Our Fall Kick-Off Sermon Series begins in August and extends through September 20. We’re looking at “The Five Marks of a Methodist” — the five characteristics that help name and define who we are, what we believe and how we live, as based in the writing of John Wesley. Wesley wanted ‘the people called Methodist’ to have a clear identity. This wasn’t to make us out as better than other Christians, or to have us get tangled up in our opinions about things. In fact, he said: “so as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.” Wesley’s intent was that we ground our faith in Scripture and live out our faith in the world, for the transformation of the world. In that spirit, our Book Study for September is Pope Francis’ encyclical: *Laudato Si’: On Care For Our Common Home*. As the Pope comes to the U.S., I invite us to be in prayer for him and for the whole church — one Lord, one faith, one baptism. And one, may it be so, in our care for our common home.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA**

**SENTINEL**

**vol. cxxl, no. 7   September 2015**

**HORIZONS**

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NEW: Sacred Yoga
Now on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month, First UMC and Simple Church will host Sacred Yoga in Simkins Hall. Led by yoga teacher Temitope, Sacred Yoga is a time for yoga, contemplation and worship, no matter what your yoga skill level is. Bring a yoga mat. Donations accepted. For more information, call the church office, or go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/sacredyoga
2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: beginning September 8 (no meeting on September 22) 6 p.m. in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center.

Upcoming Art in the Fireside Room
Youth member Haylie Wolitz displays for her second year, “Faces of Nepal,” photographs taken on her summer service trip to Nepal. Stop by the Fireside Room after worship to see these poignant images.
Opening Sunday September 13: in the Fireside Room

Book-of-the-Month Study & Potluck
Laudatory S*: On Care For Our Common Home by Pope Francis
Rev. Patricia Farris leads the first of the new fall series Book Study/Potluck. Pope Francis’ second Encyclical is written for all Christians, indeed for all people, to draw us into discussion, reflection, and prayer about our “common home,” Planet Earth. Drawing on the writings of St. Francis of Assisi, Scripture, church teaching, and science, this chemist become priest become Pope has provoked considerable reaction and response. This is a clarion call to action on behalf of the earth, all its creatures, and especially the poor and most vulnerable.
Our Book Study is a lively discussion welcoming all. Books for sale in the church office.
2 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Sacred Yoga is a time for yoga, led by yoga teacher Temitope, Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center.
From July 18-26, First UMC sent a team of 19 youth and 6 adults to New Orleans to help repair the homes of those still recovering from 2005’s Hurricane Katrina. Led by Rev. Robert English, New & Emerging Ministries Director, and Tricia Lindley, Children and Youth Ministry Director, the youth were split into three teams with two adult counselors leading each team. Haylie Walitt is one of the youths that participated, and she talked about their work.

“As our van drove up and down Second Street on Monday, searching for our construction site, we could not seem to find a home that appeared damaged. We thought they may have given us the wrong address. We then realized that we have driven by our site many times, but failed to pay any attention because it looked like it was in decent shape. As we were walking up, a friend and I were a bit disappointed that we were not working on another home that needed more help than this one. It was being lived in, and aside from the clutter, looked completely livable. Our job was to put some dry wall up in her back room. When we walked into the back room, stuff was stacked to the ceiling; an old pac-man machine, a pool table, and a stuffed jaguar were just the beginning. I assumed she was a hoarder and figured we would only be at this site for a day or two. As we shifted her stuff around to make a path for ourselves, I came across a dead mouse, and other things of that sort.

The second day, after we ate lunch, I had a conversation with our homeowner, Cindy. It was difficult for her to talk because she had a hole in her throat as a result of cancer and had to plug it with her thumb to talk to us. She talked to me about her art, and I could see how passionate she was about art by the way her eyes lit up. She then told me that once she got her house back, she couldn’t paint like she could before, because of all the clutter in her back room. It was her art room before the hurricane, but she could not clean the room due to the exposed wall that needed to be fixed. That is when I knew that God sent us to this house for a reason. Yes, I was aware that there were homes in worse condition, but by putting up that one wall for Cindy, we gave her a second chance. She was going to start over for the first time in 15 years. We finished up at her house Wednesday and were then moved to a different site. But Friday, after we finished up there and were heading home, I made Adam and Tricia drive us back to Cindy’s house so I could give her my prayer square. I wanted to make sure that she knew she had all of us to back her up as she began this new journey in her life. She made a bird house and painted it to give to us as a Thank You gesture. It will be hanging in the youth lounge so we can always remember to have a heart as strong as Cindy’s.” - Haylie Walitt

