

UPCOMING SERMONS



March 29: Palm Sunday (Pastor Scott)
The Fulfilled Promise
Matthew 21:1-11

April 2: Maundy Thursday (Pastor Scott)
6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a meal, music,
meditation and optional foot washing
Even At the Table
Mark 14:12-26

April 3: Good Friday (Pastor Mario)
6:00 PM in the Sanctuary
It Is Finished
John 19:28-36

April 5: Easter Sunday (Pastor Scott)
The Story Continues
John 20:1-10

Easter Sunday is also Family Sunday. There will be a special time of celebration and fellowship on the patio after the service.

SECOND OFFERING SCHEDULE

Every Sunday the offering bags are passed twice. The first offering goes to The River Life (or General) Fund. This is for the normal operation of the church. The second offerings are designated for a special purpose or for one of our Kingdom Partners.

- April 5:** Benevolence
- April 12:** Christian Education Fund
- April 19:** Missions
- April 26:** GEMS/Cadets

GEMS AND CADETS SUNDAY
APRIL 26, 2026

On Sunday, April 26, GEMS and Cadets will be participating in the morning service. GEMS and Cadets are The River's midweek ministry for girls and boys grades 1-5. GEMS stands for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. GEMS was called Calvinettes until 1995 when the organization decided to change its name to better convey its mission. Cadets is short for Calvinist Cadet Corps. Its mission is "Helping boys to grow more Christlike in all areas of life." Both ministries were started in the 1950s by Christian Reformed churches. They now function as non-denominational ministries without oversight or funding from any denomination. The second offering on April 26 will support The River's clubs.



LEGACY NIGHTS

ADULT SESSION TOPICS:

Join us for dinner at 5:15 PM and Praise and Worship led by the children at 6:00 PM. Adult Sessions begin at 6:15 PM.

- April 8 Fire Prevention**
Led by Andrew Simpson
Menu: Pizza and Salad
- April 22 Don't Ignore Your Hearing Test**
Led by Don Bueermann
Menu: Spaghetti, Salad, and Garlic Bread
- May 13 Cadets Pinewood Derby Races**
There is no adult session. Adults are invited to join in the fun of watching the Cadets race their hand built pinewood derby cars down the track.

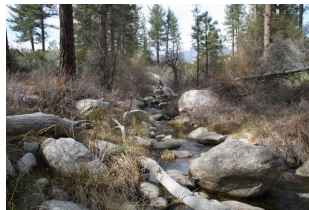
Menu: Hot dogs and hamburgers grilled and served by the Council.



THE RIVER CADETS HURKEY CREEK CAMPOUT APRIL 18-19

The River Cadets will be heading up to Hurkey Creek Park near Mountain Center, CA, for a great time of being outside and enjoying camping, hiking, games, and exploring nature. The group plans to arrive about 8 AM Saturday and have a light breakfast before heading out on a hike around 10 AM. In the afternoon there will be games and free time before roasting hotdogs for dinner and enjoying a campfire with hot cocoa. After sleeping the evening in tents and having a typical camping breakfast, the boys will enjoy some free time. Late morning they have an early lunch, break camp, pack up and head for home. Cadets is The River's Midweek Ministry for boys in grades 1-5.

"Beautiful Hurkey Creek Park, located off of Hwy 74 in the San Jacinto Mountains just 4 miles southeast of Mountain Center, is the perfect locale for reconnecting with nature and local mountain ecology. This idyllic getaway boasts a seasonal creek, majestic pine trees, awe-inspiring mountain views, and all the charms and tranquility of a classic woodland recreation area. Hurkey Creek Trail starts at the park then leads into San Bernardino National Forest, following Hurkey Creek and passing through open areas with fascinating boulders, rock formations, and beautiful mountain views." (Quoted from Riverside Regional Parks Website)



From the MCCA Facebook Page

"One of our partner ministries showed their appreciation by presenting our volunteers with a frame adorned with the fingerprints of all the children they care for. We're blessed by them as much as we bless them, maybe even more so. We give God praise for these moments."

