

UPCOMING SERMONS

In June we are continuing our series on the Holy Spirit.

June 7 (Pastor Scott)

The Holy Spirit is Our Comforter
John 14:25-27

June 14 (Pastor Rick)

The Holy Spirit Brings Power
2 Timothy 1:6-9

June 21 (Pastor Scott)

The Holy Spirit is Our Keeper
2 Timothy 1:10-14

June 28 (Pastor Scott)

The Holy Spirit Brings Renewal
Titus 3:1-11

July 5 (Pastor Mario)

The Holy Spirit Brings Transformation
Romans 8:12-17

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.

June 7: Benevolence

June 14: Christian Education Fund

June 21: Missions

June 28: Christian Education Fund

Andrés & Angélica Prins to be at The River Sunday, June 14

Andrés & Angélica, one of the missionaries The River supports, will be worshipping with The River on Sunday, June 14. They will speak briefly during the service and at a special luncheon immediately after service. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet so the Generosity and Outreach Team knows how much food to prepare.

Andrés works with the Eastern Mennonite Mission's Christian and Muslim Relations Team. He and Angélica seek to be winsome ambassadors of the Messiah, Jesus, in North Africa and South Europe.



**Upcoming Summer Events
(Mark Your Calendars)**



Summer Movie Night– June 11 6:30 PM

We'll put on a movie while we relax, enjoy some popcorn, and spend time with friends and family. Join us for a family-friendly film that you, your kids, and your grandkids can enjoy!

Church Beach Day– June 28 after Service

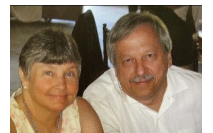
Join us for a fun and relaxing Church Beach Day at Huntington City Beach (between Lifeguard Stations 7–9)! After the service, head over to the beach to enjoy a great afternoon of sun, sand, and community with your church family.

Bring your beach gear, chairs, and food to enjoy for dinner. We'll have a reserved fire pit and will provide s'mores supplies for everyone to enjoy as the evening winds down.

Come for the whole time or just stop by—we'd love to see you there!

**WANDA BACHMAN CELEBRATION OF LIFE
SET FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 11:00 AM**

Wanda Bachman passed away Saturday, April 18. The family held a small graveside service on May 27 led by Pastor Rick. You are invited to join the family for her Celebration of Life Service, June 13, 11:00 AM.



THE RIVER LOSES TWO LONG TIME MEMBERS

Laurel O'Brien passed away unexpectedly at her home the weekend of May 23-24. One of the elders stopped by to pick her up for church Sunday and did not get a response. Concerned, he and Pastor Scott checked in with Laurel's son, Tim. Tim went over to her house and discovered she had gone to be with Jesus. Laurel was 78 years old. Her service is scheduled for Saturday, June 27. Time is yet to be determined.



Dick Dirksen completed his earthly life the evening of Wednesday, May 27. He had a stroke a few years back and suffered memory loss, but was doing okay. The first of the week his health took a rapid decline. His family was able to be with him in his last hours. The family is planning a small graveside service, Friday, June 5, 11:00 AM at Hillside with a reception to follow at the River House. The congregation is invited to attend.





Team from The River to Join the Redlands Hunger Walk/Run Saturday, June 6

Carol Jones has recruited a few members of The River along with family and friends to participate in Redlands Family Service's 12th Annual Hunger Walk, Saturday, June 6. This family-friendly 5K walk & run takes place on the University of Redlands campus near Ted Runner Stadium. Runners begin at 7:30 AM, walkers at 8:00 AM.

The goal of the walk is to help alleviate food insecurity in the Redlands area and bring awareness to this critical issue. Each walker contributes \$40 as a registration fee. All proceeds benefit Redlands Family Service's food pantry and breakfast program.

With increasing inflation, Redlands Family Service's low-income clients are increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger. In 2025, they were able to serve almost 29,000 meals, distributed over 2,000 community food boxes and provided food assistance to over 3,000 families.

