HORIZONS
by Rev. Patricia Farris

In a recent HORIZONS column, I wrote of the sentinel’s role in looking to the horizon to catch a glimpse of the future. As it turns out, daily updates on the coronavirus only seem to cloud our vision of the future. It goes in and out of focus and we wonder what the next news report will reveal.

In the meantime, we can take a clear look at the present moment. One thing we can see very clearly—the church has not stopped being church! Remember the three rules of Wesley: do no harm, do good, stay in love with God. We’re on it!

Do no harm—continuing online worship and modeling safe practices of social distancing and wearing masks whenever we’re out and about. Our Re-Gathering Task Force is hard at work making plans for the day when safe and faithful in-person worship will again be possible.

Do good—supporting Upward Bound House, the Haiti Mission, Westside Food Bank, and our front-line health care and service providers; generous giving to the church; reaching out to congregation and neighbors with messages of love and care; resourcing our stressed-out families through in-home Sunday School, youth ministry, and the distribution of 100 Vacation Bible School resource kits.

Stay in love with God—through worship and music and Messy Church at home; Bible Study and spiritual growth groups; ZOOM fellowship in Coffee Hour; Men’s Breakfast Bible Study; Prayer Quilt Ministry, Sharengers, and church committees; unceasing prayer for one another and for greater justice in our world.

The church has not stopped being church! We’re inspired to new forms of innovation, creativity and outreach—all to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. Thanks be to God for the abiding presence and power of the Holy Spirit in and through it all!
### AUGUST ONLINE Calendar

**Sunday, August 2:** Online Holy Communion - Rev. Larry Young preaching the fifth in the series of Six Great Bible Stories
- 9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard 10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
- 11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

**Sunday, August 9:** Rev. Patricia Farris preaching sixth in the series of Six Great Bible Stories
- 9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard 10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
- 11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

**Wednesday, August 11:**
- 12:10 p.m. August Mid-Week Recital, Online via Facebook and the First UMC Livestream page

**Saturday, August 15**
- 9:30 a.m. Prayer Quiz Workparty, via Zoom

**Sunday, August 16**
- Tricia Guerrero preaching, School Blessing Sunday
- 9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard 10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
- 11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

**Sunday, August 23:**
- Rev. Patricia Farris preaching the first in the sermon series “More Than Meets the Eye”
- 9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard 10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
- 11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

**Wednesday, August 26**
- 4 p.m. Grief and Graces: a sacred space for weary souls with Keri Olsen Paget

**Sunday, August 30:**
- Rev. Patricia Farris preaching the second in the sermon series “More Than Meets the Eye”
- 9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard 10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)
- 11:15 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

### PARCIPATE ONLINE

#### Sundays 10 a.m.

**Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner**

- Each Sunday morning you are invited to join Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Lay Pastor, for a brisk walk together following social distancing protocols. Meet in the church courtyard at 9 a.m. and the group will make their way towards Ocean Avenue and back.

**Sundays, 9 a.m., at the First UMC Courtyard**

**Grief and Graces: a sacred space for weary souls with Keri Olsen Paget**

- In this time of collective loss and upheaval, Rev. Keri Olsen offers an online gathering, “Grief and Graces, a sacred space for weary souls.” Meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, come for a time of reflection, to name the challenges and gifts of this time, listen for God’s invitation, and engage prayer. It’s a drop-in, no need to pre-register. All are welcome, invite a friend. To register, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/grief-graces-registration.

#### First UMC continues to be Safe, Smart, Supportive, and Inclusive

- **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.)

### After Worship Zoom Social Hour

- If you haven’t “stopped by” the past 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.
- All are welcome via Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/98620023568
- Zoom ID: 986 2002 3568. Password: fumc (ID valid until August 30)

### Participate Online August Mid-Week Recital

The summer Mid-Week recital series continues with Susan Greenberg, flute; Cristina Montes Mateo; harp. Susan Greenberg played in the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra for 36 years, and continues to appear as soloist and chamber musician throughout the Los Angeles area. Cristina Matea has an international career as harpist with numerous orchestras, and is currently Solo Harpist at the Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), and has been Principal Harp with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

#### When to watch

- **Facebook** - Search @santamonicaumc.
  - Be sure to “Follow” our page.
- **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.