The 2015 Youth Service Project team

Community

Condemons
We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of these departed loved ones:
• to Dick Crawford and the Crawford family in the death of Dick’s father, Kenny, who died August 5.

Congratulations
• to Maddy Bissen’s soccer team, for becoming the first-ever Santa Monica United squad to win a national title. The under-13 girls captured the Presidents Cup championship July 12 in Overland Park, Kansas.

First UMC gives thanks...
• to Jon Ward, who is stepping down as usher after 10+ years of service. There will be a cake in his honor during Coffee Fellowship on September 13 during the Fall Kick-off.

Register Ralphs’ Card

It’s that time of year to register (or re-register) for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program! When you register on September 1 or later and shop at Ralphs, First UMC receives a portion of every dollar you spend. Enroll online with your Ralphs Rewards Card number at www.ralphs.com; click on “Community,” then on “Community Contribution.” Our NPO (non-profit organization) number is 81295. If you’re not online, pick up a card at the store, and Ralphs will make a donation to First UMC for the entire year. Thank you for your continued support!!

John August Swanson and the Art of Sister Corita Kent

Join First UMC as we meet at First UMC of Pasadena to hear John August Swanson give a lecture about the survey exhibition of “Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent,” and talk about her influence on his work. Then, we move on to the Pasadena Museum of California Art to see the exhibit.

Sunday October 11: 1:30 p.m., meet in the Chapel at Pasadena First UMC (500 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena) then onto Pasadena Museum of Art (490 E. Union St.) Open until 5 p.m.

LOOKING FORWARD

Blessing of the Animals
All pets large and small and in-between are welcome to First UMC’s 9th annual Blessing of the Animals. Come early at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and children’s activities. Blessings begin at 10 a.m. Please bring new pet food and supplies for the shelter animals. Pick up a pet tag and be sure to visit the photo booth.

Attention Animal Lovers! Blessing of the Animals is drawing near. Volunteers are needed to help set-up and breakdown. This day is one of our popular community events so come on out to help welcome and pray for all of God’s beautiful creatures! Contact Karen Hopkins for details on volunteering: karsails10@gmail.com.

Sunday October 5: 9:30 a.m. in the Courtyard

Vacation Bible School Report

VBS 2015 G-Force: God’s Love in Action was an overall success! A total of 54 children and over 30 volunteers participated this year. Everyone had a wonderful time learning about God’s Love in Action with Checkers the Cheetah and through song and dance, story, science, games and crafts.

Each day we focused on a movement: Move, Act, Care, Follow, and Share - with God. All of these allowed us to explore and show God’s Love in Action. We also celebrated that our children, in loving action, learned about Heifer International during the week and raised over $54,000. This money will purchase animals (5 hogs, 3 chickens, 1 goat, 1 pig and 1 llama) that will give eleven families around the world the gift of sustainable incomes and food sources. Thank you to the many youth and adults who helped make it possible!

If you have an interest in volunteering for VBS next year, email Tricia Lindley: t.lindley@stamonicaumc.org.
How did you find First UMC?

In June 1965, I came to California to do my doctorate at USC. Barbara and my first daughter Wendi stayed with our parents in Connecticut and Minnesota while I was in summer school. My first week here, I saw a small card at the school announcing a Choir Director position at First UMC, posted by Roger Reel, (who worked in a dental bookstore then, and who still sits in the same spot at worship every Sunday.) I came by and spoke to Roger, who said they had already interviewed 20 + people, but said I could still apply if I wanted to. Later the same day I came back with my resume and a letter explaining why I would like the position.

