HORIZONS

The name of this monthly column, “HORIZONS” comes out of the name of our newsletter itself, “The Sentinel.” A sentinel’s job is to stand and keep watch, looking out over the horizons, watching for signs of the Holy Spirit and of the coming Kingdom of God.

Part of our work as people of faith is that same work of a sentinel to look to the far horizons, to keep watch and perceive what’s really happening even before it’s totally apparent. Sometimes, try as hard as we might, we can’t clearly make it out. And sometimes, looking at what’s coming or already upon us, it’s the sentinel’s job to cry out a warning if threat is imminent.

So, sentinels–take in the news, stay safer-at-home and shelter-in-love. THANK YOU for all you’re doing to keep everyone safe and to care for our health care and service providers. Please continue to wash up. Stay healthy. Live smart. Stay in love with God!

Also strive to look beyond. Be strategically serious about what’s happening in the world, and also remember the promises of God. For God said: “…surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Here at First UMC, we will move forward heeding the guidance of our bishop as well as the Guidelines for Re-Opening Churches published by the California Department of Public Health and Cal/OSHA.

In the midst of it all, we continue to be a loving, compassionate, and faithful congregation. We continue to worship, pray, learn, fellowship, play, enjoy music, and reach out to those in need–online and through phone calls and caring notes, and through our prayers for one another.

Carry on, sentinels. Be the church! And let’s “See What Love Can Do…”

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

By Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries

Class of 2020, we know that this is not how you imagined your final semester of college. In a better world you would have spent the past couple of months hanging out with friends, celebrating your hard work at graduation ceremonies, and checking those last few items off your high school or college bucket list. We’re sure that completing all of your classes online, sheltering in place, and surviving a pandemic were not things you expected to be doing right now.

Your plans may now be changed, cancelled or postponed, yet the gifts and talents you have will not go away. You may find that you are being given an opportunity that you didn’t anticipate. An opportunity to enter this next phase of your life with a sharpened awareness and compassion for the suffering and pain in our world. This experience will shape all of us, but you especially. It will undoubtedly shape your heart and life’s focus in new and unexpected ways.

As the scripture from Jeremiah reminds us, “Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” There is boundless hope for each of you and the life that is unfolding before you. Remember that your church family is praying for you and we are celebrating each one of you and your accomplishments!

A Blessing at Graduation
by Lisa Englehardt

May you have wisdom in heart and mind; success in every challenge you find; courage to seek life’s purpose for you; belief in yourself to make it come true; strength to do your best and endure; and the guiding light of faith to ensure that wherever you go, whatever you do, God’s love will always see you through.

To read more about each graduate and their plans for the future, turn to page 8-9.
Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Focus for June:

June 7: Farewell, Nathan Oney
Join us for Pastoral Associate Nathan Oney’s last day of service Sunday June 7. Read the farewell, Nathan Oney feature on the following page for more information.

June 7, during 10 a.m. Worship service

June 14: Celebrating Graduates
On June 14 we are celebrating the graduates of First UMC. To find out about the graduates and their hopes for the future, go to page 8.

June 14, during 10 a.m. Worship service

June 21: Special UMC Service
Our online service on Sunday, June 21, will be a wonderful service prepared and led by our California-Pacific conference staff, and recorded at Pasadena First UMC. It features our district superintendent, Mark Nakagawa, and was created as a thank-you to pastors and worship teams who have been working hard to create online services for our congregations.

June 21, during 10 a.m. Worship service

June 28: Scholarship Sunday Online
Even though schools are finishing the year online, the young scholars of First UMC are excited about their next educational step. Make sure to watch the 10 a.m. Online Worship service to honor and recognize those being awarded with a Methodist Foundation Scholarship.

June 28, during 10 a.m. Worship service

After Worship Zoom Social Hour
If you haven’t “stopped by” the post-worship virtual Coffee Hour Sundays at 11:15 a.m., it’s not too late to give it a try! 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 Sarah Rold (s.rold@santamonicaumc.org) by Fridays for how to join by phone.

NEW ZOOM ID:
All are welcome via Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/86071918466
Zoom ID: 860 7191 8466
Password: fumc

ONLINE Coffee Hour: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020 (CONT.)

Christian Dodd
Earned his EMT Certificate from Colorado Mesa University.
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Completed Basic Combat Training as a Private Second Class in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill in Lawton, OK.
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Graduating from Rio Hondo College with an Associate in Arts degree. Plans to continue with a few more classes and then apply to nursing school.