Mexican Christian Children's Aid (MCCA) is a ministry obedient to God's call to care for children in need by supplying those in Baja California with food, Scriptures and the opportunity to know the love of Christ. Paul Vela, from The River, is President of MCCA. If you would like to accompany them on a trip, please contact him at (909) 289-4846.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY SOUP SWAP AND SUPPER SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 4:00 PM

Join other ladies in the Fellowship Hall for a cozy evening of food, fellowship, and community at our Soup Swap and Supper. This special Women's Ministry Gathering is a change to connect with the ladies of The River while enjoying warm bowls of homemade soup, fresh salads, and meaningful conversation. Whether you love cooking or simply love gathering around the table, this night is for you.



Two Ways to Participate

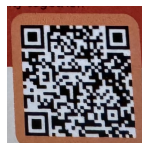
Join the Soup Swap

Make your favorite homemade soup recipe, package it into the three 32-oz provided containers (available to pick up at church from March 23-April 17, and on Sunday morning April 12), freeze the soup, then bring the frozen soups with you to the swap. After dinner, participants will swap and take home three different soups to enjoy later.

Also please email your soup recipe to Rachel Peters (rachel@therivercrc.com) by April 12 (or get it to her at the church office) so we can compile a recipe booklet for everyone to enjoy.

Come Enjoy the Supper

If cooking isn't your thing, you are still warmly invited! Come enjoy a delicious soup and salad supper and spend the evening connecting with the women of The River. Salads, soups, bread, and drinks will be provided. Come ready for a warm meal, new recipes, and a wonderful time of community together.



Whichever option you choose, please sign up by April 12 using the QR code or If you do not have email or internet access, please call the church office to register (909) 798-2221.



Men's Breakfast Saturday, April 18, 7:00 AM

Join men from The River and around the Inland Empire for good food, fellowship, and interesting speakers the third Saturday of every month.

Pastor Will VerHoef spoke in March sharing about his family's experience with the Dutch Resistance during World War 2. Pastor Will had shared his personal testimony recently, but the men were interested in hearing more about his experiences during the war.

Paul Vela and Harold Milligan will be speaking in April, both sharing for 10-15 minutes each.

**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON MEXICAN FIESTA FRIDAY, APRIL 24
11:30 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

(Doors open at 10:00 AM for dominoes, board games, coffee and conversation)

Mark your calendars now for the next Senior Luncheon, Friday, April 24, 11:30 AM. As always the doors open at 10:00 AM for games, coffee, and conversation. The theme of the luncheon is Mexican Fiesta. The entrée will be enchiladas, beans, and rice, with ice cream and churros for dessert. Come prepared for a great time! Thanks in advance to our planning and prep teams. They do an awesome job with these luncheons. The luncheons are held the fourth Friday of January, April, July, and October. The July event will be an old-fashioned church picnic! Be on the lookout for straw hats, overalls, and country style clothes.

**SENIOR LUNCHEON
MEXICAN FIESTA!**



**The River Celebrates Two Baptisms in March:
Quinn James VanSolen and Jude Banks**

The River celebrated two baptisms in March.

Quinn James VanSolen was baptized Sunday, March 15, surrounded by her extended family. Grandpa, Jim Nydam, offered a prayer of blessing. Quinn was born May 14, 2025, to parents Matt and Sarah.

Jude Nathaniel Banks was baptized Sunday, March 22. Nathaniel was born February 22, 2026, to parents Nathan and Kara.

Congratulations to both families on their new additions and their baptisms.



Quinn James Van Soelen



Jude Nathaniel Banks



Hiking Ministry Enjoyed Saturday, March 14

The Hiking Ministry hiked in the Herngt' Aki Preserve at Live Oak Canyon Saturday morning, March 14. Karla Whitman posted, "Our hiking ministry on this beautiful morning! Thank you to all who came! It was a very lovely hike with gorgeous views."



