

Summer Time

Then God said, let there be light.
Genesis 1: 3

...Live as children of light—
for the fruit of the light is found
in all that is good
and right and true.
Ephesians 5:8-9

Monthly Publication of the
First United Methodist Church of
Roseville California

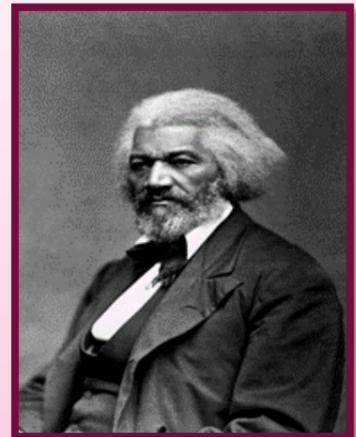
THE CHIMES

Volume 20 Issue 7
July 2020

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

"The 4th of July is the first great fact in your nation's history - the very ring-bolt in the chain of your yet undeveloped destiny...[but] what, to the American slave, is your 4th of July?"
Frederick Douglass, July 5, 1852

I have vivid memories of the patriotic merriment that filled my New England hometown during the 4th of July. Red, white, and blue flags, ribbons, and bunting adorned houses and storefronts. In the town square at night, fireworks illumined the 18th century-era building that once housed an Inn where George Washington and the French general Rochambeau stayed during their march in 1781. Two hundred and thirty-nine years later, the holiday commemorating the adoption of this nation's bold Declaration of Independence, and the Continental Army's subsequent victory, feels quite different in the air.

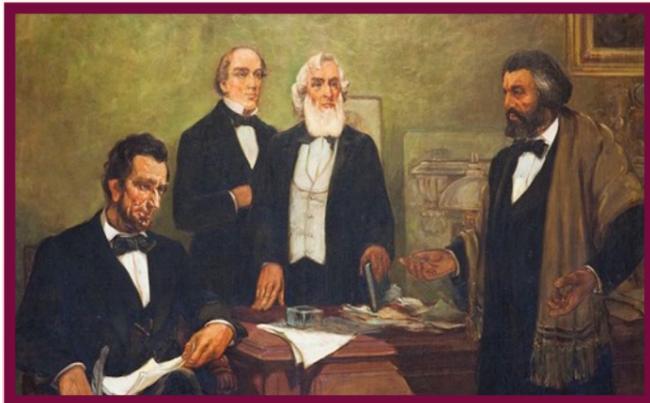


Frederick Douglass

It seems like the 4th of July is creeping into our collective awareness with a little less bombast than in previous years. The resurgence of Covid-19, and the lengthening shadows of a global pandemic, has menaced a national moment that is usually allocated for celebrations. Along with the virus, our country has been thrust into a deep dialogue with our nation's complicated history. In the wake of George Floyd's killing, the living legacy of racism has revealed its deeply rooted tentacles; forcing a public reckoning that has complicated our mythic memories of a glorified national narrative.

Fortunately, The United Methodist Church, like many religious institutions, have affirmed the imperative to confront systems of racism as a faithful response to this moment. Further, many individuals and communities are embracing the difficult, and sometimes uncomfortable, work of unlearning harmful ways of thinking and being, and learning new methods of introspection and solidarity. I am convinced, despite all the social disruption, that we are caught within the vortex of a transformative moment in this country's history. The clear-eyed candor that characterizes the imperfect conversations about race is defiantly elevating the voices of those whose stories have been traditionally marginalized. This is a good thing! Engaging in this work, however one is able, not only fulfills our faithful impulse to love and uplift our neighbor, but it contributes greatly to the pivotal on-going project of perfecting our Union. Continued page 2

"The life of a nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous."



The above quote from Frederick Douglass a former slave who rose to become one of our nations' most immanent abolitionist, writers, and statesman in the 19th century. He commanded audiences with his charisma and brilliance, and both advised and challenged President Lincoln to his face as an intellectual equal.

