

The Advance

Redding UMC's monthly newsletter



February 2024



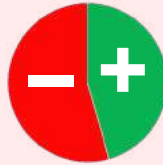
Thanks to everyone who participated in the MLK Birthday Celebration!

Pray for Our Leadership

Being a good steward of the offerings you provide is a responsibility I take very seriously as your pastor. My daily prayer is that **all** of us will continue seeking God's leading, wisdom, and courage as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

As we close out the books on 2023, I want to provide an honest, transparent update on our church's financial status. Unfortunately, our year-end donations were lower than expected, and many of our operating expenses (utilities, insurance, salaries, and building maintenance) remain high or are increasing.

For calendar year 2023, our church income was \$388,112 but our expenses were \$450,321 for a YTD net loss of \$62,209. Our total cash reserves as of Dec. 31 were \$65,644; that **safety net** should be closer to \$200,000 for a church of our size.



Consequently, I will be working closely with our leadership teams over the coming weeks to significantly reduce operating expenses in order to have a balanced budget moving forward. This will require some painful but necessary and strategic cuts; i.e. what utilization of resources will best position us for growth.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our leaders and myself as well as for your financial support during this challenging season. ~ Pastor Charles

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

Tapestry
CONNECTION



We meet on **Monday nights at 6:30 pm 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 or 530-255 4472 or visit **TapestryConnection.com.**

Our offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19 in observance of Presidents' 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 Kermodé

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



Volunteers Needed!

Wonder Years needs your help! We are looking for 6 adults to help out once per month with holding babies or being an extra set of hands. Email

Katelyn at Katelyn@ReddingUMC.org or leave a message at the church office.

Contact Katelyn at 530-616-8512 with any questions!

Upcoming Youth Group Events

February is shaping up to be an exciting month for the Youth Group, filled with fun and sweet treats. Here's a rundown of what's on the horizon:



1. Parent Meeting - Feb. 4 at 4:30 pm:

As we look forward to warmer days, it's time to plan for summer! Join us on Feb. 4 for an important parent meeting. We'll be brainstorming and discussing potential summer camp adventures and more. This is your chance to have a say in our summer activities and ensure a memorable season for our youngsters. We'll also play a kids vs. parents game!

2. Valentine's + Super Bowl Bake Sale Fundraiser Extravaganza - Sunday, Feb. 11:

Get ready for a delectable day! In addition to our usual cappuccinos, the Youth Group will host a bake sale of larger quantity goods to take home and share. Since it's Superbowl Sunday and the week leading up to Valentine's Day, we're focusing on savory snacks and sweet treats perfect for game-day gatherings or as heartfelt gifts.

3. Family Snow Day - Sunday, Feb. 25:

After the morning service on Feb. 25, bundle up for a Family Snow Day! Parents, kids, and youth are heading out to Eskimo Hill for a day of sledding followed by yummy s'mores. Don't have the gear? Michele has kindly offered to share warm clothes and sleds. It's the perfect opportunity to embrace winter before it disappears!

Next Advance Article Deadline

Email your articles and photos to the church office no later than **Tuesday, Feb. 20**. Let's share the great news of the many ways people can be involved.



Parish Visitation Team Update

I am sending an early Valentine to all of you. I want to thank each of you for your part in reaching out to one another. It is wonderful to find that even when folks are unable to attend, the church (you) does not forget them. First, I want to

thank those members of our team who regularly visit, send cards or make phone calls to people we know might appreciate this.

Next, I want to thank those of you who keep in touch with friends who have moved away but still are in our hearts. I also want to acknowledge how much we appreciate those who let us know when our contact to one of our friends might be helpful. I do not want to forget the people who go out of their way to reach out to friends who no longer drive or are unable to attend for whatever reason.

Finally, I send a big thank you to those who so graciously allow us to visit or check in by phone. We have had some huge losses to our church family. This reminds me that all of us need a bit of loving support at one time or another. I have seen how powerful the ties between members of small groups can be. Being involved with a study group or a mission-oriented group is a two way blessing; one for you and also for the group.

