

THE MESSENGER



THE PASTOR'S CORNER "Freeing Jesus"



Are you ready for Lent? It began with Ash Wednesday, on February 22 this year. I partnered with Rev. Craig Hadley from Paradox church to impose ashes upon request at 5th Street and State Street that day. Shortly, after positioning ourselves on this corner, a woman exclaimed, "Ashes on the Go, how wonderful!" Then I had the privilege of imposing ashes on three people, and to pray for their newborn and for a marriage that was happening soon in their family. Freeing Jesus to be found wherever we find ourselves, like on the corner of 5th and State Streets, is what our Lenten Season is all about this year.

For those of us who grew up in the church, we probably met Jesus in Sunday School through the gospel stories we heard. There may even have been a picture of Jesus with a lamb over his shoulders hanging on a classroom wall. We learned that Jesus walked on water, healed lots of people, and also fed thousands. We learned of his parents Mary and Joseph and that he was announced by angels to shepherds. We also learned that he had many names: Son of God, Messiah, Lord, Rabbi, True Vine, Living Word, Light of the World and more.

For those who didn't grow up in the church, you might have heard the name of Jesus, but did not know of the stories found in the Bible. It is quite possible that you might have heard Jesus' name come up in less than complimentary way. A hammer slip with a finger casualty might have caused, "Jesus," to ring out as an expletive.

Isaiah says to us, "For a child has been born to us... he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." And the angels announce to the shepherds, "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

So, who is this Jesus? Or as Saul says to the voice from the blinding light that knocked him to the ground, "Who are you, Lord?"

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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

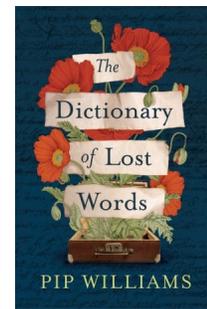
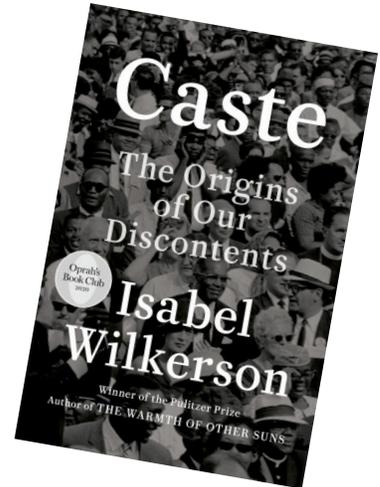
The group will meet to discuss this book on March 16, in classroom 1, after the Lenten Soup Supper

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents, by Isabel Wilkerson, winner for Goodreads' Best History & Biography (2020) "examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions."*

April's read is *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



March 3	Michael Sihombing
March 4	Lorence Kayange
March 6	Margaret Ndipagbor
March 8	Alice Munde
March 14	Sereena Shahid
March 17	Sana Shad
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 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 the third Sunday of the month, 11:30 A.M.

March 5, 2023 2nd Sunday in Lent

First Reading Selected Proverbs
Second Reading John 15:12-15
The Message “What a Friend!”

Spring ahead Saturday night March 11th before you go to bed or you will be late for service on Sunday, March 12th!

March 12, 2023 3rd Sunday in Lent

First Reading Psalm 25:1-10
Second Reading John 13:12-15
The Message “Jesus as Teacher”

March 19, 2023 4th Sunday in Lent

First Reading Luke 2:8-14
Second Reading John 4:39-42
The Message “A Savior, the Messiah”

March 26, 2023 5th Sunday in Lent

First Reading Psalm 42:1-6a
Second Reading Luke 6:46-49
The Message “Lord of Lords!”



**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS
THURSDAYS AT 6:00 P.M.
IN JOHN KNOX HALL**

We will continue gathering on **Thursday** evenings during Lent, at **6:00 P.M.** to partake in simple soup supper in John Knox Hall. As we eat, we will enjoy table fellowship and then we will engage in a time of reflection on the topics explored in *Freeing Jesus*.

Luann Bangsund and Ann Platz will be organizing these soup suppers, so if you would like to provide soup one evening, please contact them! Here are the dates of our gatherings:

February 23	Introduction to Freeing Jesus
March 2	Jesus as Friend
March 9	Jesus as Teacher
March 16	Jesus as Savior
March 23	Jesus as Lord

March 29 at 5:30 P.M.

