



A Traditions of Risings

When the poet, Amanda Gorman, ascended the podium/pulpit that chilly Washington D.C. afternoon, and delivered her inaugural poem/sermon, "*The Hill We Climb*," it was an epiphany. With grace she spoke while shadowed by the marbled mass of the Capitol, and did so under the watchful witness of four presidents, the nation, and the world. When complete, one of the many stunned political commentators/unintentional congregants exclaimed, "She took us to church!" Not only was this a watershed moment in American history, but Amanda Gorman, in a dramatic fashion, exhibited the power of Spoken Word as a transformative art in the public square. In the crescendo of her poem, while echoing Martin Luther King Jr.'s soaring rhetoric of a "Dream" almost 58 years ago on the opposite side of the national mall, she exclaimed:

We will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.
We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west.
We will rise from the windswept northeast,
where our forefathers first realized revolution.
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states.
We will rise from the sunbaked south.
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover...

...For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.



Gorman's use of the poetic device of litany not only mirrors King's cadence, but it pays homage to Dr. Maya Angelou and her famous poem, "Still I Rise." Twenty-eight years before Gorman's incredible performance, Dr. Angelou addressed the nation by offering her Inaugural Poem entitled, "*On the Pulse of the Morning*." In the spirit of Black History Month, and an unbroken "Tradition of Risings", I offer excerpts of the conclusion of the poem she shared that January afternoon in 1993.



Lift up your eyes upon
This day breaking for you.
Give birth again
To the dream.

Women, children, men,
Take it into the palms of your hands,
Mold it into the shape of your most
Private need. Sculpt it into
The image of your most public self.
Lift up your hearts

Each new hour holds new chances
For a new beginning.
Do not be wedded forever
To fear, yoked eternally
To brutishness.

The horizon leans forward,
Offering you space to place new steps of change...

... Here, on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes, and into
Your brother's face, your country
And say simply
Very simply
With hope
Good morning.

*I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses...*

In The Garden by C. Auttin Miles April, 1912

Greetings and Happy February,

I hope 2021 is off to a beautiful start for you and your family. For me, 2021 has been beautifully unfolding and I anticipate it will continue this way. Why, you may wonder? In reflecting on the challenges, blessings, and lessons of last year, I have decided to direct my time, attention, and actions towards the things I can influence. Such a commitment calls for living a life with meticulous intention. It also means attending to the things that light my soul aflame like God, love, justice, community, friendship, and service. This year, I am creating space or the experience of these things on a regular basis. A mantra that I'm using to stay inspired on my journey is the poem, "The Call" by Oriah.

In part, it reads:

Remember what you are, and let this knowing take you home to the Beloved with every breath.

Hold tenderly who you are, and let a deeper knowing color the shape of your humanness.
May your upcoming year be filled with purpose and discovery.

Blessings,
Dr. Kawami Evans



TURN OUR HEARTS

Turn our hearts away from fear
Turn our actions away from violence and force
as the only road to attempt peace.

You have heard our groaning, our longing for a new and different way to live.
Grant us a faith to align our actions and our thoughts with your will.

May we live rightly with you our God and our Maker.

Let us carry the suffering of the world and not sink into despair.
Let us dig up hope with our deeds and create a new world order.

Let us praise you in waking and in sleeping.

Let us rest in your goodness and glory in your grace.

May we swim in your forgiveness, drink of your compassion,
bind ourselves to your faithfulness.

Praise, praise, praise throughout the generations.

Praise from all people.

Keep us fast in our doubt. Hold us close in our questioning.

Sooth us when your kingdom is so long in coming.

Let us usher in the reign of the Messiah.

Blessed is your name, Adonai, O Holy One.

Blessed are you and all that you claim as your own. "Empty Me" Cathy Warner

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We are each of us angels with only one wing and we can only fly by embracing one another

Luciano De Crescenzo

Contributed by Jan Sechrist. Poem and quotes Jan remembered following the attack on our national capital.

Ponder the Themes of Justice, Poverty, Freedom, and Love.