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- Facebook - Search @santamonicaumc.
- YouTube Channel - Search “Santa Monica UMC.” Subscribe to our channel and adjust your notification settings to your preference.
- Website - View the recital on the Livestream page:
  www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream.

Messy Church at Home
For the June 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, the email will be released June 17.

Farewell, Nathan Oney
As announced at the end of April, our Pastoral Associate, Nathan Oney, and his wife, Kristia, will be moving back to Oklahoma to be closer to parents and aging grandparents. Nathan’s last Sunday in worship at First UMC will be Sunday, June 7. Share your well wishes for and favorite memories of Nathan and his wife, Kristia, via the First UMC Community Discussion Board, and please hold them in your prayers as they prepare for their move. On Facebook? Share photos on the Fare Thee Well, Oney Facebook Group.
To read an interview with Nathan, turn to page 4.

www.santamonicaumc.org/discussion-topics/farewell-nathan-oney

First UMC

Births
Catherine Sondecker was born Sunday, May 10, to parents First UMC members George and Elizabeth Sondecker.

Deaths
We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those departed loved ones:
- Condolences to Ann and David Wilson and family in the death of Ann’s dad, Pastor Don Wagner, on April 22, after a series of strokes. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later time. Please hold Ann and David, Ann’s sister and brother-in-law Beth Wagner and John Rosewall, and brother Bruce Wagner in your prayers. Memorial Gifts to honor Don may be sent to First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, the Alzheimer’s Association of Los Angeles, or the Langa Foundation (an animal rescue center.) We mourn, but not without hope, for we are people of the Resurrection.
- We give thanks for the life and life everlasting of long-time First UMC member, Roger Raymond Reel, who died peacefully at home May 6th. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a future date.
- First UMC member Amy Liggitt’s father died May 12.
- First UMC member Ernie Leonard’s sister and two cousins died.
- First UMC member Karen Lewis’ aunt Joan died.

Thank You to First UMC
“I just want to thank everyone at First UMC for acknowledging the dedication to my father of the upcoming anthem string trio this coming Sunday. That was very nice. Dr. James Smith has always been very encouraging and supportive of my musical attempts, and I am forever grateful for that support, not only from Dr. Smith, but everyone at First UMC Santa Monica, from staff to choir members to congregation.” - Michael McClish

Welcome New Member
We welcome new member Guy Cosman Cass. Guy is an architect and the owner of GuyArchitect, an Architectural firm in Santa Monica specializing in the design of custom homes since 2004.

Congratulations
First UMC youth Mikey Strauss’ work on printing 3D face masks for hospitals across the country was highlighted on The Today Show in their “Kids in the Spotlight” segment on May 22. Congratulations and great work Mikey!
Farewell, Nathan Oney (cont.)

We asked Pastoral Associate Nathan Oney a few questions about his time here at First UMC, and what his hopes are for his new assignment as he and his wife Kristia prepare for their move back to Oklahoma.

Hello Nathan! It’s been two years since you’ve started at First UMC as Pastoral Associate. You came here fresh out of grad school from Claremont School of Theology. What was the biggest challenge for you transitioning from school life to thenuts and bolts of being a Pastoral Associate?

All of my experience in ministry to that point that I started here at First UMC was in ministry settings that were tangential to the local church, and coming into local church ministry was a bit of an adjustment. It requires a different mindset than, say, working with spiritual seekers who are outside the church. All in all, I found it somewhat difficult at first to relate to the way that life-long members see the church. I had to learn how to see through their eyes, rather than the eyes of a life-long outsider, which required me to let go of my ego. I’m grateful for all the members who were my teachers in this.

What advice would you give now to graduates that are just beginning their ministry path?

I’d say that the most important thing is to be true to yourself. Be sympathetic and listen deeply, but don’t try to be someone that you aren’t.

I really enjoyed your sermon for May 17, called “See What Love Can Do: Gringe.” You talk about life during this time of COVID-19, and how we might not want to go back to the way things were before. As you move back to Oklahoma and into a new ministry assignment in June, is there anything that you’ve discovered during the Safer-at-Home time that you hope to take with you?

I think I was really preaching to myself. All I want is for this time to be over so that we can go back to normal, but I think it helps to look at this as a time of exile. In the Babylonian exile, the Israelites had to figure out how to maintain their identity and worship without access to the Temple, but it was also the origin of the Year of Jubilee—God’s great redistribution of wealth. As we start to re-examine our values, we will have to carefully examine the priority that we place on things that bring us comfort and joy, and perhaps learn how to see things through the eyes of a life-long outsider.

