

SENTINEL

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October 2019



HORIZONS

One eye on the past, one eye on the future. This is how a chameleon is described in proverb from Madagascar. It speaks of this amazing creature whose two eyes can turn independently, allowing a large field of vision embracing many directions at once.

As conversations swirl around at every level in the United Methodist Church these days, we're keeping one eye on the past and one eye on the future. Here at First UMC, we started with a fresh look at the "Five Marks of a Methodist," remembering John Wesley's description of what makes a Methodist "methodist." A Methodist loves God, rejoices in God, prays always, gives thanks, and loves others.



We've also revisited some of our foundational affirmations here at First UMC:

Inspiring the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's life-giving love. – Vision of the California-Pacific Conference

We welcome you into our community of faith – to be transformed by God's love through Jesus Christ. – Mission of First UMC 2003

We pledge to fulfill our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ and as members of the United Methodist Church, commissioned and empowered by the Holy Spirit to transform the world for the sake of the Reign of God, by freely extending all the ministries of the church to all God's children. We pledge to welcome and embrace all the members of our church families in God's boundary-less love and grace and to welcome all those in our communities through the inclusive hospitality of the Holy Spirit. – First UMC Church Council 2012

God is real. God is love.

Everyone matters. You matter.

Together we can change the world. – First UMC 2013

As we gather for lunch, prayer, and round table conversation after worship on October 20, we'll have all these "eyes on the past" as our foundation and springboard. At the same time, we'll cast an eye to the future. For indeed, our God is always doing a new thing, as the Scripture promises.

We'll be asking ourselves and one another where we see evidence of God's 'new thing' already coming to life here at First UMC and in the larger church. We'll ask what new areas of ministry and mission God might be calling us to in our community, nation, and world. And we'll be listening for God's voice in our hearts calling you and me into new ministries of love and service.

Our moment is now, somewhere on the eternal continuum of past present/ future. Who is God calling us to be and to become?

Patuui Janis
Senior Minister

I See a ___ Church!

Let's eat, talk, pray, and dream together!

On Sunday, October 20, we'll gather around tables in Simkins Hall following worship for a time of discussion and discernment. Led by our pastors, Lay Leadership Team, and Church Council, this will be a special time together to consider such things as:

- where we see new life emerging in our congregation
- how we dream a future for our United Methodist Church
- opportunities for mission and outreach in our community, nation and world
- how God might be calling you and me into new ministries of love and service

These discussions across the churches in our California-Pacific Annual Conference come at the request of our bishop and district superintendent.

Our reflections here at First UMC will include this congregation-wide conversation on October 20 as well as similar conversations with our youth, simple church, Open Space, and the Men's Breakfast Bible Study.

Our Lay Leadership Team (Sherry Erlandson, Todd Erlandson, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Mike Olsson and our pastors) will compile our reflections, hopes, questions, and dreams into an affirmation of renewal and rededication to be presented at our Church/Charge Conference with our superintendent, Mark Nakagawa, on Sunday, November 10.

Make plans now to stay after worship October 20 for this wonderful, enlivening time with one another!

Sunday, October 20, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m. in Simkins Hall

OCTOBER Calendar

Tuesday, October 1

7 p.m. Open Space Monthly Gathering, Off-site

Saturday, October 5

9 a.m. Blessing of the Animals, Courtyard

11 a.m. Big & Small - Take Flight Art Exhibit, Fireside Room

Sunday, October 6 - Holy Communion

11 a.m. Third World Handarts, Simkins Hall

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, First UMC Library

Friday, October 11

7 p.m. Shareringer Monthly Meeting, Fireside Room

Saturday, October 12

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Spiritual Formation Council Retreat with David Bremer, Fireside Room

10 a.m. DanceFit, Room 300

4:30 p.m. Messy Church, Chapel/Simkins Hall

Sunday, October 13 - Presentation of 4th Grade Bibles • Children's Sabbath

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, First UMC Library

6 p.m. simple supper, Fireside Room

Wednesday, October 16

9 - 11 a.m. Health Ministry Council Flu Clinic, Simkins Hall

Saturday, October 19

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

Sunday, October 20

11 a.m. I See A New Church Round Table Discussion, Simkins Hall

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Alcove

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, First UMC Library

3 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, Simkins Hall

Monday, October 21

7 a.m. - 10 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Marie Calendar's Fundraiser, Off-site

