

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner "Reviving the Soul"

What a joy to spend some time away in August with family! Lake Powell was as beautiful as ever. It was a pleasure to see and experience Powell through the eyes of our granddaughter Lindsey. She just delighted in so many different first-time experiences, including paddle boarding with her Gigi!

I also enjoyed solo paddle board excursions through slot canyons in the quiet of the morning, often before the sun had risen high enough to directly illuminate the waters I navigated. One morning I even encountered a couple of beavers that were not too happy with my presence. Mama beaver slapped her tail repeatedly near me warning me to back off and so I did. Papa beaver was observing me the whole time!

What makes my heart sing on these early morning paddle board excursions is the reflections. If the winds were still, the reflections of the canyon walls, foliage, and skies were exquisite. When the winds danced over the waters, the reflections were obscured. I have shared some photos with you on page 11.

Spending time in the natural world revives my soul and Lake Powell provides ample opportunities to observe the world whether it is day or night, for the Milky Way was just magnificent each night prior to moon's rising. There was so much to marvel at if you just quieted yourself and took the time to observe God's handiwork.

The psalmists must have had similar experiences for two psalms always come to mind when I partake of the feast of the natural world. "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

(Continued on page 7)

September
2023



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SESSION MEMBERS

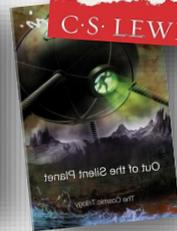
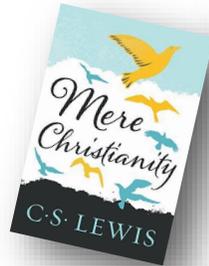
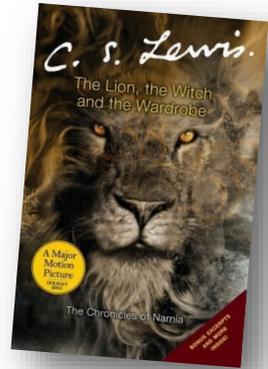
- **Jim Appleton**
- **Gayle Timilione**
- **Luann Bangsund**
- **James Rager**
- **Kasim Barus**
- **Al Polchow**
- **Jack Brennan**
- **Marcia Fagan—Clerk
of Session**
- **Paul Lambert**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The FPC Book Club will meet Tuesday, September 5, at Pastor Cheryl's and Paul's home, to discuss *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis.

Clive Staples Lewis was one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century and one of the most influential writers of his day. He wrote more than thirty books.



Bring your ideas for future meetings and share your recommendations for our next read.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| September 1 | Dick Jones |
| September 6 | Hina Barkat |
| September 7 | Gabriella Sihombing |
| September 8 | Izar Martinez |
| September 9 | Steven Deon Sihombing |
| September 10 | Jerri Rodewald |
| September 11 | Katherine Damar |
| September 12 | Kasim Barus |
| September 13 | Tehseen Suhail (Sardar) |

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| September 15 | Hameed Barkat |
| September 16 | Mahtab Bhatti |
| September 18 | Monica M. Frederick |
| September 19 | Mary Lou Jones |
| September 20 | Patti Robertson |
| September 26 | Hart J. Tan |
| September 27 | Lenny Floortje Joseph (Muaya) |
| September 27 | Enny Napitupulu |

**First Presbyterian
Church of Redlands**

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
All Services Will Be In-Person on
Sunday and on Facebook Live on demand

English Worship Service
10:00 A.M.

Indonesian Worship Service
5:00 P.M.

11:30 A.M. Urdu – Third Sunday of the Month
(Facebook Live Only)



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023, AT
4:00 P.M.**

ALL CHURCH WORSHIP

Hold the Date and Time for Worship

September 3, 2023 Communion
Rev. Ron Duvall

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| First Reading | Romans 13:8-14 |
| Second Reading | John 8:2-11 |
| The Message | Honoring the Divine Dream |

September 10, 2023

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| First Reading | Psalms 119:33-40 |
| Second Reading | Romans 13:8-10 |
| The Message | Sum Total |

September 17, 2023

Rev. Ashley Childress, Chaplain

September 24, 2023

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| First Reading | Psalms 145:1-8 |
| Second Reading | Matthew 20:1-16 |



On World Communion Sunday we will worship together at 4:00 P.M. to allow Team Presbyterian to walk in the Believe Walk and to make it easier to get to church, given the Believe Walk surrounds our campus in the morning.

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It focuses on an observance of the eucharist. The tradition was begun in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

It was then adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936^[1] and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches), led by Jesse Moren Bader, endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.

HELP US CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE SCHLICHER PIPE ORGAN!

