On the Website

Honor the memory of a loved one, or celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other event. Cost is $80 for two arrangements, and you are welcome to take the flowers after worship. Available dates at press time: May 6, 12, 20, 27. Please contact the church office to order flowers for one of these dates, or order online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund

WORSHIP – SUNDAYS IN MAY

MAY 6
10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Holy Communion
Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris
5 p.m. simple church
Theme: ------

MAY 13
10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Sermon by Rev. Robert English
5 p.m. simple church
Theme: ------

MAY 20
10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris
5 p.m. simple church
Theme: ------

MAY 27
10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Lay Speaker Sunday
Sermon by Ron Theile and lay speakers
5 p.m. simple church
Theme: ------

First UMC Spring Concert

SONGS OF THE SLAVE by Kirke Mechem will highlight the First UMC Spring Concert. The Chancel Choir, with guest singers from The Long Beach Chorale, the Los Angeles Concert Orchestra under the direction of Dr. James E. Smith, and organist Ty Woodward, will reprise their world premiere performance of this work from 1994. Originally commissioned by First UMC, it has since been performed over 100 times, world-wide, including a recent performance in Carnegie Hall. Featured soloists will be Wayne Shepperd, bass-baritone, in the role of Frederick Douglass, and Zanaida Robles, sopranos.

Kirke Mechem, composer, is often called “the dean of American choral composers.” Frederick Douglass is the central figure in this suite, based on material from Mechem’s opera, John Brown. Douglass, an escaped slave, became the greatest African-American leader of the nineteenth century; he was Brown’s friend for many years.

Also on the program will be the beautiful Requiem by Maurice Durufle, with Alexandra Grabarchuk, mezzo soprano. Suggested donation is $10, seniors and students $5.

Spring Concert: Sunday, May 6: 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow in Simkins Hall.
10th Annual World Labyrinth Day

In collaboration with The Labyrinth Society, all are invited to the annual Labyrinth Day. Join over 5,000 people taking steps for peace, “Walking As One” in the afternoon. Last year’s gatherings were held in over 20 countries and 45 US states! The First UMC Labyrinth is their first UMC in France, located in the cathedral around 1220 CE. This day will replace the regularly scheduled 3rd Sunday walk for May.

May Labyrinth Walk: Saturday, May 5 – Labyrinth open 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. and also by appointment.

Final Mid-Week Recital for 2018

We welcome back for the final Mid-Week recital of the season, Christoph Bull, organ. Dr. Bull has concertized around the world and performed at national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and Organ Historical Society. He was principle organist here at First UMC for over six years before becoming Organist-In-Residence at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles in 2013, where he plays on one of the world’s largest pipe organs. Since 2002 he has been university organist and organ professor at UCLA.

To view select videos from this year’s recitals, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series.

Methodist Foundation Scholarships

Attention! Applications for the annual Methodist Foundation Scholarships are still available online now. Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation. Hard copies are also in the church office and at the Sunday Hospitality Table.

Deadline for application: Sunday, May 13

 Choir Recognition Sunday

Don’t miss First UMC’s annual Choir Recognition Sunday, when The Chancel Choir, The Children’s Church Choir, Cherub Choir, and The Amadeus Handbell Choir will be recognized and featured during the service. Come and show your appreciation for the gorgeous music these groups present during worship services throughout the year.

Sunday, May 20, during 10 a.m. Worship

Houston Mission Trip Report Back

The Houston Mission team returned from Texas on April 28. Save the date for Sunday, May 20, when the team will hold a Report Back Luncheon at 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall. All are welcome to hear team members share their experience and news from Houston.

Sunday, May 20, 11 a.m. Simkins Hall

Square dancing at the Houston Hoedown Fundraiser

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 but allows the parents on an evening free from cooking dinner as 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, May 24, 5:30 p.m. Family Place

(1020 12th St. Santa Monica)

Looking Forward: June

Summerfest

Every year, First UMC welcomes summer with the All-Church Summerfest, presented by Fellowship & Events. There will be fun for the whole family, including a BBQ, cake walk, bounce house and more!