Thursday, October 24

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

Saturday, October 26

10 a.m. DanceFit, Room 300

Sunday, October 27 - Faith in Action

11 a.m. Preschool Fall Festival, Courtyard/Simkins Hall

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, First UMC Library

WEEKLY or BIMONTHLY AT FIRST UMC

Mondays: Church Office Closed

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

Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Open Space Hymn & Brew, Off-site

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

9:30 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

5 p.m. simple church, Chapel

6 p.m. UMYF Meeting, Youth Lounge

Open Space Monthly Gathering

Open Space is an inclusive faith experience for young adults (20s & 30s-ish). We meet in the community and in homes for brave conversations about faith and life. Join us for our Monthly Gathering, a time for friends, food, and open and honest reflection on the intersections between faith and the world. We will provide a round of pizza or appetizers, you provide the conversation. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @OpenSpaceSantaMonica. Contact Nathan Oney for more details: n.oney@santamonicaumc.org.

Tuesday, October 1, 7 p.m. Off-site

Blessing of the Animals

All pets large and small, or photos of your pets, and even stuffed animal loveys are welcome to the annual Blessing of the Animals. Come early at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments. Blessings begin at 10 a.m. Pick up a pet tag, play some games, and be sure to visit the photo booth. Honor a pet by bringing a photo for the In Loving Memory board. You may also bring new pet food and supplies to donate to local animal shelters.

Saturday, October 5, 9:30 a.m., in the Courtyard



Scenes from last year's Blessing of the Animals.

**B&G &
small
TAKE FLIGHT**



A sneak peak of exhibit artwork, featuring Allan Walker, (left) and Elkpen (right).

Animal Art Exhibit

Immediately following the Blessing of the Animals service, all are welcome to the 3rd Annual Animal Art Exhibit - *Big & Small, Take Flight*. Featuring works by the congregation and local community, the exhibit promotes love for all God's flying creatures, in all sizes.

Saturday, October 5, 11 a.m., in the Fireside Room

NEW: Bible Study on John's Gospel

A new Bible Study is open to all. The Gospel of John contains some of the most beloved passages in our Bible but also some of the most confounding and opaque. It was written for a particular culture at a particular time in Christian history different from our own. Rev. Larry Young with Nathan Oney will be leading a study of this distinctive gospel and what it has to offer our own faith. No advance signup needed—just come, and bring a Bible!

Sundays, October 6/13/20/27, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the First UMC Library



Third World Handarts

Missions Council and First UMC welcomes back Third World Handarts (Gifts that Give Twice), a non-profit organization that was founded in Anaheim in 1975 to serve the economic needs of the destitute people in the United States, and in developing nations worldwide.

Their principal mission is to support the self-employment of thousands of artisans by marketing the beautiful and useful items they craft as a means of supporting themselves and their families. All are welcome to come and shop these wonderful artisan crafts in Simkins Hall after worship.

Sunday, October 6, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall



DanceFit

DanceFit is a follow-along fitness class set to upbeat, contemporary pop music, led by First UMC member Whitney Hagan. It's designed for all levels, with variations to modify based on your fitness/comfort level. Water will be available. No charge but donations appreciated. Kids are welcome. Tell your friends!

Saturdays, October 12/26, 10 a.m. in Room 300

Spiritual Formation Council Retreat

New Eyes and More Stories is an upcoming half-day retreat led by David Bremer and hosted by the Spiritual Formation Council. It will include presentations and story-related exercises which will suggest new ways of seeing and understanding yourself and your world(s), particularly, but not exclusively, from a spiritual perspective.

David Bremer is a professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and also serves as the faculty Ombudsperson there. He is deeply experienced in curriculum design and contextual learning, and is a lover of literature and the arts. He has also served on the staff of the University of Delaware, director of both the Southern California Ecumenical Council and the University Religious Conference at UCLA, and led month-long creative renewal workshops for the Mattel Corporation. He is a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School and Wittenberg University.

To register for the retreat, sign up at the Hospitality Table; email: info@santamonicaumc.org; or call (310) 393-8258. You must register in advance in order to attend. Space is limited, \$20 fee (breakfast included).

