

UPCOMING SERMONS

Finishing our Series *“The Stories Have Power: How God Shows Himself in Our World.”*

August 3 (Pastor Scott)

God Starts a New Story with The Church
Acts 5

New Sermon Series Starts August 10

August 10 (Pastor Scott)

Christ Gives to Us a Friendship
Unlike Any Other
Ruth 4:1-12

August 17 (Pastor Scott)

Christ Calls Us to Interactions
With Those Who Do Not Know Him
2 Timothy 2:14-3:9

August 24 (Pastor Scott)

Christ Calls Us to Love the Stranger
Hebrews 13:1-3

August 31 (Pastor Rick)

Christ Calls Us to Make Space
for Those Who Don’t Belong
Mark 2:1-12

September 7 (Pastor Mario)

Christ Calls Us to Live as Family
Ephesians 2:11-22

2025 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

join us august 24, 2025 at 11:00am

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, Aug. 24. New elders and deacons will be selected and the budget will be presented for approval. Office bearers completing their service are Jim Nydam and David Carnes as elders, and Richard Smith and Sharon Sibley as deacons. Thank you, all four, for your service and your contributions as leaders in the church. The nomination slate for new office bearers and the 2026 proposed budget will be available in the congregational packet.

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.

Aug 03: Benevolence

Aug 10: Christian Education Fund

Aug 17: Missions

Aug 24: Young Life

Aug 31: Christian Education Fund

LEGACY NIGHT KICKOFF

Legacy Night Kickoff is Wednesday, August 27. Dinner will be served at 5:15 PM. Classes for the Fall will be announced at that time. There will be bouncers for the kids and lots of fun. Legacy Nights regularly meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month except when a holiday interrupts that. Here is the schedule for the Fall.

September 10 & 24

October 8 & 22

November 12 (only one due to Thanksgiving)

December 10 (only one due to Christmas)

PASTOR MARIO CELEBRATES 10 YEARS WITH THE RIVER; PASTOR SCOTT, 15 YEARS

By Rachel Peters

Pastor Mario will be celebrating 10 years with The River on August 15.

Pastor Mario first became connected to The River while attending California Baptist University, through a meaningful relationship with Nick In’t Hout, The River’s former youth pastor. His journey with the church began as a youth ministry intern, spending the summer living in community with four other interns in Redlands’ Northside neighborhood. Together, they served at The River and helped strengthen our presence on the Lugonia Elementary campus.

After that summer, Pastor Mario continued his studies at CBU while faithfully volunteering with the youth ministry and making The River his church



Continued on next page....

Pastor Mario and Pastor Scott continued...

home. He graduated in 2015 and soon after stepped into the role of Youth Director.

In 2017, Pastor Mario began pursuing a Master of Divinity through Calvin Theological Seminary distance program, completing his degree in May 2022. In October 2023, The River joyfully participated in his ordination and officially called him to serve as Pastor of Faith Formation.

Today, Pastor Mario continues to lead our youth ministry while guiding the spiritual development of our entire congregation, fostering faith formation across all generations.

Pastor Mario also serves as the Youth Ministry Champion for the CRCNA Classis California South and is active with youth throughout our community.

Congratulations Pastor Mario, and thank you for all you do for The River, the Classis, and the youth of our community.

Pastor Scott is celebrating 15 years as Lead Pastor at The River this month. He, Kristin, and their three children moved to Redlands in August 2010 after he completed his Master of Divinity at Calvin Theological Seminary and received a call to serve at The River. That October, our congregation had the joy of participating in his ordination.



Over the years, Pastor Scott has faithfully led and nurtured our church staff, walking alongside many as they've grown into the roles God has called them to. His leadership has helped shape and transform our ministry team, encouraging others to step more fully into their gifts.

Throughout his time at The River, he has preached hundreds of sermons, authored two year-long devotionals for our church and surrounding communities, and worked closely with the church council to guide the vision of our church—ensuring our mission remains rooted in God's plan.

Pastor Scott's deep care for our congregation is evident in the way he warmly greets each person on Sunday mornings, offering a kind word or a welcoming smile. His genuine relationships with those he leads are a reflection of his heart for ministry.

Since arriving in Redlands, Pastor Scott has watched his children grow from young students into adults and now treasures every moment spent with his grandchildren.

