



vol.cxliv, no. 10 • SPECIAL EDITION • October 2020

SENTINEL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA



HORIZONS

by Rev. Patricia Farris

Look forward to a fun month of celebrations at church! Don't we all need some things to lift our spirits?

October 3-4 will be a Celebration Weekend to include a drive thru Blessing of the Animals Saturday morning combined with the opportunity come by and pick up individually packaged communion elements (wafer and small cup of juice) to share in our World Communion Sunday worship the following day. Bring your PET(S) to Sunday ZOOM Coffee Hour to be blessed!

On October 11, we will celebrate the 145th Anniversary of First UMC Santa Monica! We have persevered through many challenges over the years and through it all continue to praise God and serve God's people near and far. Plan to participate in another "Town Hall" discussion with me during Coffee Hour.

Our wonderful Lay Leadership Team (Sherry (Leigh) Erlandson, Todd Erlandson, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, and Mike Olsson) has prepared and will lead worship on **October 18**, that includes both familiar elements and an interactive sermon/reflection time.

AND on Sunday, **October 25**, we will award 4th Grade Bibles and celebrate our wonderful Sunday School Teachers. You are also invited to WEAR YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME to ZOOM Coffee Hour! What could be more fun than that?!?

Read through this issue of the Sentinel for more fun and engaging opportunities. The Spirit moves through the life of the church to revive our souls and bring smiles to our lips and hearts.

Patricia Farris
Senior Minister

Blessing of the Animals - DRIVE THRU!

Blessing of the Animals is ON! First UMC is excited to be able to continue this annual tradition, and this year there are two ways to participate:

Drive Thru Blessing

Saturday, October 3
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Load up your pet(s) in the car, and swing by the front of the First UMC Courtyard on 11th Street. We will section off the sidewalk so no parking will be permitted, but you may drive up to be greeted by one of the pastors who will give your pet a blessing while you remain in your vehicle. (*Masks please.*)

Online Blessing via Zoom

During After Worship Coffee Hour
Sunday, October 4, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you can't make the Drive Thru Blessing, or you don't live in the area, you may still bring your pet(s) to Sunday ZOOM Coffee Hour to be blessed Sunday at 11 a.m.

All are welcome via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95709897528>. Zoom ID: 957 0989 7528, Password: fumc.

We can't wait to see you and your pets again this year!



OCTOBER Calendar

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT THIS MONTH

Thursday, October 1

6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women's Group with Tricia Guerrero, via Zoom

Saturday, October 3

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Blessing of the Animals Drive Thru, Eleventh Street in front of the First UMC Courtyard

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Pick up Communion Elements for World Communion Sunday, in front of the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 4 - World Communion Sunday

9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, via Zoom

10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)

11 a.m. Online Coffee Hour via Zoom - Bring your pet(s) for

Online Blessing of the Animals

4 p.m. UMYF Online Gathering, via Zoom

Tuesday, October 6

7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom

2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Difficult Sayings of Jesus with Rev. Young, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 7

7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Sunday, October 11 - Celebration of First UMC's 145th Anniversary

9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, via Zoom

10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)

11 a.m. Town Hall with Rev. Patricia Farris Coffee Hour, via Zoom

4 p.m. Grief and Graces with Rev. Olsen Paget, via Zoom

4 p.m. UMYF Online Gathering, via Zoom

Tuesday, October 13

7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom

9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Conference Call

2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Difficult Sayings of Jesus with Rev. Young, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14

12:10 p.m. October Mid-Week Recital, (Facebook & website)

7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Thursday, October 15

6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women's Group, via Zoom

Saturday, October 17

9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, via Zoom

Sunday, October 18 - Laity Sunday

9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard

10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)

11 a.m. Online Coffee Hour (Zoom)

4 p.m. UMYF Gathering, via Zoom

Tuesday, October 20

7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom

2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Difficult Sayings of Jesus with Rev. Young, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 21

7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Sunday, October 25 - Celebration of 4th Grade Bibles & Recognition of Sunday School Teachers

9 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Courtyard

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, via Zoom

10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook & website)

11 a.m. Online Coffee Hour, via Zoom

4 p.m. Grief and Graces with Rev. Olsen Paget, via Zoom

4 p.m. UMYF Gathering, via Zoom

OCTOBER Calendar (cont.)

Tuesday, October 27

7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom

9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Conference Call

2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Difficult Sayings of Jesus with Rev. Young, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 28

7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Sundays during Worship in October:

Sunday, October 4: World Communion Sunday



United Methodists celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October.

