

SENTINEL



vol. cxliii, no. 10

December 2018



HORIZONS

“In the beginning....God said: Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good...”

God shines light into the darkness of creation, of our world, of our lives and hearts. God shines light to bring forth life, to reveal truth, and to illumine the path of righteousness and peace. And God sees that it is good.

In this beautiful Advent season, may God’s light shine anew in your heart. Through the worship and music of the season, may God’s light shine in your soul.

In fellowship, may God’s light shine in your home.

In opportunities for service and giving, may God’s light shine in your mind.

And, through us, may God’s light shine anew in our world.

My Christmas prayer for each of you is that you will find in this season a renewed sense of God’s love, and healing presence in your life, bringing light and joy to you and yours. For in Christ is born the fullness of life, and that life is the light of all people. As John’s Gospel proclaims: “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never overcome it.”

May the blessings of Christ, the Light of the World, dawn brightly upon us all.

Patricia Jamis

Senior Minister



CHRISTMAS 2018

Lessons & Carols

DEC 23 - 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.

DEC 24 - 4 p.m. Children’s Choir

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

DECEMBER Calendar

Saturday, December 1

9 a.m. Christmas Concert Rehearsal, Simkins Hall (*Open to the public*)
3:30 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Celebration Party, Off-site

Sunday, December 2 - First Sunday of Advent • Holy Communion

Advent Devotionals available • John Swanson Advent art in the Fireside Rm
11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. Angel Tree Fair, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. UMW Bazaar Sales, UMW Workroom
7:30 p.m. Christmas Concert/Reception, Sanctuary/Simkins Hall

Friday, December 7

5:30 p.m. Preschool Movie Night, Simkins Hall

Saturday, December 8

10 a.m. DanceFit!, Room 300
4:30 p.m. Messy Church Christmas Celebration, Simkins Hall/Chapel

Sunday, December 9 - Third Sunday of Advent

11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. Angel Tree Fair, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. UMW Bazaar Sales, UMW Workroom
6 p.m. simple supper, Fireside Room

Friday, December 14

9 a.m. / 10 a.m. Preschool Christmas Concert, Sanctuary (*All are welcome*)

Sunday, December 16 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. Angel Tree Fair, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Simkins Hall
11 a.m. UMW Bazaar Sales, UMW Workroom
3 p.m. Labyrinth Open for Walks, Simkins Hall

Saturday, December 22

10 a.m. DanceFit!, Room 300

Sunday, December 23 - Service of Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 - Saturday, December 29

Church and Preschool campus closed

Sunday, December 30 - First Sunday after Christmas • Family Sunday
(no Sunday school)

Monday, December 31 - New Year's Eve • Church campus closed

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, December 5

6 p.m. Finance Council Meeting, Off-site
7 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Off-site

Wednesday, December 12

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



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.

Beginning Sunday, December 2, deadline to order is December 16

Habitat for Humanity Patience House Celebration & Tour

The Patience House build is looking great! Come meet the Mulvihill Family, check out the progress of the Patience House build and the entire block, and enjoy delicious refreshments. For more info, contact Ellen Evans Agee: ebea9999@gmail.com. www.habitatla.org.

Saturday, December 1, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Culver City Presbyterian Church (11269 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA)

First UMC Christmas Concert

First UMC's Music Ministry Director Dr. James E. Smith conducts *A Christmas Celebration*, featuring Michael McClish'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 and children under 12, \$5. Don't miss this yearly event which, for many, sets the mood for the coming Christmas season.



Sunday, December 2, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary Reception to follow in Simkins Hall.

**For those who can't attend Sunday night, you may observe the Concert rehearsal Saturday morning (December 1) 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.*

Advent Devotional 2018

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 2. 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 "Shine Light!" Sign up to receive the daily email devotionals:

www.santamonicaumc.org/advent

Angel Tree Project



Chris Ruud working on last year's Angel Tree display

First UMC church member Chris Ruud is organizing her 16th year of the Angel Tree Project - a community effort to provide homeless families at Upward Bound House with much-needed household items. Stop by the Angel Tree table during Coffee Fellowship today in Simkins Hall to sponsor a gift. Then return the wrapped gift back to the church office by Sunday December 16. For questions, contact Chris Ruud: chr10is@yahoo.com.