Sunday, June 3, 11:15 a.m. Courtyard

Cal-Pac Annual Conference

Each year in June, the United Methodist Church in our regional Episcopal area gather for a session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Participants include clergy and laity from each church. This year’s theme is “Thirst No More.”

34th Annual Conference: June 14 –17, University of Redlands

Youth Service Project Fundraiser & Silent Auction

This year’s Youth Service Project team will repair homes for people in need in New Orleans. On Sunday June 24, the team will hold their Silent Auction and Fundraiser in Simkins Hall. View and bid on Silent Auction items after worship that day, and then later that evening from 5:30-8:30 p.m. as you enjoy the dinner and show. Donations for the Silent Auction are appreciated. Tickets are available after worship June 3, 10 & 17 during Coffee Fellowship.

Sunday June 24: Bid on Silent Auction items after worship; 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Silent Auction Dinner and Show, Simkins Hall

April’s Mid-Week Recital featured Nancy Raff, violin, and Lorenzo Sanchez, piano.
10th Annual World Labyrinth Day

In collaboration with The Labyrinth Society, all are invited to the annual World Labyrinth Day. Join over 5,000 people taking steps for peace, “Walking as One at 1” in the afternoon. Last year’s gatherings were held in over 20 countries and 45 US states! The first UMC Labyrinth is located in the Simkins Hall Floor is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth in France, laid in the cathedral around 1220 CE. This day will replace the regularly scheduled 3rd Sunday walk for May.

May Labyrinth Walk: Saturday, May 5 – Labyrinth open 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. and also by appointment.

Final Mid-Week Recital for 2018

We welcome back for the final Mid-Week recital of the season, Christoph Bull, organ. Dr. Bull has concertized around the world and performed at national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. He was principal organist here at First UMC for over six years before becoming Organist-In-Residence at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles in 2013, where he plays on one of the world’s largest pipe organs. Since 2002 he has been university organist and organ professor at UCLA.

To view select videos from this year’s recitals, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series.

CAST Spring Production Disney’s Aladdin Jr.

Children’s After School Theater (CAST), is pleased to present the 6-12th graders in Disney’s Aladdin Jr. Aladdin and his three friends, Babkak, Omar, and Kassim, are down on their luck until Aladdin discovers a magic lamp and the Genie who has the power to grant three wishes. With expanded characters, new songs, and more thrills, this new adaptation of the beloved story will open up “a whole new world!”

Tickets: $10/adult, $5/seniors, $5/child, at the door or online:
www.santamonicaumc.org/cast.

Friday, May 11, 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 12, 6 p.m.
Simkins Hall

CAST Performance of Disney’s Aladdin Jr., Simkins Hall

Fridays:
7:30 p.m. Spring Concert/Reception, Sanctuary/Simkins Hall
9 a.m. Nursery Care
10 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Youth Connect, Room 203
10 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Sunday School, Education Bldg.
10 a.m. Youth Connect, Room 203
11 a.m. Fellowship, Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center
10:10 a.m. Houston Mission Trip Report Back, Simkins Hall
4 p.m. Loans & Scholarships Meeting, CR-A
12:30 p.m. World Labyrinth Day/Walk as One at 1, Simkins Hall
Sunday, May 6 - Holy Communion
11 a.m. UMW Luncheon for Senior High School students, Fireside Room
11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Fireside Room
5 p.m. UMYF End-of-Year Banquet, Simkins Hall

10 a.m. West District Conference, Off-site
6 p.m. CAST Performance of Disney’s Aladdin Jr., Simkins Hall
Sunday, May 13 - Mother’s Day - Methodist Scholarship applications due
Saturday, May 19
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, Room 300
Sunday, May 20 - Choir Recognition Sunday • Children’s Church
11 a.m. Houston Mission Trip Report Back, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Fireside Room
5 p.m. UMYF End-of-Year Banquet, Simkins Hall
Thursday, May 24
5:30 p.m. Family Place Community Meal, Off-site
Sunday, May 26 - Messy Church Family Camp • UMYF Retreat
Sunday, May 27 - Lay Speaker Sunday
Monday, May 28 - Memorial Day • Church Campus Closed