NO SOUP SUPPER TONIGHT!
Instead, we will meet in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. to have a Zoom opportunity with Diana Butler Bass, the author of our book, Freeing Jesus.

April 6 Maundy Thursday - Communion

It will be a joy to be together again in table fellowship during this Lenten season.

Invite someone new to experience our time together this Lent!

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?

Per capita helps support 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 with our generosity.

And let us not forget that we have been incredibly blessed by the Connectional Church, receiving \$130,000 in grants last year for our sanctuary renovation project which is underway this year.

As of February 19th we have received **\$1,690.36** 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. Please consider an additional gift of \$40 per member. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministries!



Faith Formation - Sunrise Thursday Mornings

We will continue our Lenten Sunrise series on Thursdays throughout March and into April on Maundy Thursday, April 6th. Sunrise will take place on Thursdays at 7:00 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.



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

Contemplative Corner

Praying with the Gospel of Matthew

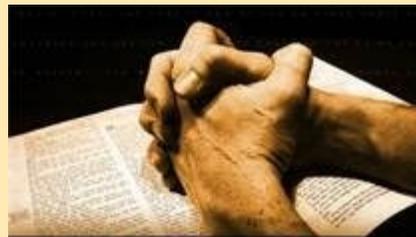
As we continue our journey through Lent, I offer this passage from Matthew for our reflection:

“Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ Jesus said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a den of robbers.” [Matthew 21:12-13]

Lent is a time to reflect on our faith journey as individuals and as a church. In Matthew, Jesus is making his way to the temple, and when he arrives, he doesn't like what he encounters. He makes it clear to the money changers that they have made God's house of prayer into a den of robbers.

What would Jesus say of our house of worship? What would Jesus say of each of us?

As you pray with this text this month, read the whole encounter found in Matthew 21:14-17. Begin to ponder what word Jesus might have for you this Lenten Season.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
FEBRUARY 2023



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

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2022.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$28,288.39
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$23,975.83
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	\$4,312.56
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$649.83)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	\$3,662.73
Balance in General Account*:	\$109,554.43

(*General Account: \$42,781.53 is Unrestricted and \$66,772.90 is Restricted/Designated)

- Approved the FPCR Annual Report for 2022.
- Approved the end-of-year 2022 Financial Statements from the FPCR Presbyterian Women's group, the FPCR Board of Deacons, and the FPCR Scrip Account.
- Received and approved the information from the FPCR Financial Review for 2022.
- Approved the revised Facilities Use Policies and Procedures (along with a revised Facility Use Application).
- Approved a Special Session Meeting for Monday evening, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom for the purpose of reviewing the Lilly Grant Application.



NEXT NEW MEMBER CLASS
SATURDAY
MARCH 11, 2023

On Saturday, March 11th at 8:30 A.M. a new members class will be offered at church. You will have the opportunity to share a bit of your story and how you came to First Presbyterian Church of Redlands, as well as an opportunity to hear about what it means to be a member of this Presbyterian Church.

It is always a delight to listen to each other's stories and learn about how our church works together to build up the "kingdom" of God. You can come if you are just exploring the possibility or if you have already felt the Spirit's nudge to join.

Please contact Pastor Cheryl at pastorcheryl@gmail.com or (714) 801-4345, if you have any questions.



STAFF WHEREABOUTS

Judy 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.

(Continued from page 1)

The Pastor's Corner



The earliest of creeds, the Nicene Creed, which took hundreds of years to develop says this about Jesus, "And [I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things are made, who for us men [all humans] and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end."

The Brief Statement of Faith, written as the two main streams of Presbyterians reunited after 160 years of separation says this about Jesus, "We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal."

Creeds tell us about Jesus, but this Lent we are being challenged to explore our experience of Jesus, for Saul became Paul, not because he adhered to a creed. Saul became Paul because of his experience of Jesus. Let's free Jesus and share with one another our experiences of Jesus. Who knows what we might learn along the way?

Willing to Free Jesus,
Pastor Cheryl

PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



Sanctuary Update

The architect is working on the construction drawings. Electrical contractors were brought on campus to do a job walk and they are working on their bids.

