

The Advance

Redding UMC's monthly newsletter



April 2024



We had a GREAT Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter!

My Thanks to Everyone!

Thank you, **thank you**, THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) such a success. Each service drew us in through sight, sound, and word. Several first-time visitors told me that these were some of the most meaningful services they've ever attended. And the egg hunts (both of them) were great successes. The photos in this issue attest to the joy people young and old experienced. Well done everyone!

Working with **Rev. Megan Owens** of Pilgrim Congregational (United Church of Christ), **Rev. Janet Chapman** of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and **Rev. Bob Swartz** of St James Lutheran Church has been an absolute joy. Being able to combine our collective talents, interests, and experience to create worship services that bring our congregations together is... an incredibly unique opportunity that all four of us are thoroughly enjoying. We're already beginning to plan a special summer event, but more on that next month.

I'm blessed to serve a congregation that wants to grow spiritually *and* numerically. And that growth depends on **all of us** inviting people to **join us** for one or more church events. Two BIG ways you can do that this month are...

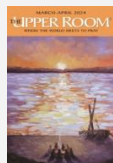
- ◆ April 27 – Bring a friend to watch the movie *1946 The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture*. Read more about it on page 4.
- ◆ Share our summer camp info with a family you know. If you need a flyer or the website link for registration, contact me or Katelyn.

Finally, let me end with some encouraging words. Our church has a great reputation in Northern California. When people visit with us, they say how much they feel welcome and comfortable. That's HUGE! Even better, many people who visit return **and** bring a friend with them. There is no higher compliment than when someone brings a friend.

Again, thank you ALL for everything you're doing to help our community of faith grow in every way.

Daily Devotions

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!



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

Bible Study that emphasizes open discussion.
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

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

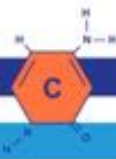
Thursday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Bible Study, a conversation that's open to all
Meets in the church library (top floor)
Leader: Pastor Charles

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

2024 Art & Science Camp



**Monday, June 17 to
Thursday, June 20, 2024**

**Half-Day Option: 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Full-Day Option: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Grades: entering 1st to entering 9th**

**Lots of scholarships available!
Prices: \$100 half-day + \$140 full-day**

**Middle school students are invited to
be "counselors-in-training" and pay a
reduced rate.**

**Scan the QR code to register
or visit reddingumc.org/art-summer-camp-registration**



Golden Ghosts Film Premier

Join us on Sunday, April 21 at the Riverfront Theater at noon OR 3 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. Following the 3 pm show there will be a panel discussion hosted by the Shasta Film Commission. Buy tickets at: markoliver.org/golden-ghosts-film

Shot in beautiful Northern California among lakes, rivers, and volcanoes this film follows two African American men who arrived in Nor. Cal. around 1852 hoping to find gold and improve their lives. During their journey, they meet up with a Mexican couple who warn them about what the Yankees are capable of as they mourn the loss of their former land. They also meet up with a Chinese woman, a skilled herbalist. They have run-ins with other miners when they come to the aid of two Native Americans. Their time in the gold fields is met with rewards and disappointments and in the end, they find their freedom in more ways than one! The film stars many local actors in awesome performances. The film is NOT a documentary but gives insight into what two African Americans may have encountered in 1852.



ARTF's April Movie Event 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture

Join ARTF (Anti-Racism Task Force) for a free screening on Saturday, April 27 in our sanctuary at 6:30 pm. Journey with us to 1946 in the award-winning documentary film that chronicles how the misuse of a single word changed the course of modern history. *1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture* follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.



The movie chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and cast significant doubt on any Biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film's creators, *1946* is challenging, enlightening, and inspiring. Please join us and invite a friend.



ARTF's 21-Day Food Challenge

Food Solutions New England (FSNE) has been organizing and hosting the "21-Day Food/Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge" every year since 2015. It is a self-guided learning journey for individuals and our church family for examining the history and impacts of racism and inequities and how they are connected to our food systems. The Challenge helps raise awareness, shift attitudes, and change outcomes.

