

## THE MESSENGER



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>Birthdays.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Worship Schedule .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Staff Whereabouts.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Contemplative Corner... </b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Holiday Scrip .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Property &amp; Finance.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Young Disciples .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Session Summary.....</b>	<b>10</b>

### SESSION MEMBERS

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



### The Pastor's Corner “Sing to the Lord a New Song”

What music touches you deeply? What music transforms despair into hope or sadness into deep gratitude for you? What music do you play when you need energy or courage for a situation you are facing? Music has a way of moving us or as Diana Butler Bass writes, “The capacity of music to transport, transfix, transform, and transcend is astonishing.”

For over 40 years the piano music of Rufino Zaragoza with cello, flute, and guitar solos has touched the deepest places of my being. When the overwhelming reality of the world presses in, this music centers my being in the One who is love. Zaragoza’s music bathes me in rich sounds that resonate well-being and reconnects me to the Divine Source giving me the courage to trust that all will be well. Gratitude begins to flow once again, and songs begin to take shape in my heart.

“Sing to the Lord a new song,” says the psalmist. Yet, worry and fear are always trying to silence the songs within us. In our world, tyrants and terrorists are always trying to silence the songs within us. I don’t need to tell you that we are living in challenging times. What was is no longer but what will be is certainly not known. There is so much uncertainty around the globe and even within the Church with a capital “C”. All these forces don’t want music to burst forth, yet in the resilience of the human spirit music does.

*Sing to the Lord a new song!*

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth!*

*Sing to the Lord, bless God’s Name!*

*proclaim God’s salvation day after day!*

*[Psalm 96:1-2; Inclusive Bible]*

What new song will you sing this day?

*(Continued on page 7)*

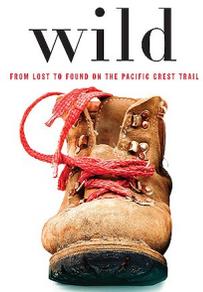


## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

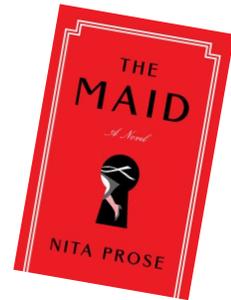
The FPC Book Club will meet Thursday, November 2, at Marcia and Gary Fagan's home, to discuss *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*, by Cheryl Strayed. Steven Klein will lead the discussion.

The group chose *The Maid*, by Nita Prose for the December read. The book was Goodread's winner for Best Mystery & Thriller (2022) and Nominee for Best Debut Novel (2022).

\*Goodreads.com



Cheryl Strayed



November 1	Erie E. Tan
November 3	Laura Dwight Greene
November 3	Rich Cunningham
November 12	Jessica Arnold
November 16	Debbie Hamada
November 19	Grace Baldwin
November 20	Jetty Lesar
November 20	Steven Sihombing
November 21	Alison Kayange
November 23	Elke Liesl Zak
November 23	Mark Evans
November 26	Christine Evans
November 26	Diane Polchow



**First Presbyterian  
Church of Redlands**

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**All Services Will Be In-Person on Sunday  
and 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)**



**Fall  
Back!**

Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday evening, November 4<sup>th</sup> before you go to bed. If you forget to fall back, you will be an hour early for worship.

If you are early, you could join the choir!

If the Facebook feed is not live, then you may have forgotten to fall back. Remember to fall back and then we will see each other on time Sunday morning. Enjoy your extra hour doing what brings forth life most fully in you!

**November 5, 2023    Communion Sunday  
Rev. Ron Duvall Preaching**

First Reading	Genesis 50:15-21
Second Reading	Matthew 18:21-35
The Message	What if God...?

**November 12, 2023**

First Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Second Reading	Matthew 25:1-13
The Message	In the Meantime

**November 19, 2023  
Seminary Student, Anjlo Ajmal, Preaching**

First Reading	Psalms 119:33-40
Second Reading	Matthew 18:1-5
The Message	True Greatness

**November 26, 2023**

First Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23
Second Reading	Matthew 25:31-46
The Message	Why Matthew 25?

