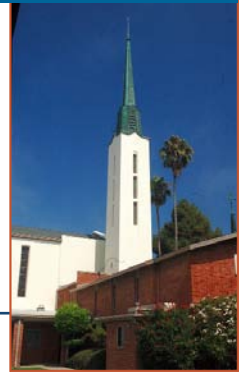


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *of* SANTA MONICA

# SENTINEL



## HORIZONS

God so loves the world...

The season of Advent begins December 3rd this year, the day of our beautiful Christmas Concert. This is a season set aside for us to prepare our hearts and minds for God's most amazing gift of the Christ Child. In love, God chooses to come and live with us as one of us, sharing our joys and sorrows, all the while teaching, healing, and encouraging us to become disciples of the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

In Christian parlance, this is called the "incarnation" which means "in the flesh." It's one of the fundamentals of Christian faith. It's also one of the most challenging and mysterious truths about what we believe.

Just as in the time of Jesus' birth, the world is beset by fear and violence. Like those first shepherds, we wait in the night to hear "good news" and "tidings of great joy." Like the Magi, our hearts seek after light and truth.

As we journey through Advent this year, remember that it's all about love—God's love for the world and for each and every one of us, for the creation itself, and for all God's children near and far. Hear the angels' song assuring us that we need not be afraid.

Take heart! God comes in love, again and again, and everything is born anew.

*Patricia Janis*

Senior Minister



**GOD  
SO LOVES  
THE  
WORLD**

## CHRISTMAS 2017

### Lessons & Carols - Christmas Eve

**December 24 - 10 a.m.** The annual worship service of music and word.

### Christmas Eve Family Service

A "No Muss, No Fuss" Christmas Pageant for all ages. Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate.

**December 24 - 4 p.m.** Children & Youth Choirs

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**December 24 - 11 p.m.** Choir, Organ, Harp & Candlelight

# DECEMBER Calendar

## Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

- 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Simkins Hall
- 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Simkins Hall
- 11 a.m. UMW Bazaar, UMW Workroom
- 7:30 p.m. Christmas Concert & Reception, Sanctuary/Simkins Hall

## Saturday, December 9

- 10 a.m. DanceFit, Simkins Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Messy Church, Chapel/Simkins Hall

## Sunday, December 10

- 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Simkins Hall
- 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Simkins Hall
- 11 a.m. UMW Bazaar, UMW Workroom

## Friday, December 15

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Christmas Concert, Sanctuary

## Sunday, December 17

- 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Simkins Hall
- 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Simkins Hall
- 11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Simkins Hall
- 2:30 p.m. Labyrinth Open for Walks, Simkins Hall

## Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 10 a.m. Lessons & Carols Worship, Sanctuary
- 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary
- 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

## Monday, December 25 - Saturday, December 30

Church and Preschool campus closed

## Sunday, December 31 - New Year's Eve • Faith in Action

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### Wednesday, December 6

- 6 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Parsonage
- 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Parsonage

#### Sunday, December 10

- 11 a.m. Vacation Bible School Leaders Meeting, Room 203

#### Wednesday, December 13

- 7 p.m. Methodist Foundation Meeting, CR-A

#### Sunday, December 17

- 11:15 a.m. Haiti Team Meeting, Fireside Room

### WEEKLY or BIMONTHLY AT FIRST UMC

**Mondays:** Church Office Closed

**Tuesdays:** 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Fireside Room

**Thursdays:** 7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### 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 Warmup, Choir Room

#### 10 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

- 10:10 a.m. Sunday School, Education Bldg.
- 11 a.m. Fellowship, Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center
- 2 p.m. Amadeus Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

#### 5 p.m. simple church, Chapel

- 6 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Youth Lounge
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 300



### 2018 Stewardship Campaign – Say Yes!

It's not too late to fill out & turn in your giving card for 2018. The church budget for 2018 depends on the pledges we receive. The giving card can be found in the pew racks, in the church office, and online: [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give).

# Advent Devotional 2017

The Spiritual Formation Council invites you to pick up your Advent Devotional at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office starting on the first Sunday of Advent, **December 3**. The devotional is written by First UMC members and provides a wonderful opportunity to share Advent with family and friends. This year's theme is "God So Loves the World." Sign up to receive the daily email devotionals: [santamonicaumc.org/advent](http://santamonicaumc.org/advent).

## Angel Tree Project

First UMC is supporting Family Place of Upward Bound House with household items for homeless families and their temporary apartments. Stop by the Angel Tree table during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday after worship **December 3 & 10** to choose a gift. Then return wrapped gifts back to the Angel Tree table or the church office by **Sunday December 17**.

