

## THE MESSENGER



### The Pastor's Corner A Message from Pastor Cheryl Raine Is Growth Possible?

Although the temperatures are in the 90's again after a short respite from the heat and one down pour of rain, the fall season has officially begun. Seasons, however subtle they are here in the Inland Empire, remind us that letting go is part of the growth cycle. Deciduous trees begin to lose their leaves in autumn. Flowering plants go dormant. A season of rest makes new growth possible in the spring.

The sabbatical season we all experienced this past summer was a season of letting go. In some ways maybe more so for me than for you. Even so, we all had to let go of some of our expectations and routines. I had to let go of all the responsibilities of daily ministry, including my community board and presbytery responsibilities. I had to be okay with not being in the "know" as they say. You had to be ready to accept that Pastor Rubens would do things differently. We all had to let go in large and small ways to navigate this season of the church.

Letting go is part of God's design, as we learn in Genesis. On the seventh day God rested from all the work that God had done. One of the ten commandments reminds us of this as well, "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy." God instructs Moses to tell the people, "In the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord." Rest, which causes us to let go of all that is demanding our energy, is part of God's design. Science also confirms our need for rest. Rest gives our bodies and minds time to reset, recharge, and recover. Sleep helps restore our body's energy, repair damaged tissues and muscles, and triggers the release of hormones that help with growth.

And so I ask again, "Is growth possible?" Certainly! The question is what type of growth do we desire for ourselves and for our faith community?

*(Continued on page 4)*



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### SESSION MEMBERS

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

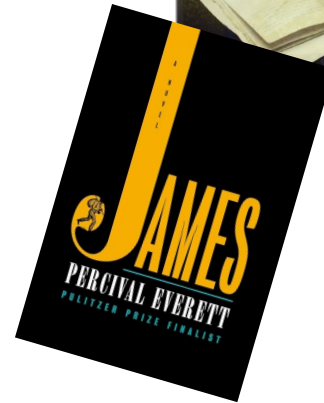
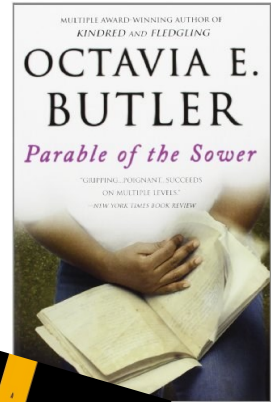


## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The next FPC Book Club meeting will be Thursday evening, October 10, at 7:00 P.M. at Luann Bangsund's house.

The book selected for discussion is *The Parable of the Sower*, by Octavia E. Butler. Lillian will lead the discussion.

November's read is *James*, by Percival Everett.



October 2	Luann Bangsund
October 6	Samina Roiballove
October 6	Deborah Smith
October 9	Emily Evans
October 10	Nasreen Barkat
October 11	Ryan Bhatti
October 11	Paul Raine
October 12	Lorraine Jorgenson
October 20	Anaya Bhatti
October 20	Cynthia Butarbutar
October 20	Marcia Fagan
October 25	Jean Vieten



**First Presbyterian Church of Redlands  
OCTOBER 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)**

**October 6, 2024 4 P.M.  
All Church Worship Service  
World Communion Sunday  
Believe Walk Sunday!  
Pray for Walkers!**

First Reading	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Second Reading	Matthew 22:34-40
The Message	Restoring Love

**October 13, 2024 Rev. Ron Duvall**

First Reading	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Second Reading	John 2:13-22
The Message	Reading the Signs

**October 20, 2024**

First Reading	Micah 6:6-8
Second Reading	Luke 15:1-10
The Message	Finding the Lost

**October 27, 2024**

First Reading	Psalms 91:1-2, 14-16
Second Reading	Luke 16:19-31
The Message	The Rich Person



**Bible Study**  
everyone is welcome

Sarah Circle meets this month on Wednesday, October 9, at 10:30 in Room 1 at church, and Eve Circle will meet on Tuesday evening, October 22, at the home of Jerri Rodewald. Both Circles will be on the 2nd Chapter of our study this year, "Let Justice Roll Down"--we've just got started, so it's a good time to join us! All are welcome!



