HORIZONS

To the Beloved Community,

As our experience of the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve quite quickly, our bishop, Grant Hagiya, has asked that all UM churches in the California-Pacific Conference not hold public worship services at this time in order to best safeguard the health of our members and to do our part to mitigate the spread of the virus in our communities.

We at First UMC are quite fortunate in that we have been offering our services via livestream for quite some time. We will still be able to gather in spirit Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. to worship God together in music, Scripture, sermon and prayer.

Of course, we will continue to closely monitor the situation and reassess our ministries as things move forward. For the time being, we will not be holding classes, groups or other activities at the church, including simple church and Messy Church. Our Preschool is closed for now. While the church office staff works from home, always feel free to leave a phone message (310-393-8258) or email message for any of the church staff. Those messages will be forwarded to us and we will respond as promptly as possible. The Pastoral Care line (310-393-8258 and enter extension 1), will still be available for people to leave a message requesting care.

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Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may mail your pledge to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. You may give online or mail checks through your online banking programs. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects, including Pennies for Haiti. You may choose to give an extra gift to our Nicodemus Fund which is a small fund set up to provide emergency financial support to members in need.

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As I write this on St. Patrick’s Day, I want to close with the prayer in the spirit of the season with these words, said to have been written on his breastplate. May we write these words on our hearts as we walk together into a new future with hope:

I arise today, through the strength of heaven,
The radiance of the moon, the splendor of fire,
The firmness of rock.

I arise today, through God’s eye to look before me,
God’s word to speak for me,
God’s wisdom to guide me,
God’s hand to guard me,
God’s shield to protect me,
God’s strength to pilot me,
God’s host to save me…

May God bless us with deeper faith and ever-renewed hope.

In love,
Rev. Patricia Farris

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 Eleventh St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310.393.8258
www.santamonicaumc.org

Senior Minister
Rev. Patricia Farris: p.farris@santamonicaumc.org
Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries
Tricia Guerrero: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org
Pastoral Associate
Nathan Onyes: n.onyes@santamonicaumc.org
Business Administrator
Christina Eddy: c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org
Congregation Care Associate
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Preschool Director
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Office Manager
Sarah Rold: s.rold@santamonicaumc.org
Membership and Facilities Coordinator
David Petro: d.peterson@santamonicaumc.org
Communications Director
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WATCH ONLINE Sundays 10 a.m.

On Sunday, March 22, First UMC held its first online only Sunday worship service, due to state mandated stay-at-home orders in light of Coronavirus. Communicating through our weekly Friday Community emails, and online posts via Facebook and Instagram, all were encouraged to log into Facebook to watch the service live Sunday at 10 a.m. With over 352 views and counting for the March 22 service, our online worship services have been a success, and we will keep worshiping this way until we are able to come together again in the beautiful sanctuary!

Though we cannot be together in person, we will join together in heart and spirit through Scripture, music, sermon, and prayer. You can watch the service in real time, or later at your convenience.

WHEN: Sunday 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
(Barring any technical difficulties)
WHERE: Go to the First UMC Facebook page (@santamonicaumc.), or watch the Sunday service the following week anytime at www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

(Facebook Users: Be sure to “Follow” our page – not just “Like” – so that you receive notification updates such as when the service goes live.)

Join the Stay-at-Home Weekly Photo Challenge Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/photos

Getting bored at home? Each week during the stay-at-home order, we’ll put out a photo challenge in the Friday Community email, so you may check on the webpage at www.santamonicaumc.org/photos. Thank you to those who have already shared or posted photos as you watched the 10 a.m. service online. Didn’t get to send your photo? Well, keep them coming! We love seeing you worship with us each week. Send 1 or 2 pics or any questions to: Shalimar Carducci: s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org.

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APRIL ONLINE Calendar

Ministries meeting online:
Men’s Breakfast: Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via ZOOM. Email Nathan Oney (n.oney@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to join this group.
Lenten Yoga via Facebook (@openspacesm): Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Lenten Yoga will be live-streamed Wednesday nights, and should be available for the following 24 hours.
Young Adults Virtual Community Soul Care: Fridays, 6 p.m. via Zoom. Email Nathan Oney for more info.
Sunday School Meetings: Sundays, 11 a.m. via ZOOM
UMYF Youth Group: Sundays, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to join this group for youth in grades 6-12.

Lenten Yoga continues thru Holy Week

Open Space invites people of all ages to add the spiritual discipline of yoga to your Lenten practice. Led by Krista Oney, the series incorporates 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.

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Hello families! If you haven’t already signed up for the Children and Family Ministry email, now’s the time. Until we can meet again at church, Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries, compiles the weekly email, providing Sunday School From Home as a way for the children to continue learning and exploring their faith. The email includes: a weekly message from Tricia, activities, prayers, Bible stories, and useful parent links. For more information and to sign up, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-school-from-home.

Children and Family Ministry: Kids and youth at home

 Walk the Labyrinth - Good Friday

In lieu of the annual Good Friday Labyrinth Walk in Simkins Hall, First UMC invites you to go to www.santamonicaumc.org/labyrinth, and follow along with the online virtual Labyrinth Walk.

Children and Family Ministry: Sunday School From Home

And, don’t miss the Family Devotional webpage: a guide to help connect, ask, listen, and pray together as a family, updated seasonally. www.santamonicaumc.org/family-devotional
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To the Lankbrows: Thank you for being with us in spirit! 🥰

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“Thank you to all those who have supported us during Dennis’ surgery and his ongoing recovery. Your prayers, food, support, and messages have brought us great comfort and strength. Thank you so much. We are truly blessed.”

- Dennis and Sue Payne

Deaths

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

First UMC member Margaret Gazzey’s sister-in-law Stella Gazzey died March 22, in England.

Thank you to the First UMC Community

Thank you!”

Thank you! Pennies for Haiti

by Nathan Oney, Pastoral Associate

Thank you for your participation in this year’s Pennies for Haiti fundraising campaign. In the midst of fear and hoarding, the generosity of this congregation shined through in amazing ways! The $9000 raised reflects a deep commitment to our Haitian siblings. These funds will be used to supply 18 young goats to the village of Sabier as an investment in the future of its residents. The return on this investment will make a material difference in the lives of many people who face the hardships of remote life in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. We pray for all of the people of Haiti in this time of global crisis, and we thank God for the relationship that this congregation continues to have with the Methodist Church of Haiti and the people of Sabier. Thank you for your generous support.

Red Cross Community Blood Drive - Postponed

The Health Ministry Council’s Red Cross Community Blood Drive, originally scheduled for April 26, has been postponed until late summer/early Fall. We will post further updates once a new date has been determined.

General Conference of The United Methodist Church

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church, originally scheduled for May, has been postponed into 2021 due to travel restrictions and health concerns. The Minneapolis Convention Center which was to be the site of GC is closed to all events for the foreseeable future. We will keep you posted as we receive updates. In the meantime, please keep the church in your prayers. May this time of “pause” bring perspective, insight, and new possibilities for faithful witness and service.

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I arise today, through God’s wise to guide me, The firmness of rock, The depth of the sea, The stability of the earth.

I arise today, through God’s might to uphold me, The light of the sun, The firmness of rock, The swiftness of wind.

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We’re Here for You
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I arise today, through God’s might to uphold me, The light of the sun, The speed of lightning, The wellness of wind.

I arise today, through God’s eye to look before me, The swiftness of wind, The firmness of rock, The depth of the sea.

I arise today, through God’s host to save me, The swiftness of wind, The firmness of rock, The depth of the sea.

May God bless us with deeper faith and ever-renewed hope.

In love,
Rev. Patricia Farris