

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *of* SANTA MONICA

SENTINEL



HORIZONS

2018! Already?!? Do you feel that way, too? Another New Year begins and after a brief respite during the holidays, we'll soon be off full speed ahead.

Time is measured by calendars, yes, by schedules and appointments, by the demands of work, family, doctor's appointments, getting to the grocery store, and just plain living from day to day. On top of that, there's all the things you didn't count on, didn't see coming, really don't have time for yet have to be dealt with anyway.

Our faith offers an alternative framework for time. It's grounded in worship and prayer, in sitting still in the presence of God, in remembering that all time is a gift, sacred and holy. How might we hallow the time in this New Year, the Year of our Lord 2018?

Rejoice, people of God! Our God is with us—in it all, through it all, above and beyond and underneath it all. Let's all take some deep breaths and live into the joy, the promise, the potential of all that this year will bring.

Patricia Jamis

Senior Minister

Haiti 2018

In 2010, a devastating magnitude 7.0 earthquake crippled the impoverished country of Haiti. As we witnessed the devastation of the earthquake, our congregation heard a call to be in an ongoing mission partnership with the Haitian people. Since then we have sent a team annually from our church to be in service to a Haitian community. In the fall of 2016 the country was devastated by Hurricane Matthew. Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Many live without clean water or adequate sanitation. They still need our help.

First UMC is sending 9 volunteers to Haiti from February 15-25, 2018. Joining with Église Methodiste d'Haiti (United Methodist Church of Haiti), we will be lending our time, talent, and faith to help our Haitian brothers and sisters by building and strengthening sustainable communities. The group is composed of leaders Todd & Sherry Erlandson, and Michael Olsson, Glenda Martinez, Grace Cho, Charity Goldberg, Katie Goldstein, John Pfister and Tony Johnson. Some of us are going to Haiti for the first time and others are returning for the second or even third time to continue our own spiritual growth and to be of service.

UMCOR asks that each work team contribute \$500 per person to go specifically to the supplies and labor needed at each work site. These funds are used to purchase things like concrete, lumber or other essential materials used in the re-building effort. Along with your prayers and spiritual encouragement, you can help our First United Methodist team by making a tax-deductible contribution. All checks can be made out to First UMC and in the memo line please write in Haiti Mission Team 2018, or give online by going to santamonicaumc.org/haiti. Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity.

- 2018 Haiti Work Team



JANUARY Calendar

Friday, January 5

7 p.m. Shareringer Monthly Dinner, Fireside Room

Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany Sunday • Holy Communion

Wednesday, January 10

12:10 p.m. Mid-Week Recital/Reception, Sanctuary/Fireside Rm

Saturday, January 13

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Messy Church Meet-up, Off-site

Sunday, January 14 - Baptismal Renewal • Installation of Lay Leadership

Saturday, January 20

9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, Room 300

10 a.m. DanceFit, Simkins Hall

Sunday, January 21 - Children's Church

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Simkins Hall

2:30 p.m. Labyrinth Open for Walks, Simkins Hall

Thursday, January 25

5:30 p.m. Family Place Community Meal, Off-site

Sunday, January 28 - Youth/Scout Sunday

11 a.m. Girl Scout Cookie Sales, Alcove

11:30 p.m. January Book Study/Potluck, Fireside Room

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 17

4 p.m. Trustees Meeting, CR-A

6 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, CR-A

7 p.m. Church Council 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 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Mid-Week Recital for January

Take a break from your day and spend your lunch hour listening to beautiful music! Mid-week recitals for 2018 begin with Sal Soria, organ. Sal has been the organist at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles since its dedication in 2002. Prior to his appointment here in Los Angeles he was organist for nine years at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

See the complete list of musicians for this year's recitals: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series.

FREE Concert Wednesday, January 10: 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., Sanctuary. Reception follows for artist in the Fireside Room.



January Messy Church Meet-Up



Instead of the traditional Messy Church in the Chapel and Simkins Hall, this month we will have an off-site, casual meet-up at Virginia Park.