In addition to his work at The River, Pastor Scott is also deeply engaged with our denomination and local classis, where his wisdom, insight, and passion for ministry are widely appreciated.

BUSY SUMMER FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES AND PASTOR MARIO

Pastor Mario and his team have had a busy summer! June 15-20 Pastor Mario led Camp Dunamis, an outrageously fun Christian camp for middle school youth, located in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Camp Dunamis was birthed in 1988 out of a dream to confront the problem of racism in our society. The camp's twofold vision is to help youth identify and weed out the seeds of racism in their own lives and to help them develop a personal relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Each year approximately 150-200 campers come to camp from all over Southern California, Las Vegas, and Rehoboth & Zuni, New Mexico. The diverse demographics of these communities and churches empower campers to intentionally embrace the vision of racial reconciliation.

June 21-28 Pastor Mario and the Triemstras accompanied a group of our high school young people to LaGrave Ave. Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids for SERVE. LaGrave is located in the downtown/core city area. While there they had the opportunity to do outreach and service projects including:

- Partnering with agencies that work with the homeless population
- Supporting & working in local missions and food banks
- Working with children's and youth ministry organizations
- Yard work or light construction in homes
- Working side by side with homeowners who are on the brink of losing their prized possession
- Servant Evangelism

On their day away on Wednesday of that week they were able to go tubing down the Muskegon River, stopping to eat lunch on a small island in the middle of the river.



At the Ontario Airport headed for Grand Rapids

(more pictures on the next page...)



Tubing down the Muskegon River and gathering for a group session in Michigan.



One of the volleyball games at LaGrave.

July 21-27 Pastor Mario led a SERVE like ministry in Rehoboth, NM. The youth worked alongside churches in towns around Rehoboth such as Fort Wingate CRC, Church Rock CRC, and Window Rock CRC. They helped clean up and modify their campus and parsonages. Some students assisted local food banks and did various projects around Rehoboth's campus. On Friday the students got to explore Gallup and do some hiking.



The Rehoboth Group

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID UPDATE (from the MCCA Newsletter)

"Heading into Mexico at about 7:00 am usually involves a brief stop where a Mexican Border Agent takes a quick look into the truck bed and cab. A minute or two and we are on our way. On May 3, 2025 one of our trucks was detained for over 2 hours and forced to pay a sizeable Duty Fee on donated Spanish Bibles that we give to the Orphanages. The story is explained further in the article below."



"Our recent mission to feed orphans in Baja California was a testament to God's faithfulness, even when obstacles arise. This trip, our team of volunteers faced a tougher-than-usual Mexican border crossing. All 10 lanes were being filmed, with at least 3 agents per lane scrutinizing every vehicle. Our truck's bed was thoroughly searched - toolbox, bags, and even two boxes of men's diapers, which earned us some amused glances from the agents! We were cleared to proceed, but our second truck, carrying Spanish-translated Bibles on the back seat, wasn't as fortunate. It was sent to the duty area for evaluation, requiring forms, a two-hour wait, and a \$250 duty payment."

"Despite the delay, our spirits stayed high. At the market, we purchased beans, rice, oats, powdered milk, and more - all sourced locally in Mexico to avoid border duties. Our 14 volunteer-driven trucks delivered these supplies to over 50 children's homes and feeding programs across Tijuana, Ensenada, and Tecate. The setback only made the day's joy sweeter as we shared the Bibles, and the Gospel with the children. Their smiles and the gratitude of the childcare centers reminded us why we press on."

MCCA makes a monthly trip to Mexico to bring supplies to children's homes and feeding programs. Paul Vela is serving as president. Several of our people go on the trips. If you would like to ride along, contact Paul at 909.289.4846. For the remainder of the year trips are planned for

August 9
September 6
October 4
November 8
December 6

Since 1964, MCCA has been 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.

GENEROSITY AND OUTREACH TEAM LUNCHEON WITH STEVE AND FRANKIE WUNDERINK SUNDAY, JULY 6

By Jim Nydam and Patty Turley

More than 30 people gathered after church on Sunday, July 6, to hear Steve and Frankie Wunderink share about the work they have been doing in Egypt in conjunction with Resonate. Steve talked of so many who are hungry for God's Word and seeking to dig deep into the Bible. He is passionate about teaching and instructs young men who cannot leave the country nor could afford seminary.

