Use the value(s) you chose to write your own vow or promise to translate them into changes in your daily life. (For example: “I vow to spend more time listening to others,” or “I vow to read Scripture each day,” or “I promise to try to treat others as I wish to be treated…”) Think of some daily practices that will help you incorporate your values into your life. (For example: I will set aside time each day for prayer, or spend time with the ones I most love, or give of my time and material resources to promote my value…)

Write your daily practice into your daily schedule. Hold yourself to it and keep with it. (For example: make it part of your routine, like brushing your teeth or eating a healthy breakfast.)

Give thanks to God who is always with us!

Horizons by Rev. Patricia Farris

March brought us an extra hour of daylight and the first day of Spring! What might April bring? Well, let’s see…how about some flickering light at the end of the long pandemic tunnel? How about the Confirmation of eight of our amazing youth? How about the first ever First UMC Easter “Hop By?” How about praying with our feet in this year’s virtual Home Run for Kids? How about a stone rolled away and an empty tomb? How about a Risen Savior?! Wow! These are just some of the many things that will mark our Eastertide season this year as together we are “Living the Way of Love!”

Our theme is based on Bishop Michael Curry’s book, “Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times.” Bishop Curry is the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, the first African-American to lead the denomination. As he writes, you can almost hear him speaking and preaching. In one chapter, he quotes the preacher at his Aunt Callie’s funeral. The sermon was based on Ezekiel and the Valley of the Dry Bones. He kept calling out to Callie, Bishop Curry remembers, calling her to hear the Word of the Lord and rise up. He writes about that day: “We couldn’t see heaven, we couldn’t see resurrection, but we could feel its possibility. God had been factored into the equation of our experience and something in reality changed. That’s where and when hope happens—when reality is altered by a new possibility.”

So, church—let’s hear the Word of the Lord in these Eastertide days and rise up! Let’s live with joy into all the possibilities and potentialities that God’s resurrecting power is opening to us. Let’s Live the Way of Love!

Living the Way of Love

Our Eastertide theme, Living the Way of Love, comes from Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry’s book, “Love Is the Way.” In it, Bishop Curry invites us all to create a “rule of life” for ourselves. A rule of life comes out of the ancient Benedictine tradition. It is a gentle framework or pattern to help us grow spiritually each day.

Here’s how to go about creating one for yourself. Go easy on yourself at first. This is not about becoming perfect overnight—it’s about growing deeper into the loving Child of God that God has created you to be. Identify one to three core values or principles that you would like to live more deeply into. Make some notes on paper or on your computer. (For example: What do you admire in others you most love or respect? What might most contribute to your growth?)

Use the value(s) you chose to write your own vow or promise to translate them into changes in your daily life. (For example: “I vow to spend more time listening to others,” or “I vow to read Scripture each day,” or “I promise to try to treat others as I wish to be treated…”)

Think of some daily practices that will help you incorporate your values into your life. (For example: I will set aside time each day for prayer, or spend time with the ones I most love, or give of my time and material resources to promote my value…)

Write your daily practice into your daily schedule. Hold yourself to it and keep with it. (For example: make it part of your routine, like brushing your teeth or eating a healthy breakfast.)

Give thanks to God who is always with us!
APRIL Calendar

OCCUPMINTS TO CONNECT THIS MONTH

HOLY WEEK CONTINUES:

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Westside Food Bank Food Drive, First UMC Courtyard
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Online Maundy Thursday Worship, (Facebook, website & YouTube)
7 p.m. After Worship Online Community Gathering, via Zoom
Friday, April 2 - Good Friday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Westside Food Bank Food Drive, First UMC Courtyard
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Labyrinth Open for Prayer, in Simkins Hall
Saturday, April 3
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Easter Hop-By Event, In-Person event at the First UMC Courtyard (for details see page 3)
Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday - Family Sunday, no Sunday School
7 a.m. Sunrise Walk with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, meet at the First UMC Courtyard
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook, website & YouTube)
11 a.m. After Worship Coffee Hour, via Zoom
Tuesday, April 6
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Larry Young, via Zoom
Wednesday, April 7
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Thursday, April 8
*6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women’s Group, via Zoom (*note in April meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays)

