Easter isn’t limited to one day! Traditionally, the Christian church has celebrated the season of Eastertide—the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost. Many customs have been practiced all through Eastertide around the globe, from decorating Easter eggs, to Easter egg hunts, to placing lilies on the altar of the church throughout the season.

And don’t we all need more than one Easter Day this year! We need all that love and exuberance and joy and promise to lift us up again and again, raising us from our own moments of stress and anxiety into the Light and Life of the Resurrected Christ.

If we keep looking, I’m confident that we’ll see all kinds of evidence of how Easter love is happening in our families, neighborhoods and community. For example, a house I see each morning on my walk has a teddy bear in the window with a hand-colored sign that says “Smile!” Many of our families have started weekly online family gatherings, uniting loved ones near and far for a time of sharing, laughing, and lifting up. Acts of generosity and kindness abound, such as the total stranger who put a roll of paper towels in our cart when he realized that he’d picked up the last pack and we needed some, too.

See What Love Can Do!

is our theme for Eastertide 2020. Keep looking and you’ll see it all around. See below on you can share with us what YOU see, and we’ll keep a giant virtual “scrapbook” to tell the story of these 50 days when the Light and Life of Christ fill our hearts and our world.

May the blessings of our Risen Lord raise us up!

Do you have a suggestion for something you’d like to see in the Sentinel? Email me at: t.gage@santamonicaumc.org

Have you experienced or witnessed moments of love throughout our current situation? Perhaps you’d like to share it and thus inspire some of us who could use a smile. We’re looking for pictures, essays (500 words or less), poems, and everything in between!

Send to Shalimar (s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org) or post it on your own Facebook or Instagram; Don’t forget to tag us @santamonicaumc so we can repost your pics!

Now more than ever, we need to stay connected. Be sure to read, or subscribe to, the Friday Community Email for the latest in church happenings.

www.santamonicaumc.org/friday-email

#seewhatlovecando

Thank you to those who shared or sent in photos and essays. Go to page 8 to see all of the pictures we’ve received so far. Keep ‘em coming in!

Thanks to Nathan Choy, who took this picture on a walk in his neighborhood.

Tricia Guerrero took the picture (left) in her neighborhood. See more of Tricia’s pictures on page 8.

William Martinez during the April 26 10 a.m. online worship service, signing I Love You. Above is the word “love” in sign language.
MAY ONLINE Calendar

Sunday, May 3 - Online Holy Communion
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Saturday, May 9
12 - 4 p.m. Virtual Relay for Life: www.relayatlantic.org

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 13
12:10 p.m. ONLINE Mid-Week Recital featuring Mark Robson (Facebook & website)

Sunday, May 17
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Sunday, May 24
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Sunday, May 31
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Weekly 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.

Young Adults Virtual Community Soul Care: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (*time and day change). Email Nathan Oney for more info.

Sunday School Meetings: Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m. via ZOOM. Sign up for the Children and Family email for more info, or email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) for info.

UMYF Youth Group: Sundays, 4:30 - 6 p.m. via ZOOM. (*time change) Email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to join this group for youth in grades 6-12.

VIRTUAL Relay for Life
The UCLA Virtual Relay for Life is to benefit the American Cancer Society and will be live streamed this year on May 9 from 12 - 4 p.m. at www.relayatlantic.org. The Health Ministry Council, under the leadership and enthusiasm of Chris Reagh, was looking forward to this year’s event, but then the novel Coronavirus-19 hit our nation and our world, forcing us all to change our lives in countless ways. The organizers have said that “While we know that nothing can truly replace the experience of Relay, we are hoping that this virtual platform will still allow us to come together to celebrate, remember, and fight back” and the Health Ministry Council is glad we can all do this while staying safe. If you would like to donate to this event, or sign up for a luminaria to honor a loved one, please go to www.relayatlantic.org and click on Join Relay at UCLA ‘20 on the right, and click on Donate and/or Luminarias at the middle of the next page. Search for the First UMC “Wesley Walkers” team and enter your info. (Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry-council, for more info.)