**STAFF WHEREABOUTS**

Pastor Cheryl will be on vacation from Monday, October 7th through Sunday, October 13th, as the last piece of the sabbatical grant. The grant recommends that the pastor take a week off to reflect on their re-entry about six weeks after the initial return. So, Pastor Cheryl will be spending time in silence, in nature, and with family that week, traveling to Atascadero and Paso Robles to visit Paul's side of the family. Please pray for her time away as she continues to reflect on the sabbatical season and its impact for her ministry among us.

Judy will be in the office **Thursday and Friday** (taking some vacation time Monday and Tuesday), from noon until 4:00 P.M.

(Continued from page 1)  
The Pastor's Corner



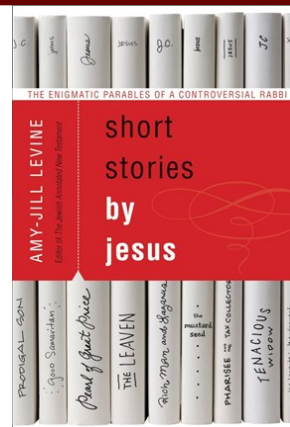
During this sabbatical season I focused on reconnecting deeply with God, renewing and restoring my soul through time immersed in the natural world, in silence, and with friends and family. You probably noticed that on my first Sunday back I was moved deeply by my own photographs of this season during the service. Stepping away from the demands of ministry and living fully in the gift of each moment was powerful. Each photo transported me to a moment that was meaningful, a moment when God was palpably present. This time of sabbath grew my appreciation for the beauty and simplicity of everyday ministry. God is palpably present in the hustle and bustle of ministry when I am attentive, not distracted; when I am present to each moment, not lost in some future demand. This season restored my energy, imagination, and love for my call to ordained ministry.

What about your experience of this sabbatical season? What about our collective experience? What has God done in the soul of this church?

Pastor Rubens in his very first message reminded us that Jesus said, "I will build my church." God, not us, is the initiator of any growth. Pastor Rubens continued by challenging us to discern, "Who does God want us to be as a church in this complex world and what kind of growth does this promote?"

Friends, growth is possible when we allow God to move in our lives. Growth is possible among us as a church when we invite others to come and see the community of love, the center of hope, the little pocket of light and life God has helped us create. How will you, and how will we, respond to God's initiative at work among us? Are we willing to grow even if it is challenging in this complex world of ours? I pray, so.