### August ONLINE Mid-Week Recital

The summer Mid-Week recital series continues with Susan Greenberg, flute; Cristina Montes Mateo; harp. Susan Greenberg played in the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra for 36 years, and continues to appear as soloist and chamber musician throughout the Los Angeles area. Cristina Matea has an international career as harpist with numerous orchestras, and is currently Solo Harpist at the Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), and has been Principal Harp with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

- **How to watch:**
- **Facebook** - Search @santamonicaumc.
  - Be sure to “Follow” our page.
- **YouTube Channel** - Search “Santa Monica UMC.”
- **Livestream** - Open the Livestream page: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream.

### School Blessing Sunday with Tricia Guerrero

- Back to school is around the corner. Part of preparing for school is making sure we have our books and school supplies, but we also want to take time to prepare our hearts for learning and growing. This school year beginning holds a lot of unknowns and will take all of the strength, courage and hope that we have within us. Gather with us for worship Sunday, August 16 as we bless our teachers, students and their families for the school year ahead. Blessing tags for backpacks will be sent to all of our students. They will also be available by calling the church office.

**Sunday August 16**, during 10 a.m. worship

### Messy Church at Home

- In place of gathering in August, we are sharing our monthly email for doing “Messy Church at Home.” Our theme will be based on the story of Zacchaeus and the activities will explore the idea of exclusion and inclusion. We will reflect on ways we can welcome and include others, even during this time of sheltering in place. Sign up for the newsletter that includes suggestions for Messy activities, a Celebrate the Mess reflection, prayers, Messy Meal, and more!

**Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch to sign up now**

### Donations Needed for Upward Bound House School Supplies

Upward Bound House (UBH) provides homeless families with housing and supportive services in our community. Our church has a long history of supporting UBH and its efforts in our community. During the month of August, First UMC will continue its tradition of taking donations that will enable us to supply 50 backpacks and school supplies for Family Place, the transitional housing program at UBH, for families with young children. With the announcement that many schools will begin with virtual learning only this fall, we recognize these families face even greater challenges. Let us come together and support the kids and families of Upward Bound House to help them to learn and grow during this time.

**This year we are only accepting money donations (not supplies) towards the purchase of supplies in bulk.**

To donate, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/give, click Give Online, then select “School Supplies for UBH” in the dropdown menu. You may also send in a check made to First UMC, note UBH in the memo.

---

**Weekly Ministries via ZOOM:**

- **Men’s Breakfast: 7 a.m. via Zoom. Email the church office: info@santamonicaumc.org, for more info.**

- **Parables of Jesus, Online Class with Rev. Larry Young**
  - Tuesdays, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. via Zoom (same class, pick your best time)
  - Contact Rev. Larry to join: lyoung@ljyoung.net or call 310-376-9494 (answering machine always on)
- **Grief and Graces: a sacred space for weary souls, with Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**
  - 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 4 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Sarah Rold to sign up: s.rold@santamonicaumc.org, or call 310-393-8258. For more info on the gathering, go to page 3.

- **Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Email Lauren at: openspace@ santamonicaumc.org. For more info on Open Space, go to page 5.**

- **Sunday School Meetings:** Sundays, 9:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m. via Zoom. Sign Up for the families and contact Rev. for more info, or email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrera@santamonicaumc.org) for info.

- **UMYM Youth Group:** The UMYM is on summer break. Email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrera@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like info about this group for youth in grades 6-12.

---
PARCIPATE ONLINE
Sundays 10 a.m.

During this season of “Sheltering in Love,” we join together in heart and spirit through Scripture, music, sermon, and prayer. You can participate in the service at home at a time that suits your convenience. Together in love, let us draw close to the heart of God, finding peace, strength and hope for the journey.