ONLINE Relay for Life: May 9, 12 - 4 p.m: www.relayatlantic.org.

May Mid-Week Recital: ONLINE!
The show must go on! However, we’re doing it a little different this month. Although the sanctuary will sadly not be open to the community, the music shall continue to echo through it. We’re happy to report that we’ve recently upgraded our live-streaming equipment. You are invited to “attend” an online performance by Mark Robson, pianist. You’ll be able to watch online using any of the links below. We encourage you to leave your comments as you’re watching, and let us know what you think of the performance.

• Facebook - Be sure to “follow” our page and RSVP to this event to receive notifications of when we go live.

• YouTube Channel - Subscribe to our channel and adjust your notification settings to your preference.

• Website - View the recital on the Livestream page: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream.

ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, May 13, 12:10 p.m.

After Worship Zoom Social Hour
Get your coffee and donut (or whatever snacks you might have on hand) ready for a post-worship virtual “Coffee Hour” Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Say hi to some church friends or even make a new one!

*Have a computer but no camera? No problem! You can still attend.

Contact Nathan Oney (n.oney@santamonicaumc.org) by Fridays for the Sunday gathering.

All are welcome via Zoom:
https://zoom.us/j/160321402
Zoom ID: 160 321 402*
Password: fumc
(Save this link, it will be used each week)

ONLINE Coffee Hour: Sundays, 11: 15 a.m.

Holy Week Services

For the first time in First UMC history, there were no attendees for Holy Week services due to COVID-19. First UMC offered a selection of online services for the week, including Palm Sunday online, a simple church Daily Devotional, Easter Vigil and more. While First UMC had been Livestreaming Sunday 10 a.m. worship service for a few months prior to the restrictions, the Easter Sunday online service brought close to 1,000 views on our Facebook page and website combined, our record for online viewing. Here are some photographs recording this time in the Sanctuary. A special Thank You to Mike Eskridge for continuing to provide the church with beautiful floral displays.

Palm Sunday: Rev. Patricia leads the service, and In Home Communion for All.

We experience the presence of Christ in our hearts through the grace of God which knows no walls or boundaries, in which there is no distance or separating. We are always truly “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world!”

- Rev. Patricia Farris

Scenes from Easter Sunday service

Preschool teacher Ms. Johanna drove Easter Baskets on Good Friday to each of her students’ houses.

*Hello Friends, we miss you all so much! Even though we’ve apart you’re always in our hearts.” From all of the Preschool teachers to their students, with Preschool Director Des Monez and Assistant to the Director Dana Rold. The Preschool Staff is doing an amazing job teaching weekly online classes to their students. The special programs of music and Chinese language classes continue online as well.
Safer-At-Home Reflections (cont.)

Pounds of tri-tip (that was a sweet deal for us). And a few weeks ago, we halved Jane (our sourdough starter named after the mechanic it came from) and traded it for a tremendous bunch of Swiss chard.

So while we are dutifully isolating ourselves, worrying about our friends and family and everyone else in the world, we are staying busy, staying connected, and still making surprising, delicious discoveries every day. The future may be uncertain, but right now, at least, there is good bread. What have you got to trade?

- Sam Johnson

Children and Family Ministry

During Safer-at-Home, we are providing families with “Sunday School From Home” in the Children and Family Weekly email and website for children and families. Includes:

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- Sunday School Zoom Hangout
- Books with Jamie and Jack
- Helpful Parent Links
- Faith in Action Home Projects and more! Sign up for the weekly emails here: www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-school-from-home

For the May Messy Church, in place of gathering, we are sharing a fun and easy resource for doing “Messy Church at Home” with your family. Sign up for the newsletter that includes suggestions for Messy activities, a Celebrate the Mess reflection, prayers, Messy Meal, a video, and more! Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch to sign up now.