At Messy Church, we grow in our relationship with God and with one another through crafts, activities, music, and stories of God's love. Then, together

we enjoy a shared meal. Children and adults of all ages are welcome so invite the grandparents, your neighbors and school friends to this new church community. Be ready to get messy!

For more info or to sign up for the email list, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch.

Saturday, January: 13 between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Virginia Park
(2200 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica)

Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leadership

Baptismal Renewal is a special time of reflection on baptism and on our own baptismal experience. During this worship we will also recognize and install the new Church Leadership for 2018.



Sunday, January 14: Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.

January DanceFit

Start dancin' and stay fit in the new year with DanceFit - a FREE monthly workout class with First UMC member Whitney Hagan, licensed Zumba instructor. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a towel. Tell your friends and check out the new dates for 2018 www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry.

Saturday, January 20: 10 - 11 a.m. Simkins Hall

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 they have written. This day also celebrates the Scouting Ministries (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) and their long-standing traditions of service to the community while transforming the lives of the youths. After worship, stay for the Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast.

Sunday, January 28: Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast: 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Simkins Hall



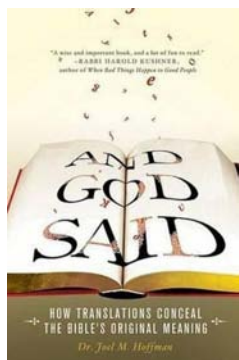
Family Place Community Meal

simple church hosts a monthly potluck Community Meal with Upward Bound House's Family Place. The Community Meal potluck is an opportunity to help feed about 30-40 adults & children, served buffet style. Attending the potluck not only provides a delicious meal for the families and allows the parents an evening free from cooking dinner but is a way for all who attend to be a part of a warm and accepting community. Invite your friends and join the next potluck for an evening of conversation, crafts/games with the kids, and a shared meal. For more information, contact the Community Meal Volunteers by emailing: meals@santamonicaumc.org, or call the church office (310) 393-8258.



Thursday, January 25: 5:30 p.m. Family Place
(1020 12th St. Santa Monica)

Loving God with Our Minds Book Study/Potluck



Rev. Patricia Farris begins the *Loving God with Our Minds Book Study* for 2018 with the featured book for January: *And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning* by Dr. Joel M. Hoffman, professor, author, and translator. **Rabbi Jeff Marx will be with us to lead our discussion** around the riches of the Hebrew language and how inaccurate or misleading English translations often obscure or alter the

meaning of the Scriptures. To whet your appetite, the author asks: "What's wrong with the Ten Commandments, starting with the word 'commandments'?" Come one and all for what will no doubt be a lively and spirited discussion. Book may be purchased on Amazon or at the Sunday Hospitality Table. Bring a dish to share.

Sunday, January 28: 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Houston Mission Work Team

This church community has felt called to respond in many ways after the devastation in Houston from Hurricane Harvey. Beginning with prayer we were led into the prayerful actions of collecting items for hygiene kits, and raising money for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. We have responded over and over to the call for help and will continue to do so this Spring. A work team will be sent to Houston in April to put our faith into action. If you are interested or would like to learn more, email Team Leader, Tricia Guerrero: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org or call the church office. Visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/disaster-response.



FIRST UMC COMMUNITY

Congratulations!

• To First UMC Members **David Wilson and Ann Wagner** on their marriage on December 16.

Thank You to First UMC

"On behalf of the Westside Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your congregation's recent donation of \$2,230 in support of our hunger relief efforts.... Each donated dollar allows us to provide five pounds of food, so you can be assured that your gift will have a powerful impact."

- Bruce Rankin, *Executive Director of the Westside Food Bank*

Say Yes!

Thank you to all who have generously pledged for 2018. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to commit to giving in 2018, now is the time! Support from each member is needed. Every Gift Matters.

Ending 2017 in Good (Fiscal) Health

We look forward to everyone completing their 2017 pledge commitment. Stop by the office, mail or make payment online via our church website. Thank you for your support!