The next day I got a call from Florence Thurlough to see if I could attend a music committee meeting that week. We met in the Workroom, and the choir happened to be rehearsing at that time. The committee asked if I was interested in directing the choir in a choral piece - I said sure. So we went up to the choir room, I leafed through their choir book and found one of the songs that I knew like the back of my hand, Psalm 150 by Cesar Franck. I rolled up my sleeves and conducted the piece - I could tell they were all watching.

Along the way, Jim has supported countless musicians, restored and tuned innumerable pianos, overseen the development and maintenance of our organ, and added a grand piano to the mix. He has worked with talented vocalists and composers. His music has delighted the hearts of many throughout the community. But to my mind, most praiseworthy of all is his ability to make ordinary folks sound and feel like God’s own heavenly choir, coaxing gorgeous music from mere mortals week in and week out, all to the praise and glory of God.

We invite all to worship on Sunday, September 27 at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Our Chancel Choir will debut a new anthem by the world-renowned composer Kirke Mechem composed to honor Dr. Smith’s 50th Anniversary at First UMC. Dr. Craig Naylor has composed special service music for the day.

Following the worship service, we will host a luncheon reception in Simkins Hall in the Shelby Center where you may greet old friends and the Smith family, thanking Barbara and Jim for their shared 50 years of music leadership in our midst. To RSVP for the luncheon reception, call or email the church office.

We thank Jim and Barbara for their 50 years of service. We will have a Memory Book for you to sign at the reception on September 27. You may also want to send personal greetings to Jim and Barbara c/o First UMC of Santa Monica.
Sound of Music, and The Boyfriend. The productions dwindled over time as we started losing crew members, and when Jim – who was our main crew member who really enjoyed building the sets – moved away, our productions ended.

You’ve seen lots of changes over the years.

I’ve been here through 4 ministers, 3 services per Sunday that became 2 services, and now one, with different versions of the choir throughout.

What’s been a constant over the years?
The choir! We still have three original members that became part of leadership in music to the greater glory of God.

How did the Christmas Concerts evolve?
I started teaching in the Music Department at Santa Monica College in 1969, encouraged by two administrators who were members of our church, and formed a community chorus there. After the church sanctuary was remodeled in 1981, we combined the church choir and the SMC choir to present choral concerts with orchestra in our church. We started doing the Christmas Concerts, and they became so popular we performed two nights, sometimes having to turn people away when we ran out of space. Every year for the first weekend in December, it became the thing to do in the community.

We decided to do a Spoken Word section of the Concert around this time based on a performance I saw by Robert Shaw, the well known choral conductor. I invited our senior minister, Don Shelby, to read “spoken words”, prepared by my wife. When he retired and moved away, I wasn’t sure about continuing this part of the performance.

Coincidentally around this time, I happened to meet the actor Peter Graves – (I tuned his piano) and asked him if he would be interested in reading for these performances. Peter said he couldn’t do it that year – he had a conflict filming the A&E Biography Series, but he did it the next year, and had a great time. He performed the readings for 9 years until he died- he really looked forward to it every year, and he and I become good friends. For the first year after he passed away, we played a recording of him reading some previously recorded “spoken words” during the concert. The year after that, Rev. Patricia Farris picked up the Spoken Word part, performing them ever since, and she does a great job.

Tell us about the commissioned piece of music written to honor you at your celebration?
The piece is called Glory, and Kirke Mechem is the composer – he’s considered to be one of the main contemporary American choral composers, who recently turned 90 years old. He and I met in 1994 when we commissioned him to write a large choral piece. Songs of the Slave was the result of that commission, (a “Choral Suite” based on his opera John Brown). It has since had nearly 100 performances, world-wide. When Patricia Farris asked me to find a composer to write a piece for my 50th year celebration, I gave him a call to see if he was interested. He was putting the finishing touches on his autobiography and said he would be glad to write us a piece “as soon as he completed his book.” He currently lives up in San Francisco, and can’t make it here for the performance. We’ll send him the recording of the piece after we perform it. We’ve also commissioned Craig Naylor, (son of Maxine Naylor), to write 3 Choral Responses for the service. I’m really looking forward to performing these pieces.