God loves you, and so do we.
Blessings, Mary Doty

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/giving



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!



REDDING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academic Excellence Since 1873

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SEQUOIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cindy Bishop
Superintendent

CYPRESS SCHOOL

2150 Civic Center Drive
P.O. Box 992418
Redding, CA 96099-2418
(530) 225-0040 Phone
(530) 225-0044 Fax

CYPRESS SCHOOL

John Selke
Principal



First United Methodist Church;

January 17, 2024

Words on paper can't even begin to reflect how grateful we are for all that the congregation of the First United Methodist Church has done for the families at Cypress school.

Not only do members of the church dedicate their time to coming in and reading to the students during the day, they also provide tutoring in the after school program. This year the church provided 83 children with Christmas.

Three years ago when I stepped in to help the family advocate my goal was to keep students warm, fed and wearing warm clothes and shoes. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity is more that I could have ever wished for.

Thank you for the Christmas gifts, for planting seeds of kindness in our children here at Cypress. My hope is that one day the seeds of kindness you have planted will bloom into each student becoming a thoughtful, caring adult. I hope that they choose to make a difference in someone else's life when they are able.

May your year be filled with with blessings,

Sincerely,

Kim Nichols
SCOE-Community Connect Coordinator
Cypress Elementary School



United
Women
in Faith

In early 2020, Covid-19 began to show its ugly face, just as UWF was prepared to have its Program Book go to print. The group immediately realized that our organization was going to need to create new opportunities so Focus groups were formed. UWF members first identified that **the desire for communities of faith/sisterhood is a key reason** that women want to come together. They learned, from members, that the need for digital models from our print resources must include e-learning. In the summer of 2021 they started testing the Mighty Networks platform with a small group of member leaders. Two years later, during which they conducted regular surveys of members in the network, they completed the pilot phase of this online space. Mighty Networks is the platform for hosting United Women in Faith Digital since it meets the need for both online community and content development and delivery. There is an extensive article in the current issue of Response magazine on this. Is this an opportunity that current members or potential members of UWF in the Redding area would like to pursue? Please contact Unit President Conni Lancaster for further information.

February Thrift Shop

Set up: Wed, Jan. 31, 8:30 am to about 1pm and Thurs, Feb. 1, 9am until everything is ready for Friday. Donations accepted Wed and Thurs 9am-11am Sale: Fri, Feb. 2, 9am - 3pm, Saturday, Feb. 3, 9am - 11 am. Tear down 11am. Look forward to seeing you all.

Executive Board Meeting

Thurs, Feb. 8, 1pm in Room 21

Monthly UWF Luncheon

Wed, Feb. 21, 12 noon. Speaker will be a representative from the Shasta County Election Board.



Congrats!

Our ARTF (Anti-Racism Task Force) was nominated for the United Way's "Community Groups" award for their work to increase equity.

Letters of Gratitude

It is hard to find the words to express my gratitude to the members of our church who have supported me and my family during the loss of our dear husband, father and grandfather, Marv Steinberg.

Let me begin with the women who knit the prayer shawls that meant so much to Marv. And to our Thursday morning group who called, cooked and showed their love in so many ways. **You** are my second family. **Thanks** to all who sent cards expressing their love and memories of Marv. Many **thanks** to the Memorial Reception Committee for all your hard work and dedication to make his Celebration of Life a cherished memory of love and friendship. My **thanks** to all who participated in his service. And finally, **thanks** to Pastor Charles for being with the family through Covid and Marv's passing. My thanks to all who helped us execute Marv's service according to his wishes.



Our eternal gratitude, Shirley Steinberg & family

Dear Congregation,

We want to thank all of you for your generous gift-giving for 80 students at Cypress School. Your gifts were really appreciated by the families who received them and made for a brighter Christmas for the students. Besides the gifts, you're giving these students so much more, showing them that you care about them and their happiness. You can read their letter of thanks on page 4 in this newsletter.



