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I continue to trust God’s presence in the midst of it all. I’ve even joked that when the Book of Genesis describes God’s Spirit hovering over the waters of chaos to bring forth creation, the story doesn’t tell us just how long the Spirit hovered until the time was right to set everything in motion!

I encourage you to hold steady and remain fervent in prayer. I believe that God can work through a less-than-perfect church to create something new grounded in love of all God’s children and empowered for God’s mission in the world.

See you February 16!

Rev. Patricia Farris – Senior Minister
email: p.farris@santamonicaumc.org
Tricia Guerrero – Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries
email: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org
Nathan Oney – Pastoral Associate
email: n.oney@santamonicaumc.org
Sunday, February 2 - Holy Communion
11:15 a.m. Changes in the Voting Process Seminar, Simkins Hall
(bible-study-on-johns-gospel: class canceled)
Tuesday, February 4
7 p.m. Open Space Monthly Gathering, Off-site
Saturday, February 1
8 a.m. West District Training Conference, Off-site
11 a.m. Gloria Lee Memorial/Reception, Chapel/Fireside Room
4:30 - 6 p.m. Messy Church, Chapel/Simkins Hall
Sunday, February 2
8 a.m. Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids, Off-site
11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, Room 101
6 p.m. simple supper, Fireside Room
Wednesday, February 5
12:10 p.m. February Mid-Week Recital/Reception, Sanctuary/FR
Friday, February 14
5 p.m. Parent's Night Out/Kids Fun Night, 2nd Floor Edu. Bldg.
Saturday, February 15
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, Room 300
Sunday, February 16
11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Simkins Hall
11:15 a.m. General Conference Report Back, Fireside Room
11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, Room 101 (class canceled)
3 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, Simkins Hall
Monday, February 24 - President's Day, church campus closed
Tuesday, February 25 – Baptism - Faith in Action
11 a.m. UMYF Water Bottle Fundraiser, Simkins Hall
11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, Room 101
Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday
12:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel
7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel
Thursday, February 27
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Family Friendly Community Meal, Off-site
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Wednesday, February 12 - 4 p.m. Trustees Meeting, CR-A
Tuesday, February 18 - 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting, OS
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
Thursday: 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University, Room 301A
7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Room
SUNDAYS-AT-A-GLANCE
9 a.m. Lectio Divina 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
10:15 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
Sunday Flower Orders: Available dates for flowers in the Remedios or Navesick at press time: February 23. Order at the Sunday Hospitality Table or online: santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.
Changes in the Voting Process Seminar
Elections are coming soon! No matter what your political affiliation, the elections of 2020 will be important. The election process in LA County is changing to provide maximum access to voters and to increase the security of results. Stay after worship Sunday, February 2 for a presentation by the County Registrar, and a demonstration of the new voting machine. As a tiny bribe, each attendee will be gifted with Super Bowl snacks to take home!
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Open Space Monthly Gathering
Open Space is an inclusive faith experience for young adults (20s & 30s). 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: noney@santamonicaumc.org.
Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m. Off-site
Messy Church
Messy Church is back on the First UMC campus for February. This month's theme is Bible Roads. We will talk about the roads and how they are like a road, sometimes bumpy or uphill and other times smooth and easy. No matter the course, road signs can help us find our way. Our family, community and faith are road signs that guide us on our messy journey. Join us Saturday, February 8 as we gather for games and crafts, story and prayer, food and fun, and most of all, to be with one another in a community of loving support.
Sign up for email reminders: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch.
Saturday, February 8, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Chapel/Simkins Hall
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 continue leading 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, February 9 & 23, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Room 101 (note Feb 9 & 16 canceled)
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, February 9, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room
February Mid-Week Recital
February’s Mid-Week Recital features Susan Greenberg, flute; Christina Montes Mateo, harp. Susan Greenberg played in the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra for 35 years, and continues to appear as soloist and chamber musician around Los Angeles. Christina Montes Mateo has an international career as harpist with numerous orchestras, and is currently Solo Harpist at the Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), and has been Principal Harp with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. 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. To see the complete list of 2020 recitals, and to view past recitals go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series.
Wednesday, February 12, 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., in the Sanctuary.
Reception in the Fireside Room
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 you on your walking meditation. Take an hour for yourself in this “device-free” zone. Every step a prayer.
Sunday, February 16, 3 - 5 p.m. in Simkins Hall
Parents Date Night & Kids Fun Night
Date Night is a safe and fun night for the kids and a Valentine’s date for parents! While parents enjoy an evening out, children are provided a fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner and a movie with the First UMC trained childcare team. The cost is $25/cd/child + $10 for each additional sibling, for ages 2 years through 5th grade. At press time, registration for February's Date Night is full! Look for the next date night coming in April. For questions, please contact Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org or 310.393.8258 (ext. 104).
Friday, February 14, 5 - 8 p.m.
2nd Floor Edu. Bldg.
UMFY Water Bottle Fundraiser
In June the First UMC Youth will be going to spend a week working with an organization called the Appalachia Service Project. They have been active in the Appalachian Mountains doing home repair for over 40 years. The Appalachian Mountain Region is one of the poorest parts of our country. Through their service they will help to repair the homes of local families who really need the assistance. This way they can have a safe, warm and dry home to live in.
As part of their fundraising efforts for the trip, the Youth will be selling reusable metal water bottles after worship on Sunday, February 23. Step by foot to talk to after worship to get yours! For more information on the Youth Service Project, and to donate, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/ysp.
Sunday, February 23, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall
Ash Wednesday Services
Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent - a time of introspection and self-examination of our lives and relationship with God. The ritual of the ashes represents a visual reminder of the day we pause to remember our physical limits in contrast to the infinity of God. Here at First UMC we offer two Ash Wednesday services in the Chapel. The ashes used for the services come from the burned palms of last year’s Palm Sunday Service. We invite you to this intimate and reflective service that marks the beginning of the Lenten season.
Ash Wednesday Services: February 26, 12:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel
Lenten Yoga Series
In this coming season of spiritual dedication, Open Space will be inviting people of all ages to add the spiritual discipline of yoga to your Lenten practice. Led by Kristia Oney, the series will incorporate gentle, restorative, and energizing physical movement (with modifications for all mobility and flexibility levels) along with guided mindfulness through scripture, connecting body, mind, and spirit to help us settle into this season with intention.
Begins Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room
Family Place Community Meal
For four years simple church has hosted 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 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 email tamara@santamonicaumc.org or call the church office (310) 393-8258.
Thursday, February 27, 5:30 p.m. Family Place (1020 12th St., SM)
Sunday, February 2 - Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Changes in the Voting Process Seminar, Simkins Hall

