

THE MESSENGER



The Pastor's Corner "Trusting the Pilot"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Have you ever gone up in a hot air balloon, climbing into its basket just before the sunrise? Have you plugged your ears from the deafening blast of the gas flame as it shoots upwards to heat the air in the balloon? Airborne, have you ever experienced the silence of floating above the landscape while taking in the panoramic views?

Birthdays.....2
Worship Schedule3
Staff Whereabouts.....4
Contemplative Corner... 5
Holiday Scrip6
Property & Finance.....8
Young Disciples9
Session Summary.....10

I will never forget my one balloon experience with my dad in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We got up before dawn and headed to the field where many balloons were preparing to go up, up, up! Our beautiful multicolored balloon was being prepped as we arrived. All of the passengers stood around in awe as the pilot and ground crew began to inflate the balloon. The bursts of noise from the flame were startlingly loud on the ground! When we climbed into the basket, our hearts were beating fast with anticipation as well as with a bit of trepidation.

SESSION MEMBERS

The view was magnificent as we slowly rose up and up and up with the rising of the sun. The air was crystal clear, and as the sun continued to rise you could see for miles. We waved to those on the ground as we passed over houses. They waved back. Other than the occasional bursts of the flame to keep us afloat we rode in silence, until someone pointed out something that we all had to see. There was so much to take in!

All the emotions I experienced on that balloon ride are part of this season of Lent, for there is anticipation as well as trepidation. Trepidation takes root as we turn towards Jerusalem knowing that the cross awaits. Our hearts pound with jubilation on Palm Sunday. Then fear grows in us as we bear witness to Jesus' suffering on a cross. Fear that was palpable for my dad and me as we wondered how exactly a hot air balloon is landed! Let's just say it's an adventure.

Then the silence of Saturday is profound, especially if we place

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

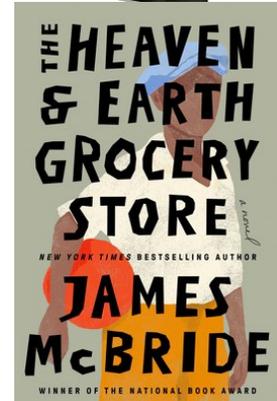
(Continued on page 7)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The FPC Book Club will meet Thursday evening, March 14, at Paul's and Pastor Cheryl's house, to discuss *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. Discussion will be led by Lillian Larsen.

Next month (April 4th) it's at Marcia and Gary Fagan's house, and the book is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. This book is set in the 1920s and 30s and follows the fortunes of a group of Jewish immigrants and African Americans who live together on Chicken Hill in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.



March 4	Lorence Kayange
March 6	Margaret Ndipagbor
March 8	Alice Munde
March 14	Sereena Shahid
March 17	Sana Solomon
March 18	Evelina Sitompul
March 18	Cathy Smith
March 26	Jennifer Shad
March 27	Nayab Sanchez
March 29	Nevil Cunningham



First Presbyterian Church of Redlands

MARCH 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)

March 3, 2024 3rd Sunday in Lent

First Reading Psalm 19, excerpts
Second Reading John 2:13-22
The Message “Raise Up”

**Spring ahead Saturday night, March 9,
before you go to bed or you will be late for
service on Sunday, March 10!**

March 10, 2024 4th Sunday in Lent

First Reading Psalm 107, excerpts
Second Reading John 3:14-21
The Message “Light Up”

March 17, 2024 5th Sunday in Lent

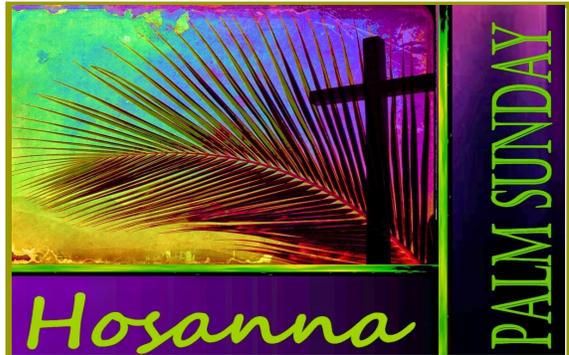
First Reading Psalm 51, excerpts
Second Reading John 12:20-33
The Message “Lift Up”