The Family Service Association of Redlands (FSA) is and has been dedicated to helping those in need in the community since its founding in 1898. FSA provides a safety net designed to assist with basic needs such as food, housing and clothing for the homeless, at-risk homeless, and low-income residents of the East Valley. One of the major goals of the agency is to assist in the process of securing longer term stable housing for families that meet certain income qualifications while guiding them into the often difficult process of self-sufficiency.



Pastor Mario to Lead Camp Dunamis June 14 -19

Camp Dunamis will be held June 14-19, 2026, at Camp Maranatha in Idyllwild. Camp Dunamis is a middle school camp focused on providing space for racial reconciliation and a ton of fun. The camp involves students from throughout Southern California and beyond. Ten students from The River are signed up.

Camp Dunamis believes God created all races and that He desires for us to live in unity with one another. Camp Dunamis was birthed in 1988 out of a dream to help people experience the beauty of diversity and to confront the problem of racism in our society. For more information about Camp Dunamis go to campdunamis.org. Please pray for Pastor Mario and the youth, that they will have a fun and fruitful time.



The River To Celebrate Father's Day June 21 With "Dirty Sodas" for All

All are welcome to enjoy a dirty soda for Father's Day! A dirty soda is soda (like Coke, Sprite, etc.) combined with syrup and cream to make it extra delicious. While we are honoring fathers, everyone is welcome to grab a soda!

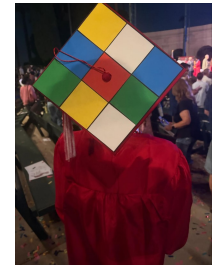


The River Recognizes Graduates

On Sunday, June 7, The River will recognize this year's graduates during worship. We want to take time to recognize our young people's achievements and bless them as they move into the next phase of their lives. Congratulations to all. This year's graduates include:

High School:

- Ayleena Brown
- Jacob DeWeerd
- Ethan Hekman
- Maddie Leonard
- Jonathan Odenbaugh
- Micah Slagter



Undergraduate Degrees:

- Colton Day
- Troy Elgersma
- Justin Gilbert
- Alice Kok
- Molly Smith
- Garen Zakarian



Graduate Program

- Abby Verhoeven

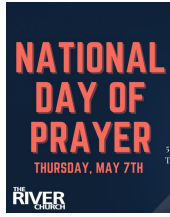
GEMS and Cadet Sunday

Thank you to our GEMS and Cadets groups for sharing about their learning and growing experiences with us on Sunday, April 26. We were blessed by our kids being part of the worship service, helping share the week's announcements, and for sharing how God has been at work in this school year.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

About 15 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall Thursday evening, May 7, for a chili dinner and prayer. Around the two tables participants enjoyed the meal and prayed for our nation, state, and cities; Christian and public schools, teachers, and administrators; churches and their leaders; etc.



The National Day of Prayer Gathering was hosted by the Prayer and Worship Leadership Team, one of six teams that plan and carry out activities in the church. David Oliver chairs the Prayer and Worship Leadership Team. Thank you to the team and those who came out to enjoy each other's company and pray together.

ANNUAL CADET PINEWOOD DERBY

The Cadets and members of the congregation enjoyed the Annual Cadet Pinewood Derby to close out the 2025-2026 Legacy Nights season on Wednesday, May 13.

Zion Thompson won first place for speed. Evan Poortinga and Andrew Huibregtse took second and third places. Benny Huibregtse took first place for paint and design. Tyce Simpson and Lennon Antillon took second and third. Hudson Lee got the Turkey Trophy for slowest car. Before the race the Council hosted a BBQ with hotdogs and hamburgers.



MOTHER'S DAY—SUNDAY, MAY 10
The River hosts "Build a Bouquet" for Women

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, The River hosted a Build A Bouquet station for women of the church. Women and/or those who love them, were able to choose a few flowers along with baby's breath and ferns to make a bouquet. It was a great way to recognize our mothers and mother figures. Thank you to the team that planned and put on the activity.