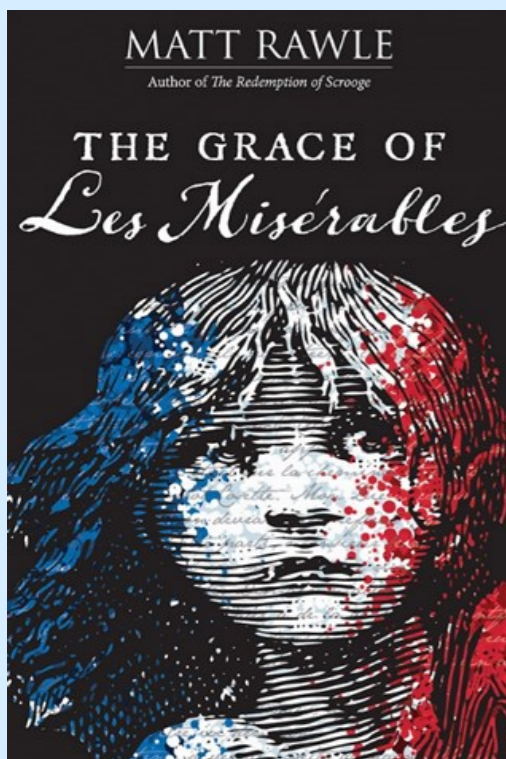
Lenten Study begins February 18th

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Most of you already know the power in the story from many adaptations on stage and screen. In this six-week Lenten study *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world.

Join with Chris Handley in this 6 week Lenten study beginning February 18th via Zoom meeting ID: 812 8648 9970
Password Lent2021

There are currently 3 books available in the church office. You can order from Cokesbury or Amazon as well as Kindle. I look forward to seeing you at the first Zoom meeting on February 18th!

*Look for a flyer in your email coming out soon.



Black History Month began as a "Negro History Week" in 1926. Scholar and historian Carter G. Woodson chose the second week in February, as it contained the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, to bring awareness to African Americans' role in shaping U.S. history. President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national observance in 1976.

This annual celebration is a time of pride, but what does Black History Month mean today? Some black leaders share their thoughts:

"Black History Month will always mean honoring the prominent figures of our past, but we put them on the back burner ... and rightfully so in 2019. Instead, we put present-day heroes at the forefront. In this time of division and turmoil, we chose to encourage, promote and reveal the black men and women who are becoming new examples of black excellence. Without social media we wouldn't have such easy, immense access to one another and would have to rely on yet another textbook tale of Martin Luther King Jr. or George Washington Carver to get us through the month. I'm so happy to have the opportunity to see how we're moving the culture forward in real time."— Christine Michel Carter, parenting author, speaker and consultant

Read more at: <https://www.baystatebanner.com/2020/02/05/why-black-history-month-is-still-important/>

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2020 - A Stellar Year??? - Yes!

The Chinese character for Crisis combines the characters for Stress and Opportunity. The Staff Parish Relations Team is happy to report that in 2020 our church family stepped up and replaced stress with opportunity. Please read on. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the life of Roseville First United Methodist Church was unprecedented.

Two ministries saw modifications:

- 1) **Monday Feeding Ministry** - With a history of 40 years, the program evolved from a sit-down dinner in the fellowship hall to distribution of sack lunches in the parking lot observing social distancing and mask protocols.
- 2) **Tuesday Evening Prayer Service** - When meeting in-person, attendance averaged 6-8 participants. Since becoming a Zoom service, attendance has increased to 12-15 participants. After the service, participants are invited to a time of spiritual sharing led by Pastor Mahsea.