The hikes are always easier, intended to allow as many people as possible to be able to enjoy the outdoors. Most hikes are 2-3 miles and last from 9 AM to about noon. If you are interested in participating, contact Randall Whitman (909) 831-1821 or Karla Whitman at the church office (909) 798-2221.



**Rummage Market
A Success
in Spite of Heavy
Winds**

On Saturday morning, March 7, several members of The River joined together for The River Annual Rummage Sale on the church parking lot. Teri Heemstra, from the Hospitality and Events Leadership Team that sponsored the event, said, "Despite the wind, people were happy to be there and happy with their sales. The Rummage Sale is sponsored by the Hospitality and Events Leadership Team. Space fees go to support Care Portal, one of the outreach ministries of the church."



NEW WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

The River has a new website! The address is the same as always, therivercrc.com.

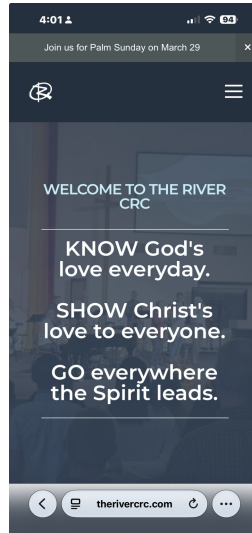
The new website is more intuitive and user friendly. The hope is that users will be able to find what they are looking for in no more than three clicks.

The home page includes our mission, information about service times, "planning your visit," and recent sermons.

A drop-down menu leads to pages that give more detailed information about The River, its programs, and leadership. There is also a link to giving and setting up a regular, recurring contribution.

Karla Whitman and Rachel Peters worked hard developing the new website. The work does not end with the website's creation and launch, it takes a lot of effort to keep it current and up to date.

Most visitors today have explored the church's website and watched a service 2-3 times before they come to church. Research shows that a website has only 4-7 seconds to make a positive impression and lead visitors to explore beyond the home page. While this may be incomprehensible to those of us who reached adulthood before the internet and social media became "a thing," to people 45 and younger, this is a primary way of communicating and getting information. It is essential that our website be attractive and easily used. Today, social media and our website are the virtual front door of the church.



Pictures from the High School Winter Retreat

The High School Winter Retreat was held at The River during the last weekend of February. Students from across Southern California came together for worship, learning, fellowship and fun. Pastor Mario hosts this event annually.



Download Our App!

- Connect
- Easily Access Bible Study Plans
- Find Sermons
- Easily Access Giving



Download Now!

Find *The River CRC* app on the Apple Store or Google Play



NEED HELP???

If you need help downloading the new app or getting it set up on your device(s), Karla and/or Don are more than willing to help. Please contact the front office (909) 798-2221. For those of you who may not be able to get out and about, they may even be willing to make a house call! You will need the password to your device(s) for them to be able to set it up.

Rev. Jack Bailey, One of The River's Octogenarians, Received His Eternal Reward Sunday, March 15.

Jack Bailey received his eternal reward Sunday morning, March 15. He was 93 years old. We offer condolences to his wife Mae and to Jack and Mae's children, David and Debra.



David Bailey posted this tribute to his dad, "John Albert Bailey - Pastor Jack - Dr. Bailey - Reverend Bailey passed away this morning at 10am Pacific Time...He made a big difference in thousands of people's lives over his lifetime dedication to the ministry. We know him as dad and will miss him until we meet again in Heaven. We love you dad! (9/14/32-3/15/26)"

Jack and Mae lived in Plymouth Village, first in a cottage, then as his health deteriorated, in assisted living, and finally in the Health Center. Mae continues to live in the Health Center. She has a sweet disposition but suffers from dementia/Alzheimer's. She is also 93, just a day older than Jack.