Our church has joined with thousands of others across our nation to take The Challenge this year. Beginning Monday, April 8 you will receive a prompt Monday through Friday from Pastor Charles. Prompts will involve issues of land access, food, health, hunger, etc. We encourage you to spend five to ten minutes reading over the prompt, then have conversations with family, friends and your small groups who are also doing the Challenge. If you are short on time during the week you have the week-end to catch up and reflect.

Why 21 days? There is no magic formula to change behavior, but committing to three weeks of consistently exploring the impact of race in the food system provides an intentional way to uncover racial inequities and injustice as well as to discover the many ways we can individually and collectively promote a more just and equitable food system for all.

The 21-Day Challenge creates a pulse of focused energy and learning material that can be used during the Challenge and throughout the year. A discussion guide for small groups is available in the church's reception office. We hope our participation in The Challenge will raise our awareness, change our understanding, and shift the way we behave.

Our hope is that it will inspire you to act on your own or with others to make changes in your life that can build true equity and justice for all. Together as a church family we can learn to act in ways that are simply not possible for isolated individuals.

ARTF Letter-Writing Campaign

Let your voice be heard! Join us for Letter Writing on Thursday, April 4 at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Cafe. Join us to learn about current legislation that promotes Social Justice and how you can support it. Or pick up information in the Welcome Center.



Found it!



April 2024

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

AP Church Calendar (Families Calendar)

Apr 2024 (Fridays, 7am - 10:00pm)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:30am - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>8:45am - Sun. All Ages Study @</p> <p>9am - Worship Service @</p> <p>9:30am - Students @ Building First</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth Group @ Building</p> <p>Open - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>Open - Bond Group - First</p>	<p>8:30am - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>8:45am - Sun. All Ages Study @</p> <p>9am - Worship Service @</p> <p>9:30am - Students @ Building First</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth Group @ Building</p> <p>Open - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>Open - Bond Group - First</p>	<p>8:30am - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>8:45am - Sun. All Ages Study @</p> <p>9am - Worship Service @</p> <p>9:30am - Students @ Building First</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth Group @ Building</p> <p>Open - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>Open - Bond Group - First</p>	<p>8:30am - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>8:45am - Sun. All Ages Study @</p> <p>9am - Worship Service @</p> <p>9:30am - Students @ Building First</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth Group @ Building</p> <p>Open - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>Open - Bond Group - First</p>	<p>8:30am - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>8:45am - Sun. All Ages Study @</p> <p>9am - Worship Service @</p> <p>9:30am - Students @ Building First</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth Group @ Building</p> <p>Open - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>Open - Bond Group - First</p>	<p>8:30am - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>8:45am - Sun. All Ages Study @</p> <p>9am - Worship Service @</p> <p>9:30am - Students @ Building First</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth Group @ Building</p> <p>Open - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>Open - Bond Group - First</p>	<p>8:30am - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>8:45am - Sun. All Ages Study @</p> <p>9am - Worship Service @</p> <p>9:30am - Students @ Building First</p> <p>4:30pm - Youth Group @ Building</p> <p>Open - Pray for Recovery @</p> <p>Open - Bond Group - First</p>



United Women in Faith

I recently read a book entitled *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson. It is a recommended reading in the 2024 UWF Reading Program. The historical novel tells the story of a native Dakhóta (Dakota) girl, who at the age of 12, entered the foster care system. The narrative depicts Rosalie's struggle to survive and understand her place in society that would rather erase all knowledge of the Dakhóta genocide, than understand her people's existence. This story reminds us that April 22 is National Earth Day. We are fortunate to have the Wintu tribe in our own community. Unfortunately they, like so many native nations, have lost land and respect for their history and their connection to the earth.

The UMW Central Nigeria Annual Conference promotes clean energy in rural area by training women in solar energy as alternative to deforestation. As we enter the celebration of Earth Day let us remember: As follower of Jesus, we refuse denial. We see the state of climate change. We acknowledge the destruction that has been going on far too long.

