

May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy  
and peace as you trust in him, so  
that you may overflow  
with hope by the  
power of the Holy Spirit.

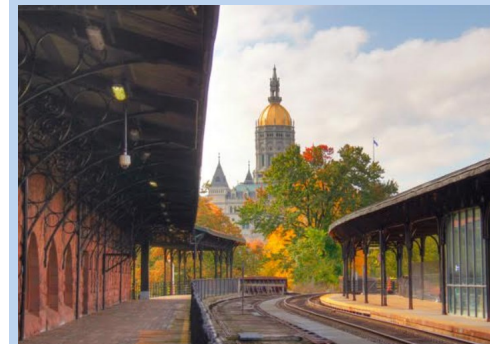
Romans 15:13

2023

2022

"I like trains. I like their rhythm, and I like the freedom of being  
suspended between two places, all anxieties of purpose taken care of—for this moment-  
I know where I am going."  
-Anna Funder

In the heart of Hartford CT, there rises the stately Union Station. Originally built in 1889, this venerable Romanesque Revival style train station sits on the western tip of Bushnell Park in the shadow of the state's gold domed capitol. This intricately designed building with its distinctive brown sandstone finishes was equally inspiring and



imposing to my 6-year-old imagination. Of all the choices to travel down-South to Maryland with my family, the train option was always the most exciting in my mind. Walking through the large front doors felt like entering a portal to another world. With my mouth agape, I wandered into the cavernous waiting room with its heaven-held ceilings and rows of wooden benches arrayed like pews. With wide eyes, I sensed in that civic sanctuary the swirling presence of sacred memories of "travels-past" like invisible



rosary beads floating in the air above.

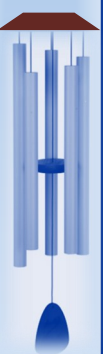
In the early 1980's, the tracks between Springfield, MA and New Haven were not electrified. Therefore, there were a few things more powerful than witnessing the soundless approach of a distant light become brighter and louder as it morphed into the muscular cowl-bodied form of the Amtrak F40PH series diesel locomotive. As one stood on the wooden planks of the platform, bones rattled as a low rumble accompanied the whoosh of air and blaring horn as the braking train screeched by in an awesome display of raw mechanical kinetics. It is hard to explain what it feels to greet the impeccably dressed conductor, settle into a seat within the metal beast, and feel your spirit harmonize with the heavy rhythmic click-clack of the lumbering giant eating up track. You just do not forget these things as a young boy.



Forty-one years later and a half a world away, my family and I exited a cab in the early morning hours in the middle of Italy's capital city of Rome. Purposed to take a day trip to Venice, we stood before a train station that was quite different than the one from my youth. The clean lines of the impressive Roma Termini, inaugurated in 1950, is of uber modernist sensibilities. The exterior of the great hall is fronted by glass walls, filled with segmented arches, covered by a concrete roof, and features a cantilevered canopy that extends over the entrance. We passed into the flashy lobby through an overhead sign lit up in Italy's tri-colored flag.

Unlike the wooden planks in Hartford, we found our digitally marked track and walked onto the level concrete platforms. Gone were the heavy diesel locomotives. They were replaced by the sleek high-speed trains from Trenitalia, particularly the Frecciarossa 1000 or the Red Arrow that quietly waited to whisk her passengers at blurring speeds. After we boarded, the train quickly began to accelerate, reaching peak speeds as it zoomed through the dawn-washed Tuscan countryside at 150 mph. I wondered, as the smooth momentum lulled Niara into sleep, what lasting memories were being formed in my daughter's mind.

Continued on Page 2





Continued from page 1

As we enter this new year, I find myself thinking about trains. Undoubtedly, these thoughts form because I am plagued with the insatiable curiosity of an enthusiast. However, they are also present because I truly resonate with Funder’s quote about liking its “rhythm” and the “freedom, of being suspended between two places.” Each year, in the month of January, we are invited to think about where we have been and where we are going. This is true in our personal lives as well as in the life of the church. Though we are “suspended” between conceptions of time and direction, we are invited to exercise spiritual agency by setting new intentions and resolutions. These demonstrate the power of our choices to direct us towards fulfilling our animating visions. I am grateful to know that though we are inevitably caught in the liminal space of “travels-past” and the places we have yet to arrive, we ride on life’s tracks with the assurance that we are ever held in God’s hands in whom resides “all anxieties of purpose.”



After work one day, I decided to take a brief walk across the street to the adjacent Roseville train station. The small two story wooden structure, painted in dark shades of yellow, does not have the nostalgic appeal of Hartford’s brown-stoned Union Station, nor does it have the modernistic gleam of Italy’s Roma Termini.

However, as I turned from the station to face the small Methodist church with the red doors on the corner of church and Washington Blvd, I knew that wherever I am to go in the future, I am rejoicing and being glad that I am at First Church in the present.

