

# SENTINEL

vol.cxlvi, no. 3

March 2020



## HORIZONS

The season of Lent invites us into a time of reflection, prayer, and repentance as we again consider the meaning and power of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. What does it all mean for our lives and for the life of the world?

We're living in a time of extreme polarization—in national and international politics, in public debate about almost everything, and even in the church itself. We've let ourselves fall deeper and deeper into what columnist David Brooks calls the Golden Age of "Theyism."

This deeply troubles many of us and we wonder about not only where all this may lead but also what in the world we can do about it.

My prayer is that this Lent 2020 can become a time for us to ponder these things, individually and together. In prayer and worship. Our Lenten theme is "Be the Bridge." It opens our minds and hearts to consider how, in our own thoughts, interactions, conversations and

practices we might be the bridge that crosses divides and turns suspicion and hatred into conversation, humility, empathy and courage.

Consider these words from 2 Corinthians 5:19: "...in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, but entrusting the message of reconciliation to us."

Or, as the Jewish philosopher and writer, Martin Buber, put it in an earlier time of enmity and rancor: "The hope for this hour depends upon the hoppers themselves, upon ourselves."

May God bless to us a holy Lent.

*Patrice Jamis*  
Senior Minister



## Pennies for Haiti

by Nathan Oney, Pastoral Associate

Each of the last several years, our church has collected spare change and other donations in a program we call Pennies for Haiti. The funds that we raise are used to purchase baby goats (also called "kids") for our Hatian siblings who live in the remote village of Sobier. These goats serve as an investment in the families and economy of the region, and are a great tool for helping families escape systemic generational poverty. But what is it about these animals that makes them such great gifts?

- Goats can produce up to four gallons of milk per day! This can also be used to produce cheese, butter, and soap. They provide nourishment, and the excess can be sold for income!
- Goats are excellent agricultural experts! They help crops to grow by clearing land, eating weeds, and providing fertilizer.
- Goats are very sanitary. They eat almost anything, so they can help with the cleaning!
- Goats can carry loads, and even pull small plows!
- Goat hair can be used to create clothing and other fabrics.

- And they are great for children! They are playful and make great pets!
- Goats can also be used for their nutritious meat and in the production of leather. Every stage of the life cycle is filled with benefits. Goats really are the G.O.A.T.!

This year, since we are unable to send a team to Haiti, we have set ourselves a lofty goal of raising funds to supply 20 goats, which is the most that can fit in a boat to be transported to Sobier in one trip. Our fundraising will begin Sunday, March 8 and will continue through March 22, so bring your change, check, or cash, and look for the orange "Pennies for Haiti" buckets in the Narthex and Simkins Hall. You can also give online at [santamonicaumc.org/haiti](http://santamonicaumc.org/haiti) (select *Haiti-Pennies for Haiti* in the dropdown menu.)

Thank you for your gifts!



Goats purchased in 2017, with funds from Pennies for Haiti. Every penny counts!

# MARCH Calendar

**Sunday, March 1** - Holy Communion • First Sunday in Lent

11 a.m. Preschool Book Fair, (through Friday) Library  
11:15 a.m. WISE & Healthy Aging Caregiver Seminar, Fireside Room  
11:30 a.m. Bible Study on John's Gospel, Room 101

**Tuesday, March 3**

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

**Wednesday, March 4**

7 p.m. Lenten Yoga begins, Fireside Room

**Sunday, March 8** - Daylight Saving Time begins (clocks FORWARD one hour • Second Sunday in Lent • LA Marathon

11 a.m. Pennies for Haiti, Alcove

11 a.m. Village Parent Group first meeting, Room 203

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

6 p.m. simple supper, (after simple church) Fireside Room

**Wednesday, March 11**

12:10 p.m. Mid-Week Recital/Reception, Sanctuary/Fireside Room

7 p.m. Lenten Yoga, Simkins Hall (\*note room change)

**Saturday, March 14**

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

**Sunday, March 15** - Children's Church • Third Sunday in Lent

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Simkins Hall

11 a.m. Pennies for Haiti, Alcove

11:15 a.m. St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, Simkins Hall

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

3 p.m. Labyrinth open for walks, Simkins Hall

**Wednesday, March 18**

7 p.m. Lenten Yoga, Simkins Hall

**Saturday, March 21**

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

11 a.m. Merrill Burnett Memorial/Reception, Sanctuary

**Sunday, March 22** - Faith in Action • Fourth Sunday in Lent

11 a.m. Faith in Action, Together, Simkins Hall

11 a.m. Pennies for Haiti, Alcove

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

**Wednesday, March 25**

7 p.m. Lenten Yoga, Simkins Hall

**Thursday, March 26**

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

**Sunday, March 29** - Service of Lessons & Anthems • Fifth Sunday in Lent

11 a.m. Village Parent Group, Room 203

11 a.m. Youth See's Candy Sales, Alcove

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

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Wednesday, March 18** - 6 p.m. Upward Bound House Board Meeting, Off-Site

