

# The Advance

Redding UMC's monthly newsletter



January 2024



Nov. and Dec. were filled with wonderful community events!

## Looking Forward to 2024!

2023 has been filled with change. We bid farewell to Pastor Joe Major, whose years of dedicated service were a blessing to so many. And with his departure, I stepped into the role of your new pastor with a mix of both apprehension and excitement.

While change can be unsettling, but I've witnessed the unwavering spirit and resilience of our congregation. You embraced the transition with open hearts and welcoming smiles, making Anne and me feel instantly at home.

These past few months have been a whirlwind of introductions, shared stories, and moments of collective joy. 2024 promises even more opportunities to grow, deepen our connections, and make a positive impact on our community.

By working together, by sharing our gifts and talents, by embracing one another in our shared journey of faith, we can ensure our community of faith remains a beacon of hope, support, and love.

I am beyond grateful to be on this journey with you, and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together in the year ahead. ~ Pastor Charles



Tapestry Connection is an interdenominational Bible Study and Fellowship by and for the LGBTQ+ Community in Shasta County.

We meet on **Monday nights at 6:30pm in the community room at the Holiday Market on Placer Street.** Tapestry Connection is a place for the LGBTQ+ community, both young and old, to fellowship with each other and explore the Bible together.

For more information, contact **Kyle at [tapestryconnection@outlook.com](mailto:tapestryconnection@outlook.com) or 530-255 4472** or visit **[TapestryConnection.com](http://TapestryConnection.com).**



Our offices will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Messages will be checked for emergencies.

## Join a Small Group!

Our small groups meet weekly to share reflections on faith and the concerns of our lives. These groups offer opportunities to connect with our church family. Each group has its own personality, is always open to new members, and you can jump in or out of any group at any time! The materials each group uses change throughout the year. Call the church office if you need a leader's contact info!

### **Sunday from 8:45 – 9:45 am**

We discuss the verses and sermon from last Sunday.

Meets in Room 10/11

Leader: Mary Doty

### **Sunday from 5:00 – 6:00 pm**

We discuss faith-related topics.

Meets in the Susanna Room

Leader: Ron Boese or Andy McClure

### **Tuesday 4:00 – 5:00 pm**

We discuss faith-related topics.

Meets at the Kermodes' home

Leaders: Ray and Sue Kermode

### **Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 pm**

Bible Study and discussion of faith-related topics.

Meets in Rooms 10/11

Leaders: Ed and Carol Whitmer

### **Wednesday 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Bible Study, a conversation that's open to all

Meets in the church library (top floor)

Leader: Pastor Charles

**NEW!**

### **Thursday 7:30 – 8:30 am**

Discuss faith-related topics & share our prayer concerns.

Meets at *From the Hearth* on Market St.

Leaders: Lynne Wonacott and Donna Holscher

### **Thursday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

Bible Study, a conversation that's open to all

Meets in the church library (top floor)

Leader: Pastor Charles

**NEW!**

### **Friday 11:00 – 11:20 am**

Interfaith Meditation, a time to sit quietly, and relax.

Meets in the church library (top floor)

Leader: Leroy "Perk" Perkins

## Wonder Years and Jr. & Sr. High Youth Ministry



Advent in the Wonder Years was so much fun! We had an awesome month with Christmas Crafts and a great Redding Nativity skit. We have a GREAT problem: we're growing too big to have Pre-K to 5th in one classroom! We'll be expanding to the Fellowship Cafe on some Sunday mornings. We'll make sure to announce the pick-up location at each children's message. Keep bringing your friends!



This article is being written at 12:30 AM during the youth lock-in. Only one kid is asleep. We're eating donuts, and none of the adults have cried (yet). We're super grateful for the 11 youth here tonight! Come hang out on Sunday mornings after the children's message or on Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:45!



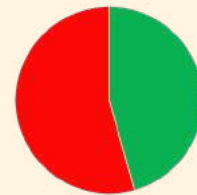
Contact Katelyn 530-616-8512 with any questions!

## Next Advance Article Deadline

Email your articles and photos to the church office no later than **Monday, Jan. 22**. Let's share the great news of the many ways people can be involved.

## Financial Update

From January through November, our church income was \$353,493 but our expenses were \$412,502, for a YTD net loss of \$59,009.