Safer Computing Practices

by David Penson, Membership and Facilities Coordinator

During this time of staying safer at home, we also need to take this opportunity to be safer while computing. It has been brought to our attention that since the safer-at-home orders were put in place there has been a significant spike in phishing email scams worldwide. Please be mindful that these scams can be very deceiving. You may receive an email that says it’s from someone you know, but in reality, it’s from a hacker trying to get you to send them money/gift cards or gain access to your computer password.

For example, in your inbox, the label of the email can say it’s from someone here at the church, but in reality, the email address is from “onlinechurch80@gmail.com,” which doesn’t match any of our email addresses. Our emails will always end with “santamonicaucmc.org.”

In the future to protect yourself from being scammed, you should always check the actual email address of the sender to make sure it’s from who it says it’s from. Also, if you suspect anything you can always call the person the email says it’s from to confirm that they actually sent it to you. Please continue to stay safe everyone!

Give Online

Thank you everyone for all of your support during these uncertain times. The Finance office continues to receive your support securely online at www.santamonicaucmc.org/give, via mail, or onsite through the office mail slot. No gift is too small. Thank you!

Children and Family Ministry

Thank You Video

The First UMC Children’s Ministry invited families to take part in a Faith in Action service project that would reach out to a need we are seeing in our community during the Coronavirus and Safer-At-Home living. Families were asked to craft a poster or card to say, Thank you to the health care workers on the front lines. Their artwork was captured in video and picture and compiled into a “Thank You Video.”

This project gave children the opportunity to express their gratitude and it gives all of us a way to lift up the everyday people who are our heroes during this time. We hope this video message lifts your spirits and shows how much we appreciate the amazing ways healthcare workers serve the community during this time. We invite you to share our video with others who would benefit from it.

To view, go to: www.santamonicaucmc.org/faith-in-action.

See What Love Can Do

On May 1, 2020, the Mulvihill Family closed escrow and received their keys to their new “Patience House” home. Congratulations Kaoru, Kendall, Trent and Mason!!

First UMC is part of the Westside Church Coalition, a group of nine local Methodist churches, participating in building the 10 homes at the Culver City site. Thanks to all who volunteered to help make the Mulvihill’s dream a reality.

The Thank You Video gives all of us a way to lift up the everyday people who are our heroes in video and picture and compiled into a “Thank You Video.” This project gave children the opportunity to express their gratitude and it gives all of us a way to lift up the everyday people who are our heroes during this time. We hope this video message lifts your spirits and shows how much we appreciate the amazing ways healthcare workers serve the community during this time. We invite you to share our video with others who would benefit from it.

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Preschool Corner

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The The Santa Monica Rotary granted the First UMC Preschool $3,500 for distance learning art supplies for each of the 114 children enrolled.

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“i just wanted to let you know how amazing the curriculum boxes that Kim put together for room 107 are. There was obviously SO MUCH thought, effort, and time that went into each of these and we can not thank her enough. Since picking this up yesterday, Blake has been so excited for the activities in store and for the first time, I have had a glimpse into his dream a reality.

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3. Two famous people (living or not) I would have over for dinner tonight in my very large formal dining room (so they would sit at least 6 feet away) are...

- PF: My grandparents: Rhomayne Rawlins and Mabel Ferris. Not famous, but full of wisdom and strength.
- SC: Lucille Ball because just discovered “I Love Lucy” and Michelle Obama.
- TG: This is always hard for me to narrow down: today I would say Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Bishop Desmond Tutu.
- AP: Claudia and Uncle Phil’s.
- CE: “Outside” by George Michael & “Only the Strong” by Laura Marling.

2. One sentence I would tell my past-self back in January...

- TG: My favorite song this year has been “Outside” by George Michael & “Only the Strong” by Laura Marling.
- AP: Stay-in-Touch with friends and family via FaceTime, Zoom, emails, etc. Many adjustments to daily life have had to be made quickly.
- SC: While working from home I pull up music on YouTube
- PF: This is always hard for me to narrow down: today I would say artist J.M.W. Turner, and Julia Child.
- DP: Tina Gage: hymn with a beat you can work out to! My favorite years have been “My Country Tis of Thee” and “Ode to Joy”.