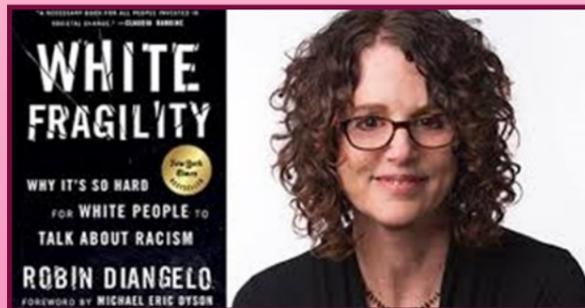
"What, to the Slave, Is the Fourth of July?" is the title given to his most famous speech. It was initially delivered in Rochester, New York on July 5th, 1852. Through his lyrical mastery, he forwards in stark terms, the glaring contradiction of a nation that hypocritically projects the values of liberty and equality while justifying the literal enslavement of fellow humans. The deeply religious and prophetic Douglass even makes theological arguments that

recognize the "widest possible difference" between the "Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ." In this famous speech, Douglass makes a clear rebuke: *"You profess to believe, that, of one blood, God made all nations of men to dwell on the face of all the earth," and hath commanded all men everywhere to love one another; yet you notoriously hate (and glory in your hatred) all men whose skins are not colored like your own."*

This 4th of July, one that is still mired by the realities of Covid-19, I encourage you to read Frederick Douglass' speech. Here is a link to the speech: https://masshumanities.org/files/programs/douglass/speech_abridged_med.pdf Allow it to sit in dialogical tension with the bunting clad memories of the holidays of your youth. Not only is this provocative piece of literature a national treasure, but it shines a critical and revealing light on the advent of our current national struggles. Beyond the insight, the speech offers a dose of needed inspiration to all those committed to making these United States of America a better and just home for all people.

Despite the obvious challenges ahead, I remain heartened on this 4th of July. For as Douglass once said, *"I do not despair of this country...therefore, [I] leave off where I began, with hope."*

Blessings,
Pastor Mahsea



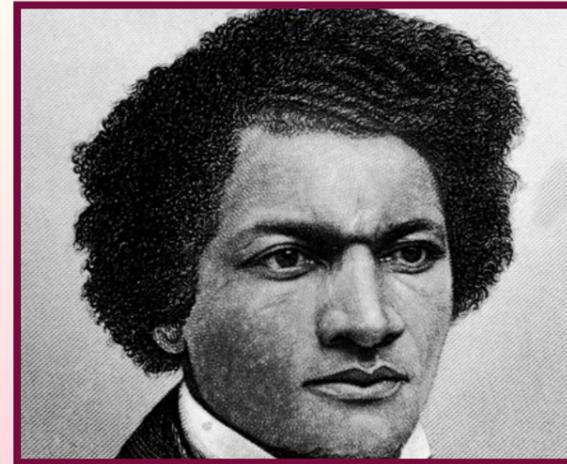
"I'm not a racist!"

This is the typical white response to any suggestion that we try to understand the perspective that has led to years of Black agony and protests about racism in America. As Pastor Mahsea stated in his June 17th letter to the congregation, "It requires time and intentionality to understand both how we have all gone through a process of racialization, and how these social categorizations have been systematized in our power structures over time. "

So, let's begin to probe the issue. If you haven't already, click the link in that email and watch Robin DiAngelo's explanation of what this conversation is about. Plans are afoot at First UMC Roseville to select a book (or books), strategize about virus constrictions, and start the discussion within the next few weeks.

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions, please contact me at wierbicks@gmail.com or Kathleen Mirtoni at kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org. I truly hope to be joined with you in this important work!

Cathie Wierbick



Frederick Douglass Lived 1817-February 20, 1895
Illustration: A. H. Richie (Getty Images/Hulton Archive)

Editor's Note: In 1852, the Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Association invited abolitionist, activist and statesman Frederick Douglass to speak at their July Fourth Independence Day Celebration in Rochester, N.Y.

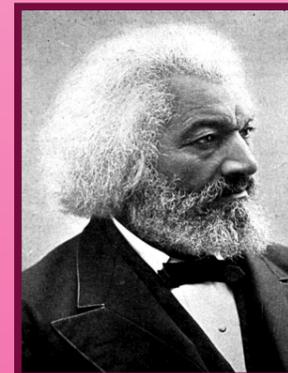
He refused.

But he agreed to speak on July 5 instead.

Before an audience composed of Washington politicians, white abolitionists, and President Millard Fillmore, Douglass presented what still stands as one of history's greatest example of speaking truth to power. Douglass' unapologetic criticism of America's hypocrisy still rings true to this very day. Although the speech is taught in history classes across the country, most history books and media outlets have only published an abbreviated version of the speech.

Douglass' full address, which lasted over an hour, is a history lesson, a political treatise and a dissertation on religion. Because it deserves to be read in its entirety, we decided to share the original speech in its unabridged form.

Editor's Note Copied from The Root



Poem by Frederick Douglass at the end of *"What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"*

God speed the year of jubilee
The wide world o'er
When from their galling chains set free,
Th' oppress'd shall vilely bend the knee,
And wear the yoke of tyranny
Like brutes no more.
That year will come, and freedom's reign,
To man his plundered rights again
Restore.