**WEEKLY or BIMONTHLY AT FIRST UMC**

**Mondays:** Church Office Closed

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

**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

## 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. 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 educational materials, brochures and pamphlets that will surely prove useful and informative. *Childcare provided, light refreshments served.*

**Sunday, March 1, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., in Simkins Hall**

Order Easter Flowers now for Easter Sunday 10 a.m. worship, stop by the Sunday Hospitality Table, or [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund)

## 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. This month's topic is *#canceled - a conversation on accountability*. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @OpenSpaceSantaMonica. Contact Nathan Oney for more details: [n.oney@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:n.oney@santamonicaumc.org).

**Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m. Off-site**

## 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 guidance 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**



## Lenten Devotionals Out Now

The First UMC Lenten Devotional, written by members of the congregation, is available now. There is one devotional for each day of Lent, which started on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Our "theme" this year is **Be the Bridge**, and you will find some of the writings slanted to this kind of thinking. The booklets are available for pick up in the Narthex, at the Hospitality Table, or in the church office. You may also sign up online to receive the daily devotional by email:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/lent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/lent)

## Village

You've asked and we listened! Introducing *Village*, a new parent group at First UMC - a monthly space for parents raising young children to simply be in community. It is well understood that happy parents make happy homes, and this church community wants just that, and is here for you. Much of your time is spent nurturing your children and your family making it very easy to forget to set aside time to nurture yourselves as parents. So come and refresh your overstretched mind, heart, body, relationships, and perhaps even your faith. Feel free to bring other parent friends who might be interested. Childcare will be provided, light refreshments served.

### Ask / Listen / Share:

- What are your biggest challenges as a parent?
- What are your greatest joys as a parent?
- What do you wish you had more time for?
- Where in your faith experience do you feel dry or parched?
- In what ways can this church support you with your family and as parents?

**Sundays, March 8 & March 29, 11:15 a.m. in Room 203**

**LA Marathon: Sunday, March 8.** For San Vicente and other Santa Monica Street closures, go to: [www.lamarathon.com](http://www.lamarathon.com)

## March Mid-Week Recital

The March Mid-Week Recital features **Sergey Kosemyan**, cello; **Anna Markosyan**, piano; **Vladimir Khonyakov**, piano. All three musicians have had international careers as chamber musicians and soloists. 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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series).

**Wednesday, March 11, 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., in the Sanctuary, Reception in the Fireside Room**



## Messy Lent

The March theme for Messy Church is "Messy Lent." But what is Lent? Lent is a season for growing in God's love, and all of us, whether children or adults, still have a lot of growing up to do! That's why many people choose to give something up this time of year, and it is also why we gather together. Playing games, making crafts, praying together, listening to Bible stories, and sharing a meal all help us to learn and grow toward a faith that embraces the messiness of life. We hope you will join us for an evening of fun as we grow together in God's love. Sign up for email reminders: [www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch).

**Saturday, March 14, 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Chapel/Simkins Hall**



## Time for Wearin' of the Green

Mark your calendars for the **21st 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. Tickets are \$8.50, children under 5 will be admitted for free. Don't forget to wear green!

**Sunday, March 15, 11:15 a.m. in Simkins Hall**

## Faith in Action, Together

All are invited on March 22 as Faith in Action Sunday will be extended to the entire First UMC community for the first ever all-church 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](http://santamonicaumc.org/faith-in-action)

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



## 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 emailing: [meal@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:meal@santamonicaumc.org) or call the church office (310) 393-8258.

**Thursday, March 26, 5:30 p.m. Family Place (1020 12th St., SM)**

## Service of Lessons & Anthems

This service of Lessons & Anthems is an annual tradition. This is a solemn service, designed to prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week. In word and music, we will remember the last days of Jesus' life—his witness, his teaching, his faithfulness.

**Sunday, March 29, 10 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary**



# BE THE BRIDGE



## Holy Week 2020

### APRIL 5: PALM SUNDAY

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship  
Waving of Palms and Loud Hosannas!  
Worship is followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Family Brunch

### APRIL 10: GOOD FRIDAY

Prayer Vigil 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., First UMC Chapel  
Chapel open for prayer and meditation.  
Community Mid-Day Service 12 p.m.,  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (958 Lincoln Blvd)  
Good Friday Labyrinth Walk 1-9 p.m., Simkins Hall.  
Walk in silence to look within.