**Thank You  
Team Presbyterian!**



On Sunday, October 1, 2023, Team Presbyterian **raised \$935** (donations above our registration fees of \$680) for the 2023 Believe Walk. We had 22 registered walkers. Thank you, to all our donors and walkers! The total amount of money raised for the **2023 Believe Walk was \$483,461!**

Get ready to support Team Presbyterian next year on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. We value all walkers, prayer warriors, and donors! Together we can make a difference within our community.

# Stewardship

*...a way of life.*



On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> we gratefully celebrated the return to our sanctuary through song and word, with prayer, and our 2024 commitments.

Our ministries are made possible by our collective generosity. If you haven't had a chance to prayerfully make your 2024 commitment, you can fill out a Stewardship Commitment card and place it in a Sunday offering plate, or drop it off at the office, or mail it in. Address it to FPC Redlands, P.O. Box 2009, Redlands 92373.

The Session is beginning to plan for 2024 and understanding our collective financial commitments will help them make wise decisions.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and support.



## Hanging of the Greens

**Save the Date!**

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

We will gather at 8:30 A.M. to adorn the sanctuary for Advent!

There are several ways to help, so come and help make our sanctuary beautiful for the season. We will be hanging wreaths and garland, Advent banners, and decorating a Christmas Tree for the narthex, all while Christmas music is putting us in the spirit of this season of expectant waiting.

See you Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>!

## Staff Whereabouts



**Pastor Cheryl** will be away from the office from Friday, **November 3rd through Monday, November 6th** for a Cousins weekend in Kentucky. She will be away again from Friday, **November 17th through Monday, November 20th** to attend her son Jason's and Colette's Florida wedding reception. You might remember the wedding was in California on June 23, 2023, so now it is time for the Florida friends and family to be able to celebrate. Please pray for Pastor Cheryl's time away for these family gatherings and for safe travel.

The church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, November 23 and the following Friday, November 24. Judy will be out of the office the entire holiday week, returning on Monday, November 27.



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

## *Contemplative Corner*

### *Praying the Gospel of Matthew*

Have you ever noticed that good church people just want to be comfortable? We like things our way. We like our church music to fit our style. We don't particularly like change at all. This all seems very strange in relation to the following words of Jesus found in the Gospel of Matthew:

“The Jesus told his disciples. ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.’ [Matthew 16:24-25]

These words don't sound very comforting. They sound very challenging. Deny yourself... your preferences, your comfort, your privilege, your power. Be willing to lose your life for Jesus' sake, too. And of course, Jesus says other things that disrupt our comfort, like do not judge, do not worry, forgive seventy-seven times, and love your enemies. None of these things are comfortable and they all challenge the status quo.

As you pray with this passage and others from the Gospel of Matthew that disrupt your comfort, what is Jesus calling you towards? Where is Jesus calling you to step out of your comfort zone and get your hands dirty, so to speak? Where might you need to deny yourself to be able to pick up a cross, a work that needs to be done locally or globally? May the Spirit be at work in us and make us ever more faithful.



**‘Tis the Season  
Scrip Preorders for Christmas**

As you consider your Christmas plans, remember that you can pre-order scrip that goes beyond our normal inventory, for Christmas gifts for family members, friends, colleagues and even your non-profit of choice.

Susan Hunter is our coordinator, and she is ready to receive your orders! She will be at the Scrip table after the morning service on Sunday, November 5, 2023, and is available at other times to take your orders as well.

We look forward to a great season of giving that also supports the Christian Education endeavors of the church through our holiday gift giving! The last day to order holiday scrip is December 3<sup>rd</sup>, which allows us time to get it ordered in time for you to give for Christmas! If you miss the deadline, we always have inventory from which you can choose a useful gift.



**Interfaith Thanksgiving  
Celebration**

**Host Congregation is Trinity  
Episcopal Church**

**419 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Redlands  
92373**

**Sunday, November 12, 2022,  
at 4:00 P.M.**

The Redlands Area Interfaith Council is sponsoring its Annual Service of Thanksgiving.

