

Getting to Know Pastor Mahsea

Pastor Mahsea Evans and his wife Kawami made the trek to California in 2004 about a month after their wedding. Kawami had accepted a job at UC Santa Cruz and they followed the I-80 all the way from their previous lives on the East Coast to the Pacific Ocean. Used to the warm coastal waters on the beaches of the eastern United States, they relished the idea of dipping their feet into the Pacific Ocean upon their arrival in the month of August. Wondering why most of the people on the beach were wearing what looked like scuba gear, they took off their shoes and headed to the water. Shocked at the cold temperatures even in the summer, they only spent the briefest of moments before running back to the sand. Later they realized the scuba gear were actually wetsuits needed by the determined surfers who enjoyed surfing even in the cold waters.

Mahsea's legal name is Peter. Mahsea was a nickname which became much more than that. When Mahsea performed open-mike poetry during the years of 1999-2004, he studied the concept of wisdom and how it affected his daily life. At that time, the term "mate masie", became crucial to his desire to incorporate wisdom. In Swahili it means "that which I learn, I will do." In other words, it is important to live out what you know. It was shortened to Mahsea and the name has become something that he closely identifies with. He also loves the name Peter since it is the name of his favorite disciple of Jesus.

Mahsea is now the new pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Roseville, located in downtown old Roseville, is across the street from the train station and is also the first church in Roseville. Its history dates to the 1880s, and some of the current building dates back to 1882. Pastor Evans has been at the church for several months now. He was previously working with youth at another Methodist Church in the Sacramento area, St. Mark's. He has been in ministry after responding to a call in 2007.

Mahsea Evans started life in Hartford, Connecticut, located about halfway between Boston and New York. The neighborhood was split between New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox fans. The family was originally from Maryland, and his ancestors in that area date back to the 1800s. He considers this his "deep home" and the East Coast has his embedded history. Most of his family still lives on the East Coast and he and his wife take his daughter, Niara, back to visit them on a regular basis. Mahsea Evans attended a Christian school run by the Church of the Nazarene from kindergarten through twelfth grade. He attended and graduated from East Connecticut State University. This is where he met his wife, Kawami, whose name means "royalty" in the African Bantu language. They met through mutual friends at the age of 17. Kawami did graduate work at University of Massachusetts Amherst and settled in eventually at Northeastern University so she was based out of Boston and he was located in Hartford. Kawami attended a conference in Philadelphia, applied for a position at UC Santa Cruz, was accepted, and Mahsea and Kawami decided to start a whole new life by moving to the West Coast.

While Kawami worked at UC Santa Cruz and started school for a Doctorate Degree in Education, Mahsea worked at Fed Ex, contemplated graduate school and his future, and eventually started seminary in earnest at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 2009. He had been encouraged in college to become a lawyer because of his excellent speaking skills and enjoyed many years doing poetry at open mic nights.



Mate-Masie Symbol
Wisdom, Knowledge, Prudence



He felt a call to join the ministry as early as 2007. He became a Changemaker Fellow through the Christian Association at UC Davis, an ecumenical ministry. There, he made connections that would eventually lead him to the United Methodist Church. He started at St. Mark's in 2016 and came to his current position in Roseville in 2019. He still teaches part-time at his alma mater, Pacific School of Religion.

While there were many things that Mahsea and Kawami loved about Santa Cruz, not the least of which was the amazing location and view, the birth of their child, Niara, led the couple to rethink their location. They lived in Santa Cruz for seven years before Kawami started working at UC Davis and they moved to North Natomas. There they were able to purchase a home and insure their daughter, whose name means "woman of high purpose" in Swahili, would have an environment of diversity. Kawami went on to complete her doctorate at a Drexel University satellite in Sacramento in 2014.



Mahsea is completing his Doctor of Ministry from the Claremont School of Theology this spring in Southern California. He continues his association with Pacific School of Religion and teaches there part-time as a faculty member. Mahsea's dissertation topic is about spoken word communities, art and social transformations, the connection between poetry and sacred space, and imaginative ways to look at the Black folk religious tradition outside of typical church meetings. He has a unique speaking style in church that has many of the congregants happy to hear him on Sunday mornings.

Mahsea Evans remembers his favorite children's church song. It is called the "The Wise and Foolish Builder" and is based on the story in the Gospels about Jesus instructing his followers to build their houses upon rock instead



of on shifting sand. When winds blow, the houses built on rock survive. Mahsea's love of the apostle Peter also has a connection with foundation and rock. Peter, originally Simon, became one of Jesus' disciples. His name was changed to Peter, meaning "cornerstone," when he recognized the divinity of Jesus and Jesus stated to him, "upon this rock (or cornerstone) I will build my church." Mahsea draws a connection between his given name Peter, his favorite song about building on a rock and his love of the disciple Peter.