The special day calls the church to reach out to all people and celebrate diversity among God's children. You may drive by the front of the Sanctuary on Saturday, October 3, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (the same time as Blessing of the Animals Drive Thru) to pick up prepackaged Communion

Elements (individually packaged wafer and pre-filled communion cup), in preparation for this special celebration.

Sunday, October 11: 145th Anniversary of First UMC

First UMC celebrates 145 years - from exceedingly humble and precarious beginnings, through countless challenges and obstacles, to heights of praise and celebration. In the lives of countless "ordinary saints" of extraordinary faith and vision, First UMC continues in witness and service to God and the people of Santa Monica.

Sunday, October 18: Laity Sunday

Our wonderful Lay Leadership Team—Sherry (Leigh) Erlandson, Todd Erlandson, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Mike Olsson, Tricia Guerrero and Patricia Farris—has prepared and will lead worship that includes both familiar elements and an interactive sermon/reflection time. The heart of the service will center around a Team discussion that will lift up Scripture and all the feelings and experiences we're having as church in these pandemic days. We will name some of our fears and also affirm our faith and the source of our hope. As always, there will be time for prayer, for giving, for building up our community, and for beautiful music.

Sunday, October 25: Celebration of 4th Grade Bibles, and Recognition of Sunday School Teachers

Fourth grade Bibles will be blessed on Sunday, October 25, to any fourth grader who would like to receive one. Receiving a Bible is an important step in the faith journey of our children. We rejoice as a community and with our families as our children grow in their love for God and one another. Contact Tricia: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org, if your fourth grader would like to receive a Bible in the mail. We also celebrate the continued dedication of our Sunday School teachers, who have taken on a new way of teaching this year via online Sunday School class. Tricia Guerrero will be preaching this Sunday.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ONLINE Sundays 10 a.m.

You can participate in the service in real time or later at your convenience. **WHEN: Sunday 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship** Go to the First UMC Facebook Live page ([@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)), or watch the Sunday service the following week ANYTIME: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream, Or on the **First UMC YouTube page** (search *SantaMonicaUMC*), where you can find recordings of past services.

Special After Worship Coffee Hours in October

A great way to stay connected is through the Sunday Coffee hour at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Stop by one or all of these special events planned in October:

Sunday, October 4: Blessing of the Animals via Zoom

If you can't make the Drive Thru Blessing of the Animals, or you don't live in the area, you may still bring your pet(s) to Sunday Coffee Hour to be blessed by Tricia Guerrero.

Sunday, October 11: Town Hall with Rev. Patricia Farris

Join Rev. Farris for a second Town Hall question and answer session. Bring any questions you may have, or just come by to say Hello!

Sunday, October 18: The "Usual" Coffee Hour

Hosted by First UMC staff member Sarah Rold, the Coffee Hour's a great time to catch up with church friends and chat about a fun topic.

Sunday, October 25: Wear Your Halloween Costume

Love dressing up but no one's having a party this year? Here's your chance to put on your favorite costume!

Sundays, 11 a.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/95709897528>

Zoom ID: 957 0989 7528 (ID valid until Oct 25) Password: fumc

Ongoing Ministries via ZOOM:

- Men's Breakfast: **Tuesdays, 7 a.m.**
- Difficult Sayings of Jesus, Online Class with Rev. Larry Young
Tuesdays, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. (same class, pick your best time)
- Open Space Young Adults Soul Care: **Wednesdays, 7 p.m.**
- Listening Hearts Women's Group, with Tricia Guerrero:
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday School for Kids: **Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m. via Zoom**
- Grief and Graces: a sacred space for weary souls, with Rev. Keri Olsen Paget: **2nd and 4th Sunday of the month 4 p.m.**
- UMYF Youth Group: **Sundays, 4 p.m. via Zoom**

For more information on all of these programs, go to

www.santamonicaumc.org

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.