Sunday, April 11
9 a.m. Walk with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, First UMC Courtyard
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, via Zoom
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook, website & YouTube)
11 a.m. After Worship Coffee Hour, via Zoom
4 p.m. UMYF Gathering
Tuesday, April 13
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Larry Young, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Meeting Conference Call
Wednesday, April 14
12:10 p.m. April Mid-Week Recital, (Facebook, website & YouTube)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom
Saturday, April 17
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, via Zoom
Sunday, April 18 - Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids (virtual event, all day)
9 a.m. Walk with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner w/ Blessing with Tricia Guerrero for Home Run for Kids, First UMC Courtyard
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, via Zoom
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook, website & YouTube)
11 a.m. After Worship Coffee Hour, via Zoom
4 p.m. UMYF Gathering
Tuesday, April 20
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
Wednesday, April 21
4 p.m. New Class: Faith in Science with Ms. Jamie, via Zoom
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom
Thursday, April 22
*6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women’s Group, via Zoom (date change)

Sunday, April 25 - Confirmation Sunday
9 a.m. Walk with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, First UMC Courtyard
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, via Zoom
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook, website & YouTube)
11 a.m. After Worship Coffee Hour, via Zoom
4 p.m. UMYF Gathering
Tuesday, April 27
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Meeting Conference Call
Wednesday, April 28
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

April Ongoing Ministries via Zoom:

• Men’s Breakfast/Bible Study: Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom
• Open Space Young Adults Soul Care: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom
• Listening Hearts Women’s Group, with Tricia Guerrero: In April: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
• The Gospel of Mark Bible Study with Rev. Larry Young: LAST CLASS: Tuesday, April 13, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
• Sunday School for Kids: Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m. via Zoom
• UMYF Youth Group: Sundays, 4 p.m.

For more information on all of these programs, go to www.santamonicaumc.org

Thank You to Rev. Larry Young

Many thanks to Rev. Larry Young for leading the Lenten Bible Study The Gospel of Mark, held on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The last online class gathering will be Tuesday, April 13. All are welcome to attend the final class. We give thanks for all that we’ve learned from the study and for Pastor Larry’s generous sharing of gifts for teaching and building community. Email Larry at ljyoung@ljyoung.net, and he will send you the Zoom link for the class.

The Gospel of Mark Bible Study: Last class, Tuesday, April 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., via Zoom

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ONLINE

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Service

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
Go to the First UMC Facebook Live page: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc
Watch the service on the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream, or, anytime on the First UMC YouTube page: www.youtube.com/c/SantMonicaUMC, where you can also find recordings of past services.

Flowers and Displays

To donate to the flower fund, or to send flowers to go to home-bound seniors, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund

HOW TO KEEP A HOLY LENT:
SPIRITUAL PRACTICES GUIDE

PRAY FOR PEACE

PRAY FOR PEACE

HAPPENINGS

The Open Space young adult group, visiting the First UMC Pop-Up Library

Coffee Hour visit with Rev. Patricia Farris, on March 21

During Lent, First UMC offered a downloadable file called How to Keep a Holy Lent: Spiritual Practices Guide, which was also featured on our social media. Since there are still a few days left in Lent, take a look at a few of the Spiritual practices you may follow.

Players in ACT (All Community Theater) got together to do an informal Zoom reading of “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot.”

The Open Space young adult group, visiting the First UMC Pop-Up Library

Wearing of the green at the St. Patrick’s Day coffee hour, held on March 14

How to Keep a Holy Lent: Spiritual Practices Guide

COME TO THE EASTER HOP- BY-

EASTER HOP- BY-
Confirmation Sunday
This Spring, eight First UMC youth have been going through Confirmation classes together with Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries. Confirmation is a time to explore what it means to be Christian, United Methodist, and a Child of God. We prioritize it as a space for youth to ask questions, bring doubts, and authentically explore church and faith.