When asked about his impressions of Roseville and the church, Pastor Evans was very positive. He feels that the people at FUMC are proud of their position as the first permanent church in Roseville, but also feel a sense of responsibility for looking out for their surrounding neighborhood. They are stewards of tradition who also serve meals for the homeless every Monday and sponsor the Gathering Inn people to stay once a month in the church overnight. Mahsea and his family bring new life to the old church in Roseville. Mahsea's desires to share his love of the spoken Word with new approaches to the church and the surrounding community. His office speaks volumes about his interests—beautiful artwork, rows of books for the avid reader, and a rendering of his name Mahsea. He is a welcome and welcoming addition to the downtown church ministries of Roseville.

Interview and photos by Ruth Morse





One Childcare Attendant Wanted

First Church Roseville has an opening for one childcare attendant. The childcare attendant will provide a safe, friendly, and pleasant environment during worship service (8:45 - 11:45 a.m.) and other designated times within the Roseville First United Methodist Church for children from infancy through age 6 years. Typical duties include opening the childcare area each Sunday; ensuring that all children are signed in/out by parent/guardian; leading children in age-appropriate activities such as music, crafts, and story reading; and clean and sanitize infant/toddler toys each week. General job qualifications are completion of a job application providing employment references; preferred two years paid experience as a childcare provider; must pass a pre-employment criminal background check; and ability to lift 50 pounds. Salary is \$15.70 per hour.

If interested or know someone who might be, please send resume and contact:
 Dennis Bull,
 Staff/Parish Relations
 Committee chairperson
 at DWBull4@gmail.com or
 630-781-6110.

Noses, Dollars, and Cents

Basic Monthly Statistics: February

Income February 2020: \$ 10,896.53
 Expenses February 2020: \$ 14,807.79
 Net Income February 2020: **-\$3,993.31**

Basic Yearly Statistics 2020

YTD Income: \$26,627.53
 YTD Expense: **\$30,620.84**
 Net Income: **-\$3,993.31**

February Worship Attendance

Total: 407
 Average: 102

During this time of closure please remember to send your tithes and offerings to

**FUMC Roseville
 109 Washington Blvd.
 Roseville, CA 95678**

Or

You are now able to go online to set up your account to make direct contributions using your checking account or a credit card.

Go to:

<https://www.churchtrac.com/donate?ui=9914464F>

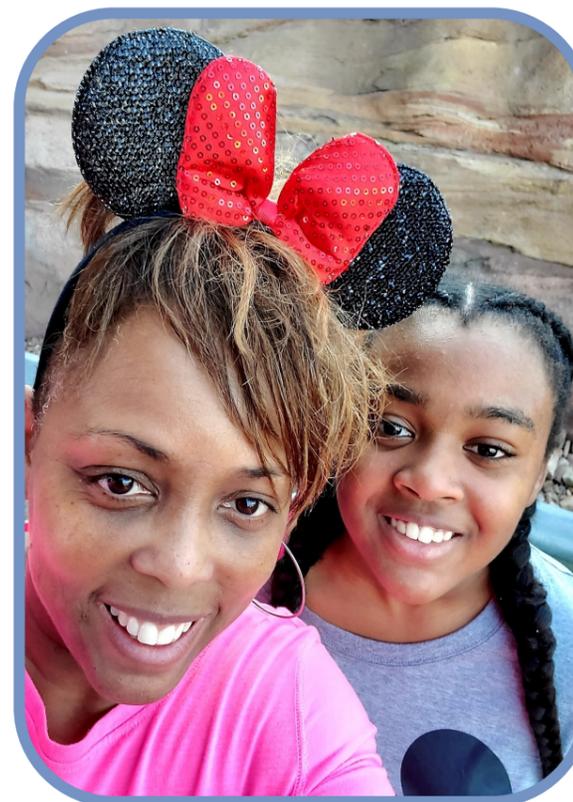
Or

use the QR codes below



Many expenses continue whether or not we are able to meet. So please do your best to support the church until we can resume services. The lunch program for the homeless continues as well as sheltering the Gathering Inn once a month.

Together, with God's help, we will be able to weather this storm. Stay well my family! God Bless!



COVID19 Through the Eyes of a 12-year-old...

The Coronavirus situation has impacted my life in a big way. At first, I was happy to be out of school and have a chance to relax at home without schoolwork. However, things became stressful when my teachers started to assign homework, daily Zoom and Google meetings, and projects. I realized that I really miss my teachers and classmates. I prefer to be in class so my questions can be answered immediately, and assistance provided if needed. This is not the case right now. Even though I appreciate being able to see everyone on the computer, it has been much more difficult to do class work online. I'm trying to figure out the best ways to do well in my classes with all these new changes. Whenever I get the chance to go back to my school, I will have more appreciation for it than I had before.