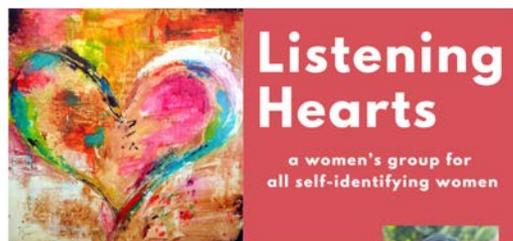
www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-morning-walks

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



**SUNDAY A.M.
WALKING**

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, with stroller, and the Sunday morning group



**1st and 3rd Thursdays
6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Begins Thursday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.



with Tricia Guerrero

New! Listening Hearts: a women's group for all self-identifying women, with Tricia Guerrero

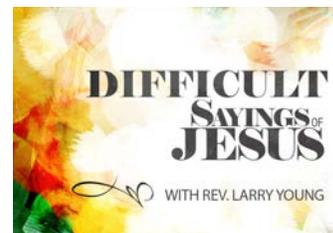
For anyone who struggles to listen to their heart in the midst of life's chaos. For anyone who searches for meaning and purpose. For anyone who seeks spiritual community. This group is for you. Led by Tricia Guerrero, Listening Hearts will be a group for women of all ages, grounded in the practices of sacred listening, prayer and reflection. Alongside one another, we will share our stories, listen to one another, and grow in God's loving presence. Contact Tricia: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org, for more info and to join.

www.santamonicaumc.org/online-ministries-events

Meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month via Zoom.
First gathering on Thursday, October 1.

Updated: Difficult Sayings of Jesus, with Rev. Larry Young

Having covered all of Jesus' parables, the Tuesday Zoom Bible study class is shifting to "Difficult Sayings of Jesus." Some of Jesus' words can be difficult for us—either because their meaning is not clear or because of how they challenge us. Together we will try to find their meaning for our lives. To join, contact Rev. Larry Young: lyoung@lryoung.net or call 310-376-9494 (answering machine always on).



Tuesdays, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., participate Via Zoom or Phone

Ongoing: Grief and Graces: a sacred space for weary souls, with Rev. 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 participate, go to:

www.santamonicaumc.org/grief-graces-registration

Sundays, October 11 & 25, 4 p.m., via Zoom

October ONLINE Mid-Week Recital

The Fall Mid-Week recitals continue with **Nancy Roth, violin; Lorenzo Sanchez, piano**. Nancy Roth, violinist and violist, is currently concertmaster of the Culver City Symphony and Marina del Rey Summer Symphony. Nancy has been a featured soloist with numerous Southern California orchestras, and she has given recitals and radio broadcasts in the United States, Austria and Mexico. Lorenzo Sanchez, pianist, enjoys interpreting music of a variety of styles and nationalities.



Lorenzo's interest in Polish music led to him giving several lecture-performances at the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles, California. He also champions music of African-American composers such as William Grant Still and George Walker, and he has performed for Dr. Walker as well as Japanese composer, Mitsuru Asaka. To read the full biographies of these artists, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals.

How 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.

ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, October 14, 12:10 p.m.



Happy Birthday, Jim!

Friends of First UMC Music,
Please join me in celebrating **Jim Smith's 80th Birthday** by becoming one of 80 special supporters of music with a gift of \$80 to our First UMC Music Ministry.

With Jim's leadership, music continues to be a very special part of what makes First UMC a source of beauty, comfort, inspiration and joy to so many, far and wide. Our online Sunday worship services and Wednesday Noon Recitals draw folks from around the country and across the globe! And don't we know that the world needs music now more than ever?! Thank you for wishing Jim a wonderful "Happy Birthday" through your gift.

—Rev. Patricia Farris

To become one of the 80 supporters: Go to the online Giving Page: www.santamonicaumc.org/give, select "Music Ministry" in the Fund drop down menu. You may also send in a check made out to First UMC, memo Jim Smith Birthday.

Sanctuary Re-Opened for Prayer

On Wednesday, September 23, the sanctuary opened for prayer and quiet reflection from 12 noon - 2 p.m., for the first time since March 15, 2020. While continuing to follow the latest health and safety guidelines, this sacred space welcomed people to come and find strength, comfort, and peace during these challenging times. The sanctuary holds a special place in our hearts and we give thanks to God for this way of being present in our community.

First UMC Celebrates 100 YouTube Subscribers!

Thank you to all who have subscribed to our YouTube Channel! Because we surpassed the 100 subscriber mark, we now have a customized web link to our video channel: www.youtube.com/c/santamonicaumc.

If you haven't yet subscribed, it's not too late. And don't forget, if you missed any of the Sunday 10 a.m. services, or would like to rewatch them, you may do so at any time from our page. One benefit of subscribing is having the option to get email notifications when we add a new video to our page, so you won't miss a thing. You'll also find past Mid-Week Recitals, the virtual Labyrinth walk, and more. Subscribe now!

