

‘I have said this to you,  
so that in me you may have peace.  
In the world you face persecution.  
But take courage;  
I have conquered the world!’

John 16:33

“Be strong, be fearless, be beautiful. And believe that anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you.”  
“I can do anything...when I am in a tutu.”  
— Misty Copeland—



It is late, and within the muted blues of midnight my mind began musing about dance. I do not know why. But that is how it happens sometimes. Simply, a muse, an image, a rogue twirl of pirouetting thought that lingers just so...

I thought of Misty Copeland, the brilliant artist who became the first African-American woman to be a principle dancer for the American Ballet Theater. I thought of her graceful strength that gets effortlessly channeled into her body's movements, a controlled blur of kinetic speech refined through years of discipline and devotion.

Later, I began to think of those who came before Misty including the great Alvin Ailey. Born in 1931, Ailey was a gifted dancer, director, choreographer, and activist who later founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City in 1958. Though things were not always easy for a gay Black man in the 60's, he still created a dance school that served as a haven for young artists. Ailey's revolutionary work fused theater, modern dance, ballet, and jazz with Black culture. Through his unmatched talent, he birthed hope-fueled choreography including his masterpiece Revelations which is recognized as one of the most popular and performed ballets in the world with its flight-inspired imagery. Ailey once said:

*"I'm a choreographer. I create movement and  
I'm searching for truth in movement. . .  
[I] start with an empty space and a body or two and say  
'Carve this space.'  
I love creating something, where there was nothing before."*

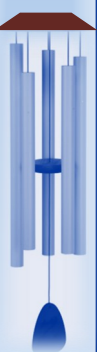
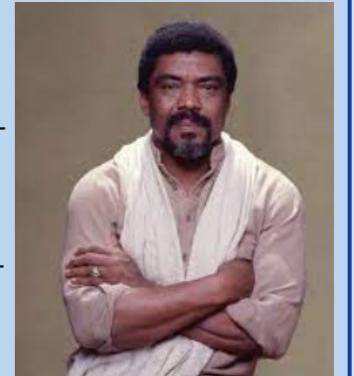
Judith Jamison was Alvin Ailey's creative partner. She was a dancing prodigy and remains an incredible choreographer who has received international acclaim. Speaking of dance, she once said, "You have to dance unencumbered. There's no other way to move. The idea of dance is freedom."

In the dark blue of night, between the whispered hushes that hold dreams, I am thinking of dancing. These thoughts are mixed with a peculiar sense of longing that I cannot fully articulate.



Maybe it is a longing for what Jamison spoke of, the experience of unencumbered freedom. Or maybe it is the longings inspired by visions of Ailey's truth-revealing movements that filled both the canvas of the stage's empty space and the dance floor of my imagination. Or maybe it is a longing for Misty's unabashed confidence; strong, fearless, and beautiful. Maybe it is all these things?

But alas, it is late, and though the muted blues of midnight had me musing about dance, I must take my leave to the dreams destined to be dreamt to the silent score of nocturnal hushes. The rogue twirl of a lingering thought slows its pirouetting spins into a simple plie, and I put down my pen, grateful. Tonight, I sleep. Tomorrow, I dance...





### Black History Month

February is when Black History Month is celebrated. This month, I am lifting up artists who may not be as recognized as they should be for their immense contributions. This includes Gordon Parks, one of the greatest photographers of the twentieth century. Parks was a modern-day Renaissance man and humanitarian whose creative practice extended beyond photography to encompass fiction and nonfiction writing, musical composition, filmmaking, and painting. He was known for photos like "American Gothic" and other images that showcased the experiences of the Jim Crow south.

Born in Kansas in 1912, Parks was drawn to photography as a young man when he saw images of migrant workers in a magazine. After buying a camera at a pawnshop he taught himself how to use it.

He once famously said: and I quote "I saw that the camera could be a weapon against poverty, against racism, against all sorts of social wrongs. I knew at that point I had to have a camera and a coat. I have yet to see anyone look more suave and debonair than Parks when he was wearing his signature London Fog overcoat with a pipe in his mouth and a camera hanging around his neck. I am grateful for Gordon Parks and the incredible legacy that continues to inspire.

Blessings, Mahsea Evans



## Invitation to Love

By: Paul Laurence Dunbar  
(1872-1906)

Come when the nights are bright with stars  
Or come when the moon is mellow;  
Come when the sun his golden bars  
Drops on the hay-field yellow.  
Come in the twilight soft and gray,  
Come in the night or come in the day,  
Come, O love, whene'er you may,

You are sweet, O Love, dear Love,  
You are soft as the nesting dove.  
Come to my heart and bring it to rest  
As the bird flies home to its welcome nest.

Come when my heart is full of grief  
Or when my heart is merry;  
Come with the falling of the leaf  
Or with the redd'ning cherry.  
Come when the year's first blossom blows,  
Come when the summer gleams and glows,  
Come with the winter's drifting snows,  
And you are welcome, welcome.  
And you are welcome, welcome.