Eight new ministries were established:

- 1) **Sunday Online Worship** - Unable to meet in person, YouTube Sunday services were developed and implemented by Pastor Mahsea in conjunction with Ray Aitken, videographer.
- 2) **Touch Care Ministry** - To stay connected, thirteen women callers contact the same individual/family each week to simply say “hello” and to check on their welfare.
- 3) **Circuit Riders Women’s Ministry** - The Circuit Riders, a team of four women, make home visits in Roseville and surrounding communities to women who have been primarily homebound and lack computers to access the virtual ministries. Gift bags of “goodies” are presented to the host, and communion is shared through prepackaged mini-communion service.
- 4) **Agape Men’s Group** - The Agape Team, five members of the Men’s Group, formed the Agape Men’s Group Ministry to address outreach to marginalized and homeless men in the congregation who do not have access to computers to participate in the virtual services. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Meetings have been held in a park and under the canopy to Backman Hall. A burning question (e.g., What is your favorite tool? and Why?) and an Upper Room devotion are shared.
- 5) **Woodbridge School Walk** - As a means of reconnection, members of the congregation gather on Sunday mornings to walk around the perimeter of our adopted neighborhood elementary school. Participants pray and chat on the journey.
- 6) **Children’s Weekly Chimes** -To provide support for preschool and elementary children and their parents, Connie Witherow, church administrative assistant, sends a Children’s Weekly Chimes via email. It contains a Bible story, memory verse, prayer, and a fun activity like a coloring page or word search puzzle.
- 7) **Friday Hymn Sing** - Through Zoom those who love to sing gather on the 1st and 3rd Fridays to give praise and thanks to God through song. (If worried about your voice blending in, please note that all are muted so you may sing with abandon.) Jan Sechrist facilitates the songfest.
- 8) **Baby Care Team** - The arrival of twin brothers to a family of four with daughters ages 4 and 2 ½ years led to the formation of the Baby Care Team. The team has provided food, diapers, and babysitting service.

In addition, two study groups were initiated:

- 1) **Talk About Racism** - Established by Cathie Wierbick, the group was formed after the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubery, and Breonna Taylor. Most meetings were conducted via Zoom. The books *White Fragility* and *America’s Original Sin* were read and discussed. In addition to expanding their knowledge on racism, members are focused on opportunities for getting out of comfort zones and changing their environments to have increased opportunities for interaction with people of color.
- 2) **Journey Through Mark** - Pastor Mahsea initiated a Bible study in October and November 2020. Beyond the individual reading, all participants were encouraged to meet with partners, small groups, or the weekly church check-in/reflection group conducted on Thursday evening via Zoom.

Wow, 2020 was a busy year in the life of our church as we found new opportunities to connect together during a pandemic! As someone once said, “Teamwork makes the Dream work.” Our dream to be a viable and relevant faith community was realized in new and innovative ways, and you as a church participant were a vital part of our team. In 2021 let us expand our reach to connect with people in a meaningful way as we have done for 139 years!

Dennis Bull, SPRC Chairperson



A Word from
Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

Bishop Minerva has asked that her message be shared with all the members of the California Nevada Conference United Methodist Church

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño calls for Repentance for Racism, White Privilege and White Supremacy

Brothers, Sisters, Siblings – Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ our Lord.

I am praying for you, our churches, the communities we are called to serve, and the nation, on this Sunday filled with concern and even fear. Yesterday I sent an email to all our clergy – pastors, those serving in ministry settings beyond the local church and the retired. Wherever we are serving as clergy, whatever our status, God never releases us from the responsibility of shepherding God’s people. I am so grateful for a clergy community in our California-Nevada Conference that lives by this understanding of our call. The email I sent our clergy was about the potential of further violence, building on the violence we saw at the US Capital on January 6th and at some state capitals including the California state capital here in Sacramento.

A colleague bishop of another denomination had made public that FBI agents who happen to be members of churches in his area had shared that there was chatter among some known White Supremacists that today and on January 20th they would be targeting “liberal activists and churches”. I thought it important to get this word out to our clergy as well out of an abundance of caution and out of the covenant commitment we live by of caring for one another in love.

After sending my communication to the clergy of our Conference I began to check as many communication sources as I could to see what I could learn about the present situation in the country. One of those sources was Twitter. I found that the news of possible further violent demonstrations and the specific targeting of liberal activists and churches was prevalent in last night’s Twitter conversation. One of the interesting threads in the conversation was the question, “Why target churches?” No one provided an answer.