GLORY

With Joyful Song and Tender Mirth
- Kirke Mechem, composer

Glory to God!
His angels sing with joyful song.

Music is the gift of God.
His angels sing with tender mirth.

Nothing on earth is so well suited to make the sad merry and the merry sad as music.

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(Inspired by the writings of Martin Luther)
position, but I only wanted to work part-time. When Dr. LeRoque started, he decided they couldn’t afford a full-time Director position, so all of the applicants dropped out, leaving the position open for me. When asked by Dr. LeRoque how long I thought I could stay at First UMC, I told him “at least 3 years until I finish my doctorate.” He replied, “OK, that should be fine.” By the way, we’ll sing Psalm 150 by Franck on the day of the 27th - the first piece I ever conducted with this choir.

And the two of you have been with the Theater Arts Committee, and when Jim – who was our main crew member who really enjoyed building the sets – moved away, our productions ended.

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What’s been a constant over the years?
The choir! We still have three original members that started when I began: Christine Stumpf, John Bruce and Emy Lou Winkler. Paul Woudenberg, the senior minister that came after Noel LeRoque – made a point that no meetings could happen on a Thursday night so he and his wife could both sing in the Choir.

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How did the Mid-Week Recitals come about?
It was the Health Ministry Nurse at the time, Dorothy Kleingartner, who came up with the idea for the Mid-Week recitals, followed by “healthy snacks” in the Fireside Room in the fall of the year 2000. This year will be our 16th year of recitals.

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We sat down with Jim to ask him about some of his favorite memories from his time at First UMC.

We thank Jim and Barbara for their 50 years of service. We will have a Memory Book for you to sign at the reception on September 27. You may also want to send personal greetings to Jim and Barbara c/o First UMC of Santa Monica.
In January, 2008, I was unmoored and disconnected – sometimes a ball of rage, sometimes a bundle of nerves, but never the man I thought I would be at 44. My career seemed to be limping to a close; I battled unhappily with my ex-wife; my children lived far away from me; my union was on strike; and I woke up every day worried about money. I was sure there had to be a more meaningful life than the one I was living, but I did not know what it was or where to find it. So, for the first time since my teens, I slunk into a church.

Almost immediately upon entering the First UMC of Santa Monica, I felt a wave of nostalgia for the Methodist church in Columbus, Nebraska, where my grandparents often brought me as a boy. It was a quintessentially Midwestern edifice: plain, sandstone and oak, almost austere in its lack of decoration. Yet when I heard the Santa Monica choir processing down the aisle to *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, I thought, “I know this.” The Lord’s Prayer, which I learned from my grandmother on a camping trip, came to me like an old friend. Even the Doxology struck me as especially beautiful in its familiarity.

In that first service I attended in 2008, the reading was from Psalm 27, which begins: “The Lord is my light and salvation – whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?” The words seemed to speak to my anxious state of mind. And Reverend Farris’s sermon that day, emphasizing the importance of prayer, hit me like a lightning bolt: “We break the rods of our oppressors when we share our burdens with God.” Could this be the balm my soul was seeking? As an agnostic (at best), I had not said a prayer in decades. I didn’t know if I was ready to take that leap of faith, but my heart was full.

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Since then, prayer and the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica have been important parts of my life. The words and music of the church went far to lift me out of my period of unhappiness, but there has also been the Methodist ethos of service and participation. I’ve loved attending the Men’s Bible Study group; breaking bread (and donuts) with smart, interesting, curious guys I never would have encountered otherwise. Serving as an usher has been a blessing — I have thoroughly enjoyed shaking your hands and collecting your offerings on Sundays. The Disciple Bible study program taught over several months by Kurt Poland and Rev. Larry Young put the Bible into my every day life, and I really enjoyed those afternoons with the other participants. And this past year I felt privileged when I was asked to serve on the Staff Parish Relations Committee (ask me about it!).

Two years after my first visit to the church, I was baptized. It continues to be a great source of joy for me. Being a part of something so much bigger and better than myself is a constant reminder that there is more to the world than fortune and career. There is love and grace, fellowship and service, and I am lucky enough to have found them.
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"As our van drove up and down Second Street on Monday, searching for our construction site, we could not seem to find a home that appeared damaged. We thought they may have given us the wrong address. We then realized that we have driven by our site many times, but failed to pay any attention because it looked like it was in decent shape.