Methodist Foundation Scholarships

Applications for the annual Methodist Foundation Scholarships are available online now. Please email Sarah Rold at s.rold@santamonicaumc.org for any questions. Deadline is Sunday, May 10. Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation

Pandemic, 2020. My Good Friday Remarks

What do I notice more than anything, is my inability to calm down. I seem to be in a higher state of irritability, constantly reminding myself and others to stay present and be grateful. But I don’t think about the future, it’s too much to consider. So is the present. Gratitude is easier as I sit in my cluttered apartment with a full freezer and continue to order food and toilet paper.

I think the world may end. Things may get worse. I may never get back to work. The electricity may go off. The water might stop. The grocery stores and deliveries will cease. My cell phone will die. All those people we know where you are graduating from, your major, and what your future plans are. We are praying for each of you. Contact Sarah Rold: s.rold@santamonicaumc.org, or 310.393.8258 x 106

Calling All Graduates!

First UMC wants to recognize all its graduates. We know that graduation this year is going to look very different than what you were expecting. The church community is proud of all of you and we would like to celebrate your hard work and accomplishment. Let us know where you are graduating from, your major, and what your future plans are. We are praying for each of you. Contact Sarah Rold: s.rold@santamonicaumc.org, or 310.395.8258 x 106

- Cindy McQuade

Subscribeto the Santa Monica UMC YouTube Channel!

Did you know First UMC has a YouTube channel? If you missed any of the Easter on Sunday 10 a.m. services, or would like to rewatch them, you may do so at any time from our page. And, if you click the word SUBSCRIBE, you can be notified when we upload a new video if you choose. Our goal for this month is to reach 100 Subscribers! You’ll also find past Mid-Week Retreats, the virtual Labyrinth walk, and more. Subscribe now!

Like Sam, I have a lot to count. We have been blessed with a healthy and happy family and we have a roof over our head. And I have rights and privileges. I have more than I need. I have more than I think I need. I am also, I can breathe, and walk and see and hear and read and write and talk and sing and pray.

I plan to hang a bright Easter wreath on my door. I plan to return to a good normal life, at least in my heart. And on the phone, I plan to celebrate Easter, and through the web. I plan to eat Easter ham soup and join the Passover tradition. The vanishing of plagues. The latest being the coronavirus. I hope to break a fast with Muslim friends and return to the Passover tradition. The vanishing of plagues. The latest being the coronavirus. I hope to break a fast with Muslim friends and return to the Passover tradition.
Youth Service Project Trip Update
Tricia Guarnera, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries
Youth Service Team 2020

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your support and contributions to the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica’s Youth Service Project. During a service project, youth experience a service leadership opportunity that makes a difference in our world and gives youth the opportunity to explore their faith in light of this.

Sadly, our youth service team is faced with a time unlike any we have experienced before. The COVID-19 crisis is continuing to evolve quickly even while we all work to do our part to “Flatten the Curve.” At this time, based on recommendations from national health officials, the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) has made the difficult decision to suspend their summer volunteer programs. This means we will not be going on our YSP summer trip from June 20 - June 28, 2020.

For the first time in ASP’s 51-year history, volunteers won’t be serving during their most impactful months. ASP shared that it was one of the hardest decisions they have ever made and that it was done with prayerful deliberation to remove any threat of the virus spreading further. I invite us to keep ASP and the Appalachian communities who benefit from this ministry in our prayers. You can view their announcement video on our website at: www.santamonicaucmc.org/ysp.

However, we are excited to let you know our team has worked very hard on raising funds. We have raised close to $5,000 to date. We would like to use a portion of the funds to continue supporting ASP during this time. We held out hope for a more local service trip later this year. Beyond that, we look forward to using these funds towards next year’s service trip.

We know that God has plans for us beyond COVID-19. During this time, the youth service team continues to be faithful, to hold onto hope, courage and faith, and to seek God with our whole hearts. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our youth.