### We Still Need Your Pledge Cards!

As we turn our sights towards a new year, we acknowledge the financial realities facing our beloved church. While we've seen incredible generosity throughout the year, the truth is, a deficit remains. To ensure stable ground for our ministry in 2024, your end-of-year giving holds a critical weight.

Your contribution, big or small, becomes a testament to your shared belief in the strength and purpose of this community. Whether it's the vibrant youth programs nurturing our future leaders, the compassionate outreach ministries supporting those in need, or the welcoming sanctuary nourishing our spiritual growth, every aspect of our church thrives because of your unwavering support.

This holiday season, consider how your financial gift can pave the way for continued blessings. Every contribution, regardless of size, adds strength to our collective body. Together, let's step boldly into 2024, united in faith and generosity, knowing we've built a sturdy path for our shared journey.

Let's give back to the place that gives so much to us. Donate online or at Sunday services. Together, we can bridge the gap and build an even brighter future for our church and our community.

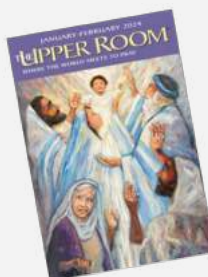
## Your Offering

Your regular giving enables our church to continue our ministries with our community!

Mail checks to: **Redding First UMC**

1825 East St., Redding, CA 96001

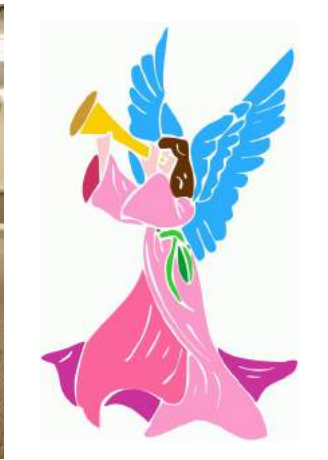
Online giving is easy at: [ReddingUMC.org/](http://ReddingUMC.org/)



## Daily Devotions

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Upper Room daily devotional at the Welcome Center or the church's main office. If you can make a donation to offset our costs, we'd appreciate that!

# Christmas Caroling Reunited Familiar Faces Around Town



Two of our teens played leading roles in *Rudolph Jr.* We look forward to using their dramatic skills on Sundays!

# January 2024



\*\* Dates, meeting times and room availability could change and differ from what is here each month. Please check with your group's leader to confirm room use and availability or call Reannon in the Church office at 530-243-2403 ext. 304 to book your meeting today!

January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>				

SH = Social Hall  
 FC = Fellowship Cafe  
 Wes = Wesley  
 Sus = Susanna Room  
 ET = Eldridge Trot  
 OS = Off Site  
 Sanc = Sanctuary  
 Zoom = Online Distance Meeting via Zoom  
**BOLDED+HIGHLIGHTED BLUE**= Memorial  
**BOLDED+HIGHLIGHTED** = Outside Group  
**BOLDED+ITALICIZED** = Memorial/Funeral  
 Support Groups are held in Rooms 10,11&12



United  
Women  
in Faith

Each December, the UWF presents recommended books for the UWF membership. There

is actually a UWF Reading Program that encourages members to participate. Kathy Byars will be our Program Resource person in 2024. "Reading can offer us solace and adventure, a balm for the heart, and a challenge to the mind, a chance to journey far afield and a chance, ultimately, to come home to our own deepest selves."

There are five categories of books: Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Leadership Development, Education for Mission, and Nurturing for the Community. There are book for adults, youth and children. The UWF bookcase is in the Fellowship Café next to the Library doors.

Anyone in the church community is welcome to check out books from the shelves using our self-checkout system. Each year our Unit tries to buy at least one book from each category for our membership. I usually try to purchase books that sound particularly interesting to me, and after reading, donate them to the program.

Happy reading in 2024!

## UWF Calendar of Events

- **January Thrift Shop:**  
Set up on Wednesday & Thursday, Jan. 3 & 4 in the Social Hall. Sales open Friday, Jan. 5 from 9 am-3 pm and Saturday, Jan. 6 from 9-11 am!
- **UWF Executive Board**  
Thursday, Jan. 11 at 1 pm in Room 21
- **Luncheon and Meeting**  
Wednesday, Jan. 17 at noon in the Social Hall



## 4th Monday Book Club

Join us in the Fellowship Cafe at 2 pm on the fourth Monday of every month as we share our thoughts. Interested? Contact Kathy Byars at 530-215-8968 or email her at kbyars47@gmail.com.