March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

First Reading Psalm 118, excerpts
Second Reading John 12:12-16
The Message “Sit Up”

March 31, 2024 Easter

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-9
Second Reading Mark 16:1-8
The Message “Look Up”



LENTEN FAITH FORMATION SERIES

We will continue gathering on Thursdays during Lent. We will alternate between in-person and on Zoom, closing with a Soup Supper and Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28. Remember that we are seeking to “Store Up” treasures in heaven this Lenten season, as we give up or take up spiritual practices that will deepen our relationship with God and with our neighbors. Here is the schedule:

Thursday, March 7

Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Via Zoom
“Light Up”

Thursday, March 14

Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Room 1
“Lift Up”

Thursday, March 21

Adult Faith Formation – 4:00 P.M. Via Zoom
“Sit Up”

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday
Soup Supper 6:00 P.M. JKH

The Zoom link will be in the Monday Updates. The Zoom Meeting ID is 812 8461 4264 and the Passcode is FPCR. If you are still in need of the Lenten daily devotional, please email Judy Tanner and ask her to send you the pdf file or print a hard copy out for you to pick up. We have some copies in the office.



Faith Formation Sunrise Thursday Mornings



We will continue our Lenten Sunrise series on Thursdays through Maundy Thursday, March 28.

Sunrise will take place on Thursdays at 7:30 A.M. via Zoom. Here is the Zoom Meeting ID: 845 8385 8790 and Passcode: Sunrise.

Pastor Cheryl, Chris Kane, and Jerri Rodewald will be facilitating our times together.

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 now 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 walk the way of Jesus together. All are welcome.

**SPRING AHEAD
SATURDAY NIGHT,
MARCH 9,
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!**



Judy will be out of the office the entire week of March 18, returning on Monday, March 25. Weather permitting, she will be hiking and camping in Nevada and Utah with her favorite nieces and Molly and Sadie, her favorite dogs!

**Staff
Whereabouts**





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

Contemplative Corner

Praying the Gospel of Mark

As we conclude our journey through Lent and celebrate Easter this month, I offer this passage from Mark 12:28-31 for our reflection:

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

As we culminate our Lenten season of storing up treasures in heaven with Easter morn, reflect on how you have embodied these two great commandments. What did you give up or take up to live these commandments more faithfully? Did you give up something that was distracting you from time with God? Did you take up a volunteer activity to practice loving your neighbor more fully? Did you implement a new spiritual practice to make more room for your relationship with the divine? This Lenten practice of giving up or taking up is not something we just do for forty days, rather it is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and to practice loving our neighbors every day of the year. May the power of the resurrection equip you to continually deepen your love of God and neighbor.

GIVING

Per Capita

THE GIFT OF THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

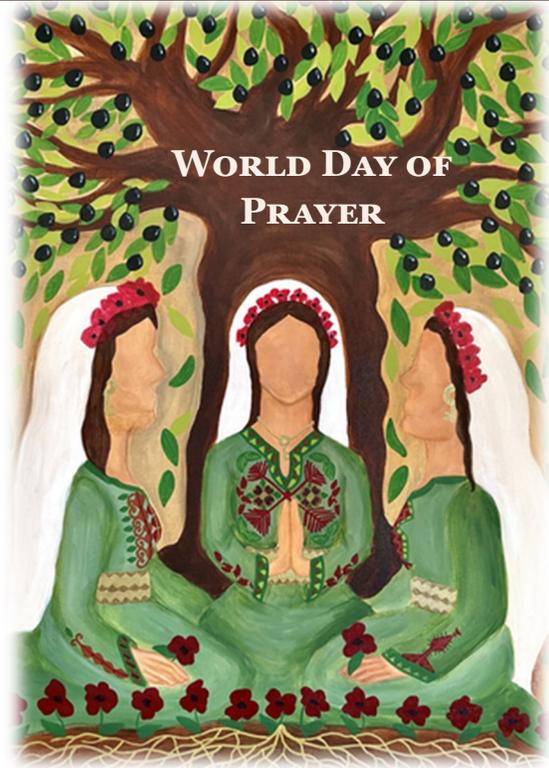
It is that time of year when we consider our annual commitment called “Per Capita” to the church. This annual commitment is tied to membership. If you are a member of the church, then this commitment is currently \$40 per year.