Committee Meetings

Tuesday, May 29: 4 p.m. Loans & Scholarships Meeting, CR-A WEEKLY or BIMONTHLY AT FIRST UMC

Mondays: Church Office Closed
Tuesdays: 7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast Bible Study, Fireside Room
Rev. Robert’s last Men’s Breakfast Bible Study - May 29
11 a.m. Fellowship, Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center
1 p.m. Family Place Community Meal, Off-site
Wednesday, May 30
9:30 a.m. UMW Workparty/Lunch, Workroom
Thursday, May 30
7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
9 a.m. Nursery Care, Room 204
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.
10:10 a.m. Youth Connect, Room 203
11 a.m. Fellowship, Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center
2 p.m. Amadeus Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room (last rehearsal before summer break 5/13)
6 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Youth Lounge
5 p.m. simple church, Chapel
6 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Youth Lounge
6 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

West District Conference

All clergies and laity of the West District are invited to attend the annual West District Conference. The West District was created at the 2012 Annual Conference and contains 93 churches from the former Los Angeles, Long Beach and Santa Ana Districts. Join us for a time of worship, celebration of our ministries, fellowship and feasting! District Superintendent Rev. Mark Nakagawa will preside. Please RSVP your attendance:
https://colpasumc.formstack.com/forms/westdistrictconf2018

Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Anaheim United Methodist Church (1000 S. State College Blvd, Anaheim, CA 92806)

Methodist Foundation Scholarships

Attention students! Applications for the annual Methodist Foundation Scholarships are still available online now. Go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation. Hard copies are also in the church office and at the Sunday Hospitality Table.
Deadline for application: Sunday, May 13

Choir Recognition Sunday

Don’t miss First UMC’s annual Choir Recognition Sunday, when The Chancel Choir, The Children’s Church Choir, Chorubis Choir, and The Amadeus Handbell Choir will be recognized and featured during the service. Come and show your appreciation for the gorgeous music these groups present during worship services throughout the year.
Sunday, May 20, during 10 a.m. Worship

Houston Mission Trip Report Back

The Houston Mission team returned from Texas on April 28. Save the date for Sunday, May 20, when the team will host a Report Back Luncheon at 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall. All are welcome to hear team members share their experience and news from Houston.

Sunday, May 20, 11 a.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 it serves and allows the parents on 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, May 24, 5:30 p.m. Family Place (1020 12th St. Santa Monica)

-looking forward: June

Summerfest

Every year, First UMC welcomes summer with the Church Summerfest, presented by Fellowship & Events. There will be fun for the whole family, including a BBQ, cake walk, bounce house and more!
Sunday, June 3, 11:15 a.m. Courtyard

Cal-Pac Annual Conference

Each year in June, the United Methodist Church in our regional Episcopal area gather for a session of the California-Pacifi c Annual Conference. Participants include clergy and laity from each church. This year’s theme is “Thirst No More.”
34th Annual Conference: June 14 – 17, University of Redlands

Youth Service Project Fundraiser & Silent Auction

This year’s Youth Service Project team will repair homes for people in need in New Orleans. On Sunday June 24, the team will hold their Silent Auction and Fundraiser in Simkins Hall. View and bid on Silent Auction items after worship that day, and then later that evening from 5:30-8:30 p.m. as you enjoy the dinner and show. Donations for the Silent Auction are appreciated. Tickets are available after worship June 3, 10 & 17 during Coffee Fellowship.
Sunday June 24: Bid on Silent Auction items after worship; 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Silent Auction Dinner and Show, Simkins Hall
An Announcement from Rev. Robert English

Dear beloved community,

It is with excitement and sadness that I announce to you all that my family and I will be moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, in June. As you may remember my wife, Rev. Allison English, is an Episcopal Priest, and has accepted a position as the Senior Pastor of Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati. I will be appointed as pastor of Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church, starting July 1. Mt. Healthy UMC is located in the town of Mt. Healthy, Ohio.