In anticipation of our return to the remodeled sanctuary and having our organ returned to us, David Lines has been collaborating with composer Noah Parady, a recent graduate of the University of Redlands, with a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition. Noah is writing a commissioned set of variations on Old Hundredth (Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow) for our Schlicker pipe organ. Included in one of the variations is an Indonesian folk tune in honor of that part of our congregation. David hopes to perform this new piece in concert as part of the rededication of our church this fall.

We have had a generous donor start the funding of this special music project with a gift of \$500, and we are hoping to raise another \$500 to pay Noah for his time in creating this magnificent work especially for our organ. Noah is a very talented composer and has just started his Master's degree in Composition at the Peabody Conservatory of music.

You may make a donation payable by check to First Presbyterian Church of Redlands with a notation in the memo line, "Music Composition". If you prefer, you can make a donation directly to Noah Parady by placing your check payable to him, or cash, with his name noted on the envelope. All donations will be forwarded to him with gratitude.



STAFF WHEREABOUTS

September finds Pastor Cheryl traveling quite a bit. She will be with family and friends at the Colorado River from August 30th through September 4th, returning to the office on September 5th.

She then leaves on September 11th for Study Leave. She will be traveling to Zephyr Point and staying at the Presbyterian Conference Center in South Lake Tahoe. She will spend seven days on Study leave to prepare for Advent and beyond and spend five days as an instructor for the Pacific Region Administrative Personnel Association conference. She will be teaching two classes at the conference: World Religions: The Abrahamic Faiths and Theology Part B: Exploring our reformed theology of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. She will also be available to provide pastoral care for all attendees. This is Pastor Cheryl's tenth opportunity to teach at this conference. Please pray for all attendees that their time away will be enriching and renewing.

Pastor Cheryl will return on Saturday, September 23rd and will be leading worship on September 24th. Please pray for soul widening experiences as she studies and teaches during her time away.

Except for the Labor Day holiday, Monday, September 4, Judy will be in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00—3:00 P.M.



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

Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Matthew

As we continue our year with the Gospel of Matthew, on Sunday morning we come across familiar stories that are well known. On the last Sunday of this month, we will explore that parable known as the workers in the vineyard. It's well known because the first workers hired grumble about what the last workers hired were paid. All workers were paid the same amount, the amount the first workers agreed to. Here is a portion of the parable:

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ ⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.”

Have you ever agreed to something only to end up grumbling about it? I know I have. Yet, the first workers hired were paid the wage they agreed to. Everyone else was a beneficiary of the vineyard owner's generosity. Where do you find yourself in this parable? Are you troubled by the vineyard owner's generosity or were you overjoyed by it? What does your response say about your understanding of God's generous grace? As you pray with this story this month, how might you learn anew about the generosity of God's amazing grace?

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST 2023



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, August 21, 2023, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending July 31, 2023.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total Unrestricted Income: | \$29,636.55 |
| Total Unrestricted Expense: | \$14,833.41 |
| Unrestricted Income (Loss): | \$14,803.14 |
| Less Principal Payment on Loan: | (\$658.82) |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Income: | \$14,144.32 |
| Total Operating Funds in General Account: | \$52,606.03 |

NOTE: Moving to the bi-weekly payroll system contributed to the positive income-over-expenses reflected in the report for the month of July.

- Received information about the work of the committees and the Board of Deacons during the months of July and August, 2023.
- Approved a policy that “Alcohol use (limited to beer and wine) by ‘renters/facility users’ may be authorized on a case-by-case basis by the Property & Finance Committee during the rental application review and will exclude the Sanctuary building. It is the responsibility of the ‘renters/facility users’ to comply with all legal requirements and obtain and provide the church with a general liability insurance policy with a \$1,000,000.00 limit.”
- Approved and authorized the repair and payment of the Sanctuary air conditioning unit, for an amount not to exceed \$5,500.
- Received an update on the work in the Sanctuary during the ongoing remodel project.
- Approved the raising of \$1,000 for the commission of a piece for our Sanctuary organ. This composition will be written and created by Noah Parady.
- Agreed to the protocols for serving communion, including having no restrictions for serving the consecrated bread (with no gloves required for servers), but not returning to communion by intinction at this time. FPCR will continue to use individual cups for serving the juice.
- Approved moving the next Stated Session Meeting from a Zoom meeting on Monday evening, September 18, to an “in person” meeting on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.. in Classroom 1.



FALL SUNRISE SERIES
STARTS SEPTEMBER 7TH!
THURSDAYS AT 7:00 A.M.
VIA ZOOM

Sunrise is an opportunity to listen for the stirrings of God in the midst of our lives through scripture. You are invited to participate via Zoom at 7:00 A.M. on Thursday mornings from September 7th through October 12th.

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 the still small voice of God.

