

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner "Good News of Great Joy!"

No, it is not December! But on August 28, I received good news of great joy! As a church, we received the Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lilly Foundation that we had applied for earlier this year. I was overjoyed and couldn't wait to tell the Session and others who had helped with the development of the grant. You might remember that this grant is for 2024.

When we initially met on the weekend of October 30, 2016, the congregation voted to call me as your lead pastor. On that day, the congregation also agreed to a paid sabbatical of 3-months in the 7th year of my ministry. It's hard to believe that I am in my seventh year!

But last year I asked the Session to move my sabbatical into my 8th year so that we could apply for the Clergy Renewal Grant, and they approved. The good news of great joy is that the church was granted \$20,592 to provide pastoral leadership while I am on sabbatical, including some monies for leaving and returning celebrations. The good news of great joy for me is that I will have \$31,833 to support the expenses related to my sabbatical plan. I am so grateful to God for this gift to all of us!

So, what is your pastor planning to do? The grant asks pastors what makes your heart sing? I answered that question saying, "What makes my heart sing is engaging in rhythms that embody my mind, body, and soul because this enlivens my faith in the mystery, I call God." The rhythms of renewal that make my heart sing are threefold: time with family, time in the natural world, and time in solitude and silence.

(Continued on page 7)

October
2023



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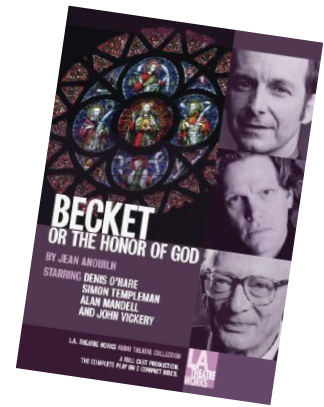
SESSION MEMBERS

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



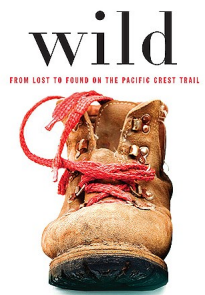
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The FPC Book Club will meet Thursday, October 5, at Mary Lou and Dick Jones' home, to discuss "Becket or the Honor of God", by Jean Anouilh. Chris Kane will lead the discussion. ABE.com has copies from \$5.29.



The group chose *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* for the November read. The book was made into a movie in 2014.

*Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, Wild powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her. **



Cheryl Strayed

*Goodreads.com

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





***Power of Connection
An Opportunity to Give
Beyond Ourselves***

Through the ***Power of Connection***, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) raised the following funds through these special offerings in 2022:

- \$1,269,132** to address at risk children and the needs of youth and young adults.
- \$1,621,804** to support reconciliation and peacemaking efforts
- \$2,641,386** to support Church Leaders – retired, active, and future

Through the ***Power of Connection***, **\$5,532,322** was raised by congregations of the PC(U.S.A.) and shared locally and globally in order to positively impact lives.

In 2022, we were part of this ***Power of Connection***. As a church we contributed **\$1,545** through these causes as a local congregation. How might we multiply our efforts this year and **exceed \$1,545?**

Will you consider being part of the story? Will we, as a church, consider being part of the story? Let's all prayerfully consider giving generously to the ***Power of Connection***, for there is much work to be done.

Contributions beyond our planned giving are always welcomed, with the ***Power of Connection*** special offering being collected during the month of October. Just mark your additional gift for this purpose.

**What is
Celebration
Sunday?**

**An All-
Church
Worship
Service on October 29, 2023**



Invite family, friends, neighbors, and strangers to attend worship with us on Sunday, October 29th as we worship in our newly renovated sanctuary!

Yes, we will have a grand celebration praising God for making this project possible! This project took patience and perseverance, individual generosity and communal blessings from Synod and Presbytery grants, and dedicated oversight from Property and Finance volunteers. Thanks be to God for a wonderful new worship space that can also be shared with our community.

Come and see and let's celebrate! More details to come in other correspondence!



Pastor Cheryl has no travel plans in October but Judy will be out of the office the week of October 9–13.

Except for that week, Judy will be in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00–4:00 P.M.



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

Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Matthew

This month I invite you to pray with Matthew's version of the parable of the Mustard Seed. Listen deeply and see where the Spirit is leading you:

Jesus put before the disciples another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

What is the kingdom of God like? Does a small seed that grows into a large shrub that can provide shade for other creatures sound like the kingdom of God at work? Has something small in your life grown to be a blessing for others? How might your life bear witness the reign of God? This month spend time listening to the whisper of the Spirit in your life calling you to be of service to others.



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.

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@fpcdlands.org.
- 2) Communicate with Lynn Phelps by phone or text (909) 816-5477 or email at lynnphelps67@icould.com.
- 3) Communicate with the office, Judy Tanner at office@fpcdlands.org.
- 4) Go to our website www.fpcdlands.org and go to the ministry tab and then select Prayer Requests. There will be a drop down menu for you to fill in information.

