



vol.cxlvi, no. 8 • SPECIAL EDITION • August 2020

SENTINEL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

DO NO HARM
DO GOOD
STAY IN LOVE
WITH GOD

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, Sharerangers, 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!

Patricia Farris
Senior Minister

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 not by 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



FIRST UMC

**RE-GATHERING
TASK FORCE**

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)
4 p.m. Grief and Graces with Rev. Olsen Paget (Zoom)
- Wednesday, August 12**
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 Quilt 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)
- 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)

PARTICIPATE 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 in real time or later at 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

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

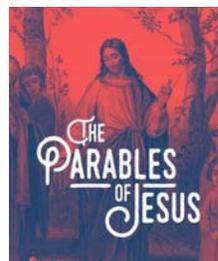


After Worship Zoom Social Hour

If you haven't "stopped by" the 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.rolld@santamonicaumc.org) by Fridays for how to join by phone.* All are welcome via **Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/99620023368>
Zoom ID: 996 2002 3368. Password: fumc (ID valid until August 30)
ONLINE Coffee Hour: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

Weekly 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@lryoung.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.rolld@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 Laurel at: openspacesantamonica@gmail.com. For more info on Open Space, go to page 5.
- **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:** 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.



Parables of Jesus Online Class with Rev. Larry Young

Rev. Larry Young continues his weekly Bible study class: *Parables of Jesus*. Jesus' parables are familiar to most, but they often contain more meaning than first meets the eye. Let's go deeper in our understanding of them and share insights with one another. The

parables for each meeting will be announced in advance. To join, contact Rev. Larry Young: lyoung@lryoung.net or call 310-376-9494 (answering machine always on)

Class meets Tuesdays, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., participate Via Zoom or Phone (Both classes are the same, pick your best time)



"Digging the Parables class. Love the Parables' ancient back stories and their contemporary relevance."
- Linda Diane Anderson

Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner

Each Sunday morning you are invited to join Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Lay Leader, 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., meet 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 close with prayer. It is 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 during 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 Mateo 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](https://www.facebook.com/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.

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



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 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 love. 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 60 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 succeed in 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.



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 Sobier, 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 Sobier. 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 Sobier, 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, Jacob Jean Claude, our generous host in Sobier, 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 weeks on our social media and website. Email: s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org.

Deadline to submit:
Friday, August 21

View past challenges:
santamonicaumc.org/photos



Todd Erlandson, (above)
and Osnell Louis (right)



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 home-bound seniors, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund

FIRST UMC

Community

Deaths

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

- 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: 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 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/open-space.

Facebook: OpenSpaceSM Instagram: openspacesm



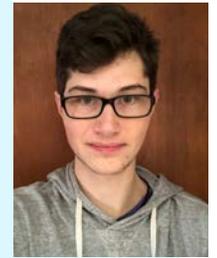
Open Space Santa Monica Leadership



Laurel Capesius



Mia Staraci



Brandon Searfoss



Lauren Foxwell



Molly Smith



Lindsay Crossan & Spencer Dewald

COMMUNITY PHOTOS



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 Wollitz and De Leon Corrales families (right).



The Prayer Quilt Ministry met on Zoom, and will continue their monthly meetings this way for now.



Emily and Dot Plukas, pictured above, along with Jamie Jones (not pictured) delivered care packages directly to the homes of Sunday School children. Families included the Snider Family (above left), and the Schmitz Family.

PRESCHOOL CORNER



A big Thank You to the teachers who have worked so hard this year to transition online in creative ways during the most difficult circumstances, and to their fearless leaders: Director Dee Menzies and Assistant to the Director Dane Rold. Thank you all for providing a safe, secure environment where children have been able to continue learning, playing and flourishing this year. The Preschool had their last day of school on Friday, July 24. They'll have two weeks of Summer Camp and then the new school year will begin on August 25. We keep the preschool children and families, teachers and leaders in our prayers.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
email: info@santamonicaumc.org
310.393.8258



www.santamonicaumc.org



Cover photos: (top left to right):

Volunteers assemble Vacation Bible School boxes; folks from Sobier, Haiti, receiving supplies donated through First UMC fundraising efforts; the Mulvihill's celebrating their new home with Habitat for Humanity; Ty Woodward playing organ during 10 a.m. Sunday Worship service.

American Red Cross Blood Donations

Even though First UMC was unable to hold their annual Blood Drive in Simkins Hall this year, you may still donate blood at the local Santa Monica Chapter on Mondays between 1-7 p.m., with easy online registration.

Go to: www.redcrossblood.org, search *Santa Monica Chapter*



**American
Red Cross**

Blood
Services