The theme this year is “*We Are All Family.*” A message we need to take to heart given the divisiveness so prevalent in our world today. We are all God’s beautiful children!

The celebration will feature several choirs from the community, the singing of hymns of gratitude together, and readings of gratitude from multiple faith traditions as members of the Interfaith Council bring us together to give thanks!



**What a joy** it was to worship in our newly renovated sanctuary on Sunday, October 29, 2023!

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to bringing this project to completion: the hard-working volunteers; the generous donors; our denominational support by Presbytery and Synod; and of course, the contractors. A team effort has created a space that enhances our worship as well as opens possibilities for our sanctuary to be used by our community throughout the week.

You won’t want to miss the first Symphony recital being held in our sanctuary on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale on the Symphony website: [www.redlandssymphony.com](http://www.redlandssymphony.com). First Presbyterian Church of Redlands has a discount code (FIRSTPRES), so tickets will be \$15.00 when you enter the code and select the third ticket option.





**Advent Begins  
December 3**  
**Gift of Presence is our  
Advent Theme**

Advent makes its debut the weekend after Thanksgiving this year. Of course, that makes for an interesting Advent Season, for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are the same day, December 24<sup>th</sup>. So, here is the worship schedule for December:

First and Second Sunday of Advent  
December 3 and December 10

10:00 A.M. Worship English  
5:00 P.M. Worship Indonesian

Third Sunday of Advent December 17

10:00 A.M. Worship English  
11:30 A.M. Worship Urdu  
5:00 P.M. Worship Indonesian

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas  
Eve December 24

5:00 P.M. All Church Worship

This coming Advent season we will all be challenged to be the gift of presence to our families, our friends, our community, as well as to each other.

Let's begin the journey with open hearts and wide-eyed wonder, as we anticipate the holy within us and all around us!

*(Continued from page 1)*

*The Pastor's Corner*

What new song will we sing as a church this day to our God? Is there music resonating deep within us that needs to burst forth and be shared?



Is gratitude welling up within us for the abundance of God given gifts – donations, grants, time, and talents – that made our sanctuary renovation possible? This beautiful new space would not have been possible had God not gifted so many among us. What is amazing about God's economy is that when we generously share what God has given us, amazing new things are possible!

This month as our National Holiday of Thanksgiving approaches, consider what songs might burst forth from us given this past year. What are we grateful for? Where have we seen God at work in us? Where has God's amazing grace and extravagant love been present among us and through us?

The world around us is certainly in turmoil, but let's not let this turmoil silence us. Listen to whatever music feeds your soul. I know I will be listening to Zaragoza. May we always be ready to sing God a new song!

Ready to sing,  
Pastor Cheryl

**Small Gifts. Big Impact.**

Have you noticed that we no longer insert envelopes for special fund drives every other week? Instead we have established a once-a-year drive we call The Power of Connection. But that doesn't mean you are limited to giving just once a year. Your favorite projects are still being funded through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

How it Works: You give a gift that supports a cause that's close to your heart; your gift joins with others—you unite with thousands of others giving to Presbyterian mission through the Giving Catalog, increasing your gift's capacity to bring hope to communities around the world;

**YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Your gift provides help, hope and relief to people, families and communities in need.

You can peruse the catalog in the church office or go to [presbyteriangifts.org](http://presbyteriangifts.org) to choose your cause to support.

## PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



### Sanctuary Celebration!

What a joy to worship in our newly renovated sanctuary on Sunday, October 29, 2023! Thank you, to everyone who contributed to bringing this project to completion – the hard-working volunteers, the generous donors, our denominational support by Presbytery and Synod, and of course, the contractors. A team effort has created a space that enhances our worship as well as opens possibilities for our sanctuary to be used by our community throughout the week. You won't want to miss the first Symphony recital being held in our sanctuary on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale on the Symphony website: [www.redlandssymphony.com](http://www.redlandssymphony.com).

### Kitchen Ice Maker Repair

The kitchen ice maker was repaired this month. We are thankful P&F was notified so that it could be fixed!