This is a big move for our family which brings us closer to our extended family, including our daughters’ grandparents, who live just a short drive away in Indiana. This is bittersweet for us. We are leaving behind Santa Monica First UMC which has been our church home for the last 10 years. Thank you for all of the love and support you have shown me over the years. You have allowed me to grow with you as we have engaged in this work of ministry together. For this and so much more I give thanks and praise to God. I hope that you will hold my family in your prayers during this time, but also this congregation, the clergy and your lay leaders as the Holy Spirit works through our appointment process to guide your next pastor to you all.

Grace and peace dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

- Rev. Robert

Farewell Reception for Rev. English

Come to worship on Sunday June 10, to hear Rev. Robert English give his final sermon as Associate Pastor and Minister of New and Emerging Ministries of First UMC Santa Monica. Then, stay after worship for a luncheon and cake reception as we say farewell to the English family as they prepare for their move later that week.

Rev. Robert’s last simple church will be that evening at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck.

Sunday, June 10, during 10 a.m. worship,
Luncheon: 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall
simple church: 5 p.m. worship, followed by a potluck.
New Members
A reception of New Members was held on March 25, Palm Sunday. Say Hello when you see our New Members!

Tim and Amy Gates - spend their time between here and Gig Harbor United Methodist Church in Washington State. They have two daughters, Olivia and Isabel, at the University of Washington. Tim is Vice President of Human Resources for Campbell Fresh here in Santa Monica. Amy is a former social worker and stay-at-home mom. She’s looking forward to attending UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio in May.

Sandra Krieger - Sandra, originally from Mississippi, helped with VBS last summer. She and her husband, Ron, work with our monthly Community Meals. She is also very active in her sorority, Delta Delta Delta and has served as President of its Foundation. You’ll regularly see her in worship with their granddaughter, Claire.

David Ott and Sandra Browning-Ott - live in Malibu and both work in real estate. David has a long history with our congregation–Rev. Don Shelby officiated at their wedding. Dave and Sandra greatly enjoy our worship and the loving welcome of our congregation and pastors.

Jane Schmitz is originally from Oakland and has a professional focus in public health. Jane is married to Dr. Adam Richards. They live in Santa Monica with their two children, Ian and Theo, ages 4 and 6. Ian is a student in our Preschool.

• Many remember fondly Rev. John “the Baptist” Miller and Chariene Underhill Miller. Having worked in Development at Pepperdine and most recently at the St. John’s Hospital Foundation, John and Chariene are relocating to south Orange County. John has been named vice president of Mission Hospital where he will head the Mission Hospital Foundation, supporting Mission’s two hospitals in Mission Viejo and Laguna Beach, as well as Camino Health Center, which provides primary care to low-income and uninsured individuals. He will also help develop what will be the first comprehensive cancer center located in south Orange County. Just as importantly, John writes, this move will also enable Chariene and John to be near their parents and help provide for them. Congratulations and Godspeed to John and Chariene.

Deaths
We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of these departed loved ones:
• to First UMC member Ron Thieles, whose mother died April 5.
• to the family and friends of Don and Bobbe Mulder. Don died April 4, and Bobbe followed him into God’s loving embrace on April 15. A Memorial Service will be planned for sometime in the future. We mourn, but not without hope—for we are people of the resurrection!
• to the family and friends of Carl Anthony Greenwood, who died April 24. A celebration of his life will be planned for the future.

Congratulations
• to Stephanie Sturtz and Jamie Menzies, on their wedding April 21. Jamie is the son of Jim and Dee Menzies.

First UMC Community

Inspired by Saints - Larry Wilson Honors Fallen FBI Agents

Church member Larry Wilson worked in the Los Angeles Field Office of the FBI for 15 of his 25 years as an FBI Agent. Needless to say, he and his colleagues have had some interesting experiences and seen some things, many of which he isn’t at liberty to share.