I am doing “telework” as a result of the COVID-19 situation. It basically means that I am working from home—even more hours than before, with my limited wireless connection, and a hastily put together office setup. It’s hard to create a line between work and not work. On top of all other stresses in my life right now, and the news reminding us of how bad and dangerous life is, it is almost too much for me. Almost. The love of family, friends and even strangers is helping me hang on. One morning, when I got to my “office” there was a water glass with flowers in it next to my laptop. Lauryn, my daughter-in-law, had the sweetest gesture. (Say again!) That’s right…Dutch Harbor, Alaska. (As if Britain, Canada and Australia didn’t have their own COVID-19 problems!) Days later, a huge cardboard box (about four feet by four feet, according to my son, Paul ) arrived on her doorstep. It contained nothing but I still think of you and want to help.”

You may be able to keep human beings six feet apart. But love and caring will never recognize such manmade limitations.

Jerry Brown
A LOOK BACK

A new series during this time of COVID-19, to show how the community of First UMC has overcome hardship in years past.

This article was originally published on February 6, 1994, Sentinel Vol. CXX No. 6, titled January 23 Services, Sunday School Held as Usual By Susan Travis

In what seemed an eternity - but a mere thirty seconds - the greater Los Angeles area was remedied of nature's awesome force on the morning of January 17. The scene that awaited the staff and members at FUMC some fifteen to twenty miles from the epicenter resembled a war zone. In the photos here are glimpses of what greeted our eyes - badly cracked masonry and plaster walls, missing ceiling tiles and glass, ever so much glass, from shattered windows, and more serious damage to the north and south walls of Simkins Hall and the eastside wall of the sanctuary. On Friday members of the Bishop's Cabinet, Robert Smith, Brandon Cho and Lea Hu, made a site inspection here to survey the damage first-hand. Don Shelby, along with our building superintendent, John Lange, conducted the tour. In the photo below, Mr. Shelby is pointing to a section on the east wall of the sanctuary that had separated from the road. On Saturday Bishop Roy Sopo visited the damaged areas and later a representative from UM COR assessed the situation.

By Sunday, January 23, with the aid of countless persons who volunteered to help with clean-up, we conducted worship in the sanctuary. They also were instrumental in getting our Sunday school rooms in order for the children. The crew from an emergency board-up company covered up a total of 134 windows and taped on additional 75. Unlike other notice, Simkins Hall and the Choir Room are closed.

In the wake of those events we have experienced an overwhelming sense of community and cooperation to deal with the difficulties. We survived a 6.6 magnitude earthquake! As we share in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on February 6, we will express our thanks to God and continue to draw from each other's strength and love, that we may serve as healing agents for those who struggle to recover.

At Sunday service, the youth service team continues to be faithful, to hold onto patience, courage and faith, and to seek God with our whole hearts.

We know that God has plans for us beyond COVID-19. During this time, the youth service team continues to be faithful, to hold on to hope for a more local service trip later this year.

The social distancing rules to which we are now subjected...the stay at home orders...are easily understood by most people. They are intended to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They are designed, in other words, to keep us apart. Margaret and I have found that, in some perverse way, they are actually bringing people closer together!

Old and decrepit as we are (well...old and decrepit as I am!) we have experienced before...and we have been the recipients of several instances of caring from younger people reaching out to us in love and friendship.

Case in point: Several weeks ago, a young woman and her three children moved into the house next door to us. We met her only once when we welcomed her to the neighborhood. Then came the 'stay-indoors', 'stay six feet apart' advisory and shortly thereafter we found a note taped to our front door from our new neighbor telling us that if there was anything we needed...from the supermarket or pharmacy and the likes...to let her know and she'd try to get it for us.

At that time as I say we had met her just once, briefly, and couldn't even remember her surname. But there she was, virtually a stranger, holding out the hand of friendship to us...offering to do some supermarket shopping for us so that we wouldn’t need to expose ourselves to the hated virus.

Other nearby neighbors have been to our door to offer their assistance as well. And a number of people in countries many thousands of miles away (Britain, Canada and Australia, for example!)...longtime friends with whom we don’t communicate as often as we should...were quick to email their love and to promise continued prayers for our wellbeing.