Per capita is our contribution to the connectional church, the PC(USA). This annual giving supports ministries at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly level, while helping us to do things together that would not be possible as a single local church. Through our denomination we can serve the cause of Christ around the globe because of our generosity.

As of February 18th we have received **\$2,070.00** towards our commitment of **\$6,600**, which represents \$40.00 per member. Here is how this gift will be distributed:

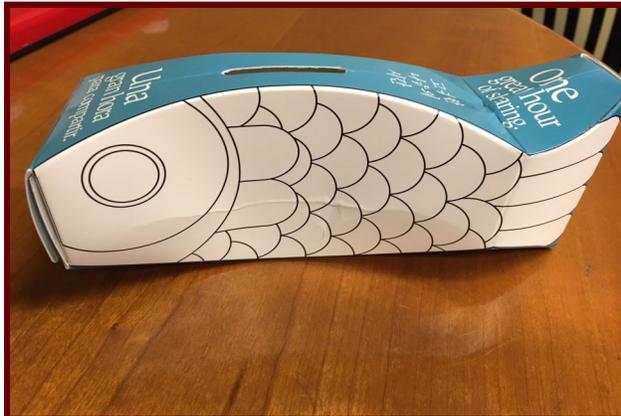
Presbytery	\$27.30
Synod	\$ 2.85
General Assembly	\$ 9.85

Our gift is paid in six increments, starting in February. Please consider your membership gift of \$40 per member. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministries!



World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement lead by Christian women, takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. The 2024 theme, “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love,” is based on Ephesians 4:1-3, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith and prayed that they could see these three truths: the hope to which God has called the disciples, the riches of God’s glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of God’s power.

This year the program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The theme was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women. Let us pray for these women and with all Christians around the globe for a world that recognizes the dignity of all through God’s reign of love and justice.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FILL UP THOSE FISH BANKS!

The young disciples received their fish banks on Sunday, February 18th and they are busy filling them up with change. Of course, the rest of us can gather our loose coins as well as consider a larger gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that will be received on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.

This offering supports three PC(U.S.A.) programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People, which all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

This is certainly an offering that helps us love our neighbors! Thank you in advance for supporting this special offering!

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

– Anne Frank, [Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annex: A Collection of Her Short Stories, Fables, and Lesser-Known Writings](#)

(Continued from page 1) *The Pastor's Corner*

ourselves in the sandals of the disciples who didn't know that Sunday would change the course of history. And this year our Gospel Lesson from Mark will end like this, “Terror and amazement had seized the women; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Even though the young man dressed in white had said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee.”



So where has your balloon ride taken you this Lenten Season as we explored almost every version of up, up, up one could think of? How have you stored up treasures in heaven during your journey, so that your heart is in God's heart? What will you do with the amazing news that Christ lives? How will we live as Easter people, trusting that death really doesn't have the final word? Will we live our daily lives trusting that nothing at all can separate us from the love of God?

As we walk through the remainder of Lent and gather to celebrate that Christ lives, on the last day of March, may we remember that whatever balloon ride we happen to be on this year, that God is with us. We worship a living God even as we retell our faith story with all its emotions every year. We worship a God who created us in love for love, so let us be up to something good with our very lives.

Up to something good,
Pastor Cheryl



**PROPERTY AND
FINANCE UPDATE**



With the recent rains, roof leaks developed in 3 places in the upstairs areas of JKH. Although the drains were inspected and cleared recently, the roof drains were cleared and unclogged again during the storm and this improved but did not eliminate all the leaks. We will need to re-evaluate JKH roof after the rainy season has stopped. We were informed during the last repairs that a new roof would be needed.

