

# FIRST NEWS

## THE VISITOR

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | 2100 J STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95816



### Our Mission

Faithfully growing together as the hands and heart of Jesus Christ for the world through knowing, loving, serving God and others.

### Member of Reconciling Ministries Network

First United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, education, and physical and mental ability. We welcome all as beloved children of God.

### REV ROD

These times are so big! So promising. So dramatic. Nothing big, promising, or dramatic is without risk, cost, and challenge.

— What of the United Methodist denomination? Well, apparently a horrible tension may dissipate, as people who are not welcoming of LGBTQIA persons are proposing a (to me, sad) departure from us. It will leave the rest of the UMC intact, and free us to be done with one tension. Will we be free of tensions forever? Isn't it silly that sometimes we fantasize such a thing! Never. But is it good to be together in the UMC? Yes!! And will it be good to say goodbye to this effort to exclude the LGBTQIA community from our churches? Double yes!

And what of First Church? We are thriving, despite financial pinches that sting at best. And look at the attached cut out list of our leadership for 2020!!! These people are awesome, beloved, great souls. We're in good hands. Will they have boatloads of problems to solve this year? Oh, you bet! And God will bless them in doing their work as we are blessed to have them guide us.

And what of our planet? Climate change becomes more visible as Redding and Paradise and Santa Rosa and swaths of Australia burn, and millennia old weather and ocean current patterns are interrupted. But bold people are not giving up. You're going to hear an audacious and beautiful group that is brewing something right here at First Church very soon.

And it's an election year. Every election matters. This one is a big deal by every metric. It's a great year to pray, work, speak, and listen. And vote!

Friends, by the end of February it will be Lent. We are coming to a sacred season, and we're always in a sacred season. You are loved by God. The world you live in is loved by God. And the church God has drawn us into is loved by God.

It's big. Dramatic and Promising. And the Spirit is at work. In you. In others. In us.

- RB

MESSAGES COMING IN FEBRUARY

February 2	Matthew 5:1-12	"Surprising Strength"
February 9	Matthew 5:13-20	"You Are Light"
February 16	Matthew 5:21-37	"More Goodness; Then Even More"
February 23	Matthew 17:1-9	"The Bigger Deal"
Remember: the messages are available on CD at our office and online at <a href="http://www.firstumcsac.org">www.firstumcsac.org</a> or on podcast. Download wherever you get your podcasts.		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soul Time Returns!

Wednesday February 5, from 11:00 to 1:00 or any part of that time frame, Rod will be at Sal’s Tacos in West Sacramento for open ended conversation. It is sometimes moving, sometimes fun, sometimes thought-provoking discussion. You’re invited. Soul Time is scheduled for every First Wednesday for the year.

Fourth Annual Ash-Wednesday-on-Fat-Tuesday Gathering

From singles to couples to kids to seniors, we have enjoyed and grown together in this annual event. It starts at 6:30 with a fun, silly, Mardi Gras pot luck (desserts are welcome, too!), and at 7:15 moves into the chapel for a tender Ash Service to begin Lent. It’s over usually before 8:00.

Major Save the Date!!

First Church is planning “It’s Evening Camp” on August 4-6 (really, it’s in the evenings!). This will include great conversations for adults and something that may feel like the old Vacation Bible School for kids. The theme this year will be “Celebrating the Faiths of the World”.

First Sunday Delight

On Sunday February 2, you are invited to gather for a conversation of planetary significance! At noon after the fellowship gathering that happens after church, we are planning a conversation with a group from our church we’re calling “Carbon Partners”.

This group, Jessica Leonard, Eric Thronson, Jesse Buckmaster, and Laila Atalla will present along with Rod Brayfindley on an idea. It’s about carbon. And about us. And about boldness and something as positive as you can imagine. Plan to stay for lunch. This month we’ll integrate the Reconciling and Social Justice Team’s monthly fellowship lunch into our time as well.

— Rod Brayfindley

## GETTING TOGETHER

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Greetings. We are called to be One in Christ in all that we do. The UMW Prayer Shawl Circle has consented to participate in a shared ministry with a similar organization at St. John's Lutheran Church. Pastor Rod and I will meet with Pastor Amy Kienzle, Director of Outreach at St. John's on Feb. 6th to lay the ground work for such a shared ministry. Our Prayer Shawl Circle continues to give comfort to recipients of the shawl that are hurting and/or experiencing illness. It is our prayer that this coming together will expand that comfort to many more in need. We presently share ministries with several congregations in midtown Sacramento through our participation in the Pilgrimage Meals program and Family Promise.