Back in 1986, as a result of his position as a Supervisory Special Agent, he recognized that there was a morale problem with the employees of the Los Angeles Field Office. Something had to be done, but what? After some thought, he realized that no one had ever formally recognized the fallen agents, their dear friends, who were killed in the line of duty.

During this time, Larry had been a regular visitor at First UMC Santa Monica for about 4 years. He would pray for his fallen colleagues and, in 1986, prayed for an inspiration on how to honor them. His prayers were answered while attending the All Saints service held in November each year.

All Saints is a very special service when thanks is given for members of the church who have died during the past year. Larry was especially moved by the bell ringing after each name was read out loud, echoing through the sanctuary. It was then he decided a similar memorial for the fallen agents was what was needed.

He contacted FBI Headquarters, in Washington, D.C., to identify any organizational policies regarding such an event and whether there was already a program he could follow to create the Los Angeles Field Office Memorial Service. He was advised that such events were left up to the discretion of each Field Office, that they could use their own initiative to create their own program. That is just what he and the employees of the Los Angeles Field Office did.

He began an inquiry with his entire staff, encouraging ideas and input from support personnel and Special Agents, to create a memorial for the Los Angeles Office. He took their suggestions, and, building on his own knowledge of ceremonies from his time in the Marines, the planning for the inaugural FBI Memorial Service began. This was achieved without FBI Headquarters involvement, so, Larry and his office persistently and organized and sponsored the ceremony on their own.

It has been held every year since then and has even been recognized by FBI Headquarters as the standard for all other Field Offices. Three different FBI Directors have participated as the keynote speakers for the event.

Many of the First UMC congregation and clergy have attended. The Rev. Patricia Forris has given the Invocation and Benediction. Church members Mary Crawford and Robert Hedges have repeatedly volunteered as the bell ringers. Thirty-two years later, Larry continues to spearhead the event, continuously performing the duties of the “Master of Ceremonies” even though he retired from the Bureau in 1995. His mission to honor fallen FBI agents and to give glory to God for their lives continues.

All are welcome to attend the 32nd Annual FBI Memorial Service. This year’s keynote speaker is actor Joe Mantegna.

32nd Annual FBI Memorial Service
Tuesday, May 8, 11 a.m. Westwood Federal Building, Los Angeles, 90024

Tied in with today’s service is this year’s FBI Memorial Service. This year’s keynote speaker is actor Joe Mantegna.
April 21. Jamie is the son of Jim and Dee Menzies.

Congratulations

• to First UMC member Ron Theile, whose death April 5. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of these departed loved ones: Carl Anthony Greenwood, Don died April 4, and Bobbe followed him into God’s loving embrace for the future.

Deaths

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

• to First UMC member Ron Thistle, whose mother died April 5.
• to the family and friends of Don and Bobbe Mulder. Don died April 4, and Bobbe followed him into God’s loving embrace on April 15. A Memorial Service will be planned in the future. We mourn, but not without hope—for we are people of the resurrection!
• to the family and friends of Carl Anthony Greenwood, who died April 24. A celebration of his life will be planned for the future.

Congratulations

• to Stephanie Stuart and Jamie Menezes, on their wedding April 21. Jamie is the son of Jim and Dee Menzies.

FIRST UMC COMMUNITY

Tim and Amy Gates - spend their time between here and Gig Harbor United Methodist Church in Washington State. They have two daughters, Olivia and Isabel, at the University of Washington. Tim is Vice President of Human Resources for Campbell Fresh here in Santa Monica. Amy is a former social worker and stay-at-home mom. She’s looking forward to attending UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio in May.

Sandra Krieger - Sandra, originally from Mississippi, helped with VBS last summer. She and her husband, Ron, work with our monthly Community Meals. She is also very active in her sorority, Delta Delta Delta and has served as President of its Foundation. You’ll regularly see her in worship with her granddaughter, Claire.