Jules Verne once wrote, “Trains, like time and tide, wait for no one.” My prayer, as we enter into this new year, is that we respond with urgency when God says “All Aboard!”, and that we will travel well as we arrive at new destinations of possibility together.

Blessings,  
Mahsea Evans

With Christmas 2022 in the rearview mirror and the New Year around the corner, I’m reflecting on what made this year feel extra special. Simply, it is God’s goodness and grace. I can pinpoint numerous life events that made this year standout with milestones like my husband completing his ordination journey as a United Methodist minister, our first international trip, to the expansion of our family. To witness and participate in the manifestation of these answered prayers is riveting in ways that are hard to describe in words, but have a profound impact on my heart and love affair with God. In an earnest attempt to capture it, but already sensing the inadequacy, I can only say that this is both the essence and activation of God, a beautiful display of God can, God does, and God will. In 2023, I’m committed to position this bold knowing as the GPS to guide me down life’s road ahead.

Dr. Kawami



I have many people that I am grateful for, but I want to give a special recognition to Miss Kathleen. From day one, she has welcomed and supported our family while providing a comfortable space for me. Over the last few months, Miss Kathleen found out that I was learning to play guitar. In her kindness, she offered to lend me her personal guitar. I was so moved by this gesture because it was not only thoughtful, but it was what I needed. It was just the right size for me to learn new songs and increase my passion for the learning journey. Miss Kathleen is kind, genuine, helpful, and service oriented and a pillar of love at church. This year, I hope she knows how much she is loved and source of inspiration for so many. I love you, Miss Kathleen!

Niara Evans

## CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVE-AWAY 2022

Our annual event of providing Christmas gifts to families in need served 80 families and 268 children this year. The California Highway Patrol *in Auburn* again generously brought us a truckload of toys. We also received donations from many church members and groups. We were open for three days.

Many thanks to Connie Witherow and Elba Aulich who did a tremendous job of scheduling appointments for folks to come in and select gifts. Elba also ably filled in for Kathleen Mirtoni this year in welcoming families and with the help of church volunteers Lorri Brady, Cathie Wierbick, Thom King, Jan, and Dave Sechrist, who helped people make selections and bag up their choices. As you can tell from the pictures, we had an abundance of gifts as we do every year. Thank you to all our donors and volunteers in manifesting our vision of living into the gospel message of love and as a community offering hope to those less fortunate during this special time of year.

THANK YOU! Jan Sechrist



Please continue to pray for the following people.

### For Healing & Comfort

Connie, Marie, Hazel, Susan, Jordyn,  
Brandon, Carla, Lyn, Larry, Lynn,  
Sarah, Peggy, Kathleen, Jeff and Kim



### For Bereavement

Dave and Family (Patrick’s friend)

Please submit request for prayers to pray-





**First UMC Roseville**

*Presents*

## *Fashion Through the Ages*

(A style show featuring clothes from 1890-1970)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2022

1:00 PM

BACKMAN HALL

**Tickets \$15.00**

Includes Dessert

**Tickets Go On Sale**

**Sunday, January 15, 2022**

See Ruth Ann Baker, Elba Aulich, or Eleanor Kenitzer  
to purchase tickets

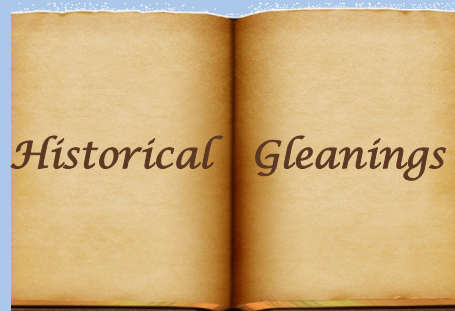


## *225 people attend the First Las Posadas at First Church Roseville*



Photos courtesy of  
Cameron Banghart  
&  
Don Harris





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES'S REPORT

In 1978, the following major projects were accomplished. (1 paved parking lot (2 updated church kitchen wiring (3 updated parsonage interior and wiring (4 repainted Sunday School Rooms, and (5 installed fence around the parking lot. These tasks were accomplished at a cost of \$18,000. In 1979 the following projects are scheduled for completion. (1 air conditioning (partially completed (2 carpeting sanctuary and stairs (3 refinish pews (4 install additional fencing in parking lot (5 parsonage exterior painting and (6 minor repair of kitchen. Also planned for 1979 but not firm is the relocation of restrooms and modernization of kitchen. The long term projects include a new 2000 square foot. fellowship hall and a rebuilding of the old sanctuary into a chapel. We of the board of Trustee's appreciate your support in the past and with all of us working together in the future will make a church that will meet all our needs for years to come.  
Roy Nordyke, Pres.

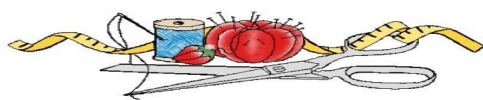
Phoebe Astill Historical chair

Thank you to our church forefathers for their foresight and good stewardship for our paved parking lot, fence, kitchen updates, and the new "2000 foot fellowship hall" or as we know it, Backman Hall, which we still enjoy today.