**January 24:** Porch Music by Kathy Maresca  
**February 26:** Painted House by John Grisham



## UWF's Amazing Generosity

The spirit of giving knows no borders, and that's beautifully exemplified by **how our United Women in Faith is putting love into action.** During 2023, their generous hearts have showered our church, our local community, and communities around the world with \$18,250 in donations!

With the monies raised through their monthly Thrift Shop and the annual Holiday Bazaar, UWF is shaping a brighter future for our church and for Redding. The \$3,500 committed to global causes directs their compassion across oceans and continents, leaving no corner untouched by their generosity.

Words can't fully express my gratitude for our United Women in Faith. Their acts of kindness are a testament to the transformative power of faith and love. Thank you for going above and beyond to help others! ~ Pastor Charles

### \$4,950 in Donations to Redding First and our Conference

Great Northern District	\$3,000
Gift to Mission	\$ 20
Gum Moon Residence Hall	\$ 150
Mary Elizabeth Inn	\$ 150
Youth/Young Adult Fund	\$ 150
Special Mission Recognition	\$ 80
Gift in Memory	\$ 100
World Thank Offering	\$ 300
Prayer and Self Denial	\$ 200
District UMCOR	\$ 500
Legacy Fund	\$ 300
FUMC Youth / Children's Ministries	\$ 400

### \$9,800 in Donations to Local Missions

South East Asian Christian Ministries (SEACM)	\$1,000
Salvation Army	\$1,200
Wiskeytown Environmental School Community (WES)	\$1,000
Faithworks	\$1,000
Pathways to Hope for Children – Camp Hope	\$1,000
Hygiene Kits	\$ 100
Shasta College Scholarship (2@ \$1000 each)	\$2,000
Children's Legacy Network – One Safe Place	\$1,000
Pathways to Housing- Hartman House	\$1,500

### \$3,500 in Donations to Global Missions

Heifer Project International	\$ 500
Darfur Soccer Camp	\$ 500
Katherine Parker – Missionary in Nepal	\$ 600
UMC's Global UMCOR	\$ 500
UMC's Ukraine Relief Fund	\$1,000

## MLK Day in Redding - Monday, Jan. 15!

Redding First UMC members have a long history of participating in our local MLK Day activities.

Join us and so many members of our community, as we celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday, Jan.

15! In honor of Dr. King's legacy, there will be a Bell Ringing from 8–9 am at Old City Hall. Beginning at 9:30 am, a free breakfast with info booths will be held at the MLK Jr. Center.



At 10:30 am, there will be a prayer circle, and from 11:30 am to 12 pm we will march from the MLK Jr. Center to the Courthouse with our church banner.

## We are Fully Inclusive & Affirming

Our church is a proud member of the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) which celebrates that LGBTQ+ persons are a beautiful expression of God's diverse creation and exists to advocate for the affirmation of all of God's children in the church and world.



## Come Help Support SEACM!

Please help support SEACM's service to refugees and immigrants at our Riverfront fundraiser for the musical *The Last Five Years* on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 pm.

See Cathy Lefler downstairs after each morning service in January or call her at 530-549-4255 for tickets.



## Please hold these souls in your prayers

Marv S., Lauris D., Richard B., Barbara & Kelly P., Diane Y., Mike & Lisa Z., Craig & Bettina B., Charlene B., Carla H., Bill S.

## Social Justice Begins with You!

This month, our church's Anti-racism Task Force (ARTF) looks at Social Justice – a term that refers to the view that everyone deserves equal rights, opportunities, and treatment regardless of their race, economic status, sexuality, or gender identity. Social Justice is action on behalf of those who are in need; Micah refers to this as giving people their due.

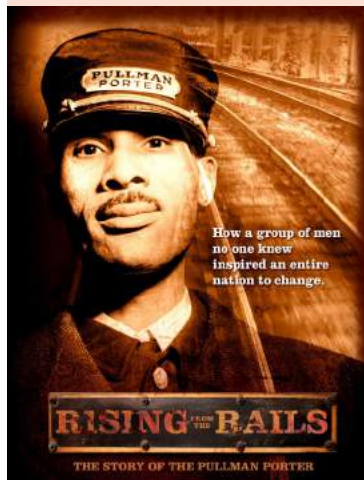
### Social Justice is:

- ◆ Contribution to building a better society.
- ◆ A reflection of the love of God.
- ◆ The Kingdom of God.
- ◆ Power guided by love.
- ◆ Fairness, equity and equality.
- ◆ An effort to change social structures that keep people from reaching their potential.
- ◆ Encouraging Christians to discuss dismantling racism.