Our work is important, as people of the body of Christ, we are bound together in the Christian commitment to seek healthy, and abundant life for all and the earth, to dismantle systems that oppress people and the earth, and to choose neighborly love in times of joy and in times of struggle. Amen

~ Cathy Joplin

April Thrift Shop

Set up: Wed, April 3, 8:30 am to about 1pm and Thurs, April 4, 9am until everything is ready for Friday. Donations accepted Wed and Thurs 9am-11am Sale: Fri, April 5, 9am - 3pm, Saturday, April 6, 9am - 11 am. Tear down 11am.

Executive Board Meeting

Thurs, April 11, 1:00 pm in Room 21

Monthly UWF Luncheon

Wed, April 17, 12 noon. Our speaker is David Ledger from Shasta County Alliance



Hosting Pilgrims

On July 5, a group of Japanese Americans will head up to Tule Lake together and remember those who were incarcerated during World War II. Our church will once again host some 270 - 300 guests from the Bay area and provide an oasis on their journey to the North by bus. As in the pre-covid years, we will welcome the travelers to a catered lunch in the church social hall and show incredible hospitality before they head out.

Before our church became involved, the pilgrims would eat sack lunches in the Kmart-Ross parking lot in the Redding summer heat. Ouch! That was over 25 years ago. Soon we will ask for volunteers to greet and help with the meal. Those of us directly involved wanted to give the congregation a heads up before we organize things for the event. The contact people are Damon and Ann Cropsy and Vicky Ono. Stay tuned!

Advance Article Deadline

Email your articles and photos to the church office no later than **Tuesday, April 16**. Let's share the great news of the many ways people can be involved.

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](https://www.ReddingUMC.org/giving)

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.

Annual Sock Drive

Once again our church has the opportunity to provide new socks for those in need at the Homeless Connect Event on May 20. Sock boxes are in the church lobby, Social Hall, and Fellowship Café.



All sizes, colors and styles of men's, women's, and children's will be gladly accepted but we can only accept NEW socks. The support of this church has always been tremendous! Contact Damon Cropsey at 530-223-1626 for information or questions.

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.

Please hold these souls in your prayers

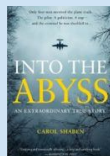
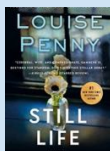


Bart L., Teresa T., Perk, Gene S., Jo S., Roy P., Helen C., Debbie P., Sandra K., Margie G., Lauris D., Don F., Richard B., Diane Y., Charlene B.

Let's Work Together To "Raise the Roof"

After careful consideration of all of the bids, Trustees have selected Mast Roofing to replace our roof for \$105,000, plus any rotten or compromised decking including rafters will be replaced and charged time and material. Mast Roofing had the lowest bid, the best warranty and we have a good working relationship with them from previous work. We will need to raise 40% of the roof cost as a downpayment to lock in the bid and secure a start date. The balance will be due at completion of the project. Obviously, we can expect the cost to increase the longer we wait. The Finance Committee is organizing a campaign to help raise the needed funds.

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.

April 22: *Into the Abyss* by Carol Shaben

Inclusive Ministries

Inclusive Ministries team celebrates spring with a sing-a-long followed by a dinner on Sunday. Our **spring dates** include April 14, May 19, and June 9.

Every month, our volunteers extend the love of Jesus by serving home-cooked meals to mentally disabled individuals from our community. These dinners aren't just about food; they're about fellowship, compassion, and acceptance. By participating, you become the hands and feet of Jesus, spreading his message of inclusivity and love. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or looking to get involved for the first time, all are welcome to join us in making a difference. Come share a meal and share in the joy of serving others.

Interested in getting involved with our ministry? Contact Vicki Ono at vickiono@gmail.com or at 530-227-6654.



So Many Kids! So Much Fun! We're Looking Forward to Next Year!



- * April 21 - Movie Night: 1946
 - * April 21 - Golden Night: Golden Ghosts
 - * April 17 - UWF Luncheon
 - * April 14 - Incl. Min. Dinner
- ## Upcoming Events

**** Return Service Requested**

Redding First United Methodist Church
1825 East Street
Redding, CA 96001
530-243-2403
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