

THE MESSENGER



THE PASTOR'S CORNER "How Were You Freed?"

Our Lenten Journey has been focused on scriptures and Diana Butler Bass' book, *Freeing Jesus*. We were given permission to free our understanding of who Jesus is for us and for our church. We explored the Jesus of history (the gospels), the Christ of our creeds and confessions, and the Jesus of our own experiences through worship and midweek soup suppers. Just as all human relationships are unique, so is our relationship with Jesus, the risen Christ.

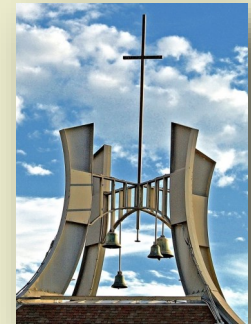
What did you read or hear that freed you during our journey? Was it reclaiming Jesus as a friend or teacher? Was it understanding more deeply what it means that Jesus is both Savior and Lord?

I appreciated Diana's own faith sharing, as it nudged memories that were long forgotten. I also appreciated new insights shared by Diana, most especially the root word "salvus," by which the word salvation is derived. It didn't have anything to do with heaven, it had everything to do with being made whole now. This was very freeing as I have long struggled with the Christian focus on heaven rather than here and now, especially given the Lord's Prayer. What was freeing for you? Share it with others.

On Palm Sunday we will explore Jesus as the Way, an alternative way to the Roman Empire that everyone was subjected to. Then on Easter Sunday, we will explore Jesus as Presence for the risen Christ said to his disciples in Matthew's Gospel, "Lo, I am always with you, to the end of the age." I trust that as we explore these last two chapters of her book we will be freed yet again to claim on our experiences of Jesus, the risen Christ.

As we move this month from Lent to Holy Week, to Resurrection Sunday, take time to reflect on how your relationship with Jesus has been changed or deepened, or both because of our journey? How has the Spirit been at work in your soul during this season?

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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**

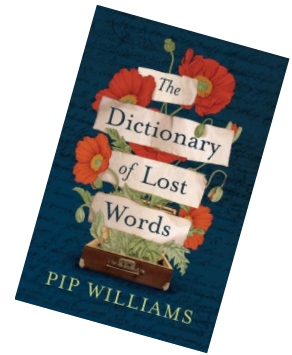


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The group will meet to discuss this book on April 20, *The Dictionary of Lost Words*”, by Pip Williams.

“In 1901, the word ‘Bondmaid’ was discovered missing from the *Oxford English Dictionary*. This is the story of the girl who stole it.” *

*Goodreads.com



April 1	Harrison Hamada
April 3	Raheel Barkat
April 4	Lynn Jordan
April 5	Leslie Ann Platz
April 6	Ryan Shad
April 8	Jonah Cochran
April 9	Enny Sitompul
April 10	Debra Law
April 11	Sue Teele
April 17	Maxwell Rager
April 22	Thesa Melvina Santoso
April 23	Choky S. Sitompul
April 25	Cheryl Raine
April 26	Frankie Kembuan

First Presbyterian Church of Redlands

APRIL

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Worship Services are in person and on Facebook Live on Sunday:

English Language Worship—10:00 A.M.
Indonesian Language Worship— 5:00 .M.

Urdu Language Worship Service is held on Facebook Live, the third Sunday of the month, 11:30 A.M.

April 2, 2023	Palm Sunday Communion
First Reading	Matthew 21:1-10
Second Reading	John 14:1-6a
Message	"I Am the Way"
April 9, 2023	10:00 A.M. All Church - Easter Sunday
First Reading	Isaiah 65:17-25
Second Reading	Matthew 28:1-10
Message	"Abiding Presence"
April 16, 2023	Eastertide
First Reading	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Second Reading	John 20:19-31
Message	"With Glad Heart"
April 23, 2023	Eastertide
First Reading	1 Peter 1:17-23
Second Reading	Luke 24:13-35
Message	"Straight from the Heart"
April 30, 2023	Eastertide
First Reading	Acts 2:42-47
Second Reading	John 10:1-10
Message	"Hearts Overflowing"



HOLY WEEK SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

On Maundy Thursday at **6:00 P.M.** we will gather for our final Soup Supper. We will enjoy table fellowship, have conversations about "Jesus as Presence" and conclude our time together with communion. Come and listen to each other's stories as we fellowship together.

April 7, 2022 – Good Friday

At 5:00 P.M. there will be an Indonesian Language Worship Service in our sanctuary.