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

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

Grief and Graces: a sacred space for weary souls with Keri Olsen Paget

In this time of collective loss and upheaval, Rev. Keri Olsen offers an online gathering, “Grief and Graces, a sacred space for weary souls.” Meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, come for a time of reflection, to name the challenges and gifts of this time, listen for God’s invitation, and enter into prayer. It’s a drop-in group, as needed. All are welcome, invite a friend. To register, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/grief-graces-registration.

Sundays, August 9 & 23, 4 p.m., via Zoom or Phone In

First UMC continues to be Safe, Smart, Supportive, and move Step-By-Step through this time of COVID-19.

AUGUST ONLINE Mid-Week Recital

The summer Mid-Week recital series continues with Susan Greenberg, flute; Cristina Montes Mateo, harp. Susan Greenberg played in the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra for 36 years, and continues to appear as soloist and chamber musician throughout the Los Angeles area. Cristina Matea has an international career as harpist with numerous orchestras, and is currently Solo Harpist at the Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), and has been Principal Harp with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

How to watch:
- 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.

Monday August 10, 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday August 11, 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday August 12, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday August 13, 7:15 p.m.
Friday August 14, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday August 15, 7:15 p.m.

Weekday Ministries via Zoom:

- Men’s Breakfast: Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom. Email the church office: info@santamonicaumc.org, for more info.
- Parables of Jesus, Online Class with Rev. Larry Young
  Tuesdays, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. via Zoom (same class, pick your best time)
  Contact Rev. Larry to join: lyoung@ljyoung.net or call 310-376-9494 (answering machine always on)
- Grief and Graces: a sacred space for weary souls, with Rev. Keri Olsen Paget
  2nd and 4th Sunday of the month,
  4 p.m., via Zoom.
  Contact Sarah Rold to sign up: s.rold@santamonicaumc.org, or call 310.393.8258.
  For more info on the gathering, go to page 3.
- Open Space Young Adults Care: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Email Laurel at: openspace@ santamonicaumc.org. For more info on Open Space, go to page 5.
- Sunday School Meetings: Sundays, 9:15 a.m. via Zoom. Sign up with the Children and Family email for more info, or email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) for info.
- UMYF Youth Group: The UMYF is on summer break. Email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like info about this group for youth in grades 6-12.

Tuesday August 11, 7:15 p.m.

After Worship Zoom Social Hour

If you haven’t “stopped by” the past 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. All are welcome via Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/98620023568. Zoom ID: 996 2002 3368. Password: fumc.

First UMC continues to be Safe, Smart, Supportive, and move Step-By-Step through this time of COVID-19.

School Blessing Sunday with Tricia Guerrero

Back to school is around the corner. Part of preparing for school is making sure we have our books and school supplies, but we also want to take time to prepare our hearts for learning and growing. This school year beginning holds a lot of unknowns and will take all of the strength, courage and hope that we have within us. Gather with us for worship on Sunday, August 16 as we bless our teachers, students and their families for the school year ahead. Blessing tags for backpacks will be sent to all of our students. They will also be available by calling the church office.

Sunday August 16, during 10 a.m. worship

Messy Church at Home

In place of gathering in August, we are sharing an monthly email for doing “Messy Church at Home.” Our theme will be based on the story of Zacchaeus and the activities will explore the idea of exclusion and inclusion. We will reflect on ways we can welcome and include others, even during this time of sheltering in love. Sign up for the newsletter that includes suggestions for Messy activities, a Celebrate the Mess reflection, prayers, Messy Meal, and more!

To go to www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch to sign up now

Donations Needed for Upward Bound House School Supplies

Upward Bound House (UBH) provides homeless families with housing and supportive services in our community. Our church has a long history of supporting UBH and its efforts in our community. During the month of August, First UMC will continue its tradition of taking donations that will enable us to supply 50 backpacks and school supplies for Family Place, the transitional housing program at UBH for families with young children. With the announcement that many schools will begin with virtual learning only this fall, we recognize these families face even greater challenges. Let us come together and support the kids and families of Upward Bound House to help them to learn, grow and succeed through this challenging time.