Jack was a pastor with the American Baptist Church for years. After serving as a parish pastor he became a regional Executive Pastor. Along with working with churches he also worked with American Baptist Homes of the West which was the predecessor of Human Good, the company that manages Plymouth Village.

Jack and Mae joined The River in 2016 but their health had not allowed them to attend service in some time. David and Debra are in the process of arranging a memorial service for Jack, tentatively mid-May.

The youth in this request enjoys skating as a positive coping strategy to reduce stressors from being in foster care and awaiting reunification with his mother. He recently joined the school skating club. The youth's mother continues to work toward sobriety and stable housing; however, reunification has not yet occurred. The foster mother asked for help providing a skateboard.

The mother in this request is a single parent working double shifts to provide for her son. Despite her efforts, she had fallen behind on rent. Rental assistance was provided.

A non-offending father was given full custody of his baby after a case was opened for the mother due to neglect. His baby was released from the hospital. The father was struggling to obtain WIC support for a specific baby formula. He needed Nutramigen hypoallergenic formula. The formula was ordered and delivered. The father later shared that he was able to secure long-term assistance for this formula.

Franklin Elementary School in Redlands requested four alarm clocks to help students get to school on time. The River Church provided these clocks.

A student at Franklin Elementary School came into the office distraught after his "hamburger"-shaped lunchbox was damaged. This lunchbox had been a Christmas gift and was special to him. The school asked if we could replace it, and we did.

Socks were provided for a 10-year-old student at Franklin Elementary School.

This family was referred to the Dream Center in Lake Elsinore by the Norco/Corona School District. Through CarePortal, the Dream Center provided beds, bedding, cookware, food, and Christmas gifts. The Dream Center later placed a CarePortal request for rental assistance, which we fulfilled.

A single mother and her elementary-age son had been living in a motorhome parked on the side of the road. The mother heated water on a gas stove to bathe her child and worked hard to keep him clean, safe, and attending school. Support was needed for 5-gallon water jugs (for drinking, cooking, and bathing), wipes, trash bags, non-perishable food, and clothing. The River Church provided all requested items.

Birth Choice Center requested assistance for a family with three small children. They needed utility assistance, and The River Church paid their bill online.

A couch, dresser, dining table, microwave, food basket, hygiene basket, and cleaning supply basket were provided to a former foster youth who aged out of the foster care system and is now living on her own. She is also a student at Riverside City College. She expressed great gratitude for the items delivered and set up in her new apartment.

Franklin Elementary School asked if we had two pairs of shoes and jackets for siblings in need. It was a rainy day, their shoes had holes, and they did not have jackets. We delivered these items within 15 minutes.

Los Angeles County requested a highchair and baby center for a grandmother who had taken in her grandson. These items were ordered and delivered.

Los Angeles County also requested a small refrigerator and a twin mattress for a mother and child. These items were purchased from Amazon and delivered.

A single teenage mother needed baby formula for her 8-month-old baby. She requested Enfamil Gentlease formula, and The River Church fulfilled this request.

This family was experiencing significant financial hardship due to medical challenges after their daughter underwent surgery for a rare bacterial infection. She was in and out of the hospital throughout November and December. The family needed necessities, we provided food, toiletries, laundry detergent, and feminine hygiene products. Due to her condition, the student lost a significant amount of weight and needed properly fitting clothing. The River Church provided a Walmart gift card for her and her younger brother.

Path of Life requested a double bed, mattress, and dresser for a youth aging out of the system. It was heartwarming to receive a photo of the youth standing next to his new bed. We also provided new bedding.

Franklin Elementary School requested a new pair of jeans for a 5th-grade student who had damaged his only pair while playing basketball at recess. Don Bueermann purchased and delivered the exact pair from Target based on a provided photo.

After living in a family shelter for a year, one family was able to move into their own apartment. Pots, pans, and other household items were provided.

Various baby supplies were purchased and delivered to a new mother, including a crib and stroller.