## First UMC Christmas Concert



First UMC's Music Ministry Director Dr. James E. Smith conducts *A Christmas Celebration*, featuring Gerald Finzi's *Magnificat*, for Choir and Chamber Orchestra, and the annual An Evening of Carols, Etc. with audience participation. Ty Woodward, organist, will be joined by the Mark Twain Ringers directed by Ron Theile, and spoken words will be read by Rev. Patricia Farris. Suggested donation at the door is \$10, seniors/children under 12, \$5. Childcare will be available. Don't miss this yearly event which, for many, sets the mood for the coming Christmas season.

*\*For those who can't attend Sunday night, you may observe the Concert rehearsal Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at no charge. Carols and readings rehearsal begins at 11 a.m. Out of courtesy to the musicians please no cell phones; families with babies/small children may listen from the Narthex.*

**Concert: Sunday December 3, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary  
Reception to follow in Simkins Hall.**

## Messy Church

Messy Church is an intergenerational worship experience where we learn about God's love through crafts, activities, story and a shared meal. At Messy Church we grow in our relationship with God and with one another. [www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch).  
*December Theme: Messy Christmas.*



**Saturday, December 9: 4:30 - 6 p.m. Simkins Hall/Chapel.**

# Alternative Christmas Fair 2017

Missions Council has the antidote for "Black Friday" – the Alternative Christmas Fair. Each year, Missions Council prayerfully selects local and global mission projects. You may make a donation to any of the projects as a gift to a friend or loved one, and send a card announcing your gift:

**Actions of the Heart:** Empowers women to work in orphanages and to know the love of God through music and the Bible.

**Border Ministry (Cal-Pac):** provides support to immigrant populations to address the needs of unaccompanied minors crossing the US/Central American border.

**InnerChange:** Helps the poor to transform their communities.

**Children Youth and Family Collaborative:** Tutors, mentors, and guides foster youth.

**Upward Bound House Family Place and Family Shelter:** Serves homeless families.

**Campus Ministry (Cal-Pac):** supports outreach efforts on college campuses in the Cal-Pac and the work of our Covenant Missionaries at UCLA.

**Young People's Ministry (Cal-Pac):** supports local churches that address the hunger needs of their community, in particular those churches with a feeding program.

**Harvest Home:** Houses and nurtures women in crisis pregnancies.

**The People Concern (OPCC/Lamp Community United):** their goal is that all persons should be housed, healthy, and safe.

**Sundays, December 3, 10, 17: 11 a.m. Simkins Hall**

## December DanceFit

Dance your way to fitness with First UMC member Whitney Hagan, licensed Zumba instructor. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a towel and water. *No charge.*

**Saturday, December 9: 10 - 11 a.m. Simkins Hall**

## Poinsettias

Beautiful poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary for the Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve service, and Christmas Eve Family and Candlelight Services. Order at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office. Each plant is \$12, and may be picked up after 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service. **Deadline to order is December 12.**



## FIRST UMC COMMUNITY

### Births

• **James Axel Shanks** was born November 10 to parents First UMC member JP and Dani Shanks, and grandmother Cheryl Shanks.

### Deaths

• First UMC member **Prabha Joshi** died November 22. A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 2 at Forest Lawn.

### Congratulations!

• To **Rev. Keri Olsen** and **Josh Paget** on their wedding engagement.



# 2017 Pledge Contributions Due!

The end of the year is coming. Some of you have said you will be out of town in the last days of the year. You may always contact Christina Eddy (c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org) to arrange your giving at this busy time of year. Our church office is closed December 25 - December 30, but special arrangements can be made.

- Give at one of these remaining worship services Dec 3, 10, 17, 24.
- Mail your check postmarked by 12/31/2017.
- Contribute online at [santamonicaumc.org/give](http://santamonicaumc.org/give).
- Use your bank's bill pay system.
- If giving stock or funds managed by a broker, ask for a transfer to be completed by 12/31/2017.
- Bring your gift to the church office.
- Lastly, if you are paying in January for the 2017 year, be sure to date your check 2017 and mark your check "prior year fulfillment."
- Giving statements will be prepared and mailed out Friday, January 8, 2018.

*Thank you for making a difference in countless lives in our community and around the world.*

## Looking Forward

### JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 14: **Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leaders**

We will have a special time of reflection on baptism and have the opportunity to remember our own baptism experience during worship. During this worship we will also recognize and install new Church Leadership for 2018.

Sunday, January 28: **Youth/Scout Sunday**

Come enjoy the annual Youth/Scout Sunday service. The youth of First UMC have the opportunity to lead the Sunday service, from reading scripture to preaching the sermons that they have written.