At 7:00 P.M. there will be an Ecumenical Good Friday Service at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1 Olive St, Redlands. The service is designed around the seven last words of Christ and Pastor Cheryl will be sharing a meditation on the third word, "Woman, this is your son." Dora Ridgeway will be singing a solo in response to this meditation. It is always a joy to worship together with our ecumenical siblings in our community.

April 9, 2022 – Resurrection Sunday

At 7:00 A.M. an Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will take place in our very own Vine Street Community Park. Bring your own lawn chair! It will be a pleasure to come together to worship with siblings in Christ on Easter morn.

10:00 A.M. our All-Church Worship Service will take place in the sanctuary with fellowship to follow in John Knox Hall.

GIVING

Per Capita

THE GIFT OF THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

Are you a member? Have you taken the opportunity to support the gift of the Connectional Church? As of March 26 we have received **\$2,050.36** towards our commitment of **\$6,720**, which represents \$40.00 per member. Here is how this gift will be distributed:

Presbytery	\$27.30
Synod	\$ 2.85
General Assembly	\$ 9.85

Our gift is paid in six increments, which started in February and will conclude in July.

Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share the costs that belong to the whole church.

If you are a member on our rolls please consider an additional gift of \$40 per to assist with the per capita commitment. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministries!



Faith Formation - Sunrise Lenten Season

We have one more opportunity, on April 6 for our Lenten Sunrise series. Sunrise is facilitated by Chris Kane, Jerri Rodewald, and Pastor Cheryl. Sunrise is at **7:00 A.M.**, via Zoom, on Thursdays. Here is the Zoom Meeting ID: 845 8385 8790 and the Passcode: Sunrise.

Sunrise is an opportunity to explore the spiritual practice known as Lectio Divina, which simply translated means divine reading. This is a contemplative way to enter the biblical text. It is an opportunity to discern how God might be speaking into one's life at a particular time through a particular word or phrase from a biblical text. It is not about knowledge; it is about being known by our God. As the psalmist reminds us in the chaos of our daily lives, "Be still and know that I am God." Sunrise is an opportunity to listen for the stirring of the Spirit in our lives as we journey on "The Way" with Christ. All are welcome.





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

Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Matthew

As we continue walking our way to Holy Week, I invite you to reflect on the following passage this month from the Gospel of Matthew:

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing... ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’” [Matthew 23:37, 39b]

The image of a hen gathering her chicks is so comforting. The mothering hen calls and seeks to protect her brood. That is the desire of Jesus with us, to gather us underneath his protective and encouraging embrace. Yet we rebel. We push back. We ignore his call. We strike out on our own even at our own peril.

As we walk through Holy Week culminating by celebrating the glory of Easter, how will you allow yourself to be gathered under the wings of our loving God? How will you be encouraged by God’s embrace to help others flourish?

We live in a world that seems bent on destruction, yet we are called to live the way of love and compassion. Let us be courageous enough to be God’s light and love, God’s good news for this world.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
MARCH 2023



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, March 20, 2023, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending February 28, 2023.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$27,438.24
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$25,255.62
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$2,182.62
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$651.32)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$1,531.30
Balance in General Account:	\$113,851.34*
(* \$42,567.44 is Unrestricted and \$71,283.90 is Restricted/Designated)	

- Approved the Manual of Administrative Operations for 2023.
- Approved parking lot repair for both parking lots, totaling \$10,500.
- Approved James Rager and Paul Lambert as signers for the New Covenant Investment Account.
- Examined and received five new members to FPCR (Gerardo Castro, Lucille Castro, Richard Cunningham, Melissa Cunningham, and Rich Cunningham) on reaffirmation of faith. These five new members will be welcomed to FPCR at the 10:00 A.M. Worship Service on April 2, 2023.

Team Presbyterian is Forming Again!

Redlands Hunger Walk Save the Date - June 3, 2023, at 8:00 A.M.

The Family Service Association of Redlands (FSAR) 9th Annual Hunger Walk is scheduled for June 3, 2023, designed to help alleviate food insecurity in our community and bring awareness to this critical issue. With increasing inflation, the low-income clients FSAR serves are increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger. This 5k walk seeks to raise funds to alleviate this insecurity.