SAVE THE DATE
Senior Fellowship Luncheon
Friday, July 24, 11:30 AM



Doors Open for Games, Coffee and Fellowship at 10:00 AM

*Theme: Old Fashioned Church Picnic
 Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary
 Menu: To Be Determined*

Come prepared for good food, great fellowship, and old fashioned church picnic activities

*Don't forget to dress for the occasion:
 Overalls, Jeans, Plaid Shirt and Tops & Straw hats
 and/or Patriotic Attire*



KAREN VERHOEVEN RETIRES AFTER 23 YEARS WITH THE RIVER

Karen Verhoeven retired at the end of May after serving The River for 23 years. She started in ministry in 2000 as The Children's Ministry Director. She began volunteering because help was needed and she believed she could help. Soon she was asked to join as staff. Beginning in 2013 Karen took three years off to take care of family needs.

In 2016, Karen began to wonder with Pastor Scott if The River could better enfold guests and develop a plan for new members. After some discussion, she was offered the staff position as Connections Coordinator, which has been her role for the last ten years.

Karen said her favorite part about her time on staff has been connecting with people and families as well as the sense of purpose in serving God.

In retirement Karen looks forward to having more time with family –especially her two granddaughters, gardening, organizing their home, reading, traveling with James, and critiquing Redlands' coffee shops!



Thank you, Karen, for your years of service and your heart for people and the Lord.

Family, Friends, and Members of The River Celebrate the Lives of Jack and Mae Bailey

On Saturday, May 16, an intimate group of family, friends, and members of The River gathered to celebrate Jack and Mae Bailey's lives. Jack passed away on March 16. He was 93 years old. He was a pastor and Regional Executive with the American Baptist Church for years. After he and Mae retired and moved to Plymouth Village, they became members of The River. Mae has memory issues and is on hospice in Skilled Nursing at Plymouth Village.

The children decided they wanted to honor and celebrate Jack and Mae's lives together since they were married 71 years and their lives were so much a part of each other. Even in Jack's last days he would spend as much time with Mae as possible, eating meals, attending activities, or simply sitting with her holding her hand.

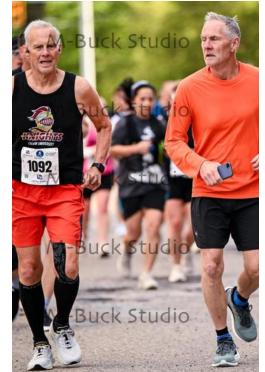
Pastor Scott opened and closed the service, Pastor Rick shared about Jack and Mae's last five years, and a family friend brought a reflection on the Word. The family and close friends also shared memories of Jack and Mae's life together. A reception was held in the fellowship hall following the service.



Roger Boersen Completes Grand Rapids "River Bank Run" on Anniversary of His "Run Around The World"

By Roger Boersen

I went to Michigan in May to visit my siblings and to run the River Bank Run 25K (15.53 miles) for the 11th time with my brother Carl. My first one was in 1983. I had a great race running it 12 minutes faster than last year!



The race was also on the 12th anniversary of my "Run around the World" in which I completed running 24,904 miles beginning in 1976.

It was June of 1976 and Carolyn was soon to give birth to our first child (Patty DeWeerd) and I was just finishing my 1st year of teaching. I was about 35 pounds overweight and out of shape so I decided to start running. I got in the car and drove a mile from our apartment so I could do a 2-mile run – out and back. I put on my new shoes – a \$10 dollar pair of K-Mart Trax that I would eventually run 1,000 miles in and headed out the door. After I turned around at the mile mark, I ran another quarter mile and walked home – completely exhausted. After a few more trials, I finally was able to run the full 2 miles.

I wanted to get better so I bought a running magazine to find out the best way to improve. One article suggested that you start a running log and write down each run noting the distance, time, course, how you felt etc., so you can find out what is working for you and what isn't. I had a leftover notebook from Calvin College that I used for this purpose and I used it to tally my runs, who I ran with, injuries, surgeries, weight loss or gain, and even special events in my life. My love of running spread to the kids I taught and I started a 50 Mile Club every spring. The 50 Mile Club turned into a running club and the running club turned into a Cross Country team.