One special aspect of Confirmation is the Friend in Faith, someone in the church community with whom youth are paired and become pen pals, prayer partners and receive the gift of an intergenerational friendship. The Friends in Faith have been personal support for the Confirmands as they explore and decide for themselves their place in the church and their relationship with God. The Friends in Faith include: Laurie Church, Leigh Erlandson; Whitney Hogan, Michael Lamb, Michael Olsson, David Penson, Molly Smith and Ann Wilson. This part of the youth’s faith journey concludes with Confirmation Sunday worship service, where the youth confirm their faith and sense of belonging with the community by becoming members of the church.

Sunday, April 25: 10 a.m. Online Worship

Story Time with Jamie and Jack has been the highlight of my week for a year now and has been an important part of our online Children’s Ministry outreach. It has offered opportunities to pause and listen to a fun story with an important message. Books have the power to explain complicated concepts, teach valuable lessons, or even help us reflect on who we are and how we see the world. We are never too old to read a picture book!

I have felt so lucky to be in a church community that is supportive of the new things we’ve tried this past year to connect with everyone. Each week I hear feedback from church members saying they enjoyed a particular story, and it has made me feel so happy that I could make a difference in people’s days.

As we look towards the next steps in Children’s Ministry, we have decided to pause the weekly story time recordings. These stories have been a blessing and while we won’t have a new video in the weekly Children and Family Ministry weekly email, all of our past videos will continue to be available on the First UMC YouTube page at any time.

You can find them here: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC, look for the Playlist titled Books with Jamie and Jack.

Thank you to all those who have supported and enjoyed these videos. Jack and I truly appreciate all of the love and support!

Love and blessings,
Jamie and Jack

April 4: Easter Sunday
7 a.m. Sunrise Walk with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner (In-Person) Join Jocelyn Hicks-Garner at 7 a.m. Easter morning for a physically-distanced walk, starting at the First UMC Courtyard. The group will make their way towards Ocean Avenue and back.

10 a.m. ONLINE Sanctuary Worship
Our celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, featuring a vocal sextet from the Chancel Choir, singing two anthems: “The Day of Resurrection,” and “To The Lamb on the Throne,” with David Searfoss on trumpet.

Drive or walk by the church courtyard Easter Sunday morning to see the wooden cross in the courtyard, strewn with flowers in the annual tradition of First UMC. Cross will be outside until 1 p.m.

Easter Sunday 2021 Virtual Choir
The UMC General Board of Discipleship has made an Easter Sunday 2021 Virtual Choir video and also available for download. First UMC member Ann Wilson participated in the recording!!

Three Be the Glory is an Easter celebration hymn that transcends time and cultures. The production of the video brought over 400 singers from different countries, congregations, and communities together in faith—proving that even in the midst of a pandemic we are still united.

To view on YouTube, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KNaXKL0Age
Food Drive for the Westside Food Bank

Missions Council is hosting a food drive for the Westside Food Bank that continues thru Saturday, April 3. If you can’t make it during the week, bring your cans and dry goods to donate while you’re enjoying the Easter Hop-By festivities on Saturday, April 3!

Continues thru April 3. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the First UMC Courtyard

Easter Hop-By festivities on Saturday, April 3!

- recitals:  www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- Be sure to “follow” our page.
- www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
- www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals

Kevan Torfeh, cello; James Smith, organ and piano; and Linda Muggeridge, oboe

April Online Mid-Week Recital

Join Kevan Torfeh, cello; Tamaz Galiko and Anna Kostychuk, violin; James Smith, organ and piano; and Linda Muggeridge, oboe, for a lunchtime performance of beautiful music!

How to watch:
- Facebook:  www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
- YouTube Channel:  www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC

Subscribe to the First UMC YouTube channel to receive notifications.