A big thank you to the helper elves for signing up givers, organizing the gifts, sorting, labeling and delivering the gifts to the school.

Our thanks to Anne & Damon Cropsey, Carol & Ed Whitmer, Cathy Lefler, Sue & Ray Kermode, and Reannon Moore. We couldn't have done it without your help.

~ Church and Society Committee

It's Time for Methodist College Scholarship Applications

Headed to college this fall? It is time for new and returning college students to apply for a Redding First UMC Scholarship for the 2024 fall semester.

Application forms are available at the church office for members who will be attending a college or trade school. The **deadline** for turning in the completed form is April 1, 2024.

Contact the church office or Damon Cropsy at 530-223-6162 for additional information.

~ Damon Cropsy,
Scholarship Chair



Social Justice Begins with You!

Justice or Just Us? This class looks at the history of oppression in the United States and helps us acknowledge the reality of racism in our world today, as well as our responsibility to oppose it as individuals and as a church. Please join us Wednesday evenings on **Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28 for a soup supper and class at 5:00 pm and learn more!**

Our *Fear Of The Other* class looks at our individual fears and our implicit biases. How we think we think isn't always what we actually think. If you have ever thought, "We just can't help everyone," this class is for you. Please join us Wednesday afternoons on March 13, 20, & 27 for soup and class at 2:30 pm.

The *What Is...* class we offered in October looked at functional definitions which we often hear but might not really understand. All three classes are unique and offer different perspectives into racism and what we can do to oppose it.

Join us on the first Thursday of each month (Feb. 1 & March 7) for Letter Writing at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Cafe. Learn about current legislation that needs our support to get it passed and how you can help. Join us!



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.



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



Please hold these souls in your prayers

Debbie P., Sandra K., Julie & Patricia C., Bill G., Lauris D., Richard B., Diane Y., Charlene B., Carla H., Barbara P.



Wesley Neighborhood, Inc.

We're looking for people to grow our Wesley group. We have an opening on our board for a treasurer (must be a church member). We already have a paid accountant. The treasurer would be responsible for giving reports at our meetings, which are the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. New faces and ideas always are appreciated.

What is Wesley Neighborhood, Inc?

We were formed in 1998 and are a non-profit housing provider working with the City of Redding and the Redding Redevelopment Agency. We own 18 homes around our church on South and Continental Streets. As you enter our parking lot, you drive past two that we built and a triplex we bought. By provided low income housing, we have positively impacted families surrounding our church.

Wesley Neighborhood is a stellar example of our church's commitment to the teachings of Christ within our community. For more information or questions: Ann Cropsy at 530-223-6162 or Bruce Ross at b.albert.ross@gmail.com

Thank You Carol's 1st United Methodist Church
our ongoing support is valued ♡ Crystal



THANK YOU
Very much From
the Stanley's #1
FOZ Bless!

Thank you ever so much for
you did for our families
you helped us and we
all together are grateful
Adele

Thank you for
everything #1

Thank you for
everything you have
done for us this
Christmas. God
Bless
The
Dimas Family

Thank You
Champion Family



Thank you
forever
having
Apt

First United Methodist...

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH

Thank you
for making our
first real
christmas
such a blessing
- Freeman
Family

*Thank you with all our hearts!
you and Faithworks made it
so my family could have a
christmas with presents.
I couldn't thank you enough!!
much love & blessings to
you and your family!
xo xo The
Edwards



Thank you
so much for
being a part of
our Christmas
celebration &
blessing our
family. Always
Kids

Thank you so
much for the wonderful
CHRISTMAS gifts.
♡ SCW

Thank you so very much
for everything. You
are a blessing to your
community. Love
The
Vintagers



Thank you so
very much for making
my children's Christmas.
Love the Church

Thank You from FaithWorks Families
for Our Christmas Dinner and Gifts

Upcoming Events

- * Feb. 2-3 - UWF Thrift Shop
- * Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday
- * Feb. 18 - Incl. Min. Dinner
- * Feb. 21 - UWF Luncheon



** Return Service Requested

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