Steve is an enthusiastic Old Testament teacher, lecturer and advocate. Steve says, "If you want to see where the Bible received much of its beginnings come visit and I will give you a tour that will open your eyes to new findings about the Bible." He also lectures on the Old Testament by teaching a course to spiritually thirsty believers. He recently had the pleasure of teaching the entire Old Testament in just two weeks!



Frankie greeted the crowd with a joyous smile and lead us through the multitude of responsibilities on her shoulders. She leads a counseling course for displaced people, opens up their home to a group called Cohort for 6 months each year to provide spiritual growth In the community and provides workshops for new cross-cultural workers entering the mission field. She said, "God has brought new groups from around the world to grow in their walk with the Lord."

This luncheon gave attendees a firsthand look into how two individuals have given their lives to serving a community that has been torn by civil war, a shortage of pastoral and biblical education and counseling. Frankie and Steve reached their 10-year anniversary on the mission field this year. According to Steve, who is turning 65 this year, God has lead Steve in 18-year increments; 18 years pastoring in the midwest, 18 years pastoring Grace Valley CRC in Las Vegas and 10 years in the field with 8 years remaining to serve the Middle East.

Our time together was a rich filling of God's work in a world that needs the love of Christ so much. Steve and Frankie have been evacuated, detained and searched all for the glory of God and love it. They are excited to see what God will do next in the land of Moses.

Steve and Frankie ask everyone to pray with them for continued grace and protection, for resources to meet needs, and preparation for a new location which must meet specific desires. They are especially grateful for our prayers which give hope and further their opportunities to continue all God has planned for them to do in Egypt.

JACK DAUER SPOKE AT JULY MEN'S BREAKFAST; LANDON KERN TO SHARE SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Jack Dauer, who has been attending the Men's Breakfast with Glenn Huibregtse, shared his story at the July Men's Breakfast. Jack is retired from California Children's Services where he worked with Claire Huibregtse for a number of years. He hosts a podcast called Welcome to Master Geek Theater, a Geek Centered Variety show.



Landon Kern will be sharing at the Men's Breakfast, Saturday, August 16, 7:00 AM in the fellowship hall. Landon is a civil engineer with the city of Yucaipa. He and his wife, Shaina, have been members of The River for fourteen years. They have three sons, Luke, Eli, and Finn.



Come enjoy a breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage or bacon, potatoes and coffee, and hear Landon's story.

SOME SENIORS ENJOYED THE AMAZING RACE, ONE OF SUMMER FUN EVENTS FOR ALL AGES

Some of our seniors participated in The Amazing Race, the first of several Summer Fun Events planned for all members of the church. The event took place June 18. During the "Race" teams had to solve puzzles, play games, and do other activities. Some of our seniors were part of a cheer team for their group, cheering on the razor scooter race, the scavenger hunt, and the balloons in the air competition. The evening ended with delicious root beer floats.

The second event in the Summer Fun Series was a Redlands Football (Soccer) Club Game against San Diego City Club at Redlands High School on July 12. On July 30, a skate night is planned at Cal Skate in Grand Terrace. On August 6 the event is an Inland Empire 66ers Baseball Game at San Manuel Stadium in San Bernardino. (Tickets need to be purchased by Sunday, July 27.)

Thank you the team that planned the Summer Fun Event Series and for all the work it took to make the arrangements.



The River Participates in Redlands Family Service Hunger Walk & Run



REDLANDS HUNGER WALK & RUN
STEPPING UP
TO STOP
HUNGER

A few members of The River joined Carol Jones and some of her family and friends to do the Redlands Hunger Walk/Run on Saturday, June 7. This was the eleventh year for the walk. Carol coordinates a team from The River every year. The walk/run began at 7:45. As the walkers and runners passed the finish line, they were given swag bags. Those that preregistered also got t-shirts.



"Family Service Association of Redlands was founded in 1898 by Alfred Smiley during a public meeting called by the Minister's Association. The original name of the agency was Associated Charities of Redlands. In its early years, Family Service had few paid staff; it was a membership program with members paying no less than 25 cents each month. Each member of the Associated Charities was a volunteer case worker, appointed a "visitor" by the Executive Committee, and went out into the community to attend to the ill and destitute. The board met weekly and cases were presented and the committee decided which cases to fund. From the very beginning the agency offered 'a hand up, not just a hand out.'"