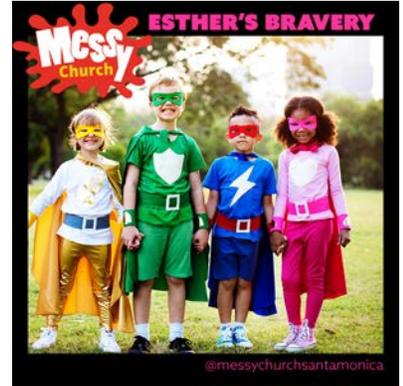
Saturday, October 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room

October Messy Church

A monthly opportunity for families to be together in worship without the worry of being too silly or "messy" because, let's face it, life can be messy!

October's Theme: *Esther's Bravery* - We will tell the story of Esther and her bravery to speak up with courage and wisdom when her people's voices couldn't be heard. As we explore how God worked with Esther to rescue God's people, we will also consider how God gives us gifts and wisdom we need to speak up for others in our world today.

Saturday, October 12, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Simkins Hall/Chapel



Health Ministry Council's Flu Clinic

First UMC has the privilege of hosting one of the first flu vaccination clinics this season to be provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. This gives us the opportunity to help keep both ourselves and our community healthy. So, mark your calendar, tell your friends and neighbors, and join us in Simkins Hall to get your free flu vaccine! No appointments necessary.

Wednesday, October 16, 9 - 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

FREE FLU VACCINE!



Sponsored by
Public Health

White Ribbon Memorial



As we approach All Saints Day, First UMC will honor those who have died with the White Ribbon Memorial.

On the Sundays of **October 20, 27, and November 3**, look for a table set up by the north wall of the sanctuary near the prayer quilts. There, before

or after service, you may write the names of loved ones on a white ribbon (as many as you like or one name per ribbon), say a prayer, and tie it to the string or place it in the bowl on the table. Ribbons hung last year will be rehung this year.

You may also come to the Hospitality Table or the church office to write a name on a ribbon. For our All Saints Day service on **November 3**, all ribbons will be tied to the string and hung in the sanctuary for the worship service.



Sunday Flower Orders: Available dates for flowers in the Reredos or Narthex at press time: **October 13/20/27**. Order at the Sunday Hospitality Table or online: santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.

Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

The Habitat for Humanity Westside Coalition is sponsoring a *Day at Marie Callender's*. Marie Callender's will donate 20% of food and beverage purchases to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (including whole pie purchases and take-out). To participate you must present a copy of the flyer when you order. Flyers are found at the Sunday Hospitality Table and in the church office.

Monday, October 21, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Marie Calendar's 11324 National Blvd. 310.478.0347

Family Place Community Meal

Community Meal is a committed partnership between First UMC and Upward Bound House's Family Place — our local transitional housing program for families with young children. First UMC has worked diligently over the last few years to foster relationships with the staff and residents to provide a monthly night of fun and food. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful mission, please contact the church office (310) 393-8258, or email: meal@santamonicaumc.org. *Every 4th Thursday of the month (unless notated).*

Thursday, October 24, 5:30 p.m. Family Place (1020 12th St.)

Preschool Fall Festival

Stay after church Sunday, October 27 as the First UMC Preschool kicks off their new school year! At the Fall Festival look for a bounce house, slide, photo booth, a Chili Cook-Off & bake sale, and more. We look forward to the coming year of educating youth and building community. Come celebrate with us! Visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool.



Sunday, October 27, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the First UMC Courtyard

LOOKING FORWARD

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 - Parents Night Out/Kids Fun Night
- 3 - All Saints Sunday
- 10 - Church Charge Conference
- 10 - Westside Food Bank Annual 5k
- 16 - Messy Church
- 28 - Thanksgiving Day



Parents Date Night & Kids Fun Night

Date Night is back for the Fall! While parents enjoy an evening out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team. For questions, please contact Tricia Guerrero, Director of Children and Youth Ministry at t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org or 310-393-8258 (ext. 104). Registration open October 7:

www.santamonicaumc.org/date-night-2019.

Friday, November 1, 5 - 8 p.m. 2nd Floor Education Bldg.