The 5K walk is a family friendly event. The walk begins and ends at the University of Redlands Memorial Chapel. ***Pre-registration deadline for Team Presbyterian is Mother's Day, Sunday May 14, 2023.***

So, check your calendars and plan to participate as we step up to stop hunger in our community. All proceeds benefit the FSAR's food pantry and breakfast program. Last year, FSAR provided over 1,200 client families with emergency food assistance, 900 families in our community with food boxes, and more than 5,000 individuals with hot meals at their breakfast program during the last quarter of the year.

Team Price (Need 10 or more walkers!)

Adults (13 and over) \$30

Children (12 and under) \$10

Register with Pastor Cheryl and let her know your T-shirt size! Make checks payable to FPCR with the designation Hunger Walk Flow Through in the memo line. There is also a pancake breakfast provided by the Kiwanis Noon Club that starts at 7:00 A.M. The walk begins at 8:00 A.M. You can eat and walk or walk and eat, your choice!

Let's walk, Team Presbyterian!

STAFF WHEREABOUTS

Judy will be out of the office on April 6, but otherwise she 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.



The Pastor's Corner

(Continued from page 1)



As we declare, "Christ is risen," on Easter morn, know that this is only the beginning. Easter isn't the finale; it is the commission for what comes next. We are invited to rise with Christ. We are invited to be more intentional in walking the way of compassion, justice, and love. As Easter people, may we be courageous enough to usher in a bit more of heaven on earth.

Resurrection Sunday will be a glorious celebration but let us not forget that our relationship with Jesus demands our all. Jesus doesn't just want our Sunday mornings. Jesus wants our whole lives to bear witness to God's extravagant love that knows no end. We are loved, so that we might love. We are forgiven, so that we might forgive. We are consoled, that we might console others. Let God's steadfast love and faithfulness equip us to be gracious and merciful, just and courageous, compassionate, and loving as we seek to live the heart and mind of Christ at the heart of the city. Christ is risen! Let us rise with Christ and serve others joyfully.

Rising and Serving,
Pastor Cheryl

PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Parking Lot Maintenance

- In March the west parking lot received repairs, sealing, and re-stripping of parking stalls. The low spot, in the main lot, was repaired and the whole lot was sealed and re-stripped. This work is recommended every five to six years to maintain a parking lot, preventing a lot from deteriorating and needing to be completely rebuilt as we had to do with our main lot five years ago. Repairing and sealing is part of ongoing maintenance needs for these assets.

Sanctuary Renovations

- Construction drawings are nearing completion, which are needed to obtain construction bids. Once bids are received we will select a contractor and begin the work.
- To complete all work we need to meet our fundraising goal of \$485,000. We have \$31,883 dollars yet to raise. Will you consider helping us reach our goal by making a gift beyond your regular giving? Gifts can be made noting “sanctuary” in the memo line to the church.

Financial Update YTD February 28, 2023

Here are some broad highlights from our financial reporting Year to Date February 28, 2023:

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$30,485.80		\$34,333.32		(\$3,847.52)
Rental Income	\$20,492.60		\$19,641.68		\$ 850.92
Total Income	\$55,726.63		\$56,395.86		(\$ 669.23)
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$49,231.45</u>		<u>\$55,191.18</u>		(\$5,959.73)
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 6,495.18		\$ 1,204.68		
Less Principal on Loan	(<u>\$ 1,301.15</u>)				
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 5,194.03				

Overall, our total YTD income of \$55,726.63 exceeded our total YTD expenses of \$49,231.45 by \$6,495.18. Our actual donations and pledges are less than what was anticipated by this point in the year by \$3,847.52. Some of our pledges are quarterly or annually, which contributes to this difference. The Adjusted NUI happens below the Net Unrestricted Income (NUI) line because the principal on loan reduces liability, so it is not considered an expense for accounting purposes.

Direct any questions you might have about Property and Finance issues to James Rager, our Moderator and Treasurer or to Pastor Cheryl.

YOUNG DISCIPLES CORNER APRIL HAPPENINGS



Sunday School, Worship Leadership, and more!

Sunday school is available on Sundays, except the first Sunday of each month, during morning and evening worship, thanks to our wonderful lead teachers, Gayle Timilione and Wilson Kayange, along with their very capable teaching assistants. We are so grateful for those who commit to helping our young and youth disciples grow in faith. If you would like to be a part of those who teach let Gayle or Wilson know!

A big thank you to each Young Disciple and Youth who have helped lead worship through the leading of the Prayer for Illumination -- Ryan Shad, Nevil Cunningham, Penelope Cunningham, and Arianna Emmanuel. 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!



