we must foster an environment of genuine care and acceptance, where each member is valued and supported. Embracing *koinonia* involves active participation in each other's spiritual journeys, promoting peace, humility, and mutual respect.

(Continued on page 7)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Birthdays.....	2
Worship Schedule	3
Staff Whereabouts.....	4
Property & Finance.....	8
Young Disciples	9
Session Summary.....	10

SESSION MEMBERS

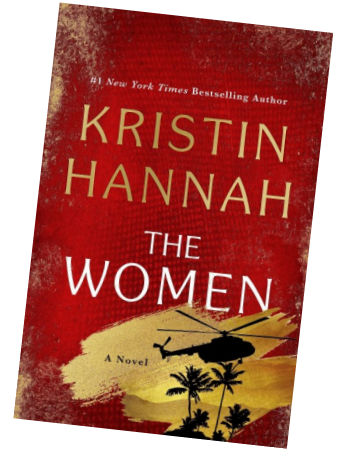
- Jim Appleton
- Gayle Timilione
- Paul Lambert
- James Rager
- Kasim Barus
- Harry Muaya
- Jeffrey Suban
- Marcia Fagan—Clerk
of Session



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.



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 10	Shandy Pondaag
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 Lumbanradja
August 25	Melissa Cunningham
August 27	James Lal
August 28	Wilson Kayange
August 28	Richard Paul Frederick
August 29	Veronica Cunningham
August 31	Furriha Bhatti
August 31	Susan Hunter

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)

Pastor Cheryl is now on Sabbatical until September 5. Pastor Ron Duvall (909) 478-4603 and Pastor Hart Tan (909) 213-1175 are available for Pastoral Emergencies.



- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| August 4 2024 | Communion
Rev. Ron Duvall |
| August 11, 2024 | Pastor Rubens Muzio |
| August 18, 2024 | Pastor Rubens Muzio
All Church Worship Service and
Farewell Potluck hosted by The
Deacons and Session Members |
| August 25, 2024 | Pastor Rubens Muzio
(last day at FPCR) |



Pastor Ron Duvall preaches Sunday, August 4.

Win a Free Subscription to *The Messenger!*

Name all of the Presbyterian Women pictured below and win a lifetime subscription to the exciting FPC Redlands newsletter. Email your submissions to FPCRedlands@gmail.com



PASTOR CHERYL'S SABBATICAL WHEREABOUTS

JUNE 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024

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

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

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



STAFF WHEREABOUTS

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



Did you miss the ice cream extravaganza? Here are some images that will make your mouth water.

(photos by Angela Lambert)



GIVING

Per Capita

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

Calling all members! If you are a member and haven't had the opportunity to contribute your per capita for 2024, please do! As members within the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., we are part of a connectional church that has global reach. As of July 22, we have received **\$3,150.** towards our commitment of **\$6,600,** which represents \$40.00 per member. Here is how this gift will be distributed:

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

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

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



Moment for Deacons

By Angela Lambert

August has arrived and families are preparing for kids to get back to school routines. God has blessed us with a reprieve in the blistering heat for the next few days so let's get out and enjoy his glory including our own Vine Street Park. Thank you Max Rager for doing such an amazing job on the park benches. We will appreciate your efforts for a long time to come. What a vision Shirley Harry and everyone who had a hand in bringing the park to fruition had for us for generations to come.

Our First Annual Ice Cream Extravaganza was a wonderful success! Thank you to all who helped, Sareena Shaheed, Ann Platz, Debora Smith, Lina Tan, Gayle Timilione and all my young helpers who rolled up their sleeves and made it a success. It was such a joy to see you all having fun and all your amazing creations. I cannot wait for next year so mark your calendars!

On August 18, 2024, we will be blessed with an all church luncheon prepared by our Indonesian brothers and sisters. Everyone is welcome to bring dishes that reflect their heritage to share for the luncheon. Mark your calendars for a wonderful event.

Let us enjoy your month of August with Pastor Reubens and his life experiences so we may better serve our community here. Join us on **August 25th** for his last Sunday with us and send blessings to him on his future adventures.

Mark your calendars for Pastor Cheryl's Celebration return on **September 8th** and luncheon.

(Continued from page 1)

The Pastor's Corner



Kerygma: Proclaiming the Message of Christ

Kerygma, the proclamation of the gospel, is central to the church's mission. Martin Lloyd Jones noted that periods of church decline often coincide with a neglect of preaching. The essence of our message is not found in doctrines or creeds, but in the person of Jesus Christ. The TV series "The Chosen" illustrates this by portraying the lives and struggles of Jesus' disciples, making the gospel story relevant to contemporary audiences. Our proclamation must be Christ-centered, emphasizing His presence in our lives and communities. It is through living like Christ—embracing His values of love, justice, and compassion—that we truly communicate the gospel. The real measure of success in ministry is not in numbers or programs, but in how faithfully we reflect Christ's character and mission.

Diakonia: Serving with Compassion

Diakonia, or service, calls us to extend Christ's love through acts of compassion and care. The early church exemplified this by caring for widows and the needy (Acts 6:1). Today, the scope of *diakonia* is vast, encompassing local and global efforts to alleviate suffering and promote justice. From addressing homelessness in Redlands to supporting refugees worldwide, our service must be holistic, integrating soul care with social action.

Harvey Cox emphasizes that *diakonia* involves healing and reconciling, restoring health to the body of Christ. This means actively engaging with the needs of our communities, providing not just spiritual support but also practical assistance. The integration of evangelism and social responsibility, as advocated by theologians like René Padilla and Samuel Escobar, underscores the church's role in addressing both the spiritual and material dimensions of people's lives.