"Redlands Family Service is located at 612 Lawton Street in Redlands. In 1990 The Presbytery of Riverside, who had run the House of Neighborly Services program and owned the Lawton Street property, agreed to lease it to Family Service for \$1.00 a year."

"In 2016 the Yucaipa Outreach Program office opened. Partnership with the city of Yucaipa and Redlands Community Hospital was key to making this a reality."

(The segments quoted above are excerpts from
<https://www.redlandsfamilyservice.org/history.html>)



FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF REDLANDS

TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY,
ENCOURAGE SELF-SUFFICIENCY,
AND PROMOTE THE DIGNITY OF ALL

AUGUST 24 MISSION OFFERING SUPPORTS YOUNG LIFE AT UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

Young Life at University of Redlands is approaching 11 years on campus! We are excited to announce our newest full time staff, Julian Santiago, will be starting August 1st. Julian recently graduated from University of Redlands and Young Life played a significant role in his faith journey. He is fired up to work with our student leader team, intentionally building relationships with students on campus. Please pray for us as we host weekly Bible studies, community dinner, ultimate frisbee games, camping weekends, and much more! We have approximately 20 student leaders and a handful of adult volunteer leaders. We are fundraising for Julian's salary, leadership training endeavors, and to keep camp costs down for college weekend. Please keep us in your prayers as we bring Light on campus. I'm constantly amazed at the hunger and eagerness of our students to learn what it means to follow Jesus. Thank you so much for partnering with us!



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV

Jodi Datema, Young Life Area/College Director
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SUMMER SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON WAS A HAWAIIAN DELIGHT!

Pastor Rick opened the July quarterly senior luncheon by welcoming everyone and making a couple of announcements. Gladys DeBruyne led a devotion, then Gordon Barents prayed for the meal. The menu was pulled pork on buns, coleslaw, macaroni salad, and fruit. Dessert was ice cream sundaes with toppings.

After the meal the group made their way into the sanctuary for a Hawaiian Worship Dance presentation called Praising Him Island Style by Halau Hula O Kanoelani, a Polynesian dance school whose name translates to "Hula School of the Heavenly Mist." Halau Hula O Kanoelani is passionate about its mission to "Share the Spirit of Aloha". Based in Quartz Hill, California, (Antelope Valley) this Halau celebrates the music and dance of the Pacific Islands. Lia Kamminga Thomason, the school's owner, is Darlene Barents' sister-in-law, married to Darlene's younger brother, Dennis. The group did not charge to come, but we did provide a gift to help them with gas.

Mark your calendars now for the next Senior Luncheon, Friday, October 24. Games (usually dominos) at 10:00 AM; lunch at 11:30 AM.





Ted Silva	August 1	David Oliver	September 05
Paul DeWaard	August 5	Michael DeDoes	September 08
Mary Bek	August 9	Grace Florence	September 12
Ryan Tolsma	August 10	Mae Bailey	September 13
Marie Nymeyer	August 26	Jack Bailey	September 14

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry! Please let Pastor Rick know so we can update the church database. Thank you.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

Debbie Clinton: On July 14, after a long wait, Debbie went in for kidney and liver transplant surgery. The liver transplant was successful and the doctors are happy with what they see. Unfortunately, the kidney was not viable. However, with a new and functioning liver, Debbie's kidneys may respond and improve function. As of a July 24 text from her son Kevin, Deb was out of the hospital and in a rehab facility in Scottsdale, AZ. "She is progressing fast but tired a lot. The hope is she might go back to the hotel as early as next week."

Greg and Wanda Bachman: Along with Wanda's deafness, the sarcoidosis in her lungs has become worse, her Alzheimer's continues to increase and now doctors have discovered a small mass in her lung. She needs to be on oxygen more frequently and sleeps about 16 hours a day. They have home health care coming in 30 hours a week. On a recent visit she was on the couch, in good spirits, and conversant! In response to a July 8 CAT scan of her lungs the doctor texted: "It looks worse. It could be sarcoid or something else. Options are to keep her as comfortable as possible or do a bronchoscopy with biopsies. Please pray for Greg and his family as they make this difficult decision."