(As if Britain, Canada and Australia didn't have their own COVID-19 problems!)

One potential problem for us...the well-publicized problem of finding toilet paper...was solved for us from another unlikely source: Dutch Harbor, Alaska! (Say again! That's right...Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

Chrisise, my daughter-in-law, has a cousin that runs a small vacation cabin in Unalaska Bay on the shores of the Bering Sea. They talk together often and in a recent telephone call, she mentioned that toilet paper had become the Number One target of hoarders and was well nigh impossible to find in her local supermarkets in San Dimas.

Days later, a huge cardboard box (about four by four feet, according to my son, Paul. ) arrived on her doorstep. It contained nothing but...you guessed it...rolls of that precious product. What could be more natural than that he would buy a bunch to help his cousin in her time of need? Immediately Paul drove in from the San Gabriel Valley to deliver a dozen or so rolls to Mom and Dad.

People helping people. People reaching out to say “Hey, neighbor, if you need me I’m here.” or “I may be geographically removed from you but I still think of you and want to help.”

You may be able to keep human beings six feet apart. But love and caring will never recognize such mammoth limitations.

- Jerry Brown

Weekend? Summer? Isolation? I am doing “telework” as a result of the COVID-19 situation. It basically means that I am working from home—even more hours than before, with my limited wireless connection, and a hastily put together office setup. It’s hard to create a line between work and not work. On top of all other stresses in my life right now, and the news reminding us of how bad and dangerous life is, it is almost too much for me. Almost. The love of family, friends and even strangers is helping me hang on. One morning, when I got to my “office” there was a water glass with flowers in it next to my laptop. Lauryn, my stepdaughter, had left them there for me. (See photo) Another day, I managed to take an afternoon walk to try to de-stress, and some kids had made a chalk hopscotch drawing urging passers-by to “Take a Break.” (See photo) Thank you, kids, I did!

- Ann Wilson
Safer-At-Home Reflections (cont.)

Stuck at home during this crisis, it’s no surprise I haven’t needed to visit an ATM in over a month. But what I didn’t expect was a baking and bartering mania that has made me feel like a prairie homesteader. It began six weeks ago when my wife Julie and I traded a box of strawberries for a small container of sourdough starter from a bike mechanic friend.

We knew nothing about sourdough. Where do you keep your starter? How do you feed it? How do you bake with it? A deep dive online set off a number of experiments: basic bread, then crusty crust, chewy crust, bread flour, whole grain, whole wheat, rye. And since we had the flour – much of it ordered online from a family-run mill in Kentucky when local stores ran out – we (Julie) also baked biscuits, banana bread, scones and, most miraculously, fig newtons. (You cut the dough into long strips, spread the fig paste, fold the strips lengthwise to make flattened tubes, then cut the tubes into cookies. After baking, you STEAM the cookies for several hours so they stay soft. It’s involved, but it’s not like we have plans.)

Our barter operation has been comparatively simple: we hang a bag on the front door with the thing we are trading. You pick it up and leave the thing you’re giving away. So far, we have traded banana bread for parchment paper, which is important for regular bread. So far, the thing you’re giving away. So far, we have traded banana bread for parchment paper, which is important for regular bread. We know nothing about sourdough. Where do you keep your starter? How do you feed it? How do you bake with it? A deep dive online set off a number of experiments: basic bread, then crusty crust, chewy crust, bread flour, whole grain, whole wheat, rye. And since we had the flour – much of it ordered online from a family-run mill in Kentucky when local stores ran out – we (Julie) also baked biscuits, banana bread, scones and, most miraculously, fig newtons. (You cut the dough into long strips, spread the fig paste, fold the strips lengthwise to make flattened tubes, then cut the tubes into cookies. After baking, you STEAM the cookies for several hours so they stay soft. It’s involved, but it’s not like we have plans.)