When I started the cross country team at Redlands Christian School in 2003, the kids asked me how many miles I had run since I started. I found that interesting, so I added it all up. Fortunately, I had started putting my running log on a spread sheet so the last few years it added it up for me. I was amazed at how far I had gone and decided that I could eventually run the circumference of the world. On Saturday, March 10, 2014, I completed my journey of 24,902 miles running the last mile with over 100 students and friends on the Redlands Christian School (Church Street) campus. God has used running to develop relationships with many different people, both adults and kids. Psalm 139:14 says that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made". The story continues ...



Linda	Lyzenga	May 27
Carol	Jones	June 10
Marlene	Hekman	June 13
Mary	DeWaard	June 17
Joe	Adcock	June 18
Kathleen	Hartman	June 19
Kathy	Vander Wal	June 19
Cecil	Miller	June 21
William	Heemstra	June 26
Gladys	DeBruyne	June 30
Norma	DeDoes	July 02
Dennis	Barton	July 03
Erich	Melzer	July 07

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

Violet Simpson: Please be in prayer for Violet Simpson. Violet has been released home after spending five days in Children's Hospital of Orange County. She has been battling kidney infections and complications. They did surgery to place stents and her condition has improved. Please pray that the procedure is effective and that Violet is completely healed. Pray for Kindra, Andrew and Tyce as they care for and support Violet in the weeks ahead.

Carolyn Boersen: Please be in prayer for Carolyn Boersen. Carolyn had complete knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, May 28 and came home Thursday. Pray that her recovery will be timely and complete.

Marie Wiersma: Marie Wiersma is home after a few days in the hospital with breathing problems. She will be on oxygen for a while at home but says she is feeling good. Please keep her in prayer as she recuperates.

Laurel O'Brien's Family: Please pray for Laurel's family, that God might meet them in their lament. Pray also for the details that they will need to navigate in the weeks and months ahead.

Dick Dirksen's Family: Please pray for Dick's family. They are sad but celebrating that he is with Jesus. Pray as they deal with all the details that need to be taken care of in the coming weeks.

Greg Bachman and Family: Please continue to pray for Greg and his family as they celebrate Wanda's life and adjust to their loss over the coming months.

Mark and Marianne DeBoer: Marianne fell and broke her leg (right fibula). This is one more health

challenge compounding others and coming in the middle of some house remodeling. Pray for healing for Marianne along with strength and encouragement for her and Mark.

Grace Florence: Grace remains at Loma Linda University Medical Center at the East Campus Hospital. She is showing some improvement but still in very serious condition. According to her sons, they are looking for a bed for her in an appropriate care facility. Pray for God's direction and the boys' adjustment.

The Whitmans and Marlene Hekman: Roger and Theora are moving into Plymouth Village. Marlene Hekman is moving into The Village. Both are moving into "cottages." These are major moves as both have lived in their homes for years. Pray for them in their transitions. Moving and downsizing are stressful and hard, and they are both leaving homes they have lived in and loved for years.

Bob and Kathy Hartman: Kathy Hartman fell and seriously broke her arm near her shoulder. Doctors are monitoring her regularly. Pray for healing and that she not need a shoulder replacement. This has delayed her needed knee replacement surgery. Pray for both her and Bob as they navigate this latest challenge.

Ken and Pat Gopperton: Please pray for Ken and Pat as Ken continues to recuperate from knee surgery and consults with doctors about other issues that have come up.

Jim and Chris Nydam: Chris asks for prayer for the continuing immunotherapy treatments that she gets every 40 days. Pray that the treatments are doing their job and that she might have fewer side effects. Also pray for better mobility and healing of her back.

