

SENTINEL

vol. cxliv, no. 9

November 2019



HORIZONS

Church is a School of Love. It is a place and a people that teach us how to live a life of love. We learn the ways of Christ's love in prayer, Scripture, and worship. We learn the ways of

love in the smiles of children and the questions of youth. We learn the ways of love in shared tears and laughter. We learn love sharing meals and mission projects with one another. The church is a School of Love.

Love teaches us patience and endurance. It teaches us selflessness and living for others. Love teaches us joy and gratitude. Love invites us to give generously and joyfully. It teaches us to strive to make our giving reflect our deepest priorities. Love teaches us to live and give after the example of Christ Jesus.

Love shines strong through the people of God and through the ministries and mission of Santa Monica First UMC. In this season of Thanksgiving, as we remember our saints, celebrate our annual church/charge conference, and renew our pledge of our financial resources to the glory of God, we rejoice in this School of Love and are grateful for this place and people that grow us into the disciples Christ calls us to become.

Let the sound of God's love be heard! (Psalm 66-CEB)

Patricia Janis
Senior Minister

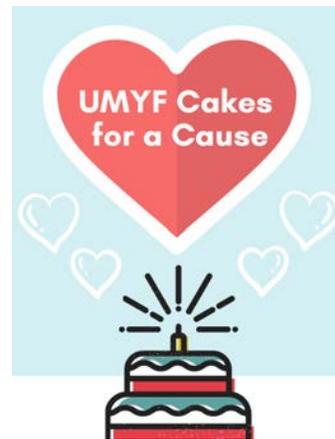


United Methodist Youth Fellowship: Cakes For a Cause Fundraiser

While you're attending the Church Charge Conference on November 10, be sure to support our youth as they sell Cakes for a Cause. This annual event was started by the youth eight years ago to raise money for a mission project serving the poor in different parts of the world. The youth bake and decorate delicious cakes and cupcakes available for purchase, with all of the funds raised going to support a cause. This year, the cause is UMCOR Disaster Relief.

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to people in need. UMCOR works with vulnerable communities to strengthen self-sufficiency and encourage partnerships. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases of poverty, ministers to refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and actively works to reduce hunger.

UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters—be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for



those left most vulnerable. They provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

Sunday, November 10, 11 a.m. in the Alcove, during Church Charge Conference

NOVEMBER Calendar

Friday, November 1

5 p.m. Parents Night Out/Kids Fun Night, 2nd Fl. Edu Bldg.

Sunday, November 3 - All Saints Sunday • Holy Communion • Daylight Saving Time ends

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



Tuesday, November 5

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

Friday, November 8

11 a.m. Leonard de Leon Memorial/Reception, Chapel/Fireside Rm

Saturday, November 9

Sunday, November 10 - Church Charge Conference • Mark Twain Ringers in worship

11 a.m. Church Charge Conference, Simkins Hall

11 a.m. UMYF Cakes for a Cause, Alcove

Monday, November 11 - Veterans Day

Saturday, November 16

10 a.m. Marilyn Hedges Memorial Service, Sanctuary

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

Sunday, November 17

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, SH

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

11:30 a.m. CPR Training, Simkins Hall

Saturday, November 23

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

Sunday, November 24 - Consecration Sunday • Faith in Action

11 a.m. Angel Tree Project begins, Simkins Hall

11 a.m. UMW Mini Bazaar, UMW Workroom

11:15 a.m. Boy Scout Wreath Sales, Alcove

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

Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving, church campus closed through Saturday, November 30.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sunday, November 10

9 a.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee, CR-A

Wednesday, November 20

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, CR-A

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

9:30 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

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. Registration has been closed for this Date Night, but will be open soon for December 6 Date Night. www.santamonicaumc.org/date-night-2019.

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

White Ribbon Memorial

During the All Saints Day worship service and White Ribbon Memorial, we honor those who have died during the past year. Before service, you may write the names of loved ones on a white ribbon, say a prayer, and tie it to the string. Ribbons hung in years' past will be rehung this year. At the 5 p.m. simple church All Saints Day Service, Nathan Oney will be leading a practice of holy remembering.

In the place of a message, all will be invited to share about a beloved one who has passed away, and to light a candle in remembrance of those who have left their mark on our lives.

Sunday, November 3, during 10 a.m.

Sanctuary worship,

and 5 p.m. simple church worship



Bible Study on John's Gospel

The Bible Study on John's Gospel continues into November. 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 are 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, or borrow one!

Sundays, November 3/17/24, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the First UMC Library (canceled on 11/10 for Church Charge Conference)

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, November 5, 7 p.m. Off-site

DanceFit Update

DanceFit is on hold due to an injury sustained by leader Whitney Hagan. Look for further updates in the Spring.

November Dates Canceled

Sunday Flower Orders: Available dates for flowers in the Reredos or Narthex at press time: **November 10, 24**. Order at the Sunday Hospitality Table or online: santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.



Church Charge Conference



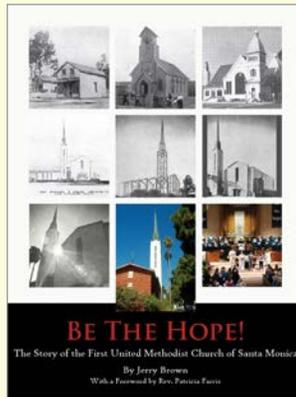
Join First UMC for the annual Church Charge Conference as we engage in a joyful and worshipful celebration of this year's accomplishments. We will also hear a recap of some of the thoughts gathered by Church Council at the *I See a New Church Round Table*

Conversations, held in Simkins Hall on Sunday, October 20. 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

Be The Hope! The Story of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica

First UMC is excited to announce the release of a new book, ***Be The Hope! The Story of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica***, written by First UMC member Jerry Brown. In 1975, Jerry wrote the *Centennial History of First United Methodist Church* in monthly installments, overviewing each decade of the church up to the 100th Anniversary. In this book, Jerry recounts the span of 144 years, starting from 1875 to the present, with historical photos and documents illustrating each era. The book will be available to pick up at Charge Conference on November 10.



We thank Jerry Brown for his many years of dedication towards keeping the history alive for us at First UMC. As Rev. Patricia Farris says in her foreword to the book, *"We are grateful to First UMC member Jerry Brown, for bringing his faith, his sense of humor, his love of God and the church, and his professional experience as a writer and journalist, to the writing of 'Be the Hope! The Story of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica.'"*

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

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

November's Theme: *Money Matters* - Our attitudes toward money matters, and sometimes we only see money as a burden or a worry. We will look at the story of the widow who gave her whole treasure to God, showing us a different way. We are invited into the practice of generosity, which helps us to grow in God's love.

Saturday, November 16, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Simkins Hall/Chapel



CPR Training at First UMC



First UMC is pleased to offer Safety Net CPR Training to members of the congregation and community. Basic CPR/AED/Standard First Aid is a combination of CPR, First Aid and AED courses, designed for occupational first aid providers. Take

advantage of this class at no charge! 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

Angel Tree Project

First UMC church member Chris Ruud is organizing her 17th 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 on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday November 24 in Simkins Hall to sponsor a gift. Then return the wrapped gift back to the church office by Sunday December 15. For questions, contact Chris Ruud: chr10is@yahoo.com.

Beginning November 24 after worship in the Alcove

Boy Scout Wreath Sales

Boy Scout Troop 67 will be back this year to sell wreaths and greenery. Orders will be taken:

Sunday, November 24, 11 a.m. in the Alcove

UMW 2019 Mini Bazaar

It's that season again! The United Methodist Women have been busy planning the 2019 Mini Bazaar. Don't miss the UMW's famous peanut brittle, baby and toddler blankets, fine jewelry, ornaments, handcraft items, sachets, dilly dips, delicious casseroles and more, sold in the UMW Workroom. All proceeds benefit the missions and ministries supported by the UMW.

The UMW ladies need your help:

- **Donate Silent Auction items** - Contact Joyce Landsverk: jlandsve@verizon.net, or Carmen Herrera: piano90403@yahoo.com.
- **Donate casseroles** - Look for Carol Reich's sign up table after worship.

UMW Mini Bazaar: Sundays: November 24, December 1, 8, and 15, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the UMW Workroom



Habitat for Humanity

by Martha Ross, Team Leader

For the past four years, First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica has been involved in Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles in building ten houses in the 4000 block of Globe Avenue in Culver City. First UMC is part of the Westside Church Coalition, a group of nine local Methodist churches, participating in building these 10 homes. First UMC's volunteer team was the first of the teams to begin construction in July 2018, the foundations having been laid in early Spring and framing going up. Since that time, a continuous team of volunteers from the Westside Church Coalition have been busy hammering, sawing, and painting over the past year and a half, with two of the houses now complete. The dedication of those two houses and receipt of the keys by the families were held in August 2019.

Of the ten homes in the project, the particular home the Westside Coalition has sponsored is "Patience House." Habitat for Humanity selects the family from applications submitted to it, and the selected family must meet certain income guidelines demonstrating the ability to pay a mortgage. Their down payment is in "sweat equity," 200-500 hours of labor on the home. The selection process is done completely by Habitat's staff and board, independent of any input from our Coalition. The family selected for Patience House is the Mulvihill family, from Westlight UMC, a Coalition member church. We have been blessed to get to know and work along side Kaoru Mulvihill and her four sons (Ryan, Trenton, Mason and Kendall) over these past months. Of Kaoru's four sons, Kendall is wheelchair bound. Currently the family lives in an apartment that is not wheelchair accessible. Patience House will meet ADA requirements, and as a bonus will be closer to the bus connections for Kendall to get to Culver City High School.

Our church has been represented well in the Coalition. The volunteers from First UMC who have so generously given of their time and dedication are: John Youngman, Bob Hedges, Patty Hedges, Karen

Hopkins, Carmen Herrera, Larry Young, Nancy Sheinbein, Sam Johnson, Art Dodd, Jim Dodd, Janet Searfoss, Brandon Searfoss, Mike Olsson, Shalimar and Brett Carducci, Kristia and Nathan Oney, Gary Leinbach and myself, Martha Ross. Youth Build Day participants (April 2019) were Brandon Searfoss and Mia Staracci, with Nathan and Kristia Oney, and Jessica Lin. A very special thanks to Joyce and David Landsverk, Lynn Stokes and Carol Reich who planned and delivered lunches to the Westside Coalition volunteers on several occasions during our build days. Delicious and nutritious ~ to keep us going!

While First UMC's official participation is winding down with our last scheduled build day on November 2, 2019, there will be future building opportunities through the Westside Church Coalition. Please feel free to contact Martha Ross, John Youngman and Joyce and David Landsverk for more information.

Patience House enables us to 'Be the Hope' for neighbors within our own backyard while growing in faith and friendship with our Methodist Coalition members.

Thanks be to God for this opportunity to share our gifts and be in Mission to others.



Martha Ross (center, in yellow shirt), and a few of the First UMC team members and Habitat representatives. We thank all of the First UMC volunteers who dedicated their time to this mission for the last four years.

FIRST UMC

COMMUNITY

Congratulations

• to First UMC member **Bianca Doria**, who married Josh Bancroft on October 19.

Deaths

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

• Long-time First UMC Member **Marilyn Hedges**, who died October 19. A memorial service will be held Saturday, November 16, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in Simkins Hall.

• **Leonard de Leon**, who died October 30. A memorial service will be held Friday, November 8, at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel, followed by a reception in the Fireside Room.

Thank You!

Thank you to First UMC member **Karen Hopkins** for volunteering this year and in years past to help organize the annual Blessing of the Animals.



Church Member
50+
Years

We honor the First UMC church members who have reached the 50-year mark this year:

Lynda Endicott
Janice Malone
Russell & Sandra Banducci
Becky Pearon

Happenings



Scenes from the annual Blessing of the Animals service, and, Big & Small: Take Flight Art Exhibit



On October 12, Professor David Bremer led 35 participants in a spiritual retreat that had as its focus "New Eyes and More Stories." Through examining one story from many perspectives and different media, the group learned how to more completely understand our world and our faith, and ourselves.

Preschool Corner



Annual Halloween Parade



Assistant to the Preschool Director Dane Rold, with Director Dee Menzies, dressing up for Halloween fun

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 7:30 PM



An Evening of Carols, Etc.

Featuring:

IN TERRA PAX

by Gerald Finzi

MAGNIFICAT

by Franz Schubert

The Chancel Choir
Ty Woodward, organ
The Mark Twain Ringers
Chamber Orchestra
Rev. Patricia Farris, spoken words
James E. Smith, conductor

Suggested donation at the door: \$20 • Seniors and Children under 12: \$10

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SANTA MONICA

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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 NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 3

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

All Saints Sunday • Holy Communion

Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Nathan Oney

NOVEMBER 10

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Church Charge Conference Sunday

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

Mark Twain Ringers in worship

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Nathan Oney

NOVEMBER 17

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Nathan Oney

NOVEMBER 24

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church

reflections by Nathan Oney



ONLINE

The 2019 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites us each and all to prayerfully consider our financial pledge to support the mission and ministries of First UMC.

To fill out a pledge card online visit

www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

or fill out a pledge card available throughout the church campus and bring it in to Thanksgiving / Consecration Sunday worship on November 23.