Go to www.youtube.com/c/santamonicaumc

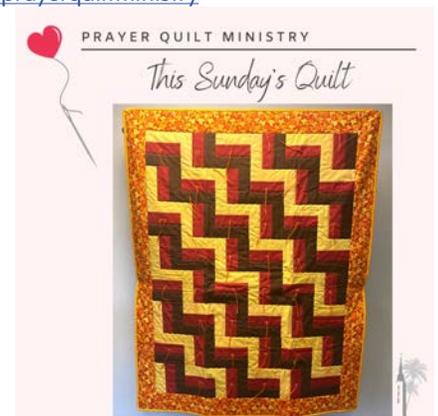
Prayer Quilts - How to Request

During this time of Covid-19, the Prayer Quilt Ministry has created a new way of continuing to offer Prayer Quilts to those in need:

1. Talk to the intended recipient.
 - Ask if the person is willing to be prayed for and to receive a quilt.
 - Ask what specific prayers are wished for.
 - There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love.
2. Contact Maile Marquand (maile@rugbooks.com) or Sue Payne (sue.f.payne@gmail.com).
3. Select the quilt if some are already made, or suggest colors if one is to be selected for you.

Once the quilt selection has been made, First UMC will display the quilt in the Friday Community Email, and also during Sunday 10 a.m. Worship. You may call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you; she will let you know the requested prayers: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or s.rol@santamonicaumc.org, Prayers will be collected Tuesday – Friday of the following week, and the prayer knots will be tied by the church staff.

www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry



A sample of a Prayer Quilt highlighted in the Friday Community email.

FIRST UMC



Community

Deaths

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

- We give thanks for the life and life everlasting of long-time First UMC member, **Emy Lou Winkler**, who died Sunday, September 27.

Thank you from Upward Bound House

“Thank you to First United Methodist Church and all of the amazing members that donated to the Back Pack and School Supply drive for Upward Bound House (UBH) students. Considering the trying times that we are all in living in, your support of UBH and the families we serve, means even more. We’d also like to thank the Children and Family Ministry for their volunteer efforts in coordinating and organizing the supplies. We feel that “it takes a village” to bring change, so we are grateful for this continued partnership. We wouldn’t be able to do this work without your generosity.” – **Upward Bound House**

Thank You Emily!

After many amazing years with the Youth Ministry, First UMC member **Emily Payne** has stepped down from being a youth counselor this fall. We wish her well and are so grateful for her seven years as a youth counselor and many years prior to that serving as an adult volunteer with youth service trips and also through our Children’s After School Theater program.



Renewal of Vows

Charles William Dobbs and Rose Marie Dermott Dobbs renewed their vows on September 22, by Rev. Patricia Farris, in the First UMC Sanctuary. They were married in September 20, 1970 by Rev. Joseph E. Parshall.

Congratulations

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget and her husband Josh are excited to announce they are expecting a baby in early 2021. Congratulations to the Pagets!

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.

LOOKING FORWARD

NOVEMBER 1:

All Saints Commemoration - Sunday 10 a.m. Worship

During our online service we will honor First UMC members who have died this year. Details coming soon.

NOVEMBER 8:

Westside Food Bank’s Virtual Hunger Walk

Watch for more info about how the annual community event will turn into a hybrid virtual/social-distanced walk sensation.

Free Flu Vaccines at Mt. Olive Lutheran

This year Mt. Olive Lutheran church will hold a **FREE Drive Through Flu Shot Clinic**. Flu vaccines are at no charge for people who don’t have health insurance or whose healthcare provider does not offer flu vaccines. Visit the website to view the flyer, and to download the consent form: www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry.



**Saturday, November 7,
9 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Mount Olive
Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean
Park Blvd. Santa Monica**

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.

PRESCHOOL CORNER



Tricia Guerrero, (far right), leading an interactive outdoor Preschool Chapel session



www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA

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www.santamonicaumc.org

  [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

Cover photos: (top left to right):

Caprice Walker and Cindy McQuade, chatting out in front of the Sanctuary before the first Re-Opening of the Sanctuary for Prayers between 12-2 on Wednesday, September 24; Caprice Walker in the Sanctuary (photos courtesy of Allan Walker); Tricia Guerrero leading outdoor Chapel for the First UMC Preschool.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



**DRIVE
THRU**

SATURDAY, OCT 3

8 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Drive Thru here in front of the First UMC Courtyard

SUNDAY, OCT 4 – 11 A.M.

PET BLESSINGS ON ZOOM

WWW.SANTAMONICAUMC.ORG FOR DETAILS 