Confronting racism is not just a social or political matter, but a theological one. It is the Bible that calls us to pursue justice, and the Bible that calls us to oppose racism. **Justice or Just Us?** is a four-week video curriculum which helps us acknowledge the reality of racism in our world today, as well as our Christian responsibility to oppose it as individuals and together as the church.

Please join us Wednesday evenings for a soup & salad supper on February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Signups and details to come!

On **Saturday, Jan. 13 at 6pm**, Redding First UMC's ARTF will be showing the documentary *Rising from the Rails* right here at FUMC in our Sanctuary. Discover the fascinating history of the Pullman Porters, who played a



vital role in shaping America's railroads. This film will take you on a journey through their stories, struggles, and triumphs. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the captivating tales of these unsung heroes. Mark your calendars and be prepared to be inspired!

*When we know better we do better!*

# Join Our New Bible Study!

Are you craving thoughtful discussion around faith and its daily impact? Looking for a welcoming space to explore Scripture without pressure or prerequisites? Dive into our brand-new mid-week Bible study – a refreshing oasis for curious minds and open hearts!

**Fueling Your Weekday Faith:** Join us for stimulating, conversational explorations of Scripture every Wednesday from 6-7pm, or Thursdays from 12-1pm (whichever fits your schedule!). We'll gather in a relaxed, judgment-free zone, where questions are encouraged and no Biblical expertise is required. Think comfy chairs and engaging conversation (BYOC – bring your own coffee).

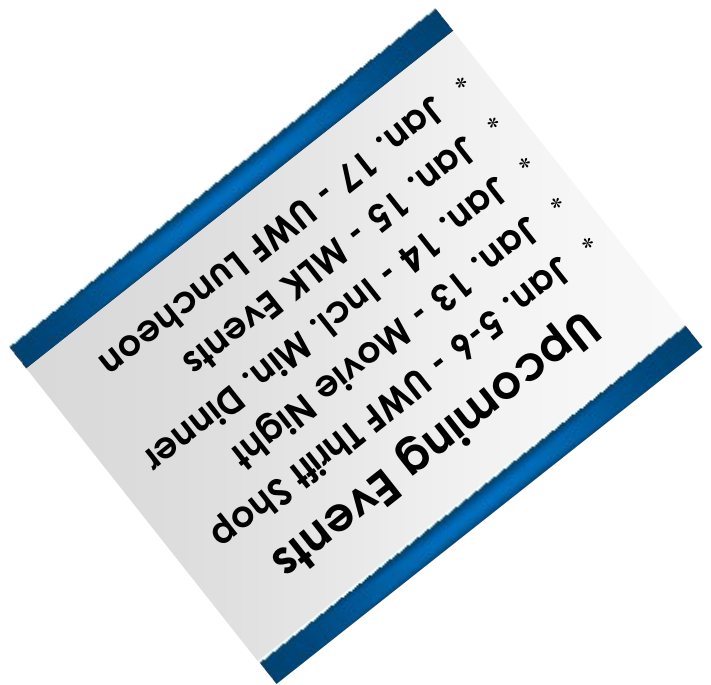
**Unveiling Ancient Wisdom for Modern Lives:** Forget dusty classrooms and intimidating jargon. Our format is designed for real-life connection. We'll explore a variety of translations, digging into timeless stories and uncovering their practical applications for our daily lives.

Whether you're a seasoned scholar or just starting your faith journey, each week you'll find something to ponder and plenty to share. We'll delve into scripture's timeless themes – love, hope, forgiveness, justice – and discover how they can shape our choices, nurture our relationships, and fuel our purpose.

**A Tapestry of Voices, Woven Together:** This isn't a lecture series. We're all story-sharers in this journey! Everyone, regardless of background or belief, is welcome to contribute their unique perspectives as our shared voices create a vibrant picture of faith.

So, whether you're seeking clarity, community, or simply a mid-week dose of inspiration, join us! Our Bible study is a welcoming haven for anyone who wants to explore faith from a fresh perspective. Let's connect, learn, and grow together – one enriching conversation at a time!

**Join us in the church library on Wednesdays at 6pm or Thursdays at 12pm,** no registration needed. See you then! ~ Pastor Charles



**\*\* Return Service Requested**

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