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1ST NOLAN HICKS

3RD DICK GALVIN  
NAJI THOMAS

4TH CONNIE WITHEROW

8TH KIRK WATKINS  
KRISTI KINZEL

12TH BARBARA HULSE

14TH CALEB WILLIAMS

19TH SUE ANGOVE

21ST DONNA COUCH

22ND VERONICA ROMIG

23RD COLBY LAUNDIS

24TH MO SCOTT

CJ WITHEROW

28TH DAINE WILLIAMS



Jan 14, 2023 we received \$90.00 for cans & bottles. In 2022, \$1,223.07 was collected from **Second Saturday Recycling**. Thanks for saving CAV items and donating them to the church to help pay our bills.

Don Harris, Trustee Chair



### Agape Men's Group

At our January 2022 meeting we shared our personal goals for 2022. Being aware that New Year's resolutions are typically broken (often by the end of January), we opted for goals. At our April 2022 gathering we were supposed to review the progress being made on our personal goals. Instead, time was spent replacing the door and frame on the small shed located by the walkway to Backman Hall. Well, for the remainder of 2022 we never returned to an update on our goals' progress. Does this sound like procrastination? Well, to rectify our situation at our January meeting, we shared our personal goals for 2023. Goals include: walking across the Golden Gate Bridge, attending Red Ants Pants Music Festival in Montana, getting house in order following a long remodeling project, cleaning and organizing the workbench, and updating family legal documents. Guys, sounds like we have our work cut out for us!

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room. Our burning question of the day will be on hiatus as Larry Konciewicz will be making a presentation on The Fourth Quarter of Your Life. Any questions please contact any of the Agape Team members Don Harris, Cliff Williams, Dave Sechrist, Thom King, and Jim Wecker or yours truly Dennis Bull at 630-781-6110. Happy Valentine's Day!!!

**NEXT RECYCLE IS SATURDAY**  
**February 11, 2023**  
**9-11:00 AM**

### FIRST CHURCH ROSEVILLE TEAM LEADERS

**Pastor—Mahsea Evans**  
**Certified Lay Minister—Kathleen Mirtoni**  
**Church Council Chair—Liz Harvey**  
**Lay Leaders—Kathleen Mirtoni**  
**Jan Sechrist**  
**Ruth Ann Baker**  
**Treasurer—Chris Handley**  
**Financial Secretary—Elizabeth Harvey**  
**Finance Team Chair—Dave Sechrist**  
**Trustees President—Don Harris**  
**Staff Parish Chair—Dennis Bull**  
**Mission Outreach—Dennis Bull,**  
**Thom King, and Paul Woicicki**  
**Memorial—Susan Reining**  
**Worship Team Leader—Nancy Bray**  
**Congregational Care—Gail Provine**  
**Music Director—John Handley**  
**Communications—Kristi Kinzel**  
**Lay Leadership Training—Kristi Kinzel**

Church Office Hours  
Monday— Friday 8:00 AM—11AM



### Email Contact Information:

#### Pastor:

mevans@firstumcroseville.org

#### Certified Lay Minister:

kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org

#### Administrative Assistant:

cwitherow@firstumcroseville.org

#### Church Email:

firstumc@firstumcroseville.org

#### Prayer Requests:

prayers@firstumcroseville.org

#### Chimes Article Submissions:

chimes@firstumcroseville.org

#### Office Volunteer:

nbray@firstumcroseville.org

**Worship**  
**Attendance in January**  
**322 Average 64**

### The Monday Feeding Program

In January approximately 310 meals were served to the hungry in our community.





As the 140th anniversary of the church is drawing near, I hope to bring you some little known facts about the church. A few months ago, I asked you, do you pay much attention to the front of buildings, as you enter the church? If you have maybe you have noticed some of the plaques on the original structure that was dedicated in March 1883. I am sure, most who look at those plaques, as maybe a corner stone or a special marking, celebrating a special event. But if you look closely there is one that is different. It is a small round marker with the following written on it.

**“U.S. Geological Society BM.  
Elevation, above sea 159 feet, 1908.”**  
When that marker was installed at the corner of the building, it proclaimed the First Methodist Church as the geographic center of Roseville .  
Phoebe Astill, Historian



Please join us on the first and third Thursdays of the month for “Stamping with Betsy Green” at 10:30 AM in the craft room on the second floor of the church. Betsy is sharing her vast knowledge of how to make different cards using stamps and various embellishments. It’s a fun to learn and you don’t have to have prior experience to make a beautiful hand stamped card.  
Hope to see you there!



Whatsoever things are true,  
whatsoever things are honest,  
just pure, and lovely; If there  
be any virtue, and praise,  
think on these things.  
Submitted by Gail Provine

So long as we love, we serve. So long as we are loved  
by others, I would almost say we are indispensable;  
and no man is useless while he has a friend.  
Quote from STEVENSON  
Submitted by Gail Provine



Formerly know as UMW, UWF invites all women of the church to a luncheon of Hearty Soup on Thursday, March 23rd @ noon. In keeping with Lent we will have a traditional Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program, hence soup, with a short business meeting. As well, taking time to plan where our newly named fellowship will take us in the future.