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John’s Gospel, Room 101 in Fireside Room (class canceled)

Tuesday, February 4 7 p.m. Open Space Monthly Gathering, Off-site

Saturday, February 8 8 a.m. West District Training Conference, Off-site

11:00 a.m. Bible Study on John’s Gospel, Room 101

6 p.m. simple supper, Fireside Room

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

Friday, February 14 5 p.m. Parents Night Out! Kids Fun Night, 2nd Floor Edu. Bldg.

Saturday, February 15 9:30 a.m. Prayer Quiet Workparty, Room 300

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

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Thursdays: 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University, Room 301A 7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

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9 a.m. Lectionary Scripture Discussion, Fireside Room

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10 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

10:15 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

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Sign up for email reminders: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch.

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

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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 confusing 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 continue leading study of this distinctive gospel and what it has to offer our own faith. No advance signup needed—just come, and bring a Bible!

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Sunday, February 9, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room
When Did That Happen?! Recognizing & Supporting Your Role as a Caregiver

Have you (perhaps unexpectedly) discovered that you are a caregiver to an older adult relative or spouse? Have you been struggling to balance your own life with caregiving responsibilities and are wondering what resources might be available to help in the local Santa Monica area? Have you heard of an Advance Health Care Directive, but just haven’t gotten around to learning more about it yet? If so, then this is the seminar for YOU! Join us as we converse with Anya Kaufman, LCSW, from WISE & Healthy Aging, on Sunday, March 1. We’ll explore the realities of being thrust into the Caregiving role and how to seek out and accept support to enhance your life and that of your Care Recipient. Stop by our well-stocked Resource Table to fill-up on hospitalities, or in the church office.