— Allen C. Johnson, member, CUIR

## EASTER AT THE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

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For 27 years—1946 – 1973, First Church held its Easter Sunday services in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium at 16th and J streets. After turning away hundreds of worshippers on Easter for a couple of years prior to 1946, the Official Board voted to hold the Easter service in the Memorial Auditorium. This required the formation of a number of committees: publicity, decorations, ushers, and several others, all made up of lay persons eager to make the project a success. And a success it was: that year four thousand persons attended.

A beautiful cathedral backdrop on the auditorium stage was an appropriate background for the scores of baskets of flowers, including snowballs, bridal wreath, calla lilies, palms and Easter lilies. Local florists graciously loaned the church plants and palms. Dr. Grant, our pastor at that time, immediately reserved the Auditorium for the next year, when the attendance rose to 4,600. In 1948 every seat in the Auditorium was filled and extra chairs were brought in to accommodate the crowd of 5,200 worshippers.



The service started at 11:00 a.m. but many people came at 10:30 to hear our organist, Ethel Sleeper Brett, in a mini-concert which inspired the audience. Also the 1948 service began with the processional of 150 Knights Templars, led by Governor Earl Warren, as they marched to the strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers," to be followed by our combined choirs leading the congregation in "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

As the years passed, the attendance began to dwindle, partly because Sacramento's suburbs were burgeoning and suburban churches became established, including some Methodist churches. By 1974 it was no longer feasible to continue at the Memorial Auditorium, so it was decided to return our Easter services to our own sanctuary.

—Joan Haug-West, Church Historian



## LGBTQ+ RECONCILING & SOCIAL JUSTICE



“There is no holiness but social holiness.”

The United Methodist tradition of social justice began with these words from John Wesley and it continues with us today. We pray, that as the United Methodist Church becomes restructured, or better, reformed, that this tradition continues for as long as injustice exists.

Attendance at our monthly meetings continues to grow, with 26 attendees in the January meeting. This is heartening in that there is real interest in continuing the work that John Wesley spoke of and what is one avenue in the methods of our faith.

In January, R&SJ team helped host a benefit concert for Trans Queer Youth Collective. This therapy and outreach group works with youth from 12-18 that, if nothing more need an ear, but also are provided guidance and assessment of their health needs, both physical and mental. This group is led by Julie Strathdee, whose parents, Jean and Jim Strathdee, performed at the concert along with the Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus and the Sacramento Women’s Chorus.

Not familiar with the Strathdees? You will recognize their music by checking our hymnal, “The Faith We Sing”, hymnal numbers, 2168, 2174, and 2280. January was also the month of marches. Two important marches that bring social justice to the forefront. On January 18 was the Women’s March. Thousands of people of all gender identities marched for “compassion, allyship, respect and equity”. Monday, January 20, was the Martin Luther King Jr. March. This year, the theme was March for the Dream, Honoring the Past, Impacting the Future!

First UMC Sacramento was joined in both marches by congregants from other United Methodist Churches in the area.

UMC PRIDE Collective helped organize these events. This organization is a loose collection of up to 13 UM Churches that consider themselves reconciling or inclusive. This group meets monthly on the last Wednesday of the month. For further information, email [reconciling@firstumcsac.org](mailto:reconciling@firstumcsac.org) or find the group on Facebook or at [www.umcpridecollective.com](http://www.umcpridecollective.com).

R&SJ next meeting is February 9 after service, at noon, in room 206.

Everyone is welcome.

—Douglas Treadwell

FIRST UMC TEAM

LEADERSHIP	
Leadership Team Chair	Aaron Johnson
Leadership Team Secretary	Julie Rodriguez
Lay Leaders	Kelley Barker Adam Vargyas
SPR Chair	Julian Leonard
LGBTQ+ Reconciling & Social Justice	Doug Treadwell
Worship Chair & SUMU	Terry Haug
Finance Chair	Dorothy Klishevich
Treasurer	Bill Skinner
Financial Secretary	Rita Templin
Trustee Chair	Pat Coleman
UMW Chair	Phyllis Varney
Church Historian	Joan Haug-West
Annual Conference Members	Laura Reed & Andrea Johnson (Alternates: Cathy Love & Doug Treadwell)
Membership Secretary	Doug Treadwell

STAFF	
Youth Ministry	Amy & Danny Price, Mike McDoniels
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Mary Meister
Facility / Property Manager	Mary Meister

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS	
Chair	Julian Leonard
Vice Chair	Yvette Brittain
Lay Leader	Kelley Brittain

2020	2021	2022
Walt Edwards	Allen Johnson	Alison Coterill
Yvette Brittain	Julian Leonard	Joe Gonzales
Barbara Schmidt	Beverly Ireland	Irene Brown