Our barter operation has been comparatively simple: we hang a bag on the front door with the thing we are trading. You pick it up and leave the thing you’re giving away. So far, we have traded banana bread for parchment paper, which is important for regular bread. We swapped some of our biscuits and newtons for a couple of pounds of tri-tip (that was a sweet deal for us). And a few weeks ago, we halved Jane (our sourdough starter, named after the mechanic it came from) and traded it for a tremendous bunch of Swiss chard.

So while we are dutifully isolating ourselves, worrying about our friends and family and everyone else in the world, we are staying busy, staying connected, and still making surprising, delicious discoveries every day. The future may be uncertain, but right now, at least, there is good bread. What have you got to trade?

- Sam Johnson

Pandemic, 2020. My Good Friday Remarks

April 10 (transcribed from video)

What do I notice more than anything, is my inability to calm down. I seem to be in a higher state of irritability, constantly reminding myself and others to stay present and be grateful.

But I don’t think about the future, it’s too much to consider. So is the present. Gratitude is easier as I sit in my cluttered apartment with a full freezer and continue to order food and toilet paper.

I think the world may end. Things may get worse. I may never get back to work. The electricity may go off. The water might stop. The grocery stores and deliveries will cease. My cell phone will die. All those people with guns will come after us. I’m stuck at home with beer and wine and a freezer full of salmon. I’m well supplied and I don’t know what’s coming or not coming next.

So what if we’ll never be able to shake hands again. And if we have to wear masks outside. Will we learn from this? Will we become a better people?

Who dies first? The old and sick, while the young and strong run by sweating and sprinting, fighting to maintain their strong bodies and vigor. And I try to remain grateful.

I am the young old. Soon to be 66, I think still employed, and vibrant, aging in my home as I hide behind a mask and fading hair dye. My smile used to work, convey a lightheartedness and more. Now, no one can see it. We are all trying not to breathe on each other, or breathe in the virus.

The virus moving through the world, taking people’s breath away. And I choose to focus on my gratitude, for my peaceful home and my mostly quiet neighborhood. For my great abundance of stuff and support. For the country, family, friends, church, dogs, I have everything I need. I have more than I need. I am also, I can breathe and walk and see and hear and read and write and talk and sing and pray. I plan to hang a bright Easter wreath on my door. I plan to return to a normal good life, at least in my heart. And on the phone, I plan to celebrate Easter, and through the web. I plan to eat Matzo ball soup and join the passover tradition. The vanishing of plagues. The latest being the coronavirus. I hope to break a fast with Muslim friends and return to figuring out which movie to go see, and what restaurant to eat in.

I’m hopeful and I’m scared. And I’m hopeful. I heard of two babies born in the last two days, two boys with similar names. The first sons and grandchildren in their family. So, I’m hopeful, and yes, I’m scared. Peace and blessings to you, and I look forward to better days again.

- Cindy McQuade

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During Safer-at-Home, we are providing families with “Sunday School From Home” in the Children and Family Weekly email and website for children and families. Includes:

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Farewell

We wish the best to Jace, Casey, Keeley and Jane Henricks on their move to Porter Ranch, CA.

Thank You to First UMC

Ron Theis’s Mark Twain Ringers express that “besides camp, Good Week and Culmination, we will not have our last worship service as a good bye to our community of faith.” They wish to thank everyone for believing in them and all of your support.

Prayers

We are lifting prayers for Jean Shelby who is healing from a broken leg. Cards may be sent to Jean at 1420 Santo Domingo Ave. Duarte, CA, 91010

Deaths

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

- First UMC member Dorothy Williams’ sister Joyce Abby Kirk died April 6.
- Condolences to Linda Woodard in the death of her mother.

Announcement

With gratitude to God, our Staff-Parish Relations Committee has some news to share regarding our pastoral staff. Our Pastoral Associate, Nathan Oney, and his wife, Kristia, have been praying about moving back to Oklahoma to be closer to parents and aging grandparents. In conversation with our District Superintendent and a Superintendent in Oklahoma, Nathan will receive an appointment to the UMC in Enid, Oklahoma, beginning July 1st. The SPRC will be in dialogue with our Superintendent through this time regarding a new Associate Pastor to join our staff. Please hold Nathan and Kristia in your prayers, especially in these days that hold so many challenges for all of us. God is good and God’s love is everlasting, guiding us now and into the future.