In the letter to the Ephesians we read, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with 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 Change and beyond.





Sunrise Continues in October via Zoom! Thursdays at 7:30 am (Notice time Change)

There are two more opportunities in October to participate in **Sunrise Lectio Divina**, which simply translated means divine reading. Join others via Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30 A.M. October 5th and 12th. The Meeting ID is 845 8385 8790 and the Password is Sunrise.

Lectio Divina is a contemplative way to enter the biblical text. Participants listen for the intersection of the biblical text with their lives through a word or phrase that draws their attention. Once a word or phrase is identified participants explore what that might mean for their lives. Our sharing is always invitational, which means you can choose to pass. What happens more often though is that participants are sparked by the sharing of others, which leads to rich sharing.

As the psalmist reminds us in the chaos of our world and daily lives, "Be still and know that I am God."

Sunrise is an opportunity to be still enough to hear God speak into our lives.

(Continued from page 1)

The Pastor's Corner



Last month I enjoyed all three! Time in the beautiful wildlife preserve along the Colorado River on a paddle board and time in Lake Tahoe where I enjoyed multiple hikes. I had time with my family over Labor Day and again for our sons' birthday celebrations. I also spent seven days enjoying the solitude of a mountain cabin with plenty of silence. This rhythm is restorative, even when I engage in them for shorter times each week. What do you engage in that restores your soul and deepens your relationship with the mystery we call God?

Well, what will I be doing while I am away next summer for three months? I will be spending uninterrupted time with family and friends in Redlands, Cerritos, Oregon, and more. I will be spending time in solitude and silence, securing a cabin in Idyllwild so that I can enjoy some hiking as well. I will also be returning to South Africa, a country that was formative for my faith journey. As a 16-year-old, I was convicted to the core of my being that God created all peoples in all their wonderful diversity, as I lived for a year under apartheid. I knew then and I know now that we are all God's precious and beloved children.

As the sabbatical time moves closer, you will be hearing more about what will be required of all of us. I trust that this time will be good news of great joy for all of us as we renew our commitments to each other as we seek to faithfully live the heart and mind of Christ together at the heart of the city. To God be the glory in all we do.

With gratitude,
Pastor Cheryl

**PROPERTY AND
FINANCE UPDATE**



Sanctuary Renovation Project

Work continued in September with the electricians, Tech Arts, and the contractor on the campus. Installation of the flooring started near the end of September and continues. Fabric has been received for the organ pipe screens. An 85” TV monitor has been purchased for the back of the sanctuary for viewing by the choir and the chancel area during worship. Organ and pipes are scheduled for installation the week of October 9th.

Finances and Property Usage

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

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$124,225.03		\$137,333.32		(\$13,108.29)
Rental Income	\$ 78,316.90		\$ 77,316.90		(\$ 1,249.78)
Total Income	\$214,423.05		\$225,583.36		(\$11,160.31)
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$198,013.35</u>		<u>\$223,004.52</u>		<u>(\$24,991.17)</u>
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 16,409.70				
Less Principal on Loan	<u>(\$ 5,240.57)</u>				
Adjusted NUI*	\$ 11,169.13				

So, what do these numbers mean? On donations and pledges are less than anticipated by \$13,108. The good news is our expenses are considerably less than planned by \$24,991, so our Net Unrestricted Income (NUI) was more than our expenses by \$16,410. 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 August our Adjusted NUI exceeded our expenses by \$11,169. Our collective generosity and our community partnerships, along with the movement of the Spirit among us, makes our ministries possible. Thanks be to God for our ministries.

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



Sunday school is underway under the leadership of Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid, who are both helped by capable assistants. It is so much fun to watch our young disciples learn. A big thank you to Wilson Kayange for helping with the young disciple time in September. It's always rewarding to have others share the message, so let Pastor Cheryl know if you would like to give it a try!

A big thank you to our September Young Disciples and Youth who participated in worship: Jonah Cotton, Lorence Kayange, and Arianna Emmanuel. 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.

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



Winter camp program at Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center has dates. Winter camp will be the weekend of March 15th - 17th. The cost for Junior and High School kids is \$135. This year's March Madness includes crafts, worship, and other activities.

If you would like more information, go to www.bblecc.com .



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 selecting elders and deacons who are essential to our life and ministry together. Twelve elders along with our pastors comprise the Session, which “exercises 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 2023 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.