Sundays, December 2, 9 & 16 after worship in Simkins Hall

Alternative Christmas Fair

Sponsored by the Mission Council, the Alternative Christmas Fair is a way to support mission projects and programs in the community and around the world, by giving a financial gift in the name of a loved one. Each donation (\$5 minimum) comes with a card with the gift information and envelope. Share the SPIRIT of Christmas!

Mission projects include: Actions of the Heart • Children, Youth & Family Collaborative • Harvest Home • You Are Not Alone • InnerChange • The People Concern • Upward Bound House: Family Place & Family Shelter • Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA
www.santamonicaumc.org/acfair

Sundays, December 2, 9 & 16, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. after worship in Simkins Hall

UMW Bazaar Final Sales

Missed the UMW Bazaar? It's not too late to peruse handmade crafts and treasures made and curated by the United Methodist Women. Starting December 2, stop by the UMW workroom after worship. All proceeds benefit the missions and ministries supported by the UMW.

Sundays, December 2, 9 & 16 (free entrance) after worship in the UMW Workroom

DanceFit!

DanceFit meets twice in December - get in your exercise during this hectic holiday season. First UMC member Whitney Hagan leads DanceFit. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a towel. Water will be available. No charge but donations appreciated. Kids are welcome. Tell your friends!

Saturdays, December 8 & 22, 10 - 11 a.m. in Room 300

Messy Church Christmas Celebration

The First UMC Filipino families welcome all to a special Messy Church Christmas celebration. The theme is *Light Up the Darkness*, and will include a Filipino family craft and Filipino food and treats. Maligayang Pasko! (*Merry Christmas in Tagalog*). RSVP food count to: shalimarcarducci@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 8, 4:30 - 6 p.m. in Simkins Hall/Chapel



simple supper

simple supper is a simple church monthly potluck. Sharing a meal has always been a holy act of hospitality and of fellowship, and there is no reason to make it complicated; bring a dish to share, eat, and enjoy. There is no need to RSVP, all are welcome, and we will celebrate with those who are present.

Sunday, December 9, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Invitation to Interfaith Vigil and Prayer for Victims of Gun Violence

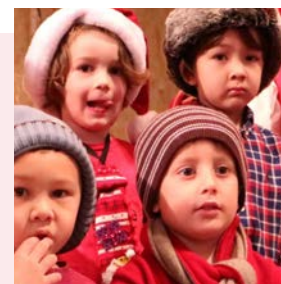
Community members and civic leaders of all faiths are invited to join the Catholic community in Santa Monica as we reflect on lives lost, unite around our common goal of peace, and act for positive. Following the interfaith service and bell ringing, there will be a call to action for gun violence prevention. Join us as we unite in solidarity to support those affected by gun violence. #EndGunViolence

Sunday, December 9, 4 - 5 p.m. St. Monica's Catholic Church (725 California Ave., Santa Monica)

Preschool Christmas Concert

All are welcome to watch the Preschoolers perform their Annual Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary. The first show with Group 1 (ages 2-3) at 9 a.m., Group 2 (ages 4-5) takes the stage at 10 a.m.

Friday, December 14, 9 a.m. & 10 a.m., in the Sanctuary



Scenes from last year's Preschool Christmas Concert



2018 Pledge Contributions Due!

The end of the year is coming. Contact Christina Eddy (c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org) to arrange your giving at this busy time of year. Our church office is closed December 24 - January 1, but special arrangements can be made.

- Give at one of these remaining worship services Dec 2, 9, 16, 23.
- Mail your check postmarked by 12/31/2018.
- Contribute online at 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 12/31/2018.
- Contact the church office if you would like information about Qualified Charitable Distributions which can save taxes!
- Bring your gift to the church office.
- Lastly, if you are paying in January for the 2018 year, be sure to date your check 2018 and mark your check in the memo line "prior year fulfillment."
- Giving statements will be prepared and mailed out Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

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

FIRST UMC

C O M M U N I T Y

Births

- **Scarlett Raine Morrison**, niece to First UMC members Patty & Mike Eskridge, born on November 17.

Congratulations

- to First UMC member **Leah Guerrero** and Gabe Dimalanta who were married on November 17 by Rev. Patricia Farris.
- First UMC member **Kristen Kearsley** and Patrick Moore who were married on November 24.

Condolences

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

- **Lynn Dornfeld**, First UMC member Dan Nessel's sister, who died November 4.
- **Betty Lind Gibbs**, First UMC member Dennis Gibbs' mother, who died November 14.

Thank You First UMC!