The recent rain also developed a wall leak in the JKH basement resulting in minor flooding of 1/3 of the scout basement. This seems to be the result of the parking lot drainage into the planters near the kitchen door. Property and Finance will be looking into ways to eliminate this leak in the basement area.

A new hearing-impaired system was on loan for the Sunday of February 11 and was tested by members of the congregation. The new system is on order and will be installed soon.

Financial Update as of January 31, 2024

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

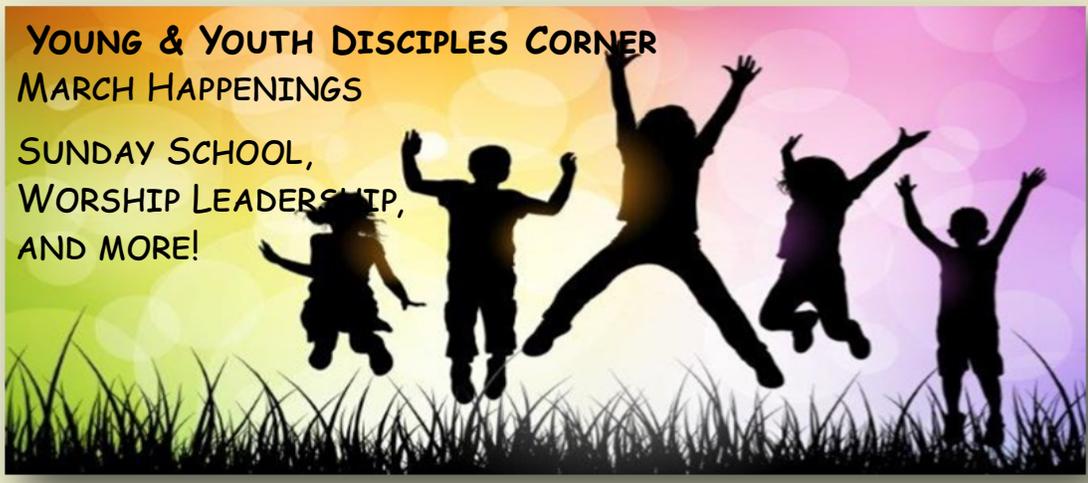
	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$18,265.28		\$16,041.67		\$2,223.61
Rental Income	\$11,278.88		\$10,917.81		\$ 361.07
Total Income	\$31,906.94		\$28,197.00		\$3,709.94
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$22,404.86</u>		<u>\$26,645.29</u>		<u>(\$4,240.43)</u>
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 9,502.08		\$ 1,551.71		\$7,950.37
Less Principal on Loan	<u>(\$ 668.19)</u>				
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 8,833.89				

Total operating funds in the General Account is \$37,319.54.

Overall, our total income of \$31,906.94 exceeded our total expenses of \$22,404.86 by \$9,502.08 for the month of January. It should be noted that we don't start contributing to our per capita giving and general mission giving until February, which will be an expense of \$1,683 per month for six months. ***For the best picture of our current financial health please watch the "total operating funds in the General Account," which currently stands at \$37,319.54.***

The Adjusted NUI happens below the NUI line because the principal on our loan reduces liability, so it is not considered an expense for budgeting purposes although it comes out of our General Account.

Please direct any questions about Property and Finance issues to Moderator James Rager or to Pastor Cheryl. Your involvement is welcome as are gifts of your special talents and time. It is your sustained generosity that fuels our ministry.



We are “Storing Up” treasures in heaven this Lenten season and nurturing our young disciples is certainly part of this work. During March our capable teachers will be teaching according to the following schedule:

Sunday, March 3 rd	Everyone stays in worship for communion!
Sunday, March 10 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 17 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 24 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 31 st	Everyone stays in worship for Easter Sunday!

Young disciples come to worship, participate in the Young Disciple time, and then listen to one of their own lead the Prayer for Illumination before they are dismissed to class. Exuberance usually abounds as they are dismissed and then they rejoin us for Fellowship. If you have any questions about what your young disciples or youth disciples can expect please ask!