My prayer is that people will be safe and healthy, and that we will find a vaccination or cure for the Coronavirus. I also pray that people will continue to help each other and appreciate our friends and family more.

Niara Evans

Practicing Kindness

While we are undoubtedly living in challenging times, my spirit remains hopeful and optimistic. The impact of COVID-19, social distancing, and shelter-in place have interrupted our ability to physically come together, but it has not stopped the power of love and generosity. In fact, it has bolstered it. Over the last couple of weeks, I've been moved by the creative ways we have sought to stay connected and demonstrate care for one another. I've witnessed glimpses of joy and sincere acts of service that have truly warmed my heart like:

- A elementary school teacher loaded up textbooks from her classroom and dropped them off at the homes of each student to ensure they have the required materials for online learning.
- A family was at home cooking dinner when the doorbell rang. Suspiciously, they opened the door to find a friend, wearing a mask, with wide smiling eyes carrying a care package to say, "You are not forgotten."
- A neighbor yells over to another neighbor standing 50 feet away, "We are here if you need any thing. Just give us a call."
- Throughout the week, several local elementary schools are providing free meals for students and families in need.
- Watching the look of joy in Niara's eyes the first time she participated in a Zoom Meeting with her teacher and classmates. She was sincerely happy to see them.

During these trying times, I encourage you to continue to look for the good around you. It's there. If you can't see it, then ask yourself, "What beauty am I creating, cultivating, or inviting with those around me?"

Be Well.
 Dr. Kawami Evans



From "Searching for Shalom"
by Ann Weems

We don't pretend to understand the mystery of what goes on in God's Church. We just know we feel a pervading spirit of love that reaches into the niches of all of us and pulls us out into the open, free and alive and belonging. We believe this spirit of love exists because God's spirit lives within this Church, this unity of persons trying to be the Good News. We see this Church as a circle of persons holding hands . . . and dancing . . . supporting each other, accepting each other, loving each other. Each person in this dancing circle is facing outward—reaching into God's world, listening for the whimpering, watching for the hurting, willing to offer a cup of cold water in His Name. Sometimes they need the water; sometimes you need the water; sometimes I need the water. Being a part of the Church means knowing that the cup is always filled in His name.

"Big Hearts"

By Kathy Keay,

*Laughter, Silence & Shouting –
An Anthology of Women's Prayers*

Give us big hearts, dear God;
big enough to embrace all our sisters
and brothers
especially those in trouble,
whether of their own making or
because of wrongs done to them.
Give us big hearts, dear God;
big enough to acknowledge our own weakness
before pointing the finger at others;
big enough to be humble
when blessed with your good gifts
denied to so many.
Give us big hearts, dear God;
to reach out again and again
to those who cannot help themselves
until hope is restored to them
and we, thorn-beaten and bloodied
allow our loving to become more like yours.
—Poems submitted by Jan Sechrist—



For many years, the city of Roseville has had an Easter Sunrise Service. As a child I remember when it was held on the hill on Cirby Way. The hill is where Interstate 80 passes through town. We lived on the ranch on Vernon, (it wasn't known as Vernon then, it was just a country road south of town) and I would hike through the pastures to be able to attend this special event. It was so cold, that I would be half frozen by the time we hiked back home. But, what an experience that was. To see the sun come up over the horizon and know that it was a special time in our lives that the Lord had risen. Later the services would be held at Garbolino Park. It was still a special time for me, even if it was held in a park and not on that special hill. I don't know if there is still a Sunrise Service, the last one I heard about was held at Kaseburg Park.

I am sure you have admired the beautiful stained glass windows that are placed around the church. The very first window was dedicated June 4, 1978 and was named the Easter Window. It was in memory of William H and Kate McCoy Murray, Davide Ward Burnett and Sylvia Hopkins Burnett. They were the parents of Verla Burnett Murray who was a long time member, as well as her husband Bill. The person who designed all of our windows was Marit Carson Fulk, daughter of our own Bob and Ellen Carson. Marit was also a member of the church and taught many of our children who attended Sunday School. As we celebrate Easter Sunday, no matter where you are, I hope all of us will think about that very special Sunday when our Lord arose.

Phoebe Astill
Historical Chairperson

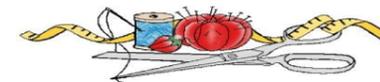
Easter or Resurrection Stained Glass Window



First United Methodist Church of Roseville



3 C's Invite You to Join Us!
By Barbara Hulse & Susan Reining



The 3 C's won't be meeting until further notice because of the Coronavirus. Perhaps this is a time to work on a craft at home for the future, if you have the time and materials on hand. We still have "Christmas in July" on the calendar, so that is a thought. The Quilt Silent Auction will resume after church services resume.