Do we want to meet monthly, bi monthly or quarterly with special programs and Bible studies? Do we want to use the circle format, for special interests groups? Come, give your voice as we rejuvenate together in fellowship. Women new to our church and or new to the former UMW, are especially welcome as we plan for the future and reminisce over where we were before the pandemic hit. You don’t have to be a Methodist so please feel free to invite friends or neighbors to come with you.

Please call, or email, but don’t hesitate to come if you haven’t!  
Shelly Newton  
916-759-3837



Please continue to pray for the following people.

**For Healing & Comfort**

Kathleen, Connie, Marie, Hazel, Susan, Jordyn, Brandon,  
Carla, Charlotte, Johnna, Steven, Katie, Peggy, Kim,  
Mila-Josh-Jaime & Devon

Please submit request for prayers to [prayers@firstumcroseville.org](mailto:prayers@firstumcroseville.org)

## Las Posadas: A Towering Success

“A picture is worth 1000 words.” To best understand this article, please refer back to the January “Chimes” which displayed photos from First Church’s first Las Posadas. If you will recall, a Las Posadas (The Inns) is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of Latin America to commemorate the journey that Mary and Joseph made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph had to seek shelter in a stable. Our Las Posadas started in Backman Hall with girls being fitted with angel halos and boys reluctantly being fitted with shepherd headdress. Their reluctance was overcome when they observed their fathers donning the headdresses. The procession left Backman Hall and with the mariachi band playing seasonal music processed to the Weber Park Inn, then to the Main Street Inn (aka Main Street Apartments) and finally to the Centennial Garden Inn (church courtyard). At this inn the sojourners were greeted by innkeepers Pastor Mahsea Evans and Kawami Craig who invited them into the church to view the Nativity and then into Backman Hall for the performance of Mexican dancers, tamales and pozole (a thick soup), a star-shaped pinata, and a visit by Papa Noel (aka Santa Claus).

Every planned life event has its unexpected happenings. Well, our Las Posadas was no exception. First, as we processed along the street leading to Weber Park, residents opened their doors and greeted us with a resounding “Merry Christmas”. Second, at The Gathering Inn the mariachi band stopped to play a Christmas carol to the homeless gathered in the courtyard. The writer made eye contact with a young man, separated from the others and talking on his cell phone, and wished him a Merry Christmas. The man softly replied, “Merry Christmas to you.” My heart was flooded with warmth by the experience, and the thought occurred to me that not only at Christmas but most days of his existence few people engage with the man. Third, during Santa Claus’ visit Christmas stockings filled with a toy and aguinaldo (small bag filled with unshelled peanuts, candy, and an orange) were handed out to the kids and parents by Santa’s Helper (Judy Solari). The kids were thrilled, and some parents had smiles and expressed gratitude as the aguinaldo reminded them of the Las Posadas they had attended in Mexico during their youth.

The procession was able to safely cross the busy intersection at Washington Boulevard and Main Street because Roseville Police Cadets stopped all traffic to provide safe passage.

Kudos to the planning committee (Jan and Dave Sechrist, Cathie Wierbick, Kathleen Mirtoni, Elba Aulich, Thom King, Dennis Bull, Pastor Mahsea Evans, and Alma Caravarin, Placer People of Faith Together community organizer) that started with an idea of a Las Posadas in early October 2022 and saw it through to a reality on December 17, 2022. The success was made possible by innkeepers, scripture readers, safety monitors, carpenters, Creative Christian Crafters (created shepherd headdress), Kindness Tree mentor, registration assistant, kitchen helpers, Santa Claus, Santa’s helper, and the Fourth Friday partnering organizations.

In the past the mission of First Church was to bring people (the community) into our church. With our first Las Posadas we have demonstrated that we can take our church into our community by sharing Love, Joy, Hope, and Peace! Our Second Annual Las Posadas will be on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Save the date. See you there!!!  
Dennis Bull



Nancy Balenzano Piano Studio presents:



# Student Piano Recital

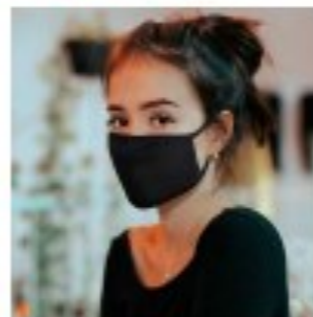
Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm

First United Methodist Church  
109 Washington Blvd. Free Admission  
Roseville, CA



• Masks are not required, but encouraged.

Due to Covid concerns, there will be no reception this year.



**First UMC Roseville**

*Presents*

*Fashion Through the Ages*

(A style show featuring clothes from 1890-1970)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2023

1:00 PM

BACKMAN HALL

Tickets \$15.00  
Includes Dessert

**Tickets On Sale Now!**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS**

See Ruth Ann Baker, Elba Aulich,  
or Eleanor Kenitzer