OUTREACH COMMITTEE, MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST, SHARE MINISTRY, AND MORE

Did you know that as a church we support the Redlands Area Interfaith Council (RAIC)? This organization works to promote dialogue across the diverse faiths represented in our City. The organization works to build relationships that can help improve the overall health of our community. This organization sponsors the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, which will be held Thursday morning May 4, 2023, in Orton Center at 7:00 A.M. Pastor Cheryl will be giving the opening prayer. Breakfast Tickets cost \$20 this year, just a bit higher than last year, due to rising costs. See Al Polchow to register for the event.



Photo by Micheile Henderson on Unsplash

A big thank you to Debbie Law for taking the lead on the March 25th Share Ministry held at University United Methodist. We served about 20 individuals from the community a hot lasagna lunch. Of course, all volunteers were appreciated from cookie makers to servers, to contributors of water and other items. Many hands make the work light.

The next Share Ministry is Saturday, May 27th and we will be serving a Mexican lunch with an enchilada casserole, rice, beans, bananas, and of course, cookies! If you would like to help with the next Share Ministry contact Pastor Cheryl.

The Outreach Committee is doing some work to determine how best to use our budgeted mission dollars locally and globally, as there is always more need than funds available. The committee is seeking to support missions financially that represent our diverse congregation. If you have any questions about where our budgeted mission dollars go, you can ask Al Polchow the Session moderator of the Outreach Committee.

The Deacons' Easter Lily fund raising campaign is in its final week the first week of April.

Every year, this campaign raises funds to support local social services. Groups like Family Services of Redlands, Refresh and Renew, and Veterans' Services have come to depend on our generous support.

If you would like to make a gift this year, complete the dedication form you can find in the narthex, or simply call the office. Don't forget to note on the face of your check that it's for "Lilies".



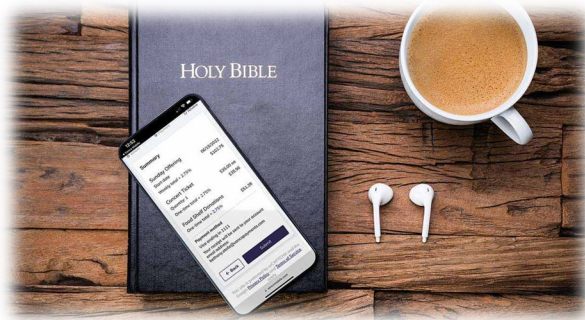
Multiple Ways to Financially Give to The First Presbyterian Church of Redlands

Did you know that there are multiple ways to contribute financially to the life and ministry of our church? Here are some options for you to consider:

1. Gifts can be mailed to PO BOX 2009, Redlands CA 92373;
2. At our website on our homepage (www.fpcredlands.org) there is a give button that allows for online giving;

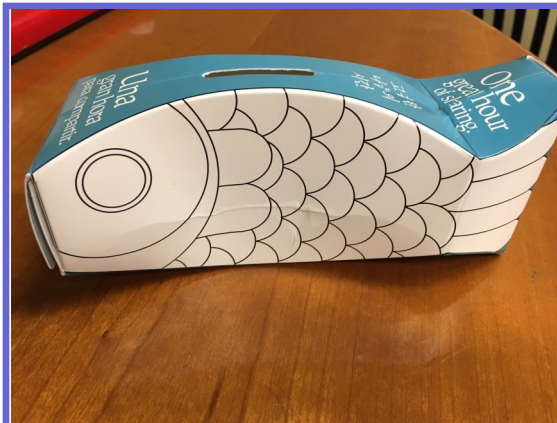


3. There is a phone app **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** where you can give electronically;



4. You can also use your bank's bill pay function.

If you need assistance with any of the online methods, please let the office know and someone will be assigned to walk you through them! We give thanks for the financial gifts that make our ministry possible.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

Did you know that our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) annual offerings literally respond to needs worldwide? Some of these dollars were shared with our Mountain Communities effected by incredible amounts of snow this winter season. Some of these dollars were shared with faith agencies in Turkey and Syria in response to devastating earthquakes. When disaster strikes PDA assesses the long-term recovery needs and responds through our connections around the globe.

OGHS also supports the Self Development of People program, which enters into partnerships with community groups of low income people who want improve their ability to flourish. OGHS also supports our denominational Hunger Program, addresses food insecurities globally.

How will you participate in the OGHS offering this year? Bring your fishes and other offerings to church on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023!



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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CHURCH OF REDLANDS

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