This year we are ONLY accepting money donations (not supplies) towards the purchase of supplies in bulk.

To donate, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/give, click Give Online, then select “School Supplies for UBH” in the dropdown menu. You may also send in a check made to First UMC, notate UBH in the memo.
August Photo Challenge: Self-Care

How are you taking care of yourself during this time? We want to hear about it! Perhaps you’ll spark a new practice for someone else. Send photos to Shalimar Carducci and we will feature them in this newsletter.

Send your photos to Shalimar Carducci.

Deadline to submit: August 21

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.santamonicaumc.org/give, via mail, or on site through the office mail slot. No gift is too small. Thank you!

We thank Mike Eskridge for the beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary. To donate to the flower fund, or to send flowers to go to home-bound seniors, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.

Death

First UMC member Dan Nessel’s father Howard Nessel died July 6.

Congregation Care

If you have any questions, need assistance, or would like to volunteer to help with our homebound folks, please contact: Anne Premer (email) or (310)393-8258 ext 103. To see a full list of local community resources, go to the First UMC Congregation Care Resources webpage: www.santamonicaumc.org/care.

Church Campus Safety Guidelines

Some of the church office staff are back working in the office, carefully following safety protocols. If you need to stop by the church office, please arrive wearing a mask. We will provide a paper mask if needed.

Open Space Young Adult Ministry

Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. Since mid-March 2020, they have been gathering each Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom for conversations on faith and life, engaging in prayer and study. Instead of one leader for the group, they have chosen to have a leadership team model consisting of the following group members: Lauren Capessi, Mia Starraci, Brandon Searfoss, Molly Smith, Lauren Foxwell, and Spencer Dewald & Lindsay Crossan.

What is Open Space up to this summer? In June, they began a summer conversation on racial injustice using the book, So You Want To Talk About Race, by Ijeoma Oluo. Using this book, they are in a process of self-examination, action, unlearning, relearning, and accountability. They believe having these conversations in community helps each person to grow and put their faith into action for justice.

For more information about Open Space or to join their weekly Zoom meetings, email: openspacesantamonica@gmail.com

Visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/openspace.

Facebook: OpenSpaceSM  Instagram: openspaceSM
Haiti Mission Update by Todd Erlandson, Haiti Team Leader

“As many of you remember, back in February we launched our annual “Pennies for Haiti” fundraiser intending to purchase fifteen goats for the community of Sabier, in lieu of our annual Haiti work team, which was cancelled due to social unrest.

What we did not know, as we prepared to wire funds in March, was that Haiti was suffering as we were from the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. Mandatory “shelter in place” rules from the government directed people to retreat to their homes. As people rushed to the market, stocking up on supplies for their families, prices skyrocketed and reserves dried up, leaving many locked in their houses with nothing to eat, creating great need.

Through direction from our Haitian support team, we were able to pivot from the purchase of goats to the more immediate need of getting food relief to the people of Sabier. With the available funds we were able to provide 35 families with food packages to support them for the short term.

This past month former mission volunteers in our congregation, with support of church leadership and the Mission Council, have identified reserves earmarked for Haiti relief, and have committed a portion of these funds for continued food drops. Last week our in-country team delivered more food to supply 50 families with staples such as rice, oil and canned food, enough to last them up to three weeks. These 50 families surround the center of the community of Sabier, a location and population that so many of us are familiar with. We intend to continue this food aid support monthly with the available funds, and we welcome additional donations if you are so moved.

We are so grateful to all of you who have donated to Haiti relief through First UMC in the past. Your generosity has built these available funds. I would also like to offer great thanks to our in-country team: Caz Cardiny, our interpreter, Jacobs Jean Claude, our generous host in Sabier, and Osnell Louis, the local church lay leader. They are tireless in their care for the community – collecting funds, renting vehicles, purchasing and delivering food and calmly and safely distributing to those most in need. We could not do it without them. Please think of them as they risk health and safety, and keep them in your prayers.”