God speed the day when human blood
Shall cease to flow!
In every clime be understood,
The claims of human brotherhood,
And each return for evil, good,
Not blow for blow;
That day will come all feuds to end.
And change into a faithful friend
Each foe.

God speed the hour, the glorious hour,
When none on earth
Shall exercise a lordly power,
Nor in a tyrant's presence cower;
But all to manhood's stature tower,
By equal birth!
THAT HOUR WILL, COME, to each, to all,
And from his prison-house, the thrall
Go forth.

Until that year, day, hour, arrive,
With head, and heart, and hand I'll strive,
To break the rod, and rend the gyve,
The spoiler of his prey deprive-
So witness Heaven!
And never from my chosen post,
Whate'er the peril or the cost,
Be driven.

Copied from The Root

<https://www.theroot.com/what-to-the-slave-is-the-fourth-of-july-1836083536>



“Come Summer With Me”

Come summer with me, Lord;
summer deep down in my soul;
restore my faith in summer’s time,
in rest, in joy, in play, in you...

Summer in my heart, Lord,
and dwell there
as if time would never end,
as if all time were children’s time, eternal time
when school is always out and joy is ever in...

And let others summer in my shade, Lord,
and share whatever summer’s peace is mine to give,
whatever summer’s light is mine to shed,
whatever summer’s warmth is mine to share...

Good God of every season and every day this week,
come summer with me, Lord,
let the child in my heart
spend this summer in your love...

Amen.

(A prayer by Fr. Austin Fleming who blogs at
“A Concord Pastor Comments.”)

Summer Memories

“Sometimes we need to go where we can hear a screen door slam, echoes of our parents calling our name, wish on a falling star, and catch fireflies in a jar. Sometimes we need to remember when life was simple.”

Author Unknown

This quote brings back memories of my grandparent’s farm in Knobel, Arkansas. Weeping willow trees with branches hanging to the ground which created rooms to hide in, a concord grape arbor from which my mom made fresh squeezed grape juice and handed out the back door to my cousin Barbara and I. Nothing has ever tasted as good as that. Huge oak tree that shaded family picnics beneath it’s branches. Quilts spread down on the front lawn to hold all the food. I remember the aunts and uncles laughing and talking while the kids played hide and go seek. I remember learning to milk a cow and try to keep it in the pail instead of all over the place. I remember the warmth of the evenings and catching fireflies in a jar and sleeping on a feather bed. I remember my Grandfather quoting bible scripture and my Grandmother making biscuits for breakfast with fresh churned butter and homemade jams.

Seems like only yesterday.
Nancy Bray



An ounce of love is worth
a pound of knowledge.

John Wesley

CIRCUIT RIDERS WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Kathleen Mirtoni, Jan Sechrist, Cathie Wierbick, and Barbara Schwartz, in the John Wesley tradition, made home visits to 14 of our church ladies during the month of June. We wore masks, we socially-distanced, and in many cases were able to sit outside in the fresh air with our hosts. We listened to their stories, and shared favorite Bible verses as well as hymns. We were able to provide a simple Communion service, using the new combination wafer and juice cups. We were each blessed by the opportunity to share fellowship with those in our church family. We are currently making plans for another round of home visits in early July.

We want to acknowledge the work of others who are aiding in this ministry. Sherel Harris and Linda Kennedy have been knitting pocket prayer squares, some of which will also be provided to the men and children’s ministry. Cathie Wierbick and Linda have written individual notes to each of our ladies. Barbara Hulse and the 3 Cs are planning to share some of their handiwork with our group. Sherel baked delicious cookies. Debbie Thompson, our prayer shawl queen, has been joyfully knitting and crocheting mini-prayer shawls which will be blessed and presented to our women. You are all welcome to join us in this very meaningful ministry.

Thanks be to God! Barbara Schwartz



“I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures.”

Lao Tzu

This quote by the founder of Taoism is beautifully instructive for our church community during this time. Simplicity, patience, and compassion are needed as we deal with the impact of Covid-19 including it directing us unto a slow, steady, and intentional pathway towards doing church differently. Like all churches in our Annual Conference, we are in the process of formulating plans to re-open. However, there is no certain dates as yet. This process is being done in consultation with conference protocols, and guidance from our governing municipalities.