*"Write it on your heart  
that every day is the best  
day of the year."*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## 3 C's Invite You to Join Us!



3 C's (Creative Christian Crafters) will meet on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 10 AM in the upstairs craft room. There will be a short business meeting and then Betsy Green will instruct us in some stamping. We will be making greeting cards for Valentine's Day. All materials will be provided. Please come to learn something new and enjoy all the camaraderie that will abound.

Ruth Ann Baker

## Thank You!

I am so grateful for your prayers and support. I am home now recovering from pancreatitis. There will be some follow-up tests. Continued prayers for good results will be appreciated. Peace to you all, Kathleen Mirtoni

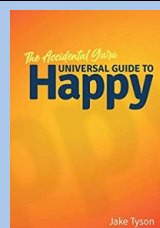
## New Year Blessing

If you think Noah was safe, simply because he obeyed God by building the ark-Think again! Genesis 7:16 'God sealed Noah in with the animals'. Yes, it was God that sealed Noah safely inside keeping the dangerous storm out! May God seal you all within His loving embrace this New year...May He keep you safe from all dangers. I urge you to appreciate rainbows; knowing you are already chosen and promised love.

**2023 Hugs! P.S. i love you,**  
Gail Provine



## Quotes from



## An Accidental Guru: A Universal Guide to Happy in Layman's Terms by Jake Tyson

God places angels around us all the time to help us remember where home is.

A bee helps pollinate a flower, in return, the bee receives pollen from the flower for honey. Without each other, they don't evolve. Humans are no different. We are all here for each other. Without each other, we don't evolve. When we become grateful for each other, watch our world change.

The only thing that is real on Earth is the life we are inventing—our thoughts that we put to anything.

Let's call me/us selfish for a second. If I do something good for someone else, it makes me feel good. So, is it about me? No. and it never has been. We are all Universal, so we are all connected. It's never all about me or you. It's about us! We are all in this together helping one another invent and evolve. You feel good, and they are you, and you are them.

Poverty, hunger, war, racism; God doesn't cause this. Humans choose this. Again, we are separate from nothing and we get to decide if we allow this to keep happening or not. The second we decide it stops, it stops! But it's a collective effort.

Remember, truth is love, happiness, laughter, being who we naturally are, and love for yourself. This is consciousness, this is who we are. Reach for your truth. You've got it, right there. You are it.

Cathe and Marie recommend this book and loved the above quotes.

Submitted by  
Marie & Cathe Moody



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2ND DONNESE BREWER

5TH CAROL TREXLER

7TH JACK PRESTWICH

10TH MADISON KUFFOUR

13TH KAREN KELLY

15TH JOHN HANDLEY

16TH SANDY WILLIAMS

17TH KEVIN HUBERT

18TH ISAAC KUFFLUR  
ISAAC KUFFLUR JR.  
ISALAH KUFFOUR  
BARBARA

SCHWARTZ

STEPHANIE TRILLO

22ND RUTH ANN BAKER

24TH ELMA MORRIS

CLIFF WILLIAMS

25TH KIM BARTO

SHEREL HARRIS

PAUL WOICICKI

27TH PAT BUNCE

31ST AL NEWTON



## Agape Men's Group

The Agape Men's Group will meet on Saturday, January 14th at 9:00 AM. Dennis recommends that you think about your goals for the 2023 New Year especially since you never were able to share and evaluate last year's goals. In the meantime Dennis wishes you a **Very Happy New Year!**



## Worship Attendance

**December 269 which  
includes the 12 who came  
on Christmas Day.**

## The Monday Feeding Program

In December approximately 220 meals were served to those who are hungry in our community.

## January & June

Fall in love with someone who feels like the warmth of the sun on a cold January morning, but soothes your heart like the cool waters of the sea on the hottest day of June.

Nikita Gill

## 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—Kathleen Mirtoni  
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](mailto:mevans@firstumcroseville.org)

**Certified Lay Minister:**

[kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org](mailto:kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org)

**Administrative Assistant:**

[cwithrow@firstumcroseville.org](mailto:cwithrow@firstumcroseville.org)

**Church Email:**

[firstumc@firstumcroseville.org](mailto:firstumc@firstumcroseville.org)

**Prayer Requests:**

[prayers@firstumcroseville.org](mailto:prayers@firstumcroseville.org)

**Chimes Article Submissions:**

[chimes@firstumcroseville.org](mailto:chimes@firstumcroseville.org)

**Office Volunteer:**

[nbray@firstumcroseville.org](mailto:nbray@firstumcroseville.org)



We received \$125.00 in  
December for **2nd Saturday  
Recycling** of cans & bottles. .

Thanks to all who save cans &  
bottles for this project. Every bit  
helps us pay our bills.

Don Harris Trustee Chair

**NEXT RECYCLE IS SATURDAY**  
**January 14, 2023**  
**9-11:00 AM**