As we were walking up, a friend and I were a bit disappointed that we were not working on another home that needed more help than this one. It was being lived in, and aside from the clutter, looked completely livable. Our job was to put some dry wall up in her back room. When we walked into the back room, stuff was stacked to the ceiling; an old pac-man machine, a pool table, and a stuffed jaguar were just the beginning. I assumed she was a hoarder and figured we would only be at this site for a day or two. As we shifted her stuff around to make a path for ourselves, I came across a dead mouse, and other things of that sort.

The second day, after we ate lunch, I had a conversation with our homeowner, Cindy. It was difficult for her to talk because she had a hole in her throat as a result of cancer and had to plug it with her thumb to talk to us. She talked to me about her art, and I could see how passionate she was about art by the way her eyes lit up. She then told me that since the hurricane, she couldn’t paint like she could before, because of the clutter in her back room. It was her art room before the hurricane, but she could not clean the room due to the exposed wall that needed to be fixed. That was when I knew that God sent us to this house for a reason. Yes, I was aware that there were homes in worse condition, but by putting that one wall for Cindy, we were giving her a second chance. She was going to start over for the first time in 10 years. We finished up at her house Wednesday and were then moved to a different site. But Friday, after we finished up there and were heading home, I made Adam and Tricio drive us back to Cindy’s house so I could give her my prayer square. I wanted to make sure that she knew she had all of us to back her up as she began this new journey in her life. She made a bird house and painted it to give to us as a Thank You gesture. It will be hanging in the youth lounge so we can always remember to have a heart as strong as Cindy’s.” - Haylie Wolitz

**Vacation Bible School Report**

VBS 2015 G-Force: God’s Love in Action was an overall success! A total of 54 children and over 30 volunteers participated this year. Everyone had a wonderful time learning about God’s Love in Action with Checkers the Cheetah and through song and dance, story, science, games and crafts.

Each day we focused on a movement: Move, Act, Care, Follow, and Share - with God. All of these allowed us to explore and show God’s Love in Action. We also celebrated that our children, in loving action, learned about Halter International during the week and raised over $540.00. This money will purchase animals (5 hogs of chickens, 3 rabbits, 1 goat, 1 pig and 1 llama) that will give eleven families around the world the gift of sustainable incomes and food sources.

Thank you to the many youth and adults who helped make it possible! If you have an interest in volunteering for VBS next year, email Tricia Lindley: t.lindley@santamonicaumc.org.

**Community**

**Condolesces**

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those departed loved ones:

- to Dick Crawford and the Crawford family in the death of Dick’s father, Kenny, who died August 5.

**Congratulations**

- to Maddy Bissen’s soccer team, for becoming the first-ever Santa Monica United squad to win a national title. The under-13 girls captured the Presidents Cup championship July 12 in Overland Park, Kansas.

First UMC gives thanks...

- to Jon Ward, who is stepping down as usher after 10+ years of service. There will be a cake in his honor during Coffee Fellowship on September 13 during the Fall Kick-off.

**Aggregate Church**

**pray, love, serve.**

**Register Ralphs’ Card**

It’s that time of year to register (or re-register) for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program! When you register on September 1 or later and shop at Ralphs, First UMC receives a portion of every dollar you spend. Enroll online with your Ralphs Rewards Card number at www.ralphs.com; click on “Community;” then on “Community Contribution.” Our NPO (non-profit organization) number is 813295. If you’re not online, pick up a “scanbar” letter at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office. At the store, the Ralphs cashier will link your purchases to First UMC for the entire year. Thank you for your continued support!

**Blessing of the Animals**

All pets large and small and in-between are welcome to First UMC’s 9th annual Blessing of the Animals. Come early at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and children’s activities. Blessings begin at 10 a.m. Please bring new pet food and supplies for the shelter animals. Pick up a pet tag and be sure to visit the photo booth.