Martyria: Witnessing Through Our Lives

Finally, *martyria*, or witness, encompasses our calling to testify to Christ's presence and power in every aspect of our lives. Acts 1:8 commissions us to be witnesses "to the ends of the earth." This

witness is not limited to verbal proclamation but extends to our actions, demonstrating the values of God's kingdom in our daily interactions.

Being a witness involves a holistic commitment to living out our faith in every sphere of life. It challenges us to integrate our beliefs with our work, relationships, and societal engagement, embodying the gospel in tangible ways. As Christians, we are called to be full-time disciples, constantly declaring God's excellency through our words and deeds.

Prayer:

Lord, we come before you this Summer, recognizing the profound opportunity you have given us to reset and renew our focus on the foundational values of *koinonia*, *kerygma*, *diakonia*, and *martyria*. Help us to embrace these principles fully, making Christ tangible, real, and visible in our world. Lord, we acknowledge that this season of reset is about creatively reimagining how we live out our faith in a changing world. Guide us to build communities of love that reflect your boundless compassion and unity. Empower us to proclaim the gospel of Christ with clarity and conviction, ensuring that our message is centered on His life, death, and resurrection. Let our lives be a living testimony to His love and grace. Strengthen our commitment to serve with compassion, reaching out to those in need and reflecting Your heart for justice and mercy. May our service be a beacon of hope and a tangible expression of Your love. Inspire us to witness through our lives, demonstrating the values of Your kingdom in our daily actions and interactions. May our faith be evident to all, drawing others to the light of Christ through our example.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Financial Update as of June 30, 2024

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

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Pledges and Donations	\$105,066.87		\$104,350.08		\$ 716.79
Rental Income	\$ 70,093.28		\$ 65,506.86		\$4,586.42
Total Income	\$175,209.69		\$169,931.94		\$5,277.75
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$163,780.36</u>		\$168,287.95		(\$4,507.59)
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$11,429.33				
Less Principal on loan	(\$4,030.89)				
Adjusted *NUI	\$7,398.44				

So, what do these numbers mean? Our donations and pledges YTD are more than anticipated by \$716.79.

The Adjusted NUI happens below the NUI line because the principal on our loan is not considered an expense for accounting purposes, although the principal payment does come out of our checking account. Therefore, at the end of June our income was \$7,398.44 more than our total expenses. Our continued generosity is necessary to help us to be financially strong as the year progresses and our expenses catch up with the anticipated amounts.

As we sweat through the summer months and travel begins, let's remember to continue to be generous with our giving. Remember we still have to pay for the air-conditioning for our worshippers not lucky enough to be on vacation.

Maintenance and repairs continue throughout the campus with the help of vendors and volunteers. In June/July we were able to have the heating and air conditioning units throughout the campus serviced. Several minor repairs and plumbing repairs were completed by volunteers on campus.

Everyone please give a big "Thank you" to Max Rager for choosing our church park for his Eagle Scout project. Max and his helpful volunteers removed all the boards from all the park benches and tables and sanded them down. They then refinished them with a durable coating that we hope will keep them beautiful for years to come before replacing them. They also did some weeding and landscape maintenance to give our park a great new look for us and a blessing to our community.

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.

YOUNG & YOUTH DISCIPLES CORNER AUGUST HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL,
WORSHIP LEADERSHIP,
AND MORE!



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

A big thank you to all our Prayer for Illumination readers in the month of July: Arianna Emmanuel, Zachary Emmanuel, Lorence Kayange, and Richard Cunningham.

Zachary Emmanuel will be starting Middle School this year. Best wishes, Zachary!

Our young people are also learning what it means to be a Deacon by assisting with setting up for Fellowship.

Thank you, parents, for helping your Young and Youth Disciples participate! If your child or youth has not had an opportunity and would like to, please let Wilson Kayange know! Wilson schedules our young disciples and youth for worship opportunities.

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

Sunday School is Cool



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JUNE & JULY 2024



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held regularly scheduled Stated Session Meetings on Monday, June 17, 2024 and again on Monday, July 15, 2024. Both meetings were held via a Zoom Meeting, and the following actions were taken:

- Approved giving the Rev. Dr. Rubens Muzio “voice” to participate at Session meetings.
- Received Unaudited Financial Reports for the months ending May 31, 2024 and June 30, 2024.

Report for the month ending June 30, 2024:

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$31,716.56
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$30,422.94
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$ 1,293.62
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$ 675.62)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$ 618.00
Balance in General Account:	\$85,195.90
Total Operating Funds in General Account:	\$34,937.33

- Approved an “All-Church Worship Service” for Sunday, August 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. A potluck luncheon with “international dishes” will be held in John Knox Hall following the worship service.
- Approved returning to “pre-pandemic protocols” for the passing the offering plates at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. (The Indonesian-language Worship Service already returned to passing the plate at the 5:00 p.m. service.) The passing of the offering plate at the morning service will resume on Sunday, August 4, 2024. Singing the Doxology and bringing the offering plates to the front for a blessing will also return to the worship service. Greeters and Offering Counters will be the assigned ushers to pass the plates to the congregation.

The sun has not been kind to our benches and tables in the Vine Street Community Park.

Max Rager made it his Eagle Scout Project to restore and refinish them to new condition.

Woodworking runs in the Rager family as Max's grandpa founded the Rager Woodworking shop in Redlands decades ago. In fact, most of the cabinets in the church campus are Rager creations.

Thank you, Max and the Rager family!



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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welcome your comments!

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