Other Ongoing Needs:

- **Those who grieve the loss of loved ones.**
- **Norma Greenfield** as she continues under doctors' care and works to build her strength.
- **Jean Wagner** with extremely painful knees and increasing mobility concerns.
- **Glen Coulter** as he deals with health concerns that are unresolved that are impacting his ability to work, causing financial hardship. He also had a couple thousand dollars of work tools stolen this month, compounding his situation.
- **Glenn and Claire Huibregtse** as Glenn continues treatment for prostate cancer.
- **Our people that have limited mobility and/or are basically homebound:**
 - ⇒ Mae Bailey
 - ⇒ Marianne DeBoer
 - ⇒ Jake and Sherry DeHoog
 - ⇒ Chuck and Joy Griffin
 - ⇒ Claire Fik
 - ⇒ Marie Nymeyer
 - ⇒ Marie Wiersma

The Stele of Steve and Frankie Wunderink, The River Missionaries in Egypt May, 2026

Tanzania

I had my first trip to Dar es Salam, Tanzania this past month. I teach an Old Testament Survey class for student leaders and pastors who cannot make it to a formal seminary yet are hungry for the education. An organization in Cairo called Streams, connected with the Evangelical church here in Cairo, funds a 9-month intensive "seminary" for the students.



I am one of the teachers for these classes and over two weeks, teaching 6 hours a day, I cover the entire Old Testament for them. It is an exhausting week for me but it is always a joy to see students hungry for God's word.

When we get to the Psalms I typically have a short time to tell them about the forms of the Psalms and end with a summary of Psalms and their purpose. But in between I set them up to teach me. I ask them to give me their favorite Psalm and then tell me why, what is the story behind why it is their favorite. Most of the time I get deep and meaningful experience stories of death, war, witchcraft, and some are humorous.

Student #1: Chose Psalm 121: "I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from (vs. 1) and "the Lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life (vs. 7). He told of riding a motorbike to another village far away from his home village. He said he remembers being on the road and the next thing he remembers is waking up in a hospital surrounded by people he did not know. They asked him for his name and contact information for family. He asked them what happened. The doctor reported that he was brought in by two huge, tall men (he said they assumed they were from the Dinka tribe because they were so big, but all they said was they were "from the hills"). They saved his life by taking him from the accident to the hospital. No one could find the men after they brought him in ... they ... disappeared. While still in the hospital he read Psalm 121 and knew they were angels sent by God "from the hills."

Student #2: Chose Psalm 118: "His love endures forever." He told the story of being married and unable to have children, he lost his job and he and his wife were near starvation. His church had a prayer month where they told everyone to meditate on Psalm 118, read it every day and pray through it every day. It was hard, but he and his wife prayed this Psalm everyday for a month. The last week of the month a member of the church told him that God asked him to give this money for his wife and him. Later a female member of the church came to his wife and told her that God told her she would have her first child this year. With the money he bought a Tuktuk (3-wheel mini taxi) and his wife was able to craft items to sell and they found they were pregnant ... since then they have had five children. His love endures forever!

These stories and ones like them enhance my life and my faith. I hope it does yours as well.

Prayers:

- Pray for the workers and new believers in Egypt. The authorities seem to be "cracking down" especially hard right now with many of our friends and acquaintances spending time being questioned by Egyptian authorities.
- Pray for Frankie and the River being especially busy with multiple crisis debriefing situations and groups.
- Continue to pray for Egypt to stay in the peaceful place it currently is, in the middle of strife in the surrounding countries. Outside of some travel restrictions, we continue to be safe and secure here in Cairo. Pray for friends in the affected areas.
- Pray for Steve's trip for Pastor training in Assiut, Egypt.
- Pray this years' Cohort group to finish the time together well. Pray for those who have to make decisions for their next steps when Cohort is finished. Pray for God's transforming work in each Cohort member.
- Pray for Steve's health. It is a few good weeks then a few bad days ... weight loss is still happening but it is slowing down. Still working on food balance.
- Pray for the next Cohort group, especially the two (Sebastian and Emily) who will begin their support raising.
- Pray for our last few meetings with Cairo Community before the summer break.

Praises:

- Praise for reaching 100% of our budget!
- Praise for trip to Tanzania and students there.
- Praise for Steve's health to be good while in Tanzania.
- Praise for our Resonate Group in Egypt growing: Naji and Anne, Tim and Tammy, Katie (arrived February), Kyra (will arrive June), and Jin Soo (will arrive in August)!
- Praise for us as we are heading toward our 11th year in Egypt.