**Attention Animal Lovers!** Blessing of the Animals is drawing near. Volunteers are needed to help set-up and breakdown. This day is one of our popular community events so come on out to help welcome and pray for all of God’s beautiful creatures. Contact Karen Hopkins for details on volunteering: karsails10@gmail.com.

Sunday October 3: 9:30 a.m. in the Courtyard

**John August Swanson and the Art of Sister Corita Kent**

Join First UMC as we meet at First UMC of Pasadena to hear John August Swanson give a lecture about the survey exhibition of “Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent,” and talk about her influence on his work. Then, we will move to the Pasadena Museum of California Art to see the exhibit.

Sunday October 11: 11:30 a.m., meet in the Chapel at Pasadena First UMC (500 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena) then onto Pasadena Museum of Art (490 E. Union St.) Open until 5 p.m.

**Five Faces of Ministry Book Study & Signing**

Save the Date for the October Book Study: a discussion and book signing of Rev. Patricia Farris’ new book, Five Faces of Ministry. Five Faces of Ministry explores the roles each clergy-person must play. The book is organized into brief reflections, each focused on an aspect of ministry. The reflections are rooted in scripture and include an inspired assortment of other references, from literature to hymn texts. Rev. Farris includes stories from her own life and ministry and from others’, making this a tremendously versatile and engaging read. Books for sale in the church office and at the Sunday Hospitality Table.

Sunday October 25: 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room
NEW: Sacred Yoga

Now on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month, First UMC and simple church will host Sacred Yoga in Simkins Hall. Led by yoga teacher Temitope, Sacred Yoga is a time for yoga, contemplation and worship, no matter what your yoga skill level is. Bring a yoga mat. Donations accepted. For more information, call the church office, or go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/sacredyoga.

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: beginning September 8 (no meeting on September 22)
6 p.m. in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center.
Our Fall Kick-Off Sermon Series begins in August and extends through September 20. We’re looking at “The Five Marks of a Methodist” — the five characteristics that help name and define who we are, what we believe and how we live, as based in the writing of John Wesley. Wesley wanted ‘the people called Methodist’ to have a clear identity. This wasn’t to make us out as better than other Christians, or to have us get tangled up in our opinions about things. In fact, he said: “so as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.” Wesley’s intent was that we ground our faith in Scripture and live out our faith in the world, for the transformation of the world. In that spirit, our Book Study for September is Pope Francis’ encyclical: Laudato Si’: On Care For Our Common Home. As the Pope comes to the U.S., I invite us to be in prayer for him and for the whole church—one Lord, one faith, one baptism. And one, may it be so, in our care for our common home.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

WORSHIP
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sundays At-A-Glance
9 a.m. Lectionary Scripture Discussion, Fireside Room
9 a.m. Partnership with God Sunday School, Room 101
9 a.m. Nursery Care, Room 204
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsals, Choir Room
10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Sunday School, Education Bldg.
11:00 a.m. Fellowship, Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center

Kick-Off Sermon Series:
Five Marks of a Methodist

September 6 - Baptism / Holy Communion
“Five Marks of a Methodist: A Methodist Gives Thanks” Homily by Rev. Robert English

September 13 - 16th Sunday in Kingdomtide
“Five Marks of a Methodist: A Methodist Prays Constantly” Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

September 20 - 4th Grade Bible Presentation Recognition of Sunday School Teachers
“Five Marks of a Methodist: A Methodist Loves Others” Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

September 27 - Jim Smith’s 50th Anniversary Day
Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

On the Website
Visit the church Give page to:
• Keep up with your financial pledge throughout the Fall
• Support a ministry
• Discover ways to give with your time
• Learn how to include the church in your estate plan

www.santamonicaumc.org/give

Or scan this QR code with your smart phone to go directly to First UMC’s online giving page.

FIRST UMC FALL KICK-OFF!

 Invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers to church with you to the Fall Kick-Off! After worship there will be plenty of food, fun and festivities. A great new year begins at Santa Monica First UMC!

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First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica welcomes you to this community of faith. You’ll find singles, seniors, families with young children, youth, newlyweds, young adults…and a full range of programs and opportunities for worship, study, service and fellowship. ALL ARE WELCOME.