Chris and Jim Nydam and family: Chris is undergoing six months of chemotherapy following surgery. She has two treatments left. The treatments have gotten more difficult. Please pray for minimal side effects. Also pray for her radiation treatment that is scheduled for September.

Pearl Koning: After a bout with pneumonia Pearl is basically bedridden. Her strength and memory have declined. Doctors have prescribed new medication to deal with some of the concerns that her increased dementia have brought on. On a recent visit she was awake, conversant, and pleasant. Please pray for Pearl and all of her family as they navigate this new challenge.

Betty Kremer: Continue to pray for Betty in her time of transition. After Pete's service she was able to spend a week with her daughter Mary at her daughter Karen's house in Oxnard. She is home now and resuming some of her activities.

Larry Zollner: Larry is doing better after a hospital stay for a gallstone. He is gaining strength and has been able to be back in church and get back to some of his routine.

Grace Florence: Grace is having problems with her liver and kidneys. She may be going on dialysis soon. She is also struggling even more financially as her rent has increased. Pray for wisdom and discernment for her as doctors and caregivers try to provide solutions that might help. Pray for both Florence and her son, Jack, who is helping with finances and her care.

Dennis and Trudy Barton: Trudy had knee replacement surgery Thursday, June 26. She is in physical therapy. Pray for Dennis as he cares for her. They joke that now she's officially a 4x4, both hips and both knees replaced.

Claire Fik: Claire had outpatient surgery to remove skin cancer spot on her neck. Pray for her recovery and healing.

Bruce and Karen Grip: Karen had knee surgery in April. She continues in physical therapy. Please pray for her ongoing healing and strength.

Rich and Karen Jarvis: Karen has resumed physical therapy. Pray for her health and strength. Pray for discernment both for the Jarvises as well as their doctors as they talk about the possibility of another surgery.

Harold Milligan: Harold has not been in the hospital since May but continues to deal with lifestyle changes that are disheartening. Please continue to pray for him.

Jack and Mae Bailey: Mae has been moved from the memory care unit at Plymouth Village to Skilled Nursing. The good part about it is now Jack and Mae can eat together. They are not in the same room.

Dick Dirksen: Dick is still doing okay, but his memory issues continue to increase. Pray for him and his family as they negotiate his health needs.

Pastor Bill and Harriet Bierling: Pray for Bill and Harriet for their ongoing health challenges. Praise God that they are doing as well as they are and Harriet's weekly treatment can now be done locally.

Roger and Theora Whitman: Roger completed his treatment for erythrodermic cutaneous T-cell lymphoma and is in the evaluation phase. He continues to undergo six treatments a month at City of Hope National Medical Center located in Duarte.

Continued on next page...

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES CONTINUED

Norma Greenfield: Norma is doing better and is able to get around, but needs continuing prayer for strength as she would like to get to the point of being able to use a cane, not a walker or wheelchair.

Jean Wagner: Jean continues to get around, but is having severe pain in her knees. Praise God that she was able to go camping at the beach in San Diego with her family. Her kids drive her rig back and forth and she is still able to get in and out of it.

Chuck and Joy Griffin: Chuck is essentially homebound. Continue to pray for Chuck and Joy as they manage Chuck's ongoing health issues.

Jake and Shari DeHoog: Pray for their continuing health issues. They are not able to get to church anymore but watch online.

Sohail and Sonia Samson: Sonia is basically homebound most of the time with a debilitating auto-immune disease. Sohail stays home as her primary caregiver. Please pray for God's continuing grace and strength as they manage Sonia's pain, weakness, and limitations.

The prayer/praise list is long, but it's not everybody in our congregation that has a praise or needs prayer. Also, we try to be up to date, but sometimes things change and we're not aware of it. If you know of a praise

The River Church Directory Goes Online

Starting this year, the River church directory will be hosted online!

The online directory will be on Breeze CHMS, which can be accessed either through the app or the website. The graphic on the right will help guide you through the process. You must make an account to access the directory! The church website domain is therivercrc.com.

For some of our seniors, if you do not use the internet or apps, please contact Pastor Rick.

NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles and/or helped proof and produce the newsletter. You are all greatly appreciated.

*Rachel Peters
Jim Nydam
Pastor Mario
Patty Turley
Gladys DeBruyne
Jodi Datema*