Financial Update as of January 31, 2023

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

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Donations and Pledges	\$14,769.31		\$17,166.66		(\$ 2,397.35)
Rental Income	\$ 9857.80		\$ 9,820.94		\$ 36.86
Total Income	\$28,288.39		\$28,197.93		\$ 90.46
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$23,312.56</u>		<u>\$26,660.59</u>		<u>(\$2,684.76)</u>
Net Unrestricted Income*	\$ 4,312.56		\$ 1,537.34		\$2,775.22
Less Principal on Loan	<u>(\$ 649.83)</u>				
Adjusted *NUI	\$ 3,666.73				

General Operating Account has \$109,544.43, of which \$44,781.53 is unrestricted and \$66,772.90 is restricted/designated.

Overall, our total income of \$28,288.39 exceeded our total expenses of \$23,312.56 by \$4,312.56 for the month of January, even though our actual donations and pledges were less than anticipated by \$2,397.35. As you know costs have increased for utilities and insurance, and we don't begin our per capita and mission contributions until February. The Adjusted NUI happens below the Net Unrestricted Income (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.

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

YOUNG DISCIPLES CORNER MARCH HAPPENINGS



Sunday School, Worship Leadership, and more!

In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear a voice from heaven say to the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, "Listen to Jesus." Well, our young disciples are learning how to listen to Jesus thanks to the dedication of our teachers and teaching assistants! Here is the teaching schedule for February:

Sunday, March 5 th	Everyone stays in worship for a baptism and communion! We are baptizing Bradley Robert Arnold!
Sunday, March 12 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 19 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, March 26 th	Class is in Session

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 leading the Prayer for Illumination. A big thank you to each young disciple and youth who have helped lead worship through the sharing of the Prayer for Illumination in February: Rich Cunningham, Veronica Cunningham, Jonah Cotton and Zachery 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.

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



SHARE MINISTRY

On Saturday, March 26th you can help serve those without homes again through the Share Ministry. Together we prepare a hot meal and serve the meal to about 30 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 26th to serve.

Volunteer to bake cookies for dessert.

Volunteer to assist with meal prep: main meal will be purchased lasagnas, salad, and garlic bread.

Pray for those whom we will serve and for those serving.

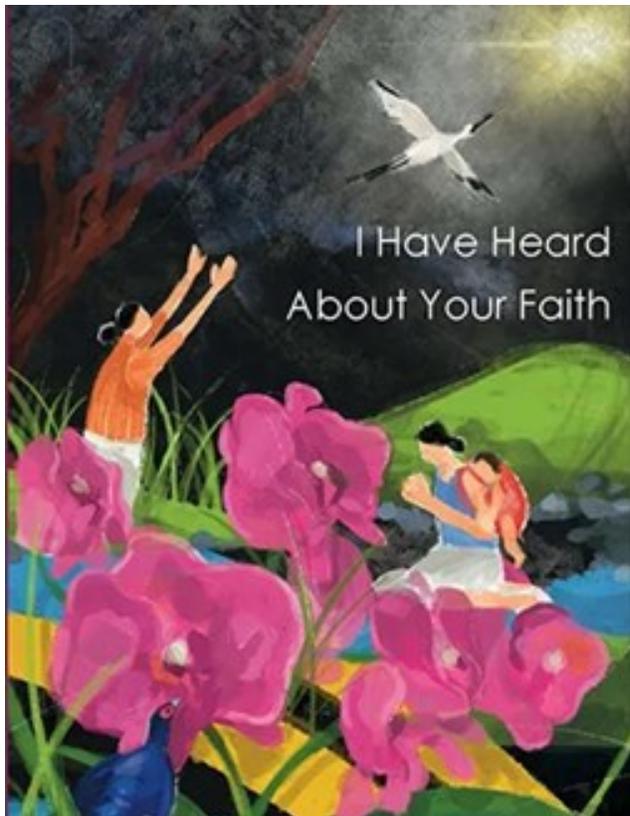
Contact Debbie Law with any questions, as she is taking the lead for March. Thanks in advance for helping with this ministry!

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.

If you have any questions about Outreach, please contact Al Polchow or Pastor Cheryl.





WORLD PRAYER DAY
FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023

World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women, takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. The 2023 theme, “I Have Heard About Your Faith,” **is based on Ephesians 1:15-19, 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 we remember and pray for the women of Taiwan who have been affected by traditional patriarchal views and its social structures, which put women in a subordinate position to men. 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
THE FISH BANKS ARE HERE!