TRUSTEES	
Chair	Pat Coleman

2020	2021	2022
Peggy Adams	Greg Beale	Jesse Buckmaster
Gary Varney	Jessica Leonard	Jaime Segura
Cheri Nelson	Danny Yost	Pat Coleman

FINANCE COMMITTEE	
Chair	Dorothy Klishevich
Treasurer	Bill Skinner
Financial Secretary	Rita Templin
Assistant Treasurers	Norm Helsel Pat Peck Pat Coleman
Assistant Financial Secretaries	Pam Friedenberg Vern Armstrong Adora Crame
Ex Officio	Aaron Johnson
Trustee Rep	Greg Beale
Layleader	Adam Vargyas

NOMINATIONS	
Chair	Rod Brayfindley

2020	2021	2022
Julian Leonard	Bob Peck	Carl Thomas, Phyllis Varney

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM	
Chair	Linda Caldwell
Team	Amy Price Carl Thomas Pat Peck Mary Meister Jan Mishler Linda Caldwell Bill Skinner



FACILITY PLANNING	
Co-Chair	Roseanne Lopez & Burt Peterson
At-Large Members	Jim Johnson Tare Thronson Pat Coleman Laura Reed Gary Varney
<i>Adjunct (ex officio)</i>	
Trustee Liaison	Danny Yost
Leadership Chair	Aaron Johnson
Finance Chair	Dorothy Klishevich

WELCOMING TEAM	
Chair	Doug Treadwell
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Mary Meister
Facility / Property Manager	Mary Meister

### FAMILY PROMISE

Thank you for helping Family Promise keep its promise!  
January 12-19, Love First hosted three families with three families of three adults and five children, ages 2, 3, 6, 11 and 16.

We really, really need more volunteers, especially young adults who will stay as overnight security to help keep the children and their parents safe. Pastor Rod stepped in to help, but we could use more who are willing to spend the night. We only had three but the Church needs to supply someone overnight all seven nights, they were short four people. Blankets were also needed for these colder nights.

To help contact Regina & Mike McDoniels, [reginacornish916@yahoo.com](mailto:reginacornish916@yahoo.com)

— Glenn Tilton

### SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK

2nd Saturday Art Walk is just around the corner! Ron & Susan Nakamoto are looking for artists, musicians, entertainment & volunteers of all skill levels & abilities. It would only be on 2nd Saturdays, you can help one time or as much as you feel called to participate. Please contact Susan **916-465-2694** or [artasylum.2017@gmail.com](mailto:artasylum.2017@gmail.com)



### BLENDED SERVICE SUNDAY?

Yes, on February 9, we’re doing a combined service at 10:00 for our evacuation plan. We recommend everyone be at church at ten that morning. If you normally attend the 10:30 hour, thank you for making this one time adjustment.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