My Pandemic Processing April 28, 2020 by Cindy McQuade

Sitting here unproductive, fearful and访谈, what am I doing with myself? What can I do? Feeling weak, feeling vulnerable, over 65, now I’m 66. Maybe I don’t look delicate, but I am. I am resilient, I hurt, I cry easily, I am overwhelmed by my anger. I am sensitive, I am tired, I am weary, and a little voice shouts in my head repeatedly, I am resilient, I am resilient, yes I am. Let me remind me I am resilient.

I have survived so much far, my brother’s death, yes Cary’s miserable, heartwrenching, shocking, ugly, unceasingly death to AIDS, punch puck. AIDS, what a nightmare that seemed and still is far too many. That took my heart away, left me in darkness and despair, left me. He left me, he left us, he left us shocked and fearful, and lost. Lost, lost, lost. Lost Cary, lost grandparents, lost dogs, lost parents. Yes, yes, yes. At times, I lost hope. Last weight, mostly gained weight. Last spirit, last confidence, last jobs, lost friends, last faith, lost and found.

Resurrected, a person of the resurrection reminded of eternal life, and Easter people. You know what that means? A person of the resurrection life eternal, life forever, good God, the best God. The all-loving, merciful, healing God. I am a woman of the resurrection. A believer in eternal life, hopeful and prayerful, yes, yes, I am resilient.

Watch me now as I brush my teeth and reach for my lipstick and hair dye, watching me now as I call a friend to offer support, as I remember to pray, as I pray again. As I pick up my pen to write again to seek my hope and strength and love. Yes, my love. Not only for myself, for humanity. For the neighbor who hurts me. The tornado who hits hard. The leader who is stupid. The virus unrelenting. The darkness ever-prevailing. The hate ever-seeking. The heart ever-damaging. The heart ever-breaking. The trust ever-failed. The bills always arriving. The rent always due. Thegrim reaper always present. And once again, I will stand up for love. The power of love.

The almighty love. I will find my way to prayer. I will cry out and whisper and seek in the darkness of my love, my God, my all-powerful goodness. The Holy of the Holy. The maker of heaven and earth. The leader of wisdom and humanity. The final word. The almighty. Lift me, Lord, life me once again, to be resilient, to do good, to spread love and kindness, to be a peacemaker, a woman of hope, a child of this grand scheme, a citizen of this world. A mother to all children, a friend to every earth, a comfort to my brothers, a sister to my sisters. A support, a listening ear, a compassionate neighbor. A kind friend, a loyal servant of the most high, a planter of seeds, waterer of gardens, smiling flowers, hugging trees, walking on/bowfoot on the sandy beach, lying in the grass, climbing mountains, swimming through fresh waters, looking at the moon, staring into my dogs eyes, holding tiny babies, laughing in the breeze, dancing in the rain, lifting people up, allowing them to lift me up too.

3. Two famous people (living or not) I would have over for dinner tonight in my very large formal dining room (so they would sit at least 6 feet away) are...

- PF: My grandparents: Rhamayne Rawlins and Mabel Ferris. Not famous, but full of wisdom and strength.
- SC: Lucille Ball because June just discovered “I Love Lucy” and Michelle Obama.

4. The quote from the book I named above, “Most of us lead far far away from the heart. We lost weight, mostly gained weight. Lost spirit, lost confidence, lost jobs, ever-looking. The grim reaper is stupid. The virus unrelenting. The darkness ever-prevailing. The hate ever-foiled. The bills always arriving. The rent always due. The grim reaper always present. And once again, I will stand up for love. The power of love. The almighty love. I will find my way to prayer. I will cry out and whisper to seek my hope. Will I find my way to prayer? I will cry out and whisper to seek my hope...

5. The church staff was asked the following Safer-at-Home questions. See their responses below.

   - DP: Wash your hands more often and stop touching your face.
   - TG: These are the good old days...and don’t forget to buy some Face masks courtesy of the Prayer Quilt Ministry.
   - AP: Invest in Zoom, and have the kids spend more time at Aunt Michelle Obama.
   - CE: “I am contextual. I am resilient. I am not famous, but I’d love to have dinner with him again!”
   - SC: Lucille Ball because June just discovered “I Love Lucy” and Michelle Obama.