### Sanctuary A/C Repair

Repairs were made to the chiller pressure regulating valves and expensive R-22 refrigerant was replaced with 448A. This repair was not associated with the main work done previously, as this was preventive maintenance.

### Lilly Grant Funding

The church received a check for \$52,475. All expenses for Pastor Cheryl will be reimbursable up to \$31,883. The congregation will have up to \$20,592 to use in support of the sabbatical. A separate restricted account will be used to track all expenses, as a final report will need to be made to the Lilly Foundation and any funds not used will need to be returned.

### Finances and Property Usage

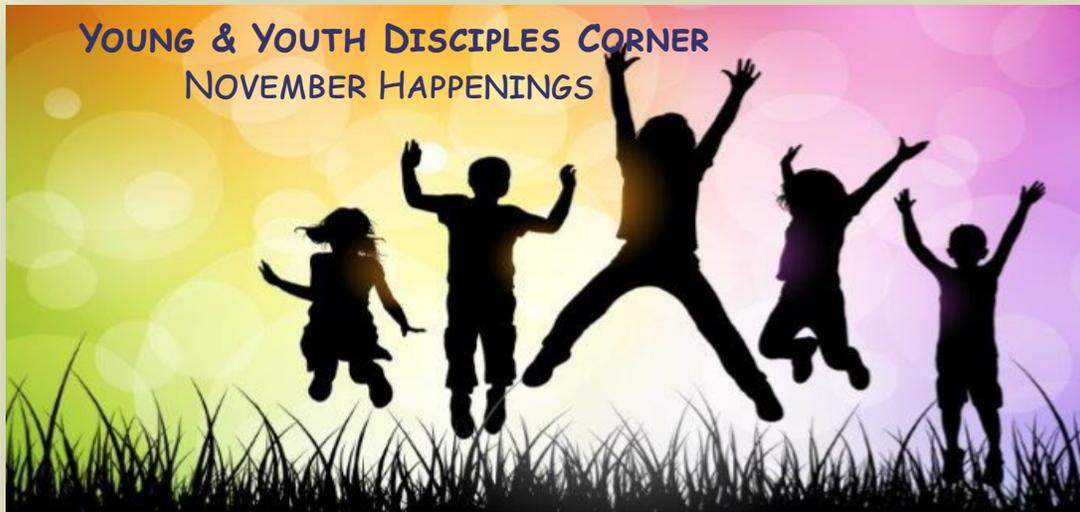
Here are some broad highlights from our financial reporting Year-to-Date September 30, 2023:

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$141,236.11		\$158,499.99		(\$17,263.88)
Rental Income	\$ 86,344.70		\$ 88,387.51		(\$ 2,042.81)
Total Income	\$241,048.15		\$253,781.27		(\$12,733.12)
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$231,936.38</u>		<u>\$250,040.07</u>		<u>(\$18,103.69)</u>
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 9,111.77		\$ 3,741.20		\$ 5,370.57
Less Principal on Loan	(\$ 5,903.41)				
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 3,209.36				

So, what do these numbers mean? Our donations and pledging are \$17,264 less than anticipated, yet our expenses are lower than anticipated at this point in the year. Therefore, the good news is we have an Adjusted NUI that is \$3,209 more than our expenses. 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.

As the year draws to a close, we will have some additional expenses, so let's be generous and help us finish strong. Let us not focus on scarcity, but on the abundance of God's generous and gracious gifts in our lives and in the life of this church.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about finance or facility issues, please ask James Rager, Moderator of Property and Finance, or Pastor Cheryl.



What's happening this month?

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> Dora Ridgeway will be leading music again!

Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday School with Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid

Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday School with Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid

Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday School with Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid

And of course, we will have Young Disciple Time every Sunday in worship, and you don't want to miss these, as Pastor Cheryl and others seek to share God's good news.

A big thank you to Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid, our wonderful teachers. We are thankful for their commitment to pass along our faith to future generations. If you enjoy being with the young disciples, consider coming along side of Wilson and Sereena to assist with these efforts!