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

Children’s Ministry presents: Science and Faith

We are excited to introduce Science and Faith as a new opportunity for children to learn and connect! Appropriate for kids of all ages. Join Ms. Jamie on Wednesday, April 21, from 4 – 5 p.m. on Zoom for a science activity to explore and connect a Bible story in a new and different way. If you’ve ever joined us for Vacation Bible School, the activities and lessons will be similar to the Science Station that kids enjoy so much. Things may get a little messy, but you are sure to have a blast and learn something new! Sign up to receive a list of supplies needed for the activity as well as the Zoom link:

ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, April 21, 4 – 5 p.m. via Zoom

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.
2. Ask if the person is willing to be prayed for and to receive a quilt.
3. Ask what specific prayers are wished for.
4. There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love.

Contact Maile Marquand (maile@rugbooks.com) or Sue Payne (sue.l.payne@gmail.com).

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.rold@santamonicaumc.org. Prayers will be collected Tuesday – Friday of the following week, and the prayer knots will be tied by the church staff.

To order a new Prayer Quilt, email Sarah Rold at s.rold@santamonicaumc.org. There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love.

Thank You for the Girl Scouts

“We wish to say a big Thank You to the church from the Girl Scouts for supporting our Cookie sales this year. The pandemic has certainly curtailed many activities forcing troop meetings to go online. However, with encouragement from the church and our Girl Scouts were able to find new ways to be successful. The cookie program is an important part of Girl Scouting providing opportunities for girls to gain skills in goal setting, money management, working with people, and business ethics to name a few. As well, the proceeds from cookie sales support troop activities, learning, and community service. Especially in this uncertain year, the Girl Scouts of First UMC Santa Monica express their appreciation!”

Harvest Home Coffee Hour

Missions Council presents a Zoom Coffee Hour with Harvest Home in Santa Monica. Representative AS will talk about their work, and invite all to send Mother’s Day and Welcome Baby cards to the mothers in their care. The LA County Health Department reports that each year 5,000 women are homeless at some point during their pregnancy. Harvest Home transforms the lives of homeless pregnant women and their children by providing housing, support, and programs that equip women to become great mothers.

After Worship Coffee Hour: Sunday, May 2, 11 a.m. via Zoom

Harvest Home presents an evening of care, comfort, and community, and invites all to participate virtually with the church. The event begins at 7 p.m. on Zoom, when the Zoom ID: us/j/96578397184, will be available for people to leave a message requesting care. If you have questions, need assistance, or would like to volunteer to help with our homebound folks, please contact Congregational Care Associate Anne Premer at a.premer@santamonicaumc.org, or call (310) 393-8258 ext. 103.

Legacy Circle

You have one legacy. Honor it well. Please join the First UMC Legacy Circle by adding the church to your will or estate planning. Contact the church office for more information. 310.393.8258.

Kevan Torfeh, cello; and Anna Kostychuk & Tamaz Galiko, violin; James Smith, organ and piano; and Linda Muggeridge, oboe

Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids Online April 18

Let’s walk or run to help and family homelessness! This year the annual Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids will be online. This new format will allow for people to participate from anywhere in the world. Each runner will be able to run the race on their own schedule, or they can chose to participate virtually with the online group on Sunday, April 18. Sign up now with Team First UMC: www.santamonicaumc.org/home-run-for-kids

April Coffee Hours

If you’ve never been to an after-worship “Coffee Hour” Sundays at 11 a.m., it’s never too late to give it a try. Catch up with some church friends, and chat about the topic of the day.

Sundays after Worship, 11 a.m. via Zoom

Zoom link:  https://zoom.us/j/96578397184
Zoom ID: 965 7839 7184
Password: fumes.

Community time during the March 28 Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

You have one legacy. Honor it well. Please join the First UMC Legacy Circle by adding the church to your will or estate planning. Contact the church office for more information. 310.393.8258.