6. My favorite Safer-at-Home song / book / scripture / hymn...

   - Rev. Patricia Ferris: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and “Turn, Turn, Turn” (The Byrds or Pete Seeger) based on Ecclesiastes.
   - Tricia Guerrero: “My Grandfather’s Blessings: Stories of Strength, Refuge, and Belonging” by Rachel Naomi Remen M.D.
   - Christina Eddy: Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World.” It still will.
   - Sarah Reid: My favorite hymn ever since I was in high school singing in my church choir, is #593 Here I Am, Lord. It was even one of the hymns sung at both of my sons’ baptisms.
   - Anne Premer: “A God Like You” by Kirk Franklin. It’s a fun hip-hop hymn with a beat you can work out to.
   - Tina Gage: While working from home I pull up music on YouTube. Favorites have been any Tiny Desk Concert, Ray LaMontagne’s “We’ll Make It Through,” and “Max Richter Reimagining Vivaldi.”
   - David Penson: Numbers 6: 24-26 - The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Face masks courtesy of the Prayer Quilt Ministry.
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Be sure to “follow” our page and RSVP to this event to receive notifications of when we go live.
- YouTube Channel - Search “Santa Monica UMC.” Subscribe to our channel and adjust your notification settings to your preference.
- Website - View the recital on the Livestream page: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream.

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

Messy Church at Home
For the June 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 Calendar the Mess reflection, prayers, Messy Meal, a video, and more!

Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch to sign up now, the email will be released June 17.

Congratulations
First UMC youth Mikey Strauss’ work on printing 3D face masks for hospitals across the country was highlighted on the Today Show in their “Kids in the Spotlight” segment on May 22. Congratulations and great work Mikey!

First UMC
COMMUNITY

Deaths
We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those departed loved ones:
- Condolences to Ann and David Wilson and family in the death of Ann’s dad and long-time First UMC member, Dr. Don Wagner, on April 22, after a series of strokes. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later time. Please hold Ann and David, Ann’s sister and brother-in-law Beth Wagner and John Rosewall, and brother Bruce Wagner in your prayers. Memorial Gifts to honor Don may be sent to First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, the Alzheimer’s Association of Los Angeles, or the Langa Foundation (an animal rescue center.) We mourn, but not without hope, for we are people of the Resurrection.
- We give thanks for the life and life everlasting of long-time First UMC member, Roger Raymond Reel, who died peacefully at home May 6th. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a future date.
- First UMC member Amy Liggett’s father died May 12.
- First UMC member Ernie Leonard’s sister and two cousins died.
- First UMC member Karen Lewis’ aunt Joann died.

Thank You to First UMC
“I just want to thank everyone at First UMC for acknowledging the dedication to my father of the upcoming anthem string trio this coming Sunday. That was very nice. Dr. James Smith has always been very encouraging and supportive of my musical attempts, and I am forever grateful for that support, not only from Dr. Smith, but everyone at First UMC Santa Monica, from staff to choir members to congregation.” - Michael McClish

Welcome New Member
We welcome new member Guy Cosman Cass. Guy is an architect and the owner of GuyArchitect, an Architectural firm in Santa Monica specializing in the design of custom homes since 2004.

Births
Catherine Sandecker was born Sunday, May 10, to parents First UMC members George and Elizabeth Sandecker.

Congratulations
First UMC youth Mikey Strauss’ work on printing 3D face masks for hospitals across the country was highlighted on the The Today Show in their “Kids in the Spotlight” segment on May 22. Congratulations and great work Mikey!

Farewell, Nathan Oney
As announced at the end of April, our Pastoral Associate, Nathan Oney, and his wife, Kristie, will be moving back to Oklahoma to be closer to parents and aging grandparents. Nathan’s last Sunday in worship at First UMC will be Sunday, June 7. Share your well wishes for and favorite memories of Nathan and his wife, Kristie, via the First UMC Community Discussion Board, and please hold them in your prayers as they prepare for their move. On Facebook? Share photos on the Fare Thee Well, Oney Facebook Group.
To read an interview with Nathan, turn to page 4.
www.santamonicaumc.org/discussion-topics/farewell-nathan-oney

Fare Thee Well, Oney!
JUNE ONLINE Calendar

Sunday, June 7 - Nathan Oney’s last service at First UMC • Trinity Sunday • Online Holy Communion
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Tuesday, June 9
7 p.m. Foundation Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, June 10
12:10 p.m. Online Mid-Week Recital with Duo Imaginalis
Sunday, June 14 - Celebrating Graduates
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Wednesday, June 17
Messy Church from Home email release
Friday, June 19 - Saturday, June 20
Cal-Pac Annual Conference - Online
Sunday, June 21 - Special UMC Recorded worship service • Father’s Day
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, June 28 - Scholarship 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 the church office: info@santamonicaumc.org, if you would like to join this group.
Young Adults Virtual Community Soul Care: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Email the church office: info@santamonicaumc.org, 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. Email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to join this group for youth in grades 6-12.