Visit the website to view Todd Erlandson’s Moments for Mission during the July 19 online worship service, and a video from Osnell Louis with a message of thanks to the congregation.

www.santamonicaumc.org/haiti

August Photo Challenge: Self-Care

How are you taking care of yourself during this time? We want to hear about it! Perhaps you’ll spark a new practice for someone else. Send one photo with a short description to Shalimar Carducci and we may share it in the coming months.

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.santamonicaumc.org/give, via mail, or onsite through the office mail slot. No gift is too small. Thank you!

We thank Mike Eskridge for the beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary. To donate to the flower fund, or to send flowers to go to homebound seniors, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund

Open Space Young Adult Ministry

Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. Since mid-March 2020, they have been gathering each Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom for conversations on faith and life, engaging in prayer and study. Instead of one leader for the group, they have chosen to have a leadership team model consisting of the following group members: Laurel Capesius, Mia Staraci, Brandon Searfoss, Molly Smith, Lauren Foxwell, and Spencer Dewald & Lindsay Crossan.

What is Open Space up to this summer?

In June, they began a summer conversation on racial injustice using the book, So You Want To Talk About Race, by Ibram X.Oku. Using this book, they are in a process of self-examination, action, unlearning, relearning, and accountability. They believe having these conversations in community helps each person to grow and put their faith into action for justice.

For more information about Open Space or to join their weekly Zoom meetings, email: openspacesantamonica@gmail.com Visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space Facebook: OpenSpaceSM Instagram: openspacesm

Over 100 Vacation Bible School at Home boxes were mailed out to families this summer, including some out of state. Pictured: the Vinton Family kids (above), Collette Clark (upper-right), and the Wolitz and De Leon Caranza families (right).
HORIZONS
by Rev. Patricia Farris

In a recent HORIZONS column, I wrote of the sentinel’s role in looking to the horizon to catch a glimpse of the future. As it turns out, daily updates on the coronavirus only seem to cloud our vision of the future. It goes in and out of focus and we wonder what the next news report will reveal.

In the meantime, we can take a clear look at the present moment. One thing we can see very clearly—the church has not stopped being church! Remember the three rules of Wesley: do no harm, do good, stay in love with God. We’re on it!

Do no harm—continuing online worship and modeling safe practices of social distancing and wearing masks whenever we’re out and about. Our Re-Gathering Task Force is hard at work making plans for the day when safe and faithful in-person worship will again be possible.

Do good—supporting Upward Bound House, the Haiti Mission, Westside Food Bank, and our front-line health care and service providers; generous giving to the church; reaching out to congregation and neighbors with messages of love and care; resourcing our stressed-out families through in-home Sunday School, youth ministry, and the distribution of 100 Vacation Bible School resource kits.

Stay in love with God—through worship and music and Messy Church at home; Bible Study and spiritual growth groups; ZOOM fellowship in Coffee Hour, Men’s Breakfast Bible Study, Prayer Quilt Ministry, Sharecroppers, and church committees; unceasing prayer for one another and for greater justice in our world.

The church has not stopped being church! We’re inspired to new forms of innovation, creativity and outreach—all to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. Thanks be to God for the abiding presence and power of the Holy Spirit in and through it all!

Our bishop and the California-Pacific Conference have issued Guidelines for Churches as we prepare for the day when in-person worship might again resume. To follow our Methodist hallmarks to Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God, the Guidelines are based first in the latest available medical and scientific information. Doing all we can to protect the health and safety of our members, families, neighbors and community is paramount. One of the best ways we can be a witness in our communities is by not holding tightly to our own re-gathering plans, but by demonstrating humility and a willingness to do what is best for those around us—this is what it looks like to love our neighbor in a pandemic. Powerful, vital, faithful worship is also always our goal.

Our Re-Gathering Task Force will be meeting over the next few months to prepare a plan to submit to our District Superintendent. Members include: Paul Glenney, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Sam Johnson, Michael Lamb, Cindy McQuade, Jane Schmitz, John Stutsman, working with Patricia Farris, Tricia Guerrero and David Penson, staff. Feel free to send your ideas, hopes, concerns and dreams to: task.force@santamonicaumc.org