David Ott and Sandra Brownling-Ott - live in Malibu and both work in real estate. David has a long history with our congregation—Rev. Don Shelby officiated at their wedding. Dave and Sandra greatly enjoy our worship and the loving welcome of our congregation and pastors.

Jane Schmitz is originally from Oakland and has a professional focus in public health. Jane is married to Dr. Adam Richards. They live in Santa Monica with their two children, Ian and Theo, ages 4 and 6. Ian is a student in our Preschool.

• Many remember fondly Rev. John “the Baptist” Miller and Charlene Underhill Miller. Having worked in Development at Pepperdine and most recently the St. John’s Hospital Foundation, John and Charlene are relocating to south Orange County. John has been named vice president of Mission Hospital where he will head the Mission Hospital Foundation, supporting Mission’s two hospitals in Mission Viejo and Laguna Beach, as well as Camino Health Center, which provides primary care to low-income and uninsured individuals. He will also help develop what will be the first comprehensive cancer center located in south Orange County. Just as importantly, John writes, this move will also enable Charlene and John to be near their parents and help provide for them. Congratulations to John and Charlene.

Baptism of Loren Isaias Garner, son of First UMC member Joellen Hicks Garner and William Garner.

Inspired by Saints - Larry Wilson Honors Fallen FBI Agents

Church member Larry Wilson worked in the Los Angeles Field Office of the FBI for 15 of his 25 years as an FBI Agent. Needless to say, he and his colleagues have had some interesting experiences and seen some things, many of which he isn’t at liberty to share.

Back in 1986, as a result of his position as a Supervisory Special Agent, he recognized that there was a morale problem with the employees of the Los Angeles Field Office. Something had to be done, but what? After some thought, he realized that no one had ever formally recognized the fallen agents, their dear friends, who were killed in the line of duty.

During this time, Larry had been a regular visitor at First UMC for about 4 years. He would pray for his fallen colleagues and, in 1986, prayed for an inspiration on how to honor them. His prayers were answered while attending the All Saints service held in November each year.

All Saints is a very special service when thanks is given for members of the church who have died during the past year. Larry was especially moved by the bell ringing after each name was read out loud, echoing through the sanctuary. It was then he decided a similar memorial for the fallen agents was what was needed.

He contacted FBI Headquarters, in Washington, D.C., to identify any organizational policies regarding such an event and whether there was already a program he could follow to create the Los Angeles Field Office Memorial Service. He was advised that such events were left up to the discretion of each Field Office, that they could use their own initiative to create their own program. That is just what he and the employees of the Los Angeles Field Office did.

He began an inquiry with his entire staff, encouraging ideas and input from support personnel and Special Agents, to create a memorial for the Los Angeles Office. He took their suggestions, and, building on his own knowledge of ceremonies from his time in the Marines, the planning for the inaugural FBI Memorial Service began. This was achieved without FBI Headquarters involvement, so, Larry and his office persisted and organized and sponsored the ceremony on their own. It has been held every year since then and has even been recognized by FBI Headquarters as the standard for all other Field Offices. Three different FBI Directors have participated as the keynote speakers for the event.

Many of the First UMC congregation and clergy have attended. The Rev. Patricia Forris has given the Invocation and Benediction. Church members Mary Crawford and Robert Hedges have repeatedly volunteered as the bell ringers. Thirty-two years later, Larry continues to spearhead the event, continuously performing the duties of the “Master of Ceremonies” even though he retired from the Bureau in 1995. His mission to honor fallen FBI agents and to give glory to God for their lives continues.

All are welcome to attend the 32nd Annual FBI Memorial Service. This year’s keynote speaker is actor Joe Mantegna.

32nd Annual FBI Memorial Service
Tuesday, May 8, 11 a.m. Westwood Federal Building, Los Angeles, 90024

Larry Wilson, left
Larry presiding over last year’s FBI Memorial Service
An Announcement from Rev. Robert English

Dear beloved community,

It is with excitement and sadness that I announce to you all that my family and I will be moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, in June. As you may remember my wife, Rev. Allison English, is an Episcopal Priest, and has accepted a position as the Senior Pastor of Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati. I will be appointed as pastor of Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church, starting July 1. Mt. Healthy UMC is located in the town of Mt. Healthy, Ohio.