WATCH 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. Sanctuary Worship
WHERE: Go to the First UMC Facebook page (@santamonicaumc), or watch the Sunday service the following week 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.)

Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Focus for June:

June 7: Farewell, Nathan Oney
Join us for Pastor Nathan Oney’s last day of service Sunday June 7. Read the farewell, Nathan Oney feature on the following page for more information.

June 7, during 10 a.m. Worship service

June 14: Celebrating Graduates
On June 14 we are celebrating the graduates of First UMC. To find out about the graduates and their hopes for the future, go to page 8.

June 14, during 10 a.m. Worship service

June 21: Special UMC Service
Our online service on Sunday, June 21, will be a wonderful service prepared and led by our California-Pacific conference staff, and recorded at Pasadena First UMC. It features our district superintendent, Mark Nakagawa, and was created as a thank-you to pastors and worship teams who have been working hard to create online services for our congregations.

June 21, during 10 a.m. Worship service

June 28: Scholarship Sunday Online
Even though schools are finishing the year online, the young scholars of First UMC are excited about their next educational step. Make sure to watch the 10 a.m. Online Worship service to honor and recognize those being awarded with a Methodist Foundation Scholarship.

June 28, during 10 a.m. Worship service

After Worship Zoom Social Hour
If you haven’t “stopped by” the post-worship virtual Coffee Hour Sundays at 11:15 a.m., it’s not too late to give it a try! 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 Sarah Rold (s.rold@santamonicaumc.org) by Fridays for how to join by phone.

NEW ZOOM ID:
All are welcome via Zoom:
https://zoom.us/j/86071918466
Zoom ID: 860 7191 8466
Password: fumc

First UMC continues to be Safe, Smart, Supportive, and move Step-by-Step during this time of COVID-19
The name of this monthly column, “HORIZONS” comes out of the name of our newsletter itself, “The Sentinel.” A sentinel’s job is to stand and keep watch, looking out over the horizons, watching for signs of the Holy Spirit and of the coming Kingdom of God.

Part of our work as people of faith is that same work of a sentinel to look to the far horizons, to keep watch and perceive what’s really happening even before it’s totally apparent. Sometimes, try as hard as we might, we can’t clearly make it out.

And sometimes, looking at what’s coming or already upon us, it’s the sentinel’s job to cry out a warning if threat is imminent.

So, sentinels—take in the news, stay safer-at-home and shelter-in-love. THANK YOU for all you’re doing to keep everyone safe and to care for our health care and service providers. Please continue to wash up. Stay healthy. Live smart. Stay in love with God!

Also strive to look beyond. Be strategically serious about what’s happening in the world, and also remember the promises of God. For God said:

“...surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Here at First UMC, we will move forward heeding the guidance of our bishop as well as the Guidelines for Re-Opening Churches published by the California Department of Public Health and Cal/OSHA.

In the midst of it all, we continue to be a loving, compassionate, and faithful congregation. We continue to worship, pray, learn, fellowship, play, enjoy music, and reach out to those in need—online and through phone calls and caring notes, and through our prayers for one another.

Carry on, sentinels. Be the church! And let’s “See What Love Can Do…”

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GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

By Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries

Class of 2020, we know that this is not how you imagined your final semester of college. In a better world you would have spent the past couple of months hanging out with friends, celebrating your hard work at graduation ceremonies, and checking those last few items off your high school or college bucket list. We’re sure that completing all of your classes online, sheltering in place, and surviving a pandemic were not things you expected to be doing right now.

Your plans may now be changed, cancelled or postponed, yet the gifts and talents you have will not go away. You may find that you are being given an opportunity that you didn’t anticipate. An opportunity to enter this next phase of your life with a sharpened awareness and compassion for the suffering and pain in our world. This experience will shape all of us, but you especially. It will undoubtedly shape your heart and life’s focus in new and unexpected ways.

The scripture from Jeremiah reminds us...

“...surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

There is boundless hope for each of you and the life that is unfolding before you. Remember that your church family is praying for you and we are celebrating each one of you and your accomplishments!

A Blessing at Graduation

by Lisa Englehardt

May you have wisdom in heart and mind; success in every challenge you find; courage to seek life’s purpose for you; belief in yourself to make it come true; strength to do your best and endure; and the guiding light of faith to ensure that wherever you go, whatever you do, God’s love will always see you through.

To read more about each graduate and their plans for the future, turn to page 8-9.

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