- Richard Crawford, Chair, First UMC Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Virtual Relay for Life

The UCLA Virtual Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society will be live streamed this year on May 9 from 12 - 4 p.m. at www.relayatlca.org. The Health Ministry Council, under the leadership and enthusiasm of Chris Reagh, was looking forward to this year’s event, but then the novel Coronavirus-19 hit our nation and our world, forcing us all to change our lives in countless ways. The organizers have said that “While we know that nothing can truly replace the experience of Relay, we are hoping that this virtual platform will still allow us to come together to celebrate, remember, and fight back” and the Health Ministry Council is glad we can all do this while staying safe. If you would like to donate to this event, or sign up for a luminaria to honor a loved one, please go to www.relayatlca.org and click on Join Relay at UCLA ‘20 on the right, and click on Donate and/or Luminaria at the middle of the next page. Search for the First UMC “Wesley Walkers” team and enter your info. (Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry-council, for more info.)

ONLINE Relay for Life: May 9, 12 - 4 p.m: www.relayatlca.org.

May Mid-Week Recital: ONLINE!

The show must go on! However, we’re doing it a little different this month. Although the sanctuary will sadly not be open to the community, the music shall continue to echo through it. We’re happy to report that we’ve recently upgraded our live-streaming equipment. You are invited to “attend” an online performance by Mark Robson, pianist. You’ll be able to watch online using any of the links below. We encourage you to leave your comments as you’re watching, and let us know what you think of the performance.

• Facebook - Be sure to “follow” our page and RSVP to this event to receive notifications of when we go live.
• Youtube Channel - Subscribe to our channel and adjust your notification settings to your preference.
• Website - View the recital on the Livestream page: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream.

ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, May 13, 12:10 p.m. 

Online Coffee Hour: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

If you would like to join this group for youth in grades 6-12.

Watches ONLINE

Sundays 10 a.m.

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. (Barring any technical difficulties)
WHERE: Go to the First UMC Facebook page (@santamonicaumc), or watch the Sunday service the following weekday anytime on: 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.)

After Worship Zoom Social Hour

Get your coffee and donut (or whatever snacks you might have on hand) ready for a post-worship virtual “Coffee Hour” Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Say hi to some church friends or even make a new one! *Have a computer but no camera? No problem! You can still attend.
Contact Nathan Oney (n.oney@santamonicaumc.org) by Fridays for the Sunday gathering.

All are welcome via Zoom; https://zoom.us/j/160321402
Zoom ID: 160 321 402*
Password: fumc

ONLINE Coffee Hour: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

MAY ONLINE Calendar

Sunday, May 3 - Online Holy Communion
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Saturday, May 9
12 - 4 p.m. Virtual Relay for Life: www.relayatlca.org
Sunday, May 10 - Mothers Day
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Wednesday, May 13
12:10 p.m. ONLINE Mid-Week Recital featuring Mark Robson (Facebook & website)
Sunday, May 17
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, May 24
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day
Sunday, May 31 - Pentecost Sunday
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Weekly 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.

Young Adults Virtual Community Soul Care: Wednesdays,
6:30 p.m. via Zoom (note time and day change). Email Nathan Oney for more info.

Sunday School Meetings: Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m. via ZOOM.
Sign up for the Children and Family email for more info, or email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) for info.

UMYF Youth Group: Sundays, 4:30 - 6 p.m. via ZOOM. (note time change) Email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to join this group for youth in grades 6-12.

Hello Friends, we miss you all so much! Even though we’re apart you’re always in our hearts.” From all of the Preschool teachers to our students, with Preschool Director Don Massey and Assistant to the Director Dana Roed. ‘The Preschool Staff is doing an amazing job teaching weekly online classes to their students. The special programs of music and Chinese language classes continue online as well.