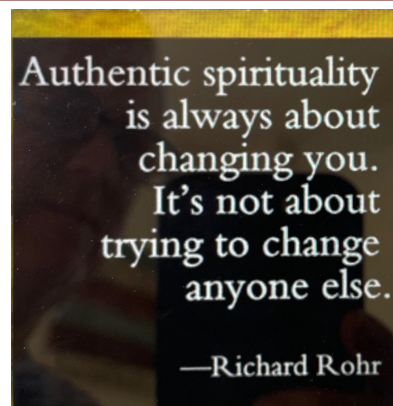
Willing to grow,  
Pastor Cheryl

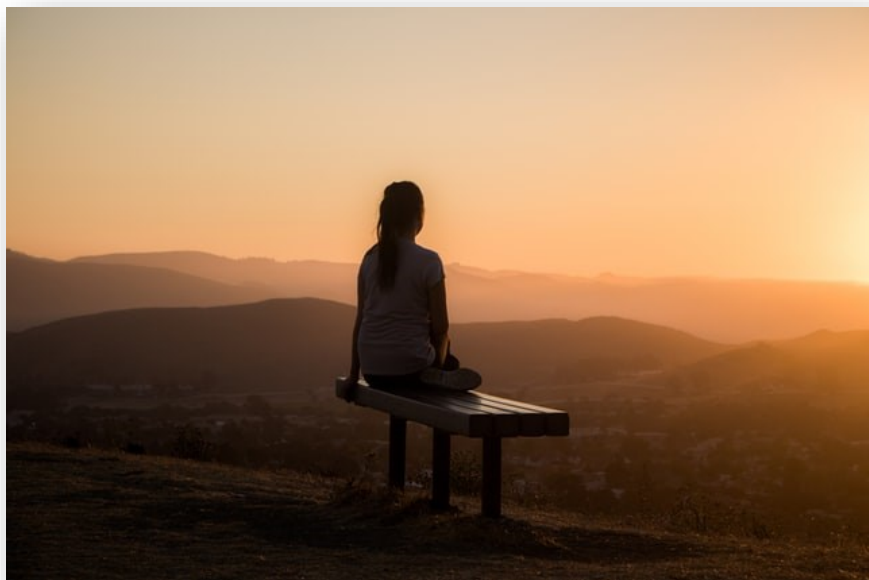


## Adult Education Class in October/November

For two Sundays of October and the first Sunday of November, October 20, and 27, and November 3, there will be time after worship, in Room 1, to discuss Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*.

Wilson Kayange and Chris Kane will be leading the discussion. All are welcome whether you've read the book or not. Here's a shocker...we'll begin the discussion on the first Sunday by looking at Chapter 1 of the book. There will be a number of copies of the participant's guide book available in the church office to borrow. All are welcome whether you've read the book or not. The discussions will be 45 minutes to an hour in length and begin about 15 minutes after worship.





*Contemplative  
Corner*

*Praying with  
the Gospel of  
Luke*

“What is the **kin-dom of God** like?”

How do these metaphors help you understand your role in bringing more fully the kin-dom of God on earth?

During the month of October, the morning worship service will be looking at some of the parables found in the Gospel of Luke. Below are two that you are invited explore on your own.

“<sup>18</sup> Jesus said therefore, ‘What is the **kin-dom of God** like? And to what should I compare it? <sup>19</sup> It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.’ <sup>20</sup> And again Jesus said, ‘To what should I compare the **kin-dom of God**? <sup>21</sup> It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’” [Luke 13:18-21]

You will notice that I often say, “kin-dom” rather than “kingdom.” Removing the “g” takes away the imperial connotation as well as emphasizes our relationship with each other. All of humanity is kin, for we are all God’s children. This month I invite you to explore what these parables mean for your own spiritual journey. How is your life like the woman kneading bread with yeast knowing that yeast makes dough rise? How is your life like a mustard seed knowing that the plant grows so large it is able to welcome others? How do these metaphors help you understand your role in bringing more fully the kin-dom of God on earth?

Spend some time with God reflecting on these parables and what they mean for your spiritual journey and our collective spiritual journey as a church. Remember we worship a living God, who is active and present in our daily lives.

# **Seeking Nominations**

## **For Such a Time as This...**

### **Are You Called to be an Elder or Deacon?**

The Nominating Committee will begin their work soon and elders and deacons are essential to our life and ministry together. Twelve elders along with our pastors comprise the Session, which “exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation.” Nine deacons along with our lead pastor comprise the Deacons, which is a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ” for those in need within our congregation and in our local community. Both callings nurture and serve the health and wholeness of our faith community.

Our at large members of the nominating committee for 2024 are Meike Leong, Kristin Rager, and Jerri Rodewald. Our Moderator from Session is Gayle Timilione and our representative from Deacons is Lynn Phelps. Pastor Cheryl is an ex-officio member, which means without vote.

As we continue to navigate our changing world, let us listen for the Spirit’s urging to discern who is being called for such a time as this. Serving as an elder or deacon is a commitment to be actively engaged in seeking God’s vision for our ministries.

All deacons will have opportunities to take the lead in some aspect of the Deacons’ work, which consists currently of visiting, calling, and connecting with members of our congregation, organizing fellowship volunteers, preparing communion elements, acting as liaisons with community organizations, and more. All elders will have the opportunity to be engaged in the work of the session, which is organized into these areas: Spiritual Formation, Outreach, Personnel, Property and Finance.

This sacred work is a labor of love for our faith community, as we live the heart and mind of Christ at the heart of the city. Being the church is an exciting adventure as we seek God’s wisdom and trust in the power of the Spirit at work within, which enables us to do far more than we can ask or imagine.



## PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Here are some broad highlights from our financial reporting Year to Date August 31, 2024:

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Pledges and Donations	\$135,090.21		\$138,633.40		\$(3,543.19)
Rental Income	\$ 93,839.75		\$ 87,342.48		\$6,497.27
Total Income	\$228,994.09		\$226,075.88		\$2,918.21
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$213,888.63</u>		\$223,261.48		\$(9,372.85)
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$15,105.46				
Less Principal on loan	\$(5,386.78)				
Adjusted *NUI	\$9,718.68				

So, what do these numbers mean? Our donations and pledges YTD are less than anticipated by \$3,543.19. 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 August our income was \$9,718.68 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. For example, in the first week in September we paid the previous month's electric bill and our quarterly insurance payment and those two expenses alone were about \$11,000.

As we gather in celebration of our pastor's return from a well-deserved sabbatical, let's remember to continue to be generous with our giving. Let's make this time of renewal a catalyst to make 2024 a successful and positive year both financially and spiritually.

Maintenance and repairs continue throughout the campus with the help of vendors and volunteers. Several minor repairs and plumbing repairs were completed by volunteers on campus.

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



### Presbyterian Women Thank Offering Gathering Saturday, October 12.

It's Thank Offering time of the year for Presbyterian Women. There are 8 projects receiving funds in the amount of \$270,000. Join us on Saturday, October 12, from 11 a.m. until 1:00 P.M. for lunch and the dedication of the Thank Offering in John Knox Hall. No charge for lunch! (courtesy of PW). Bring canned goods for Family Service Association and your offering--envelopes will be provided at the luncheon. Please R.S.V.P. by October 9 to: Jerri Rodewald, 760-396-7445, or [jerri.rodewald@gmail.com](mailto:jerri.rodewald@gmail.com). Come one, come all!

## Deacon's October Moment

Fall has arrived with the smell of baking apple pies and pumpkin spice galore. As the school year is in full swing and football games are a must in my house it reminds us how thankful and blessed by God's grace I am each and every day. The Deacons are truly blessed and honored for your continued gracious giving which allows us to continue to be good stewards to each of you and in our community.



One of the fun and inspiring things coming up in October is the Believe Walk. For the very first time I was able to ring the bell signaling I am finally in remission in 2023! With leaning on God's constant shoulders I have been able to beat that cancer and walk for thousands of people who cannot. Some of whom are in my own family. It will be a joy to walk my first year with my church family! Cheers to many more to come.

Don't forget all your ghosts and goblins at the end of the month for Halloween. Halloween will fall on a Thursday this year.

Thank you to all who have signed up for Sunday Flowers. We do have a few spots available, however they are going fast.

As the fall and winter season is fast approaching it brings different delights for Coffee Fellowship. Do you have a fall favorite you would like to share?

As we begin to get ever so closer to the holiday season, please let us know if you or someone amongst us needs a little extra hug, phone

call, or just to sit and chat. We are all God's children and if one hurts we all hurt. As the autumn leaves fall and the birds migrate south for the winter, now is the time to get to know your pew mate or the person who parks next to you. Its free and you will both find a friend in each other.

Blessings,  
Angela Lambert

**Team Presbyterian** will be walking on Sunday, October 6, 2024.



**Attention** all walkers (there are 29 of us), please gather in the church parking lot no later than 7:30 A.M. to get your shirts. We will then head to the starting line on State Street as the walk starts at 8:00 A.M. We walk to support this community effort, raising funds for much needed programs and services at local cancer fighting organizations throughout Southern California. Every dollar raised will help advance cancer care and support services to ensure affordable, quality care is available to all.

This is our eighth year as **Team Presbyterian**, so let's continue to make a difference! Ask others to support **Team Presbyterian** by donating to: <https://p2p.onecause.com/believewalk2023>

We can make a difference. What a privilege it is to serve our community in this way! Let's be **Team Presbyterian for Christ!**





## Do You Have a Prayer Request?

Did you know that we have a church Prayer Chain? It is a function of our Deacons and Lynn Phelps is our compassionate facilitator! Of course, anyone can be a part of the Prayer Chain. All you need to do is ask Lynn Phelps to be added to the email group. She can be reached at [lynnphelps67@icloud.com](mailto:lynnphelps67@icloud.com).