Start collecting your spare change and begin to feed the fish! The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.

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.

Thank you in advance for supporting this special offering!

RUN THROUGH REDLANDS

One of the advantages of being a downtown church is that we are right in the thick of things. But, that means that several times a year, our city hosts weekend activities that impact traffic around the church, and March 5th is one of those weekends.

Officials assure us that access to our parking lots won't be impacted by the Run Through Redlands, but you might want to allow just a little bit of extra time to get to worship services to allow for the additional traffic.

See you in church!

MOMENT FOR DEACONS

Here we are again almost at the end of another month! It was a busy beginning to the month. The Deacons were asked to do the reception for Carol Appleton's memorial service. What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady. Boy, did the Deacons step up for the reception! It was the largest reception I had been involved in at our church. I asked the Deacons to shine when I told them about the reception and shine they did. The reception was beautiful, enjoyed by those that attended, and went very smoothly.

I would like to give a big thank you to Lynn Phelps, Ann Platz, Lina Tan, and Debbie Smith, who were the Deacons that were there from beginning to end of the reception. We also want to thank Dahlia Elery, Gayle Timilione, Karen Dwight, Kristy Rager, the Merkleys, Debbie Law, and the Fredericks, who did everything from keeping tables full to traffic control and keeping paper goods in the restrooms. Marcia Fagan and Luann Bangsund graciously greeted guests. What a wonderful church we belong to, to have that many people coming

together for such a special event. After the reception was over the Lamberts came back to help my daughter, Camille and me take down and pack up the tables. Another big thank you!

The Deacons served Communion the day after the reception, in keeping with our duties. Chris Kane, our fantastic treasurer, has been keeping up with our gifts to those in the community that Deacons help support. We continue to provide flowers for the church services.

If you would like to greet your friends, new and established, as they come to service, please pick a date or two to greet on our signup sheet, in

the narthex, as you come into the church.

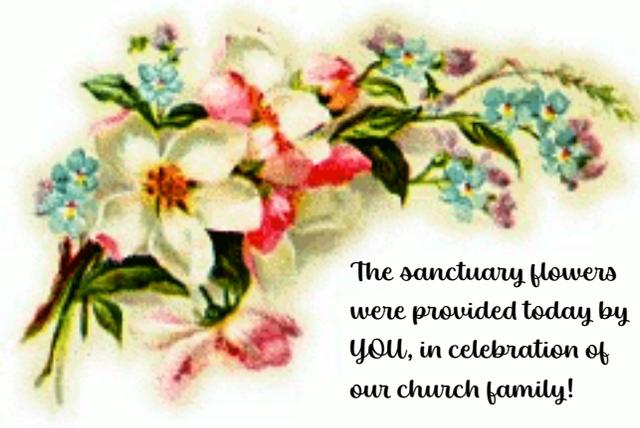
If you would like to help with coffee fellowship please pick a date or two throughout the year. It is easy and there are a few of us that are more than happy to show you the ropes. That sign up is also in the narthex.

One more sign up is for providing flowers for the service. We all have a loved one we would like to remember or birthday or anniversary we would like to celebrate. We will do the flowers for you, or if you like, you may provide your own! Just fill out one of the forms with the sign up board and turn it into Judy in the office so she will be able to get it on the bulletin.

Thank you all for all of your continued support of the Deacons.

God Bless!

Patti Robertson, Moderator of Deacons



*The sanctuary flowers
were provided today by
YOU, in celebration of
our church family!*

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Riverside

*Invite you to a
Spring Celebration Gathering Tea*



*With Guest Speaker
Polly Drucke and her Hat Style Show
Saturday, April 1, 2023, Noon—2:00 p.m.
Beaumont Presbyterian Church
702 Euclid Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223*

*Registration \$10.00
Bring your own cup and saucer
Enjoy wearing a beautiful hat to the tea*

We are asking each PWC to provide eight (8) sandwiches, cut into fourths, and 24 finger desserts.

Instead of sending your registration check to Patty Werley, the PWP treasurer, give your check to your PWC treasurer, who will then send one check from your group to the PWP treasurer. All registration fees and R.S.V.P. notifications are due by March 25.

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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