**Prayer, Meditation and Sharing**

8:00-9:30 am – Library

**Health and Karate**

10:00 – 9:30 am – Room 201

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

**Pathways to Faith**

9:00 – 10:00am – Room 206

**Sunday Worship**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Sanctuary

**Carbon Partners**

12:00 – 2:00 pm – Chapel

**Reconciling Social Justice**

12:00 – 2:00 pm – Chapel

**Youth Ministries Super Bowl Pizza**

**Fundraiser**

12:00 in the Social Hall

MONDAY, FEB. 3

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

**Chair Yoga**

10:00 – 11:30 am – Chapel

**Soul Time – Sal’s Tacos**

11:00am – 1:00 pm

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

**UMW Executive**

9:45 – 10:45 am – Library

**UMW General**

10:45 am – 1:00 pm - Social Hall

**Scriptures and Hymns**

6:30 – 7:00 pm – Library

**Choir Rehearsal**

7:00-9-0 0 pm – Sanctuary

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

**Prayer, Meditation and Sharing**

8:00-9:30 am – Library

**Health and Karate**

10:00 – 9:30 am – Room 201

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

**Pathways to Faith**

9:00 – 10:00am – Room 206

**Sunday Worship**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Sanctuary

**Prayer Shawl Circle**

11:30 am – 12:00 pm Social Hall

**Recon Soc. Justice Meeting**

12:00 – 2:00 pm – Room 206

MONDAY, FEB. 10

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

**Chair Yoga**

10:00 – 11:30 am – Chapel

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201

**PB & J Bar (SSP)**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Social Hall

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

**Scriptures and Hymns**

6:30 – 7:00 pm – Library

**Choir Rehearsal**

7:00-9-00 pm – Sanctuary

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

**Community Breakfast**

7:00 – 9:00 am – Social Hall

**Pathways to Faith**

9:00 – 10:00am – Room 206

**Sunday Worship**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Sanctuary

**Trustees**

12:00 – 2:00 pm – Room 206

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

**Valentine’s Day**

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

**Prayer, Meditation and Sharing**

8:00-9:30 am – Library

**Health and Karate**

10:00 – 9:30 am – Room 201

MONDAY, FEB. 17

**OFFICE CLOSED - HOLIDAY**

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

**Community Dinner**

5:00 -8:00 pm – Social Hall

**Finance Meeting**

5:30 – 6:30 pm – Room 206

**Leadership Team Meeting**

6:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 206

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

**Chair Yoga**

10:00 – 11:30 am – Chapel

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201



CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

**UMW Circle 3**

9:45-11:30 am – Library

**Scriptures and Hymns**

6:30 – 7:00 pm – Library

**Choir Rehearsal**

7:00-9-00 pm – Sanctuary

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

**Prayer, Meditation and Sharing**

8:00-9:30 am – Library

**Health and Karate**

10:00 – 9:30 am – Room 201

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

**Community Breakfast**

7:00 – 9:00 am – Social Hall

**Pathways to Faith**

9:00 – 10:00am – Room 206

**Sunday Worship**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Sanctuary

**SPRC Meeting**

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Room 106

MONDAY, FEB. 24

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

**Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Event**

6:00-8:00 pm – Social Hall, Chapel

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

**Chair Yoga**

10:00 – 11:30 am – Chapel

**Health and Karate**

5:30 – 8:00 pm – Room 201

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

**UMW Workshop**

10:00am – 1:00 pm – Room 208

**Scriptures and Hymns**

6:30 – 7:00 pm – Library

**Choir Rehearsal**

7:00-9-00 pm – Sanctuary

SATURDAY, FEB. 29

**Prayer, Meditation and Sharing**

8:00-9:30 am – Library

**Health and Karate**

10:00 – 9:30 am – Room 201

LOS RIOS

DISTRICT REVIVAL

Saturday, February 1, 2020

9:00AM until 5:00PM

Davis UMC, 1620 Anderson Road, Davis,  
CA 95616

Cost: \$15.00 per person (includes  
refreshments and lunch) !

Child Care Available !

2020 BASIC LAY SERVANT  
TRAINING

The Los Rios District will offer Basic  
Lay Servant Training classes in the first  
quarter of 2020, beginning in January.  
The trainings will be held on three  
different Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
at various locations.

Cost is \$25, which includes lunch.

The classes will utilize the text Lay  
Servant Ministries Basic Course  
Participant’s Book, ISBN Code:  
9780881776263, \$11 through Cokesbury  
and on Amazon. Please read the text  
prior to attending the class.

Dates/Locations:

- **January 25** at Easter Hill UMC,  
Richmond.
- **February 29** at Sonoma UMC.
- **March 21** at Pittsburg UMC.

For more information contact  
Kandi Weider, lay servant  
coordinator for the Los Rios District,  
at [kandiweider@gmail.com](mailto:kandiweider@gmail.com)

— **Kandi Weider** | 707-332-7529

**GAZA, IRAN & U.S. MILITARISM  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

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Ret. Col. Ann Wright will speak about Gaza, Iran & ending U.S. militarism in the Middle East on Thursday Feb 6th at 6:30pm in the Terrace Room. A Middle Eastern dinner will be served and donations gratefully accepted to aid the “Freedom Flotilla 2020 to Break the Siege on Gaza.”

Col. Ann Wright resigned from the U.S. diplomatic corps in 2003 in opposition to the U.S. war on Iraq. Since then, she has been writing and speaking out for peace. She has traveled to Iran as a citizen diplomat, participating in multiple delegations to that country. Wright was on the May, 2010 Gaza flotilla that was attacked by the Israeli military. Since then she has organized multiple humanitarian boats to Gaza,

challenging the 13 year Israeli imposed blockade and calling attention to the plight of the people suffering in what has been called the largest “open air prison,” Gaza.

For more information contact Patricia Daugherty: **916 225 8511**

**CHILDREN’S MINISTRY**

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In Children’s Ministry, we explore the Bible every week. We also have participated in a variety of wonderful activities such as music, special art projects, and service activities. On the second Sunday in January we had fun with games, puzzles, and dancing because in Children’s Ministry we know for an engaging and enriching experience play is important.

*Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity*  
—Kay Redfield Jamison







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USPS 91790

Address Service Requested



**FIRST**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Midtown Sacramento **21<sup>st</sup> & J**