We welcome prayer requests for church members as well as non-church members. With some basic information we can craft the prayer request, so don't fret about wording, just make sure the individual has given you permission to share their name with a prayer chain. Some folks like to keep things private. So, what do you do if you have a prayer request?

- 1) Communicate with Pastor Cheryl by phone or text (714) 801-4345 or by email at [pastorcheryl@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcheryl@gmail.com).
- 2) Communicate with Lynn Phelps by phone or text (909) 816-5477 or email at [lynnphelps67@icloud.com](mailto:lynnphelps67@icloud.com).
- 3) Communicate with the office, Judy Tanner at [fpcredlands@gmail.com](mailto:fpcredlands@gmail.com).

In the letter to the Ephesians we read, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all of God's people." Yes, we are to pray for one another!

May the Spirit equip us to pray for one another through the Deacon's Prayer Chain and beyond.

**Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Riverside**  
**Fall Gathering**

**Saturday, November 2, 2024, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**First Presbyterian Church—John Knox Hall**  
**100 Cajon Street, Redlands, CA 92373**  
**(Parking Lot behind church on 4<sup>th</sup> Street)**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Cynthia McGuigan**  
**(Founder, Executive Director)**  
**Steps 4 Life**

**Lunch donation: \$12.00**  
**Pay at the door, however, register online first!**  
**RSVP by Wednesday, October 30, 2024**

**E-mail RSVP to:**  
**Karen Dwight**  
**[Ldwight@frontier.com](mailto:Ldwight@frontier.com)**



Exciting times are ahead as our Youth (middle and senior high) are invited to join with Youth from the United Methodists, the American Baptists,

and the Congregationalists. All our church neighbors are joining forces, like we do for Vacation Bible School during the summer. We had youth participate in an Olympic Style event on Sunday, September 29 from 4:00. to 7 P.M., which included dinner! Coming up on Saturday, October 26, Youth will be helping with a Fall Festival Event for our wider community. Ask Wilson Kayange or Pastor Cheryl for details. All joint activities are taking place on the lawn of the First Baptist Church.

Sunday School continues with our awesome teachers Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid. If you would like to assist, please let Wilson and Sereena know! It's so important for us to share our faith with our children and youth.

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: Jonah Cotton, Hunter Polchow, Zachery Emmanuel, Alison Kayange, and Lorence Kayange.

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.



**The Redlands Charitable Resources Coalition invites you to “Bridging the Gaps and Facing the Future” - A Homeless Housing forum**

**Thursday, October 3, 2024, 8:00 A.M.—2:45 P.M.**

University of Redlands Casa Loma Room

Guest speaker Dr. Georgina Yoshioka from the Department of Behavioral Health will be presenting on updates related to Proposition One—Mental Health and Housing related efforts. Her presentation will focus on current funding opportunities that have landed at the DBH and will soon be released to service providers.

\$30 General Admission—Enjoy a continental breakfast, expert speakers, panel discussions, luncheon, resource tables, and raffle.

Have questions about this forum? Email [RCRCHelp@yahoo.com](mailto:RCRCHelp@yahoo.com)

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2024



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday, September 16, 2024. The meeting was held via a Zoom Meeting, and the following actions were taken:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending August 31, 2024.

### Report for the month ending August 31, 2024:

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$25,984.56
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$21,260.37
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$4,724.19
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$678.72)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$4,045.47
Balance in General Account:	\$75,160.51
Total Operating Funds (in General Account):	\$32,634.35

- Approved the Personnel Committee recommendation for the selection of the “Congregational Pastors’ Package” (through the Board of Pensions) as Pastor Cheryl’s benefit package for 2025.
- Approved the following Sundays for “All-Church Sunday Worship Services”:  
Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 4:00 P.M.  
Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. with a Congregational Meeting to follow  
Sunday, December 24, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

**Those who can make you  
believe absurdities can make  
you commit atrocities.**

Voltaire

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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tab at the top of the page.

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CHURCH OF REDLANDS

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