Stay in and stay well! You are all in our prayers!

Blessings,
Barbara Hulse/Susan Reining/
Donna Hall

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

10TH CHRISTOPHER GALVIN

13TH CLAIRE WILSON

19TH JAN SECHRIST

20TH JULIUS BARHAM

JEWEL FEARHELLER

GABE MCGUIRE

PATTY LOHSE

22ND MELANIE KINCHELOE

26TH MARY LOU ENNES

ISMAEL SANTIAGO

30TH PAUL CRUMBY

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

APRIL 19TH

Happy Birthday to all those
Born in April!
May God's richest blessings
abide upon you.



UMW has canceled all meetings until further notice. The Ode to Joy Luncheon and Fashion Show originally scheduled for April 25, 2020 has also been canceled.

We pray all of you stay safe and well during this time.
Blessings,
Shelly Newton, Linda Kennedy,
& Nancy Bray

FIRST CHURCH ROSEVILLE TEAM LEADERS

Pastor—Mahsea Evans
Lay Leader—Sandy Williams
Certified Lay Minister & Church Council Chair— Kathleen Mirtoni
Treasurer—Chris Handley
Financial Secretary—Donna Hall
Finance Team Chair— Dave Sechrist
Trustees President— Don Harris
Staff Parish Chair— Dennis Bull
Mission Outreach— Kathleen Mirtoni
Memorial— Barbara Schwartz
Worship Team Chair— Nancy Bray
Congregational Care— Gail Provine
Music Director— John Handley
Communications— Kristi Kinzel
Lay Leadership Training— Kristi Kinzel



Recycle March 14, 2020 was \$46.00
Please keep saving your recyclables to bring in on the Second Saturday of Every Month 9-11 AM in the parking lot. Every Little Bit Counts! Thank you to all those who contribute!
Don Harris



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Prayer Chain Monitor Needed

We are in need of a volunteer who would like to monitor the Prayer Chain Email. You would be responsible to monitor our Prayer Chain Email and email the prayer requests to all our prayer warriors and pass the prayer request on to our telephone coordinator. This is an important part of our ministry here at First Church Roseville.

* Please send prayer requests to RosevilleFUMCPrayers@gmail.com



Monthly Publication of the
First United Methodist Church of
Roseville California

THE CHIMES

Volume 20 Issue 4
April 2020

“The Mission of First United Methodist Church of Roseville is to lovingly invite, nurture, teach and send out disciples of Jesus Christ.”

First United Methodist Church
109 Washington Blvd
Roseville, CA 95678

The Vision of First United Methodist Church of Roseville is to:
follow Jesus in changing lives,
transforming communities,
renewing the Church.

Sunday Worship Service Schedule

- Choir Practice 8:00am
- Bible Study for all ages 9:00am
- Children’s Church School 10:15am
- Traditional Sunday Worship 10:15am
- Fellowship Lunch..... 11:30am



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Roseville, CA 95678-2247
(916) 783-3464
Email: firstumc@surewest.net
Website: <http://www.firstumcroseville.org>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/1stUMC>



Peace and Blessings

This Lenten season has brought us much more than we anticipated. The anxiety instigated by a global pandemic has not only disrupted our lives, but it has compelled us to dig deeper into our faith even as we pray for those affected by this crisis. On top of that, it has been difficult not being able to gather together on Sunday morning and throughout the week. While I miss you all, I am grateful that we are adhering to the necessary guidelines in order to stay safe. I look forward to the time that we can meet again in person, but until then, we will continue to find creative ways to stay in touch.

As a community grounded in the teachings of Jesus, we are stewards of a tradition of hope. This hope that we speak of is not a passive platitude evoked in times of trial, but it is a testament to a truth that we hold at the core of our very being. No matter how rocky the road may get, when we realize that God is ever with us, then we will always have the grace and power to get through. In this National Poetry Month, I am recalling the words of Emily Dickinson:

“Hope” is the thing with feathers

“Hope” is the thing with feathers—
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops - at all—
And sweetest—in the Gale—is heard
And sore must be the storm—
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm—
I’ve heard it in the chilliest land—
And on the strangest Sea—
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb—of Me.



Emily Dickinson

As we move through the darkness of this Lenten season, let us remember the “feathered” thing that “perches in our soul,” and let us warm our hearts with the message of Easter; the triumph of a resurrected hope that shines for all to see.

By Pastor Mahsea Evans