Young Disciples help with worship by the reading of the Prayer for Illumination. A big thank you to each young disciple and youth who has helped lead worship through the sharing of the Prayer for Illumination in February: Jonah Cotton, Zachery Emmanuel, Lorence Kayange, and Arianna Emmanuel. Thank you, parents, for helping your young disciples and youth 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.



Winter camp program at Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center still has space available.

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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 2024



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, February 19, 2024, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

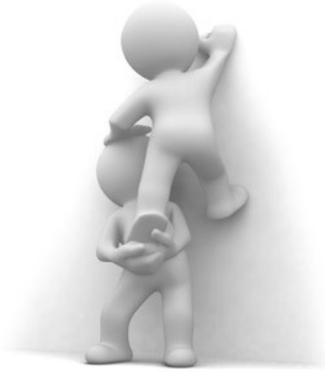
- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2023.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$31,906.94
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$22,404.86
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$9,502.08
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$668.19)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$8,833.89
Balance in General Account:	\$116,564.21
Total Operating Funds in General Account:	\$37,319.54

- Welcomed Ruling Elder Harry Muaya to Session, Class of 2026.
- Approved the annual reports (from 2023) from the Board of Deacons, the Presbyterian Women, and from the Scrip Program.
- Approved the end-of-year financials (2023) for the Scrip Program, the Board of Deacons, and the Presbyterian Women.
- Approved the T-Mobile Lease [Extension] Proposal and approved forwarding the proposal to the Presbytery of Riverside for their approval. Once written approval (permission) has been given by the Presbytery, James Rager is authorized by the FPCR Session to sign the lease on behalf of FPCR.
- Received from the Personnel Committee the proposed job description for the Temporary Pastor to serve during Pastor Cheryl's upcoming sabbatical.
- After meeting with them, joyfully approved receiving Shandy Pondaag and Grace Muaya as members of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands.

A MOMENT FOR DEACONS

By Angela Lambert
Moderator of Deacons



Spring is nearly upon us as we enter the month of March. With all of the recent rain we will start to see the flowers bloom and the leaves return to the trees around us. This is another reminder of the beauty God has created for us. From gorgeous daffodils to the migrating, singing robins, God renews our spirits in the time of Lent.

The Deacons continue to support our congregation and community. In doing so, we support those who have bravely and selflessly served our country by providing bus passes to the VA medical facilities which are so desperately needed. With your generous contributions, no veteran will be left behind. We continue to work hand in hand with Family Services Association. As we all know, food prices have greatly increased and needs for their services are higher than ever. We pray that, through our help, fewer people will go to bed hungry. Another amazing group that depends on our support is the Refresh and Renew shower ministry. Those experiencing homelessness deserve the opportunity to be treated with respect and dignity, like all of God's children.

We could not support these critical programs in our community without your support. One way of doing that and beautifying the sanctuary for our Easter celebration is through the purchase of Easter lilies. You can continue spreading the good news by sharing your Easter lily with a friend, neighbor, or a family member. Please ask a Deacon or contact Judy at the church office and we will be happy to help you celebrate God's love for Easter. Let's make this a sanctuary filled with lilies.

Would you like to be the smiling face that welcomes and greets people to our church on Sunday mornings? This will warm your soul and put a pep in your step. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to be a greeter on the Sunday morning of your choice.

Do you have an UP-coming birthday or an UP-coming anniversary or other celebration that you would like to celebrate? The Deacons would love to make UP a special flower arrangement of your color of choice for your special occasion. Sign-UPS are in the narthex or you can contact me.

Have you been wanting to make people smile after worship on Sundays? The Deacons are always looking for people to provide food and snacks for a time of laughter and getting to know one another after worship. Or, if you are too busy and would like to provide a donation, the Deacons would be willing to make arrangements for you. Sign-ups for this important time of getting to know one another are in the Narthex.

My prayer for all you during this Lenten season is that we help one another in a time of need, work together for the good of our community, enjoy the beauty that God has created on this Earth, and grow closer to one another.

OUTREACH
BEING UP TO SOMETHING GOOD!

Every Sunday in March we are going to ask you to collect items to give to a local charity in our community. Let's see if we can all be up to something good!