Here is the information about connecting via Zoom:

Zoom Meeting ID: 845 8385 8790

Passcode: Sunrise

(Continued from page 1)

The Pastor's Corner

mortals that you care for them” [Psalm 8:3-4]. Given the dramatic canyon walls and the smallness of my presence near them, I too marvel at God’s mindfulness of me.



Another psalmist proclaimed, “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge” [Psalm 19:1-2].

It seems to me that I hear God speaking to the depths of my soul more clearly in these natural surroundings.

What revives your soul? What reminds you that God is mindful of you and all humanity? What connects you more deeply to the mystery we call God?

With school back in session for the new school year, and the coming of fall, the pace of our lives always seems to accelerate. I know my heart always starts to beat a bit faster post Labor Day because the weeks just seem to gather speed. Our calendars get crowded with activities and holidays seem to sneak up on us in rapid succession. So, how in the busyness of the coming season will you stay deeply connected to God? What spiritual practices can you incorporate into your daily routines to help you?

As the summer ends and fall begins, let's be intentional about our relationship with the Holy One. Carve out time to read scripture, to pray, to sing, to meditate, to observe the natural world, listen to great music or any other soul reviving activity for you. Let’s remember to rest in God’s love for us too; for God’s mercies are new every morning. Thanks be to God!

Being Intentional,
Pastor Cheryl

**PROPERTY AND
FINANCE UPDATE**



The Property and Finance (P&F) Committee continues to be hard at work, improving our facility for our ministries and for community partners on our campus such as The Well, Boy Scouts, AA, and other worshipping communities that are blessed by our campus.

Sanctuary Renovation Update

Wow! The Chancel area has been framed. All the old electric wires have been pulled out! All the new electrical conduits have been laid. The subflooring is completed. The flooring material has been delivered so that it can acclimate to the space and installation has begun. The pulpit has been reworked for the new space. The bathrooms have been gutted and plumbing has been moved. I am sure more has been done, but just know that work is advancing. AND the organ is scheduled to be returned before we re-enter the sanctuary for worship! (see photos on page 13)

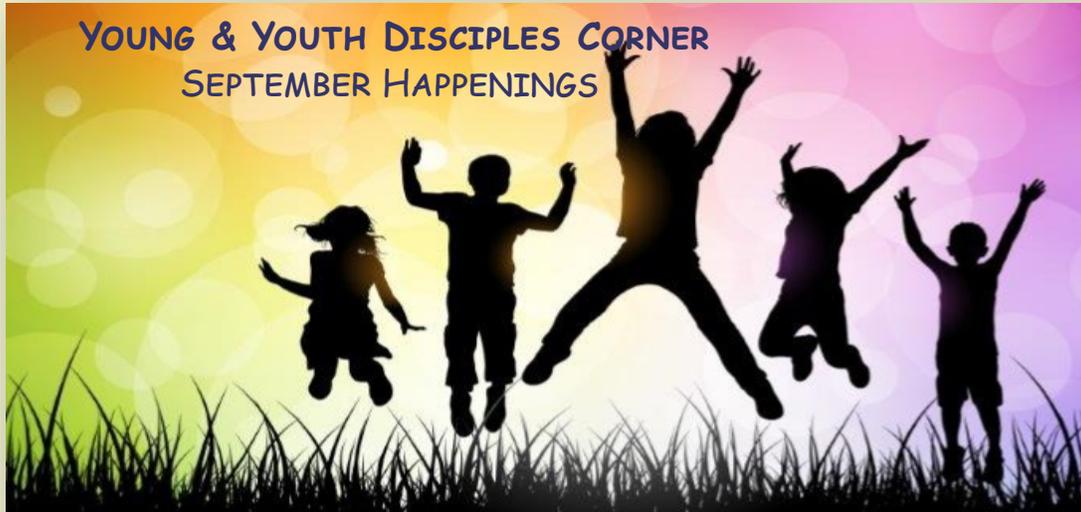
Financial Update as of July 31, 2023

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

| | <u>Actual</u> | - | <u>Anticipated</u> | = | <u>Difference</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| Donations and Pledges | \$111,939 | | \$120,167 | | (\$ 8,228) |
| Rental Income | \$ 68,874 | | \$ 68,746 | | \$ 128 |
| Total Income | \$193,060 | | \$197,385 | | (\$ 4,325) |
| <u>Total Expense</u> | <u>\$172,755</u> | | <u>\$195,969</u> | | <u>(\$23,214)</u> |
| Net Unrestricted Income* | \$ 20,305 | | | | |
| Less Principal on Loan | (\$ 4,580) | | | | |
| Adjusted *NUI | \$ 15,725 | | | | |

So, what do these numbers mean? Our YTD donations and pledges are less than anticipated by \$8,228. Yet, YTD we have spent \$20,305 less than we have received (Net Unrestricted Income number). 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, YTD July our income has exceeded out expenses by \$15,725 thanks be to God! Together our collective generosity, along with other income, has us financially strong at this point in the year. If you have any questions about your pledge progress year to date, please let the office know.