Bill	Walthall	April 01
Pearl	Koning	April 07
Linda	Sirbulu	April 10
Russell	Smith	April 10
Gordon	Barents	April 11
David	Caminiti	April 12
Theora	Whitman	April 13
Gaelord	Bek	April 14
Carolyn	Boersen	April 24
Margie	Oliver	April 27
Bert	Block	April 30
Richard	Jarvis	May 05
Sandra	McWilliams	May 07

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

Chuck and Dianne Callahan: We want to express our condolences to Chuck and Dianne Callahan in their loss of Dianne's brother, Jim, on Monday morning, March 26. They just lost Dianne's mom in October. Please hold them in prayer as they grieve their losses.

Grace Florence: Grace Florence remains at Loma Linda University Medical Center. She has been moved from ICU to acute care and the ventilator has been removed. After a visit March 24, Ruth Anne Long and Heidi Winter shared they were amazed how good she looked. She was even able to say a few words. Thanks be to God for her improvement!

Darlene and Gordon Barents: Darlene is recuperating at home following a hospital stay for double pneumonia, an infection, sepsis, and a kidney stone. She continues to be weak and tired, but says she is improving daily.

Bill and Janet Jorritsma: Janet Jorritsma was hit by a drunk driver. She was badly bruised and her car was totaled. She is recuperating and she and Bill are making their way through the trials of dealing with insurance and getting a new car. Bill continues to deal with physical issues. Please keep them in prayer.

Deb Clinton and family: Debbie was able to have both stints in her kidneys removed! Praise God for her continuing progress. Please continue to pray for her daughter, Christy, who is having her own health challenges.

Ken and Pat Gopperton: Ken is doing well following knee replacement surgery. Praise God for his progress and pray for his continuing physical therapy.

Chuck and Joy Griffin: Chuck continues to recuperate at home following a challenging hospital stay. Continue to pray for him, and for Joy as she cares for him on a daily basis.

Greg and Wanda Bachman: Wanda is being well cared for at Hillside Senior Living, 1451 Sandy Hill Dr., in Calimesa. The Alzheimer's continues to progress. She still recognizes Greg. Continue to pray for her and for Greg as they walk this hard journey.

Jim and Chris Nydam: Chris completed her immunotherapy treatment and is gaining strength. Now she is having back pain that is difficult to deal with. Continue to pray for her, Jim, and their family as they hope and pray for Chris's complete healing.

Other Ongoing Needs:

- **Rachel Keast's Niece, Ailey,** who is improving at home after being hospitalized with kidney problems. Continue praying for a complete recovery and for patience for Ailey as well as her mom and dad. Ailey is ten years old.
- **For those who grieve** the loss of loved ones including Bill Bierling and Elizabeth Kremer.
- **Norma Greenfield** as she continues under doctors' care and works to build her strength.
- **Jean Wagner** with extremely painful knees.
- **Trudy and Dennis Barton** as Trudy continues to improve her walking and other health concerns.
- **Glen Coulter** as he deals with health concerns that are unresolved and impacting his ability to work, causing financial hardship.
- **Glenn and Claire Huibregtse** as Glenn continues treatment for prostate cancer.
- **Bruce and Karen Grip** as Karen continues to work at full healing following knee replacement.
- Praise God that **David Caminiti** has been able to resume his activities following knee replacement. He continues to use a walker for balance.
- **Richard and Karen Jarvis** as Karen continues to build strength following her hospitalization some time ago and is still in consultation with doctors about future care.
- **Sandra McWilliams** as she has moved to Golden Oaks in Yucaipa following a stroke last year. She is happy and has good mobility but continues to struggle with communicating.
- **Our people that have limited mobility and/or are basically homebound:**
 - ⇒ Mae Baily
 - ⇒ Marianne DeBoer
 - ⇒ Jake and Sherry DeHoog
 - ⇒ Dick Dirksen
 - ⇒ Claire Fik
 - ⇒ Marie Nymeyer
 - ⇒ Marie Wiersma

What's the Story, Patrick? A Newsletter from the Banks

We're now well into March of 2026. There is so much happening in the world right now, and it is easy to feel helpless and overwhelmed. What can we do? We remember that, as OM's founder George Verwer said, "Missions is about people." And we all share that mission, given to us by God. So we keep our eyes on Jesus, and we keep His mission before us, to reach those around us with His saving love and hope. And we pray for peace, for hope and for His kingdom to come, on earth as it is in heaven.