Looking Forward

Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids

Registration is now open for the 6th Annual Home Run for Kids Walk/Run in the Brentwood community of West Los Angeles.

This year's event—including a 5k/10k chip-timed course, and a stroller & pet friendly Kiddie K— expects to draw over 1,500 participants with all proceeds benefiting Upward Bound House. This is a great opportunity for kids and parents alike to work together to solve family homelessness, a growing crisis across Los Angeles.

Join the First UMC Team! Register on the website under "First United Methodist Church." Before the race, First UMC will hold a brief on-site worship service complete with Communion at 8 a.m. Look for the white First UMC tent. Find out what it means to pray on your feet!

Sunday, February 11: www.homerunforkids.com



Cherub Choir

by Tricia Guerrero, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Calling all Preschool Age Children!

Children's Ministry is excited to announce a new opportunity for our Preschool age children (3-5 years old). Starting in January, our Children's Church, which meets on the third Sunday of the month, will expand with our new Cherub Choir. Led by Jamie Jones, Cherub Choir is open to preschool aged children and will be a place for our youngest disciples to learn about God's love through music, singing and handbells. They will explore and learn new songs and prepare to be a part of Children's Sabbath and other special Sundays. Contact Tricia Guerrero: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org for questions or to sign up your child.



Lay Leadership 2017

Lay Leader Team: Michael Lamb, Shannon Sturges, Todd Erlandson, Sherry Erlandson
Church Council: Sherry Erlandson
Fellowship & Events: Sandra Jones
Finance Committee: Kim Defenderfer
Health Ministry: Debi Jenkinson Wong, Dorothy Williams
Historical Records: Leslie Nordby
Nominations & Leadership Development: Cindy McQuade
Loans & Scholarships: Mira Pak
Missions: Linda Diane Anderson, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner
Parking: Chuck Kearsley
Planned Giving: Russ Whittenburg
Seasonal Displays: Mike Eskridge
Spiritual Formation: Mary Crawford
Staff-Parish Relations: Dick Crawford
Stewardship & Financial Giving: Michael Lamb
Trustees: Vern Busse
United Methodist Women: Betty Storm
Youth Ministry: Adam Guerrero

Methodist Foundation of Santa Monica: John Youngman

Thank You for Your Service

Preschool Corner



The Preschool Christmas Concert was held December 15 in the Sanctuary.



Robert, Allison, & Amelia English as the Holy Family, while big sister Olivia performed in the concert.



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- January 3:** Classes Resume
- January 15:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day (school closed)
- January 17:** Preschool Jog-a-thon
- January 18:** Parent Coffee Hour
- January 19:** Preschool Movie Night
- January 25:** School registration begins 2018-19

December Happenings at First UMC



Dr. James Smith leading the annual Christmas Concert.



The First UMC creche alongside the Be the Hope sign at night.

Lighting the Advent Candles



Phil and Claudia Flanders, Dominic, Sarah and Dane Rold



Charmaine, Dan, Bailey and Cooper Nessel



Shalimar Carducci, Joy Peterman and Malou Javier



Messy Church Christmas festivities



For 14 years, Chris Ruud has organized Angel Tree Project, bringing donated household items for homeless families and their temporary apartments at Upward Bound House. We thank you for your service Chris!



Alternative Christmas: First UMC's Missions Council prayerfully selects local and global mission projects for their Alternative Christmas Fair. Thank you to Jocelyn Hicks-Garner and Linda Diane Anderson for their time and efforts in coordinating this event!

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 JANUARY

JANUARY 7

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Epiphany Sunday • Holy Communion

Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

JANUARY 14

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Baptismal Renewal • Installation of 2018 Lay Leadership

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

JANUARY 21

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

JANUARY 28

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Youth / Scout Sunday

Sermons by First UMC Youth

5 p.m. simple church

On the Website

simple church service is on sundays at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. This is a community that strives to cultivate calm, centered and compassionate lives. visit www.santamonicaumc.org/simplechurch to learn more and to read the simple church blog.