We give thanks to everyone who helped with the Prayer for Illumination during October worship services: Penelope Cunningham (in Spanish!), Lorence Kayange, Zachery Emmanuel, Alison Kayange, and Veronica Cunningham.

Parents, please remember that all children and youth, elementary age and older, are invited to participate in worship by leading the Prayer of Illumination, or more, if they would like. Just let Mr. Wilson know! If your children and youth would like other opportunities, talk to Pastor Cheryl!

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 still has space available.

Winter camp will be the weekend of March 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.bblccc.com](http://www.bblccc.com).

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2023



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, October 16, 2023, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2023.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$26,625.10
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$33,923.03
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	(\$7,297.93)
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$661.84)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	(\$7,959.77)

Total Operating Funds in General Account: \$40,217.08

- Received information about the work of the committees and the Board of Deacons during the months of September and October, 2023.
- Received an update on the last few weeks of work in the Sanctuary for the renovation project. Also received an update on the renovated Schlicker pipe organ.
- Discussed plans for the Worship Service on October 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. – an All-Church Worship Service in the newly renovated Sanctuary!
- Discussed plans for a community celebration service for the Sanctuary. This will most likely take place in January 2024.



### ADVENT SUNRISE BEGINS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH!

Advent Sunrise will gather on Thursday mornings at 7:30 AM via zoom from November 30th through January 4th. Sunrise is an opportunity to listen for the stirrings of God in the midst of our lives through scripture. As we gather, we will participate in the spiritual practice called Lectio Divina, which simply translated means divine reading. This is a contemplative way to enter the biblical text, to be known rather than to know, by answering the question, “How is God speaking into my life at this particular time?” is the work of Lectio Divina.

We welcome those who have not yet had the opportunity to experience this contemplative way to enter the text. There are no right or wrong answers, only the opportunity to share, as you would like, about how the particular text for the day is speaking into your life. Step away and spend some time listening for whispering of the Spirit in your life.

Here is the information about connecting via Zoom:

Zoom Meeting ID: 845 8385 8790      Passcode: Sunrise



## A MOMENT FOR DEACONS

By Patti Robertson, Moderator of Deacons

As I sit down to put pen to paper, I am amazed that we are heading into the holiday season already! Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It is the perfect time to think back on all we have to be thankful for. As deacons, we are so thankful for our beautiful church and all of the wonderful people that make up our church! We are thankful for the ability to help people in need, both in the church and in the community, and to serve our church. It is because of the generosity of those in our church that we are able to serve. Along with the generous monetary donations, we also need donations of your time! Deacons help with coffee fellowship. Our sign-up board is in need of some volunteers for the months of November and December. It is so easy to put your name down for a Sunday and bring something you would like to share with others for a little friendship time after church! The other board in need of help is the Greeters board! Now that we are in our wonderful sanctuary, think about how nice it would be to say “Good Morning” to those coming into the church for service. The bonus is the organ is back and while you are in the narthex greeting, you get to listen to the choir and organ practice! Please be as generous with your time as you are with your donations.



## Seeking Nominations For Such a Time as This...

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

The Nominating Committee is working to fill the open positions for Deacons and Elders. If you are feeling a nudging by the Spirit, please let Pastor Cheryl or Moderator Gayle Timilione know as soon as possible!

The slate of new Elders and Deacons will be voted on at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023, immediately after our All Church Worship Service.

Here is what the Book of Order and our Standing Rules say of the positions needing to be filled. 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.

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.

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

**You can Save Postage +**

**Save Paper =**

**Save \$\$ by subscribing by email.**

We are pleased to share our newsletter with you and we  
welcome your comments!

You may also view this newsletter on our web site. Go to  
[www.fpcredlands.org](http://www.fpcredlands.org) and then click on The *Messenger*  
tab at the top of the page.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF REDLANDS

100 Cajon Street  
P.O. Box 2009  
Redlands CA 92373

(909) 793-2839  
[office@FPCRedlands.org](mailto:office@FPCRedlands.org)  
[www.FPCRedlands.org](http://www.FPCRedlands.org)

**Return Service  
Requested**

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE