

SENTINEL



vol. CXLV, no. 1

January 2020



HORIZONS

The beginning of a new year offers the gift of looking out over the horizon and imagining new possibilities of all kinds. Most of us make resolutions of various sorts around how to improve our personal lives. Whether or not we follow through, the burst of excitement and potential that we experience gives a nice boost to our soul and heart.

The beginning of a new year also affords the opportunity to imagine new beginnings for our community and world. The spiritual writer and

teacher, Eberhard Arnold, has written: "In today's world situation it is essential that here and there among people there continue to exist rays of light and hope, spiritual realities by which the unity of God's peace and the [kinship] of true justice are recognized."

As this new year begins, let us resolve anew to Be the Hope, as the light of Christ shines on us, in us, among us, and outward from us, bringing new light and life to all.

Patricia Jarvis
Senior Minister

First UMC and Homelessness Response

by Nathan Oney, Pastoral Associate

Many believe homelessness to be the number one issue facing the community of Santa Monica. As followers of Christ, we believe that a faithful response to this issue includes affirming the sacred worth of and welcoming all persons, recognizing God's identification with and special care for the marginalized, and acting on the biblical responsibility of the church to care for the poor.

In these efforts, we support and provide information about the many wonderful resources, like **The People Concern (OPCC)**, in our city, and do our best to help people experiencing homelessness to access these resources.

There are also many opportunities for you to get involved in helping!

• **Community Meal with Family Place at Upward Bound House**

Upward Bound House provides homeless families with housing and supportive services to suit their specific needs. They empower parents and their children to obtain housing stability, build healthy relationships, and enjoy emotional and financial well-being. Once a month we host a potluck to help feed about 30-40 adults & children, building meaningful relationships through conversation, crafts/games with the kids, and a shared meal.

• **Habitat for Humanity** - Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles builds and renovates homes in partnership with God and people everywhere with a goal of eliminating substandard housing by making decent, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action in our communities. First UMC is one of nine churches

to join in a coalition to fund and build a home in Culver City. Construction on this site has recently been completed!

• **Westside Food Bank**

Westside Food Bank's mission is to distribute as much food as possible to local agencies with food assistance programs and to reduce food waste on the Westside of Los Angeles County. Food is collected at First UMC every Sunday to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found outside the Sanctuary and in the Preschool.

Other opportunities throughout the year - There are also a number of other opportunities to get involved throughout the year, including Faith in Action projects through children's Sunday School and the annual Christmas Angel Tree. We are always open to new ideas about how to best be in ministry to people experiencing homelessness.

If you would like to receive more information about homelessness in Santa Monica and First UMC's response, or if you are ready to get involved, please contact the church office.



JANUARY Calendar

Wednesday, January 1 - *New Year's Day* • Church campus closed

Saturday, January 4 - *United Methodist Youth Fellowship retreat departs*

Sunday, January 5 - *Holy Communion* • UMYF retreat returns

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel resumes, Room 101

Wednesday, January 8

12:10 p.m. January Mid-Week Recital/Reception, Sanctuary/FR

Friday, January 10

7 p.m. Shareringer Monthly Meeting, Fireside Room

Saturday, January 11

10 a.m. Messy Church Meet-up, Virginia Park

Sunday, January 12 - *Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leaders*

11:15 a.m. Artist Talk with John August Swanson, Fireside Room

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, Room 101

Thursday, January 16

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

6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University begins, Room 301A

Saturday, January 18

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

Sunday, January 19

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, Room 101

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screening, Alcove

3 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, Simkins Hall

Monday, January 20 - *Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, church campus closed*

Thursday, January 23

6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University, Room 301A

Sunday, January 26 - *Youth Scout Sunday • Faith in Action*

11 a.m. Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast, Simkins Hall

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, Room 101

Thursday, January 30

6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University, Room 301A

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Saturday, January 25

Time TBD, Lay Leadership Team Meeting, Room 203

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

Bible Study on John's Gospel

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 resume 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!

Sunday, January 5, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Room 101

January Mid-Week Recital

Presented by Dr. James E. Smith, Music Director, the Mid-Week Recital Series is held January – May on the second Wednesdays of the month (*subject to change.*) These monthly concerts are free and open to the public and perfect for your lunch break. Recitals begin promptly at 12:10 p.m. and are followed by a reception with the artists. The first Mid-Week Recital of 2020 features David Childs, *baritone*. David holds a degree in Vocal Performance from UCLA, and specializes in Jewish Music. He currently serves as Cantorial Intern at Sinai Temple in Westwood and is studying at the Ziegler School of Rabbinics at American Jewish University. To see the complete list of 2020 recitals, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series.

Wednesday, January 8, 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., in the Sanctuary, Reception in the Fireside Room



Messy Church Meet-Up



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 church community. Be ready to get messy! For the month of January, instead of our traditional Messy Church in the Chapel and Simkins Hall, we will have an off-site, casual meet-up at Virginia Park. The Farmers Market is open until 1 p.m. Feel free to grab some lunch or bring your own picnic. *Messy Church resumes February 8 on the First UMC campus.* Sign up for email reminders: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch.

**Saturday, January 11, between 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Virginia Park: 2200 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404**

Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leaders

Baptismal Renewal is a special worship service of reflection on baptism and on our own baptismal experience. During this worship we will also recognize and install the new Church Leadership for 2020.

Sunday, January 12, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.



Installation of 2019 Lay Leaders

Artist Talk with John August Swanson

First UMC is pleased to host an artist talk with John August Swanson in the Fireside Room. John will talk about his artwork that is currently being displayed from the collection of First UMC member Meg Flanders, and held in her memory. Meg was one of John's first collectors, and several of the pieces displayed date back to the 1970s. *Light refreshments served.*



Detail of "The Procession" by John August Swanson, now on view in the Fireside Room

Sunday, January 12, 11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room

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, January 12, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Financial Peace University

Need to get your financial house in order in the New Year? Learn about renowned financial author Dave Ramsey's tenets of eliminating debt, saving and security, and giving back. Join the 9-week Financial Peace University class led by Pastoral Associate Nathan Oney and past instructor Sarah Rold. The last time First UMC offered this class was 5 years ago, so take advantage of this learning opportunity now! For more information or to register, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/fpu.

Wednesday, January 16, 6 p.m., in Room 301A

Walk the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is open from 3 - 5 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, with the last walk at 4:30 p.m. Enjoy the meditative Labyrinth, then stay for the contemplative simple church service in the Chapel at 5 p.m. Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice, a way to quiet our minds and open our spirits to the presence of the Holy. If you've never been before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation. Take an hour for yourself in this "device-free" zone. Every step a prayer.



Sunday, January 19, 3 - 5 p.m. in Simkins Hall

The School of Love



Thank you to all who have generously pledged for 2020. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to commit to giving in 2020, now is the time! Support from each member is needed. Every Gift Matters. www.santamonicaumc.org/give.

Family Place Community Meal

Going on its fourth year, simple church hosts the monthly potluck Community Meal with Upward Bound House's Family Place. Upward Bound House provides homeless families with housing and supportive services to suit their specific needs. They empower homeless parents and their children to obtain housing stability, build healthy relationships, and enjoy emotional and financial well-being. The Community Meal potluck is an opportunity to help feed about 30-40 adults & children, served buffet style. 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: meal@santamonicaumc.org or call the church office (310) 393-8258.



Thursday, January 23, 5:30 p.m. Family Place (1020 12th St. Santa Monica)

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. Stay after worship for the Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast, free of charge.

Sunday, January 26, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Simkins Hall

LOOKING FORWARD

Parent's Date Night & Kids Fun Night

A safe and fun night for the kids and a Valentine's date for parents!

When: February 14, 5 - 8 p.m.

Where: Second Floor Education Building

Cost: \$25/child + \$10 for each additional sibling

Ages: 2 years through 5th grade

While parents enjoy an evening out, children are provided a safe and fun night of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team. Pre-registration is required: To sign up, **register online no later than February 12, 6 p.m.**, and you will receive a confirmation email with details for the evening including drop-off/pick-up information. For questions, please contact Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries at: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org, or 310-393-8258 (ext. 104).

Friday, February 14, 5 - 8 p.m., in the First UMC Education Bldg., 2nd Floor.

First UMC takes the care and safety of children seriously. We follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth and adults.



Stewardship Moment

by First UMC member Michael Lamb

It has been suggested that given my profession as a trial attorney, I have the emotional maturity of a kindergartener since all I do is argue to get my way! Well, in kindergarten and throughout school I loved show and tell, so I have brought a few things I thought would be apropos for the School of Love Stewardship campaign.

Here's my family's monthly electric bill, which when paid provides us with illumination. The gas bill which helps keep us warm. Our insurance statement which gives us security. Our cable bill which supplies us with entertainment. We pay these routinely every month to bring certainty into our life. Our existence would be immeasurably poorer without the benefits we derive from them.

And I also brought this—my pledge card and offering envelope. Each week I put my check and cash in it and pay this bill to fulfill my pledge to the church. And upon reflection this may be the most important bill I write. What it brings me is a combination of these four other bills wrapped up in a single package. My regular payment of this bill provides me the security of Javier Espinoza keeping our house clean and safe. It gives me the warmth of Anne Premer's Sunday greetings and her outside member visitations. It helps entertain me with Dr. Jim Smith's always stirring rendition of *Holy, Holy, Holy!* Number 64 in your hymnal but number one in his heart! It supplies illumination through Patricia, Tricia and Nathan's thought provoking sermons. By neglecting these bills, our lives are lived in coldness, darkness, fear and isolation. Payment of this bill contributes to peace of mind, a wellness in our soul, an uplifted spirit, a sense of belonging with all my friends in this place.



Michael Lamb, right, at the UMW Game Day

Today we have available a book authored by our own Jerry Brown about the 144 year history of Santa Monica First United Methodist Church.

Over the years, through wars, depressions, upheavals, good times and bad, every generation that has walked through these doors, baby boomers, Generation X'ers and now millennials, have paid this bill each week or every month to insure the constancy of these gifts, to affirm the value of God's love and the fellowship of friends bound by a faith united.

We here today follow in the footsteps of the thousands of Saints who built this foundation, whose voices rose from the pews where we sit, and whose laughter and commitment can be heard and felt in Simkins Hall.

Everything of value that we purchase has a price. But what we are given in this house is priceless. To insure that our friends and loved ones, now and in the future, continue to enjoy the benefits and miracles of membership, I urge regular and devoted giving, not occasionally when the mood strikes. Every pledge, writing this bill, is for the benefit of God and everyone in this new and inclusive School of Love.

Thanks Be To God.

Michael Lamb presented this Stewardship Moment during the 10 a.m. worship service on Charge Conference Sunday, November 10, 2019.

FIRST UMC

COMMUNITY

Thank You!

- to **Mary Crawford and the Spiritual Formation Council** for their work on compiling the 2019 Advent Devotional.
- "To those who worked on the UMW Mini Bazaar, no matter in what capacity, a big THANK YOU! We could not have had this year's Mini Bazaar without your dedication and hard work. We build good will by attracting outside customers as well as our own church members. The money we made will be donated to the UMW district as well as local missions."
– UMW members **Betty Storm & Joy Williams**

Deaths

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

- First UMC member **Gloria Anne Lee**, who died December 16. A memorial service is to be determined.

Livestreaming Sunday Morning Worship

We now livestream 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) Go to the First UMC Facebook page: @santamonicaumc.

Lay Leadership 2020

On Sunday, January 12 during worship, we install the new Church Leadership for 2020.

2020 Leaders:

- Lay Leader Team:** Todd Erlandson, Sherry Erlandson, Michael Olsson, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner
- Fellowship & Events:** Sandra Jones
- Finance Committee:** Kim Defenderfer
- Health Ministry:** Debi Jenkinson Wong
- Historical Records:** Leslie Nordby
- Nominations & Leadership Development:** Cindy McQuade
- Loans & Scholarships:** Mira Pak
- Missions:** Jocelyn Hicks-Garner
- Parking:** Chuck Kearsley
- Prayer Quilt Ministry:** Sue Payne & Maile Marquand
- Planned Giving:** Russ Whittenburg
- Seasonal Displays:** Mike Eskridge
- Spiritual Formation:** Mary Crawford
- Staff-Parish Relations:** Dick Crawford
- Trustees:** Vern Busse
- United Methodist Women:** Betty Storm
- Youth Ministry:** Adam Guerrero
- Methodist Foundation of Santa Monica:** John Youngman

Thank You for Your Service

Happenings



The beautiful Christmas Concert, led by Dr. James E. Smith, was held December 8, 2019



Rev. Patricia Farris, left, shopping at the UMW Mini Bazaar



The annual UMYF Christmas Party



The Amadeus Handbell Choir, with director Mary Crawford (top center), rehearsing before Sunday morning worship



Cavan Rold putting the messy into December's Messy Church



For November's Faith in Action, the Sunday School children created "kindness placemats" for homebound members to remind them of our love and care for them. Our Congregation Care Associate Anne Premer took the placemats to the members as she visited with them throughout the month. Recipients included June Simpson (left), and Bernice de Leon (right).



Boy Scout Wreath Sales in the Alcove



John, Kylie, Ada and Luke Sarley served as an Advent Candle lighting family

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 JANUARY

JANUARY 5

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Epiphany Sunday
Holy Communion
Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney

JANUARY 12

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Baptismal Renewal & Installation of
2020 Lay Leaders
Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney

JANUARY 19

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney

JANUARY 26

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Youth/Scout Sunday • Faith in Action
Sermons by First UMC Youth & Scouts

5 p.m. simple church
reflections by Nathan Oney



ONLINE

If you enjoyed music from the Christmas Celebration Concert or Lessons and Carols, then you will want to mark your calendars for the free monthly Mid-Week Recital series that begins in January. Check out the website for the list of artists.

www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series