Though we are doing our due diligence, we are in no rush to commence in-person worship immediately. The health and safety of our community is the most important thing. I will always err on that priority and avoid putting anyone unnecessarily in harm’s way. The leadership team will continue to keep the community updated as needed. In the meantime, I encourage you to continue worshipping with us online, and participate in any of our midweek experiences like our Tuesday night prayer service on zoom. I also implore you to maintain the life-saving rituals of social distancing, face coverings, and handwashing.

Though there are many answers still unknown, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Until we gather again, let us continue to embrace simplicity, patience, and compassion, and may we hold each other in prayer; affirming God’s grace and strength will be with us at all times.

Blessings. Mahsea

“A Little Humor is Good for the Soul”

first recorded in the 17th Century but the author is unknown

Church Ladies With Typewriters

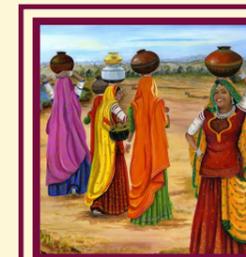
(Things appearing in Church Bulletins)

Contributed by Kathleen Mirtoni

- ◆ The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals
- ◆ Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- ◆ The sermon this morning: ‘Jesus Walks on the Water’
The sermon tonight: ‘Searching for Jesus.’
- ◆ Ladies don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- ◆ Don’t let worry kill you off—let the Church help.
- ◆ To those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- ◆ Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



- ◆ A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- ◆ At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell? Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- ◆ The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.
- ◆ Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM– Prayer and Medication to follow.
- ◆ Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7PM. Please use the back door.



W.E.L.L.

I won't begin hosting W.E.L.L. until possibly September? I feel very strongly about limiting COVID 19 risk.

p.s. I love you all, Gail Provine



I would like to acknowledge **Kevin Hubert**

for the great work he is doing as our janitor/custodian/maintenance man/ landscaper during this time of COVID-19. He has done lots of repairs and deep cleaning and looking out for the interests of our church with no one looking over his shoulder. I am very thankful for his service to our church. Thank you Kevin. You are doing a fantastic job! Don Harris, Trustee President



Marie Moody's 92nd birthday is Wed., July 8. We usually celebrate with the church and she will miss seeing all of you this birthday. She would love to hear from you, any time. If you'd like to send birthday wishes, Marie's phone number is 916.435.1869, and mailing address is 801 Villa Serena Circle, Rocklin 95765. Thank you! Cathe Moody



Noses, Dollars, and Cents

Basic Monthly Statistics: May

Income May 2020: \$ 19,000.00 approximately
Expenses May 2020: \$ 14,200.00 approximately
Net Income May 2020: \$4,800.00 approximately

Basic Yearly Statistics 2020

YTD Income: \$66,892.88 approximately
YTD Expense: \$69,665.02 approximately
Net Income: \$2,772.14 approximately

*exact figures for May & YTD unavailable at the time of publishing

May Worship Online Views

Total: 441

Average: 110

During this time of closure please remember to mail 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



Thanks to all of you for responding to the financial needs of your church. We continue to look better each month. We very much appreciate your continued support until we can resume services.

The lunch program for the homeless continues. Kathleen and her team served 237 meals in May. We are still 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!



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



The 3C's members are missing their get togethers and some are connecting by phone during this time. The group would like to grow with lots of new members when we can meet again. We have this nice space on the second floor with all kinds of supplies, machines and work tables to create items for our bake/craft sales which raises funds to donate to the church and the community. It does not take any special talent to belong, we will teach you what you need to know. In the meantime, Donna Hall has donated lots of fabric and sewing supplies for Barbara Hulse to make various sewing projects which have raised nearly \$200.00 for the 3C's at her assisted living facility. Please be sure to share any ideas for projects or feel free to ask any questions you might have with:
Susan Reining
1-916-768-8532
sreining@comcast.net
Blessings to All
Stay Safe Everyone!
Barbara Hulse



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2ND BRIAN RIPLEY
- 6TH ANYA GRACE KIRKOVA WALTHER
- 8TH MARIE MOODY
- 11TH JUEL KINCHELOE
- 14TH DAVID PROVINE JANICE GAITOR
- 16TH THOM KING
- 21ST JOHN FASSELL
- 28TH BETH FASSELL
- 29TH MAX SCOTT
- 30TH DENNIS BULL

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



Recycle May 9, 2020 \$56.20
May's recycle was from Don & his family's recyclables. Please keep saving your recyclables to bring in on July 11, 2020 in the parking lot between 9-11am. Every Little Bit Counts! Thank you to all those who contribute! Don Harris



First Church Roseville New Email Addresses

Please make note of these new 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
- Administrative Assistant: cwithrow@firstumcroseville.org
- Office Volunteer: nbray@firstumcroseville.org