This is a big move for our family which brings us closer to our extended family, including our daughters’ grandparents, who live just a short drive away in Indiana. This is bittersweet for us. We are leaving behind Santa Monica First UMC which has been our church home for the last 10 years. Thank you for all of the love and support you have shown me over the years. You have allowed me to grow with you as we have engaged in this work of ministry together. For this and so much more I give thanks and praise to God. I hope that you will hold my family in your prayers during this time, but also this congregation, the clergy and your lay leaders as the Holy Spirit works through our appointment process to guide your next pastor to you all.

Grace and peace dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

- Rev. Robert

Farewell Reception for Rev. English

Come to worship on Sunday June 10, to hear Rev. Robert English give his final sermon as Associate Pastor and Minister of New and Emerging Ministries of First UMC Santa Monica. Then, stay after worship for a luncheon and cake reception as we say farewell to the English family as they prepare for their move later that week.

Rev. Robert’s last simple church will be that evening at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck.

Sunday, June 10, during 10 a.m. worship,
Luncheon: 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall
simple church: 5 p.m. worship, followed by a potluck.

Preschool Corner

Monthly Value: May - Cooperation

PRESCHOOL EVENTS FOR MAY
Week of May 7: Mother's Day Celebration Week
May 18: Parent/Teacher conferences - no classes
May 28: Memorial Day - campus closed

Preschool Corner

Grandparents and Special Friends Day at the Preschool!

Simple church

Palm Sunday Sanctuary Service

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunrise Service at Palisades Park

Easter Celebration Service in the Sanctuary
HORIZONS

Many are the ways in which First UMC witnesses our message of hope to our community. An outstanding proclamation of that hope awaits as, on May 6, our Music Department presents internationally acclaimed composer Kirke Mechem’s Songs of the Slave in our Spring Concert. Featuring Wayne Shepperd, bass baritone, singing the role of Frederick Douglass, and Zanaida Robles, soprano. Also, Maurice Duruflé’s Requiem featuring Alexandra Grabarchuk, mezzo soprano, will be performed.

Mechem, a native of Kansas, graduate of Stanford and Harvard, has been honored and recognized for his contributions by the United Nations, the National Endowment for the Art, and the National Gallery. The central figure in this cantata is Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), an escaped slave, who became the greatest African-American leader of the 19th century. The music and text are hauntingly beautiful, embracing the pain, the brokenness, the strength and the courage that together from the story of America.

In this time when our nation is again striving to address and heal the sins of slavery and racism, we hear, in the cantata’s climax, Douglass and choir proclaim the conviction and challenge of our Declaration of Independence: “all men are created equal.”

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and together, through the beauty and power of music, let us again be inspired to “Be the Hope.”

First UMC Spring Concert

SONGS OF THE SLAVE by Kirke Mechem will highlight the First UMC Spring Concert. The Chancel Choir, with guest singers from The Long Beach Chorale, the Los Angeles Concert Orchestra under the direction of Dr. James E. Smith, and organist Ty Woodward, will reprise their world premiere performance of this work from 1994. Originally commissioned by First UMC, it has since been performed over 100 times, world-wide, including a recent performance in Carnegie Hall. Featured soloists will be Wayne Shepperd, bass-baritone, in the role of Frederick Douglass, and Zanaida Robles, soprano.

Kirke Mechem, composer, is often called “the dean of American choral composers.” Frederick Douglass is the central figure in this suite, based on material from Mechem’s opera, John Brown. Douglass, an escaped slave, became the greatest African-American leader of the nineteenth century; he was Brown’s friend for many years.

Also on the program will be the beautiful Requiem by Maurice Duruflé, with Alexandra Grabarchuk, mezzo soprano. Suggested donation is $10, seniors and students $5.

Spring Concert: Sunday, May 6: 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow in Simkins Hall.