Dear Rev. Farris,

This past Sunday, a few of us from Malibu UMC had the privilege of worshipping at First United Methodist of Santa Monica. We had a wonderful experience, being received by your warm and friendly congregation and were made to feel so welcomed.

We can attest that the experience was a comforting respite after a difficult week. Thanks to Carmen for giving me a bottle of beautiful perfume to pass on to someone, which will be such a treat. And it was so nice of Joe to stop by our table while we were having lunch at Coogie's. Thank you and please thank everyone on our behalf for such a wonderful worship experience.

Love,
Dawn Randall



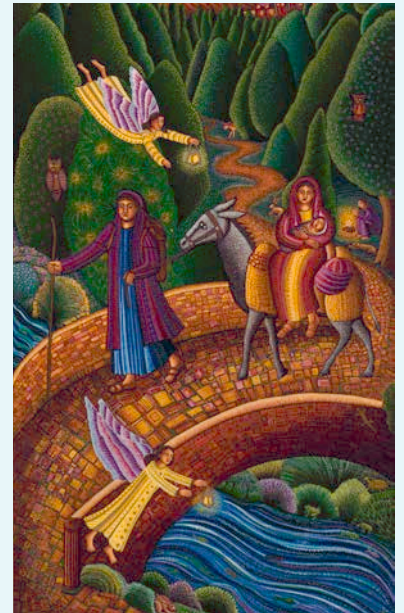
Visitors from Malibu UMC who were unable to worship at their home church due to the recent California wildfires.

John August Swanson - Advent Art

First UMC is pleased to display the print work of John August Swanson during this Advent season, in the Fireside Room through December.



Details from two prints that will be displayed in the Fireside Room



LOOKING FORWARD

Youth Retreat: Love Out Loud

Theme: Love Out Loud ~ January 4-6

Calling all youth! Let's get out of the city and go away to the mountains to be with God and one another! From Proverbs 3:3, we are reminded to "let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." On our retreat, we will explore how God's love is bound to us in the midst of everything: school and friends, band and sports, even our fears and failures. Fun and challenging activities along with reflection, sharing and meals together will help us to reconnect to the foundation that God is always with us. In this time, we will prepare for a new semester and new year, filled with hope and grace and ready to Love Out Loud in all parts of our life. Activities will depend on the weather: games, archery, hiking, campfires and s'mores!

RSVP by December 20 to Tricia Guerrero:
t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

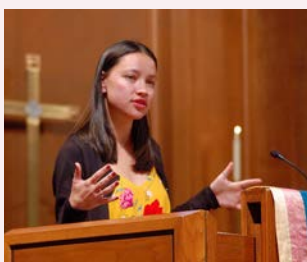
Sunday, January 13: Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leaders
We will have a special time of reflection on baptism and have the opportunity to remember our own baptism experience during worship. During this worship we will also recognize and install new Church Leadership for 2019.

Sunday, January 27: 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.



Flower Orders - Available dates at press time:
December 2, 9, 23, 30. Please contact the church office to order flowers for one of these dates.

Happenings at First UMC



Elizabeth Grace Donahoe, with parents Thomas & Amanda Donahoe, was baptized October 28 by Rev. Patricia Farris

Mia Staraci was baptized October 28 by Rev. Patricia Farris



Just a few of the congregation members that led worship and preached during Laity Sunday



The UMW's Annual Christmas Bazaar was a huge success!



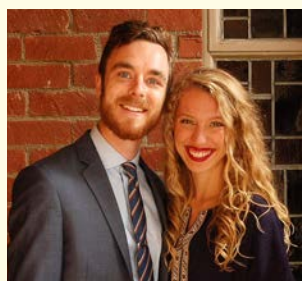
You may view final sales after worship on Dec. 2, 9, & 16 in the UMW Workroom.

New Members

New Members were welcomed during service on Sunday, October 28.



Gavin, Bryce, Christina & Ryan Eddy



Nathan & Kristia Oney



All Saints Sunday, and the White Ribbon Memorial



Maryam, Peter & Nina Zelentsovsky



Mia Staraci



Shalimar Carducci



Erin Leong-May, Matthew & Brad May



During the Reception of New Members at worship

**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 2

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Nathan Oney

DECEMBER 9

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Nathan Oney

DECEMBER 16

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Tricia Guerrero

DECEMBER 23

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Service of Lessons & Carols

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Tricia Guerrero

DECEMBER 30

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

First Sunday after Christmas

Covenant Renewal - Led by Nathan

Oney & Rev. Larry Young

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Nathan Oney



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