I was tempted to jump into the Twitter conversation, but then chose to step back. I wanted to say that churches are targeted because we have stood for everything that White Supremacists stand against – racial inclusion, racial equity, religious diversity, immigrant rights, refugee resettlement, restorative justice.....

But then I stopped and realized that the question of “Why target churches” had been raised and unanswered because our voice as the Church has not been heard. I don’t think that those in the Twitter conversation have turned a deaf ear to the Church. I am convinced that their honest question comes because we the Church have not raised our voice sufficiently to be heard.

There is so much to be said about the present moment, but I will focus on what I consider to be at the heart of the anarchy and violence we are experiencing in this country. I believe we are reaping the foul fruit of the sin of racism and White Privilege this country was built upon.

It was the racism of the earliest European settlers to this country that led them to justify their near genocidal actions against the indigenous people of this land, a scourge that continues to cause much suffering to this day. It was this racist sinful worldview that led those who began to cultivate this stolen land to assume the very false understanding that they were superior to other races and cultures and could therefore capture and enslave people of another race and from another continent and hold them for centuries as chattel. Even people of Christian faith, and even Methodists including Methodist bishops, participated in this barbarism. These are the roots of White Supremacy and the violence we are experiencing today.

It used to be that White Supremacy groups were considered fringe to the fabric of American society. The Presidential election of Barack Obama, a man of Caucasian and African descent, however, allowed us to see that deep-seated and hate-filled racism was still right under the surface of the spirit of American society. Donald Trump was raised to power and the presidency by the fear that White power and status were being lost. The fact that there are many Christians in this country who believe God anointed Trump to be president should cause us all alarm.

This nation is a relatively young nation that has accomplished a great deal and has brought much good to the world. On this day, however, it is called to repent of its racist foundation and confess its commitment to the White privilege and Supremacy that it clings to. Its future is dependent on this expunging of its sinful ways.

As people of Christian faith, we must:

- Lift up our voice and denounce the evil of racism, White Privilege and White Supremacy.
- Stand against all that violates the sacredness of every human life in all our diversity.
- Commit to being anti-racist and working for racial equity.

It all begins with our own confession of our individual and institutional racism and any reluctance to allow God to free us from its deadly grip we may carry with us.

Jesus the light of the world shows us the way, receives with mercy the confession of the contrite heart, and promises to strengthen us and abide with us as we seek to live by his commandment to love one another, not in word alone, but through lives of commitment to God’s justice.

On the eve of the day when we honor and celebrate the life and witness of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., let us commit to nothing less than being the beloved community that he gave his life for and that Jesus calls us to be.

Sincerely, Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

HISTORICAL GLEANINGS

What a difference 100+ years makes!
Below is a newspaper ad from 1914
inviting people to attend church here at
First UMC Roseville.
Phoebe Astill —Church Historian

PRAYERS

Please keep the following
people in your prayers:

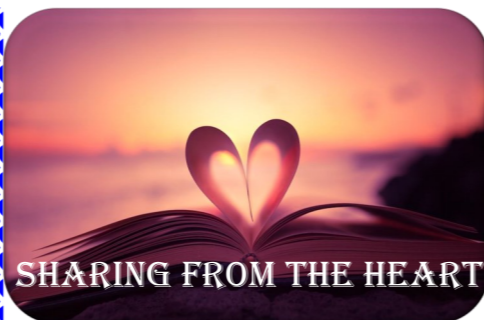
For Bereavement:

Kristi Kinzel and Family
Kevin Hubert & family
Joanie and Family

For Healing and Comfort:

Alisha and her Aunt
Nancy's friend Joanie
For those without shelter in
these storms
Those who have little contact
with others during this
pandemic

Please submit prayer requests
to: prayers@firstumcroseville.org



*The steadfast love of the
Lord never ceases; his mercies
never come to an end; they
are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

"It is good to remind ourselves of
God's faithfulness and
the hope we have in Him.
We need encouragement.
The same God who has been
faithful in the past
will continue His love for
us in the future.
His daily goodness fills us
with His peace, so we can
persevere this day."

by Craig Foret



Agape Men's Group

Men, if you are tired of staying at
home, please join us for our
Agape Group gatherings on Feb-
ruary 4 and 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.
under the canopy to Backman
Hall. We follow social distancing
guidelines and wear masks,
which help one to appear young-
er. Since February is the month
for lovers, our burning question
of the day will be: How did you
and your sweetheart meet? Any
questions please contact any of
the Agape Team members.
Dave Sechrist,
Don Harris,
Cliff Williams
or Dennis Bull (630-781-6110).