### APRIL 11: simple church EASTER VIGIL

7:30 p.m. Courtyard/Chapel  
An ancient liturgy of Light, Word, and Communion

### APRIL 12: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service  
Palisades Park (Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)  
Bring fresh flowers for the cross, and a lawn chair or blankets.  
Hot coffee served.

10 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship  
First UMC Sanctuary  
Family Service, Choir, Brass, Organ, Lilies, and Alleluias!  
(nursery care provided)

[www.santamonicaumc.org/lent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/lent)

## Save the Date: Laity Sunday and Volunteer Appreciation Day

Laity Sunday is a day when the people of the church, our laity, lead us in worship. This year our theme will be centered on **gratitude**, both in worship and in our community lunch following worship. This will be a day to celebrate all of the church volunteers who lead us with grateful hearts. Mark your calendars and save the date!

**Laity Sunday: April 19, during 10 a.m. worship followed by Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall**

# Laity Sunday



## FIRST UMC



### Births

• **Greg Greenlee**, was born to parents Carly and Adam Greenlee on February 17, 2020.

### Deaths

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

- First UMC member **Barbara Ann Johnson**, who died February 20. Barbara taught Sunday School here at First UMC.
- First UMC member Liz Marriott Lowrey's sister **Kathleen Marriott Williams**, who died January 17, in Palo Alto, California. A memorial service will be held April 5 in the Bay Area.
- First UMC member **Merrill Paul Burnett**, who died December 31, 2019. A memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 21, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception.

### First UMC Member News

"Quilters love to quilt!" says First UMC member **Virginia Marshall**. As an active quilter in both the First UMC Prayer Quilt Ministry and the Westside Quilt Guild, Virginia is indeed doing what she loves. After hearing about Upward Bound House's Family Place through the church, Virginia suggested that the Westside Quilt Guild donate quilts to Family Place, as part of their philanthropic efforts.

As a result, approximately 50 quilts have been gifted to families in the transitional housing facility over the last several years. The quilters meet once and month, and also work from home. When Virginia can collect a batch of finished quilts she'll take them over to Family Place.

Ramona Ruiz, Virginia's contact at Family Place, says the families are thrilled to receive them, and are very grateful for the handmade gift as they transition to their "after-care" housing.

Thank you Virginia for your time, dedication and love that you and all of the quilters put into your quilts.



## Red Cross Community Blood Drive

The Health Ministry Council's Red Cross Community Blood Drive is coming soon! For more information, questions, or to volunteer, contact Debi Jenkinson ([debijwong@yahoo.com](mailto:debijwong@yahoo.com)). Schedule your appointment now on the website: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), and enter sponsor code FirstUMCSM.

**Sunday, April 26, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Simkins Hall**

# HAPPENINGS



Scenes from Youth Sunday. Left to right: Dan Stirling, Youth Counselor and Boy Scout leader, with Megan Crawford; Annika Dodd, and Kate Beckerman leading service; Adam Guerrero and Emily Payne, Youth Counselors; Saying a prayer at the Youth prayer station.



Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast. Left to right: Johanna Stutsman and Margaret Brown enjoying pancakes, Boy Scouts manning their booth; Serving pancakes; Girl Scout Cookie sales with Emily Plukas and Megan Crawford.



Jeff Klein, representative from the County Registrar's Office, explained the new voting procedures for the upcoming elections, including a demonstration of how the new voting machine works.



The Carducci family, celebrating the Baptism of Josephine (Jojo) Carducci, with Rev. Patricia Farris.



Rev. Patricia Farris speaking at the General Conference Report Back on February 16.



## Preschool Corner

### MARCH PRESCHOOL EVENTS:

**First week of March:** Preschool Book Fair

**March 2 - 6:** Dr. Seuss Week

**March 5:** Grandparents/Special Friend's Day

...and more to come!



The annual Preschool Snow Day!

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## WORSHIP: SUNDAYS IN MARCH

### MARCH 1

**10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship**

Holy Communion •

First Sunday in Lent

Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris

**5 p.m. simple church**

reflections by Nathan Oney

### MARCH 8

**10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship**

Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

**5 p.m. simple church**

reflections by Nathan Oney

### MARCH 15

**10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship**

Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

**5 p.m. simple church**

reflections by Nathan Oney

### MARCH 22

**10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sermon by Rev. Patricia Farris

**5 p.m. simple church**

reflections by Nathan Oney

### MARCH 29

**10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lessons & Anthems

**5 p.m. simple church**

reflections by Nathan Oney

#### Can't make it in on a Sunday Morning?

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)*

Go to the First UMC Facebook page:

[@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc).

## ONLINE

Visit the Lent webpage to view the listing for special services of the season and the Holy Week schedule. You may also read the Lenten Devotional online and sign up to receive the Daily Devotional via email:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/lent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/lent)

BE THE BRIDGE