Holy Week Services

We experience the presence of Christ in our hearts through the grace of God which knows no walls or boundaries, in which there is no distance or separating. We are always truly “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world!”

- Rev. Patricia Farris
See What Love Can Do

We asked for your photo examples of See What Love Can Do, and you answered! Here are many but not all of the photos submitted to us because of space constraints. To see all of the photos, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/see-what-love-can-do.

To see all of the photos, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/photos page 8 page 9
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**Today I witnessed an act of kindness: at check out a homeless man could not purchase a half gallon of milk so a couple purchased it for him.**

#seewhatlovecando. #helpingthoseinneed

-Cris Murata Reagh

Carly and Adam Greenlee celebrated the birth of baby Greg.

"Let's find the pot of gold at the end of this rainbow!"

Santa Monica Beach, April 17, 2020.

-Fabian Lewkowicz

Easter Sunrise 2020 - "Here Comes the Sun" It's a tradition that I would wake up at 5 am and head over to Palisades Park in Santa Monica and set up a keyboard, guitar, and sound system and play that classic Beatles song "Here comes the Sun" as the sun comes up for our Easter Sunrise Service. This year, we are practicing "Safe at Home" living and will be doing online worship later at 10:00 a.m. A group of us decided we didn't want to wake up to an Easter sunrise without this beloved song. So here is our gift to the First UMC Santa Monica community. - Adam Guerrero

Watch video: www.santamonicaumc.org/see-what-love-can-do.

"Do the work, spread joy."

First UMC member Sam Johnson (in mask) delivering groceries to church member John Redback.

Congregation Care Associate Anna Premer (in mask) delivering masks made by the Prayer Quilt Ministry to Joan Humphreys.

"Let's find the pot of gold at the end of this rainbow!"

Santa Monica Beach, April 17, 2020.

-Fabian Lewkowicz

June Carducci, making a rainbow card to send out with love.

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Easter isn’t limited to one day! Traditionally, the Christian church has celebrated the season of Eastertide—the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost. Many customs have been practiced all through Eastertide around the globe, from decorating Easter eggs, to Easter egg hunts, to placing lilies on the altar of the church throughout the season.

And don’t we all need more than one Easter Day this year! We need all that love and exuberance and joy and promise to lift us up again and again, raising us from our own moments of stress and anxiety into the Light and Life of the Resurrected Christ.

If we keep looking, I’m confident that we’ll see all kinds of evidence of how Easter love is happening in our families, neighborhoods and community. For example, a house I see each morning on my walk has a teddy bear in the window with a hand-colored sign that says “Smile!” Many of our families have started weekly online family gatherings, uniting loved ones near and far for a time of sharing, laughing, and lifting up. Acts of generosity and kindness abound, such as the total stranger who put a roll of paper towels in our cart when he realized that he’d picked up the last pack and we needed some, too.

See What Love Can Do!

is our theme for Eastertide 2020. Keep looking and you’ll see it all around. See below on you can share with us what YOU see, and we’ll keep a giant virtual “scrapbook” to tell the story of these 50 days when the Light and Life of Christ fill our hearts and our world.

May the blessings of our Risen Lord raise us up!

Have you experienced or witnessed moments of love throughout our current situation? Perhaps you’d like to share it and thus inspire some of us who could use a smile. We’re looking for pictures, essays (500 words or less), poems, and everything in between!

Send to Shalimar (s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org) Post it on your own Facebook or Instagram; Don’t forget to tag us @santamonicaumc so we can repost your pics!

Thanks to Nathan Oney, who took this picture on a walk in his neighborhood.

Tricia Guerrero took this picture (left) in her neighborhood. See more of Tricia’s pictures on page 8.

William Martinez during the April 26 10 a.m. online worship service, signing I Love You. Above is the word “Love” in sign language.

Nathan Oney during the April 26 10 a.m. online worship service, signing I Love You.