## Save the Date: Messy Church Camp!

**When:** Memorial Day Weekend: Saturday, May 26 - Monday, May 28, 2018

**Where:** Colby Ranch

**What:** Fellowship, Fun, Campfires and Stars



The planning for Messy Church Camp is underway. If you think this is something you and your family may be interested in attending please let us know by filling out the form at the Sunday Hospitality Table, or on the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch).

# UMCOR Kits

by Tricia Guerrero, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

The hurricanes and natural disasters seemed to bombard our world this year. Homes destroyed and communities devastated. In these critical moments, we as Christians are called to respond when our brothers and sisters are suffering. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. They act globally, through our support, to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

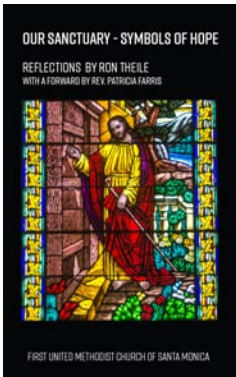
Our community heard the call for help this year and we responded over and over again. We as a community began collecting for the UMCOR Hygiene Kits. This endeavor was accomplished by our entire community working together to help those who need it the most. With enthusiasm and heart, our Youth Group and our Messy Church community came forward. Our teens diving into the boxes of donated supplies, organizing them with the help of their youth counselors. Our youngest ones, three and four years old, assembling kits with their parents and

grandparents. A Messy Church blessing in worship over the assembled kits, praying for the hands that will receive and use these items. We raised \$1,240 and were able to assemble over 125 Hygiene Kits. Yet it didn't stop there. Beyond the kits, we give thanks for the \$3,885 that was donated directly by our community to UMCOR for disaster relief.



Assembling the UMCOR kits at Messy Church.

## Our Sanctuary - Symbols of Hope



First UMC is pleased to present Ron Theile's writings in a new book called *Our Sanctuary - Symbols of Hope*. Originally written as monthly installments for this monthly newsletter *The Sentinel*, we've compiled each reflection and paired it with photographs of the Sanctuary stained glass windows taken by photographers Fabian Lewkowicz and Allan Walker. Included is a forward by Rev. Patricia Farris.

Ron highlights each of the stained glass windows, and includes a brief history and personal reflection. You may pick up a copy at the Sunday Hospitality Table or the church office. *Suggested donation of \$5 may be given to the Sunday Hospitality Table or the church office.*

In conjunction with the release of the book, visit the Fireside Room through December to view ***Shining Through: Photographs of First UMC Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows***, by photographer Fabian Lewkowicz.



## Preschool Corner



Monthly Value:  
December- Gratitude



S2 classroom's Thanksgiving celebration. The children performed the Turkey Tango for parents.

### DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**December 15:** Christmas Concert, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary

**December 22:** Early Dismissal, 12:30 p.m.

**December 25 - January 2:** School Closed for Christmas Holiday

A scene from last year's Preschool Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary. Don't miss this year's concert:  
**Friday, December 15, 9:15 a.m.**



# November Happenings at First UMC



2017 Church Charge Conference



First UMC member Russ Whittenburg speaking about the UMC's hurricane relief efforts.

District Superintendent Rev. Mark Nakagawa presents Rev. Patricia Farris with a certificate showing that First UMC paid 100% of their 2016 Apportionments!



During the Church Charge Conference, the United Methodist Youth sold cupcakes for their annual Cakes for a Cause. This year, they raised over \$500 towards hurricane relief. Thank you to all who purchased cupcakes.



The United Methodist Women's annual Holiday Bazaar was a great success!



Laity Sunday



All Saints Day, and the White Ribbon Memorial



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
of SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
www.santamonicaumc.org  
310.393.8258  
email: info@santamonicaumc.org



Church Office Hours: Tues - Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Chapel Open for Prayer: Tues - Fri, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## WORSHIP - SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

### DECEMBER 3 - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

First Sunday of Advent

Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church simple church theme:  
keep awake

### DECEMBER 10 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church simple church theme:  
prepare the way

### DECEMBER 17 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church simple church theme:  
witness the Light

### DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship • Lessons & Carols

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*(no simple church tonight)*

### DECEMBER 31 - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church simple church theme:  
covenant renewal service

### On the Website

Visit the Advent page on the website to get informed about events of the season, including the First UMC Christmas concert, Lessons & Carols, and the Christmas worship services. You may also sign up for the Advent Devotional, to receive a daily email devotional:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/advent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/advent)