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday, March 3 | Spaghetti Noodles and/or Sauces, or Granola Bars for Youth Hope , |
| Sunday, March 10 | New socks for Refresh and Renew Shower Ministry , |
| Sunday, March 17 | Used Towels, Used Blankets, Paper Towels, or Wet Dog food for Redlands Animal Shelter |
| Sunday, March 24 | Bring your One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to Church! |
| Sunday, March 31 | Pop Top Cans, Peanut Butter, or Microwaveable Soups for Family Services Association of Redlands |

Share Ministry

On Saturday, March 23, you can help serve those without homes again through the Share Ministry. Together we prepare a hot meal and serve the meal to about 25 individuals in our community at University United Methodist Church.

Here are ways you can assist:

- Volunteer from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on March 23rd to serve.
- Volunteer to bring a dessert.
- Volunteer to assist with meal prep: main meal will be purchased lasagnas, veggies, garlic bread, soft fruit, dessert, and water.
- Pray for those whom we will serve and for those serving.

Contact Pastor Cheryl with any questions. Outreach thanks you in advance for storing up treasures in heaven by serving through this ministry.

Redlands Area Interfaith Council (RAIC)

The Outreach Committee affirmed their support of this community organization where Al Polchow serves as their treasurer and others attend as members. RAIC seeks to support positive interfaith relationships, enhance non-violent attitudes and behaviors, supports peace, and promotes goodwill in the Redlands community. RAIC's meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 A.M. at Redlands 7th Day Adventist Church located at 520 Brookside Ave, Redlands.

Bread for the World Letters

Thank you to everyone who took the time to write and address letters to your US senator and congressional member. It is important to make our voices heard about things that impact the least of these in our country as well as around the globe. We need to continue to support efforts to eliminate food insecurity! Thank you for making a difference.

If you have any questions about Outreach, please contact Harry Muaya or Pastor Cheryl.



HOLY WEEK SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, March 28, 2024 -

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Communion

On Maundy Thursday at 6:00 P.M. we will gather for a Soup Supper. We will enjoy table fellowship, have conversations around the phrase “Lift Up” based on John 12:22-33, and conclude our time together with communion. Come and listen to each other’s stories as we fellowship together.

March 29, 2024 – 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 Congregational Church located at 2 W. Olive St, Redlands. The service is designed as a Tenebrae service. There will be a community choir, so members of our choir can join in! Community pastors will lead different parts of the service. It will be an evening demonstrating our willingness to be the one body of Christ in all our diversity.

March 31, 2024 – 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 joy 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. Let’s celebrate together as we look up and notice that death does not have the final word, for Christ lives! Alleluia! Amen!

OUR FAITH NEIGHBORS ARE INVITING US TO PARTICIPATE DURING HOLY WEEK!

Hosted by the First Baptist Church of Redlands

COMMUNITY ART INSTALLATION & EXHIBITION

We are inviting individuals from our community to submit artistic presentations that connect with the theme, “**What Does Jesus See?**” That question might sound a bit broad and abstract for some, and it can be answered in different ways. We ask everyone to feel free to interpret and answer that question in a multitude of ways: through paintings, sketches, sculpture, photography, or other types of visual media. We will gather submissions and display submissions during Holy Week in the chapel for the community at large. Exhibits hours will be available before Holy Week.

Submissions will be collected throughout Lent until **Monday, March 18**. Please email fbcworshiparts@gmail.com if you have any questions. Register for free using **THIS LINK: <https://forms.gle/Kicx7KVXg3Bm5XQY7>**

2ND ANNUAL SIDEWALK CHALK FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Members of the community are invited to join in creating a chalk art mosaic along the sidewalks that border the First Baptist Church located on Olive Avenue and Cajon Street. All are invited to contribute, regardless of your level of art skills! We will have chalk available, though you are welcome to bring your own chalk supplies as well. Please

email fbcworshiparts@gmail.com if you have any questions. Register for free using **THIS LINK: <https://forms.gle/nZrqUvrU2TRwUR7k9>**

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
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tab at the top of the page.

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CHURCH OF REDLANDS

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**Return Service
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