In our corner of the world, spring sunlight is beating back storm clouds revealing beautiful green fields and blue seas. Next week Ireland and many parts of the world will celebrate St. Patrick's day. Most people will celebrate Patrick by getting drunk. We'll celebrate Patrick by proclaiming the message that Patrick told, with a team of Christians coming from around the world to join us in an evangelistic outreach. I'll be driving back to Roscommon to help with that outreach as we train the team before sending them to three different towns across the Island. If you want an idea of the material we'll be using for this outreach, you can visit this website for The Patrick Story, a campaign OM Ireland has helped create and promote. www.patrickstory.ie

After that outreach I'll stay in Roscommon, where my family will join me for another week of outreach as a youth team from Arrowhead Christian Academy, located in our hometown of Redlands, will come join us in Ireland. I'll again be apart of the training and partnering with the team as we go around Ireland helping a couple of local churches reach their communities with the Gospel. Courtney will be cooking for them too, with plenty of help from Annabelle and Colleen. We are very excited to have friends from California join us in ministry in Ireland.



Things have been going well as we settle into our new area and ministry. We've become members at Calvary Church Westport, and have already joined in their children's and youth ministries. I've also had the opportunity to preach at a few different churches, and last month I was thrilled to get a chance to partner with Christian Unions Ireland and their local chapter at a University in Limerick to share an apologetic talk concerning injustice.

We are often asked how we're adjusting to life here in County Mayo, and I find that a difficult question to answer. As I mentioned, we're settling in to a new Church, a new area, and a new ministry focus in OM, and I feel those are going well. While we love the rental cottage we are living in, and are grateful to have it for this season of life, we are ever aware our lease ends on the first of July. By then we'll need to have found a new house.

This leads us to a huge prayer request. We believe it would be wise to take steps toward buying a house. We think this will help us establish ourselves as more permanent fixtures in our new community. We also think it adds to the stability of our location for our children as they continue to grow up. The rental prices are continuing to rise, surpassing the average mortgage payments. A mortgage will fix our monthly payments for housing at least €500 less than rental costs. And as the years go on our cost will stay the same at around €850 a month while the renting market continues to rise.

We have found that suitable and modest houses in our area cost around 300,000 euro. With our missionary income, we will qualify for a mortgage that would provide just over 1/3 of the price for a house in this range. We're excited to share that we have a very generous partner who has agreed to match gifts up to \$100,000.00 for this project. We are also considering the fact that new monthly partners or increased monthly donations would raise our monthly salary. The mortgage advisor at the bank said that increasing our monthly salary by 500 euro would allow us to qualify for a higher mortgage. We prayerfully place this matter before you, with no small amount of fear and trembling.

Please join us in praying for this matter, that God would direct us to a clear conclusion (whether that be buying or continuing to rent). We are looking to live within 30 minutes of Westport. We currently live near a village called Louisburg, but there is a town north of Westport called Newport, and a town east of Westport called Castlebar. Castlebar has a



few churches, but Newport and Louisburg have no Bible preaching churches or Bible studies. So, we are considering all these matters besides markets.

If you feel you would like to give toward this project, or if you have any questions or wisdom or suggestions, please reach out to us. Operation Mobilisation cannot process large one-time gifts for this type of project, although our leadership are aware and supportive of this endeavor. OM will continue to process our monthly gifts and general salary.

We are always so grateful for your partnership and prayers with and for us over these last 11 years of ministry, and we look forward to many more years of partnership in serving Ireland with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
The Banks Family