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



The 2023-24 school year is underway, and our 2023-24 Sunday school program officially starts September 10, 2023. We welcome Wilson Kayange and Sereena Shahid back from their summer break, as we give thanks to Dora Ridgeway's musical education with our students this past summer. The students did an awesome job, sharing special music with us on August 20th!

A big thank you to our July and August Young Disciples and Youth who participated in worship: Hunter Polchow, Alison Kayange, Anaya Bhatti, Jonah Cotton, Rich Cunningham, Nevil Cunningham, and Lorence Kayange. 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 the worship service.

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



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.bblccc.com.



OUTREACH
SHARE MINISTRY – VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED!

Our next Share Ministry is scheduled for Saturday, September 30th, which is a fifth Saturday as one of the other churches could do the 4th but not the 5th Saturday. We will be serving Pizza, salad, fruit, cookies and water. The committee will handle the Pizza, but if you would like to volunteer for the other food items, just let Pastor Cheryl know.

This is an opportunity to serve those in our community who are most in need. If you are interested in serving on the day of the event from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. please let Pastor Cheryl know as well. We anticipate serving 20-25 people and usually have 7 to 8 helpers that set up, serve, and then clean up! If we have more helpers, it just means we can sit down and get to know some of our guests.

The next opportunity will be the Thanksgiving Feast on Saturday, November 25th so mark your calendars!



**THE BELIEVE
WALK IS
COMING SOON!
JOIN TEAM
PRESBYTERIAN
AGAIN**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

Join Team Presbyterian on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. Our team will gather at the church at 7:30 A.M. and then head to State Street for the start of the walk at 8:00 A.M. We will be joining others to help raise 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.

Here is how to get involved in making a difference in our community through the Believe Walk 2023:

1. Registration is online. If you register yourself **remember** to register as part of **Team Presbyterian**. If you need registration assistance, please talk with Pastor Cheryl.
2. Registration costs \$35 for adults (13 years and up) or \$10 (4-12 year olds)
3. Register and/or contribute to Team Presbyterian at the following website:

BelieveWalk.org

This will be our seventh year as Team Presbyterian. Let's walk together and/or support this effort on Sunday, October 1st! You will also not want to miss our All-Church Worship Service for World Communion Sunday, on October 1st. It will be at held at 4:00 P.M.



These images can be viewed in color on our web page www.fpredlands.org



A MOMENT FOR DEACONS

By Patti Robertson, Moderator of Deacons

Can you believe it's September! Where does the time go? At a time in my life when I wish it would slow down, time seems to go faster and faster! Deacons did not meet in the month of August but we were still our busy selves. At the end of July we helped give Fred Waitz a great memorial send off. His wife Helen arranged for some of Fred's musician buddies to play at the celebration of life service and reception. Their Dixieland jazz made it a really upbeat time!

In August, we were busy with communion set up, helping with coffee fellowship, providing flowers, for those who sign up to sponsor flowers, then taking those flowers



to a shut-in if needed, and helping others in the community!

That is a segue into thanking all of you who donate to deacons for your ongoing support. Without that support we would not be able to help those whom we help. Some of those we support are: Family Services; Home Again; Youth Hope; Citrus Counseling Services; Refresh and Renew; as well as bus passes for the Vets to get to doctor appointments. Our corresponding secretary, Lynn Phelps, sends anywhere from 50 to 75 cards a month to members for birthdays, thank you, thinking of you, get well, and sympathy. All of those cards would not be possible without your support! So thank you again!



We need your help with just a couple more things. We need folks who enjoy something tasty with their cup of coffee during coffee fellowship to please sign up on the board just inside the door of John Knox Hall. You actually have to walk by it to get coffee, so please add your name to the list of volunteers. All it takes is a tray of anything you choose. Bring whatever you like!



The flower chart is also on that table and there are still openings for the rest of the year. If you would like to remember a date, a person, or celebrate something or someone special, we will be glad to help you with the flowers for a \$50 donation to the flower fund, or you can bring your own flowers!

Our Greeters signup sheet is looking neglected as well. When we get back into the sanctuary, it would be nice to have greeters in the narthex to welcome members of the congregation and especially visitors. It really starts your morning off right saying, "Good Morning" to everyone as they come into the church.

I will end by saying what a privilege it is to be the Moderator of Deacons to this wonderful congregation!



Sanctuary Renovations in Progress



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!

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

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CHURCH OF REDLANDS

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