Faith in Action Together - project!
The children and youth will lead the congregation in assembling 100 lunch sacks and care cards for The People Concern. The People Concern is a local organization that believes everyone should be housed, healthy, and safe and strives to empower the most vulnerable and traumatized members of the community - those who are chronically homeless, dealing with severe mental or physical illness or substance addiction, victims of domestic violence and challenged youth. So, bring the whole family and invite your friends and let’s put our faith in action together as one community. Check out: santamonicaumc.org/faith-in-action

Sunday, March 22, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

Happenings

First UMC

COMMUNITY

Time for Wearin’ of the Green

Mark your calendars for the 31st Annual St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon. Includes lunch and a robust and rousing sing-along led by Carol Reich, with the gaily Gaelic piano stylings of Laura Farrand. Children are welcome and will be provided seasonal crafting materials. Children under 5 will be admitted for free. Don’t forget to wear green!

Sunday, March 15, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., in Simkins Hall

First UMC announces the online release of Be The Hope! The Story of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, written by First UMC member Jerry Brown. To access a downloadable pdf of the book on our website, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/first-umc-history. If you would like to have a printed version of the book, they are available at the Sunday Hospitality Table, or in the church office.

FEBRUARY PRESCHOOL EVENTS:
February 17: President’s Day (school closed)
February 19: All day Snow Day (weather dependent)
February 29: Beautification Day (9-11 a.m.)
February 26 thru March 5: Preschool Book Fair

Preschool Corner

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FIRST UMC

Happenings

Christmas Eve Family Service

Installation of 2020 Lay Leaders (above), and Baptismal Renewal (right)

Annual Lunar New Year Celebration with the Lion Dance

Assembling a new preschool playhouse, with (left to right) David Penson, Dane Rold and Jim Menzies

Preschool Book Fair

Faith in Action Together

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First UMC

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

1. First Sunday of Lent
2. WISE & Healthy Aging Seminar for Caregivers
3. Preschool Book Fair
4. Lenten Yoga begins
11. March Mid-Week Recital
14. Messy Church (theme: Messy Lent)
15. St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon
22. Faith in Action, Together

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Baptismal Renewal  (right)

Christmas Eve Family Service

Christmas Eve Candlight Service

LOOKING FORWARD - MARCH

Happenings
Many of you have seen stories in the press about conflict within the United Methodist Church and plans for our future. Unfortunately, much of what has been written is inaccurate. I don’t really blame the reporters—it’s sometimes hard enough for those of us in the church to sort it all out, let alone those with very limited knowledge of our history, governance, and polity.

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See you February 16!

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Tricia Guerrero – Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries
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Nathan Oney – Pastoral Associate
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**Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids: Join the First UMC Team**

Join the First UMC team for the 8th Annual Home Run for Kids Walk/Run in the Brentwood community of West Los Angeles. This year’s event— including a 5k and a stroller & pet friendly Kiddie K – expects to draw over 1,200 participants with all proceeds benefiting Upward Bound House. This is a great opportunity for kids and parents alike to work together to solve family homelessness, a growing crisis across Los Angeles. Join the First UMC Team! To register, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/home-run-for-kids.

Before the race, First UMC will hold a brief on-site worship service complete with Communion at 8 a.m. with Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries Tricia Guerrero, and Pastoral Associate Nathan Oney. Look for the white First UMC tent. Find out what it means to pray on your feet!

**General Conference Report-Back**

You may have recently read or heard about the separation proposal being presented at the upcoming General Conference. Do you want to learn more or have questions? Then mark your calendar now and join Rev. Patricia Farris for a General Conference Report-Back.

Sunday, February 16, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room