Church Charge Conference

Join First UMC for the annual Church Charge Conference as we engage in a joyful and worshipful celebration of this year's accomplishments. West District Superintendent Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa will preside. Lunch will be served, and child care will be provided. *No charge.*

Sunday, November 10, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

Westside Food Bank's 29th Annual 5k Hunger Walk

Join First UMC member Russ Whittenburg as he walks to help the Westside Food Bank celebrate their 29th year of walking for a hunger-free community. To register go to: <https://my.wsfb.org/team/251521>.

Sunday, November 10, 12 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Santa Monica Ocean View Park

CPR Training at First UMC

CPR Training will be offered after worship on November 17. Please email Sarah at: s.rold@santamonicaumc.org for more information and to sign up. You must register to attend.

Sunday, November 17, 11:30 a.m. in Simkins Hall

FIRST UMC



Thank You!

Thank you to those who donated towards this year's Faith in Action project! Thanks to your donations, we were able to supply **Upward Bound House with 60 backpacks** packed with all the essentials to start the school year off right. This year we made 30 backpacks for children and 30 backpacks for adults heading back to school to finish/start their degree. These backpacks will ensure that the Upward Bound House residents are ready to hit the books feeling prepared and confident.

- Tricia Guerrero, *Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries*, and Jamie Jones, *Children and Youth Ministry Intern*

Congratulations

- to First UMC member **Katherine Stanfill**, who finished her Masters Program in Education.
- to First UMC member **Katya Heffner**, who married Rosendo Huerta, Jr. on August 1, 2019.
- to First UMC member **Grant Olsson**, who married Natalie Heller on September 28, 2019.

Deaths

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

- Tania Batson and family in the death of her father, **Tom Trotter**, who died July 26. A memorial service was held August 31 at Claremont UMC.
- First UMC constituent **Bud Smoot**, who died August 15.
- First UMC member **Margaret W. Speckman**, who died August 16.

Happenings



Led by Tricia Guerrero, Sunday School's Faith in Action group put together 60 backpacks, and hand-wrote notes for each pack.



John August Swanson, (above center) led a tour of his exhibit at The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles in August.



The Youth held a Picture Day Fundraiser, taking professional-style portraits. The Schmitz family (left) and The Dodd family (right) supporting the cause.



Joyce and David Landsverk, left, exhibited their original artwork in the Fireside Room.



Anne Premer (left) and Caprice Walker (right) before Sunday service.



A fun time was had by all at the UMW Game Day!



Preschool Corner



Ballon toss fun at the Welcome Picnic at Rustic Canyon Park

Preschool Annual Fund Campaign

October 1st marks the start of the 2019 First UMC Preschool Annual Fund campaign. The campaign runs through the entire month of October, and has two ambitious goals: 1. Raising a total of \$50k, and 100% family participation rate. The projects and activities funded via this year's campaign benefit every child at the preschool this school year. Some of the projects considered are: construction of an art wall along 11th Street; a new playhouse; beautification of campus including replacing and repairing toys, garden equipment and play structures; continuing education and on-going professional development of staff; and financial aid to qualified families.

- Dee Menzies, Preschool Director

Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool for more info.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SANTA MONICA

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  @santamonicaumc



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 OCTOBER

OCTOBER 6

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Holy Communion
Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris -
Final in the sermon series of
FIVE MARKS OF A METHODIST
5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney

OCTOBER 13

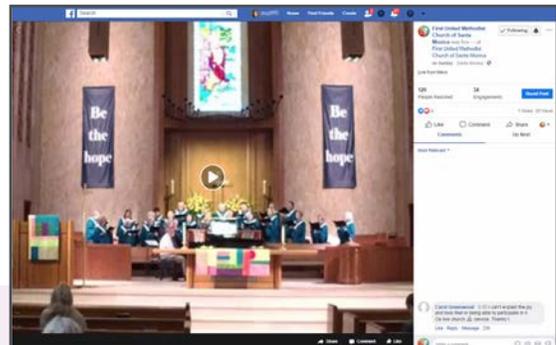
10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Children's Sabbath
5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney

OCTOBER 20

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris
5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Sermon by Nathan Oney
5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney



ONLINE

NEW: Livestreaming Sunday Morning Worship

We are now livestreaming Sunday morning Sanctuary worship at 10 a.m. via our Facebook page. If you're out of town or unable to make it into church, you can still watch the service in real time, or later at your convenience. (Barring any technical difficulties.)

Facebook: @santamonicaumc