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



We have been busy making and
distributing Prayer Shawls.
Thank you to Ruth Ann Baker for
making some shawls to distrib-
ute. Debbie Thompson and Su-
san Reining took some shawls to
Sierra Pointe helping to
keep this ministry alive during
this time of pandemic. So thank
you to Debbie and Susan for their
efforts.

We can arrange to get prayer
shawls to anyone with a need for
one. We also have some baby
blankets available. So if you
know of anyone in need of a
prayer shawl or a baby blanket
just call Barbara or
Susan and they will arrange to
provide one to you.
God Bless, Susan and Barbara



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1ST NOLAN HICKS
- 3RD NAJI THOMAS
DICK GALVIN
- 4TH CONNIE WITHEROW
- 8TH KRISTI KINZEL
KIRK WATKINS
- 14TH CALEB WILLIAMS
- 19TH SUE ANGOVE
- 21ST DONNA COUCH
- 23RD COLBY LAUNDIS
- 24TH MO SCOTT
CJ WITHEROW
- 28TH DAINE WILLIAMS

Woodbridge Walk

Join us each Sunday morning at 9 am at
Woodbridge School, 515 Niles Avenue,
Roseville for a "walk and talk" around
the school. Or if you prefer there's a
bench to "sit and visit". Of course
masks and social distancing are the
way we stay safe.
Remember if it's raining the walk
is canceled for that day.
Hope to see you Sunday!



Recycle January 8th, \$67.00
Please keep saving your
recyclables to bring in on
Saturday February 13th, 2021
in the parking lot
between 9-11am
Thanks to all! It all helps our
church pay our bills.
Don Harris, Trustee President



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 Chairperson—
Dave Sechrist
Trustees President— Don Harris
Staff Parish Chair— Dennis Bull
Mission Outreach—
Kathleen Mirtoni
Memorial— Barbara Schwartz
Worship Team Leader—
Nancy Bray
Congregational Care—
Gail Provine
Music Director— John Handley
Communications— Kristi Kinzel
Lay Leadership Training—
Kristi Kinzel

December Noses, Dollars, and Cents

Basic Monthly Statistics:

Income Dec. 2020: \$18,584.92
Expenses Dec. 2020: \$15,920.39
Net Income Dec. 2020: \$2,664.53
Transfer from PPP: \$0.00
New Total: \$2,664.53

Basic Yearly Statistics 2020

YTD Income: \$143,523.02
YTD Expense: \$166,234.02
Net Income: \$22,711.00
Transfer from PPP: \$25,180.00
New Total: \$2,469.00

Thank you for your continued
financial support. It is very much
appreciated.

December Worship Online Views
Total: 490 Average: 125

The Monday Feeding Program
for the homeless
served 232 meals in January

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH SANDWICH MADNESS



SUNDAY MARCH 21, 2021
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

FEATURING:

Drive-Through Takeout Sandwiches, Fresh Made to Order
(by our own "Earl of Sandwich", Kathleen Mirtoni!)

Please purchase in advance or make reservations by 3/14/21
email: firstumc@firstumcroseville.org phone: 916-783-3464
or on our website: www.firstumcroseville.org
Sandwich and chips: \$12.00

First Church Roseville Email Addresses

Please make note of these email addresses for First UMC Roseville

Church Email: firstumc@firstumcroseville.org
Prayer Requests: prayers@firstumcroseville.org
Chimes Article Submissions: chimes@firstumcroseville.org
Pastor: mevans@firstumcroseville.org
Certified Lay Leader: kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org
Administrative Assistant: cwitherow@firstumcroseville.org
Office Volunteer: nbray@firstumcroseville.org