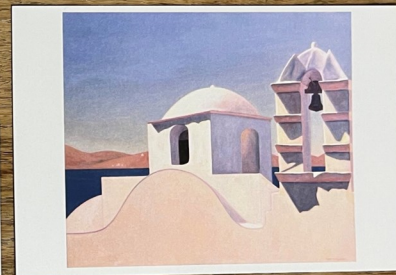
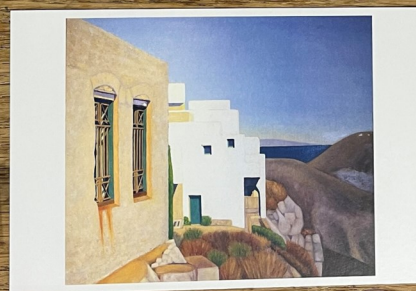
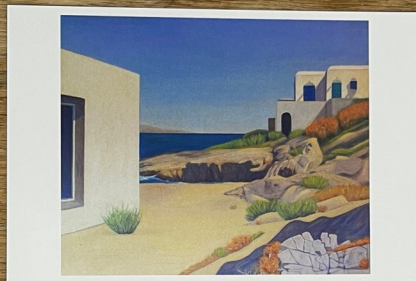
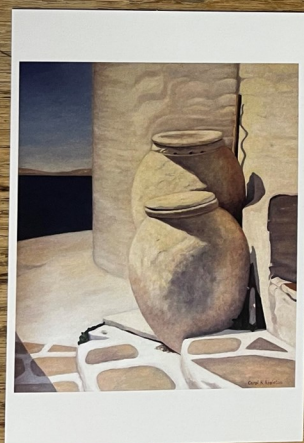


All deacons will have opportunities to take the lead in some aspect of the Deacons’ work, which consists of visiting, calling, and connecting with members of our congregation, organizing fellowship volunteers, preparing communion elements, acting as liaisons with community organizations, and more.

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.



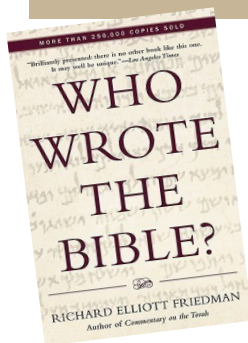


October 3 - 29, 2023

Carol Koelsch Appleton

Extraordinary Light of the Everyday

The University of Redlands Art Gallery is featuring Carol's work for the month of October! What a wonderful tribute to an amazing woman whom we all miss very much. The Art Gallery is open 1-5 P.M. Tuesday through Friday and 2-5 P.M. on Saturday and Sundays. There will be a reception on Saturday, October 14, from 1 - 3 P.M. with a gallery talk at 2 P.M. You won't want to miss seeing Carol's work; what a beautiful legacy she has left for us all to enjoy!



ADULT STUDY CLASS

Who Wrote the Bible, by Richard Elliott Friedman (author of *Commentary on the Torah*), is the subject of an **adult study class** starting **October 8**, and concluding on **October 15**, right after fellowship, in Classroom 1. The class will be led by Wilson Kayange and Chris Kane. There are still two books available in the church office.

The contemporary classic *The New York Times Book Review* called "a thought-provoking [and] perceptive guide," *Who Wrote the Bible?* by Richard E. Friedman is a fascinating, intellectual, yet highly readable analysis and investigation into the authorship of the Old Testament. The author of *Commentary on the Torah*, Friedman delves deeply into the history of the Bible in a scholarly work that is as exciting and surprising as a good detective novel. *Who Wrote the Bible?* is enlightening, riveting, an important contribution to religious literature, and as the *Los Angeles Times* aptly observed in its rave review, "There is no other book like this one." *

*Goodreads.com



A MOMENT FOR DEACONS

By Patti Robertson, Moderator of Deacons

Hello October! Time to start the transition of the sweet flower smells of summer to the cinnamon apple smell of fall. Each season has its own special scents and memories. For the Deacons, as we are heading into fall, our ministry to help others continues. We support Family Services to help others in our community that need food and lodging. We help support Refresh and Renew so those in need can have a place to go to find a warm shower. Then there is support for Youth Hope so homeless kids in our area have a safe haven. Home Again, Citrus Counseling, the VA (bus passes) are just some of the

organizations that the deacons support. Fall leads us to Thanksgiving and another time when deacons helps those in our congregation that might need a little help. That support is not possible without the generous and regular contributions the deacons receive from our congregation. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I would like to applaud everyone for filling up our Flower calendar to the end of the year. The only opening is the last Sunday of the year. That is so wonderful!

We do have openings on the Greeters calendar. Once we get back to the sanctuary we will really need folks to say good morning to everyone as they enter our new and improved sanctuary.



The Coffee Fellowship calendar is almost filled through October, but we need to fill in the rest of the year. It is easy to do. Just put your name on the calendar and on the Sunday you have chosen, just bring a few goodies for people to enjoy with a cup of coffee. There is someone there to help make the coffee so, please give it a try. It is greatly appreciated



especially by the youth.

The Deacons would like to thank everyone in the congregation for your continuing support. Without your help, we would not be able to do the good that we do in the community and in the church!

God Bless.

THE SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS ARE
NEARLY FINISHED!



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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CHURCH OF REDLANDS

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