Thank You for Haiti: Pennies for Peanuts donations

Thank you to all who donated towards the Haiti Mission Team’s Pennies for Peanuts fundraiser, led by Todd Erdlandson, team leader. The donations totaled close to $10,000! The first drop towards the peanut farming was made in March.
Online Mid-Week Recital
Kevan Torfeh and Friends
Join Kevan Torfeh, cello; Tamaz Golko and Anna Kostyuchek, violins; James Smith, organ and piano; and Linda Muggeridge, oboe, for a lunchtime performance of beautiful music! www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals
How to watch:
- Facebook - www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
- YouTube Channel - www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC
Subscribe to the First UMC Youtube channel to receive notifications.
- Website - Visit the recital on the Livestream page, and view past recitals: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

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

Food Drive for the Westside Food Bank
Missions Council is hosting a food drive for the Westside Food Bank that continues thru Saturday, April 3. If you can’t make it during the week, bring your cans and dry goods to donate while you’re enjoying the Easter Hop-BY festivities on Saturday, April 3!
Continues thru April 5; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the First UMC Courtyard

Harvest Home Coffee Hour: Sunday, May 2, 11 a.m. via Zoom
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1. Talk to the intended recipient.
2. Ask if the person is willing to be prayed for and to receive a quilt.
3. Ask what specific prayers are wished for.
   - There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love.
4. The Pastoral Care line (310-393-8258) will still be available for people to leave a message requesting care.
   - If you have any questions, need assistance, or would like to volunteer to help with our homebound folks, please contact Congregational Care Associated Glenda Martinez, (310-393-8258 ext. 103). www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry

Children’s Ministry presents: Science and Faith
We are excited to introduce Science and Faith as a new opportunity for children to learn and connect! Appropriate for kids of all ages. Join Ms. Jamie on Wednesday, April 21, from 4 – 5 p.m. on Zoom for a science activity to explore and connect a Bible story in a new and different way. If you’ve ever joined us for Vacation Bible School, the activities and lessons will be similar to the Science Station that kids enjoy so much. Things may get a little messy, but don’t worry, you’re sure to have a blast and learn something new! Sign up to receive a list of supplies needed for the activity as well as the Zoom link: www.santamonicaumc.org/science-faith

Science & Faith: Wednesday, April 21, 4 - 5 p.m. via Zoom

April Coffee Hours
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Sundays after Worship, 11 a.m. via Zoom
Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/96578579184
Zoom ID: 965 7839 7184
Password: faaam

Community time during the March 28 Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

Easter Sunday (April 4) Sunrise Walk: Meet at the First UMC Courtyard at 7 a.m. for a special Easter walk.
Sunday, April 11 and following Sundays:
Meet at the First UMC Courtyard at 9 a.m.

How to watch:
- Facebook - www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
- YouTube Channel - www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC
- Website - www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

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Science & Faith: Wednesday, April 21, 4 - 5 p.m. via Zoom
Confirmation Sunday
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Thank you to all those who have supported and enjoyed these videos. Jack and I truly appreciate all of the love and support!

Love and blessings,
Jamie and Jack

During online worship on March 14 and 21, Prayer Squares made by the Prayer Quilt Ministry were displayed for the Confirmands. Through our Facebook, Instagram and website platforms, over 400 prayers came in for the Confirmands, and knots were tied for each prayer.

Thank you for your prayers! You may still pray for the Confirmands here: www.santamonicaumc.org/confirmation.

In March, Messy Church celebrated Pets and Peace, giving thanks for the gift of animals in our world and especially those we call our pets, as they learned how God wants us to care for our world.

April 2021 Virtual Choir
The UMC General Board of Discipleship has made an Easter Sunday 2021 Virtual Choir video and also available for download. First UMC member Ann Wilson participated in the recording.

Three Be the Glory is an Easter celebration hymn that transcends time and cultures. The production of the video brought over 400 singers from different countries, congregations, and communities together in faith – proving that even in the midst of a pandemic we are still united.

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APRIL Calendar

**OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT THIS MONTH**

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9 a.m. 4 p.m. Westside Food Bank Food Drive, First UMC Courtyard
6:30 p.m. Online Maundy Thursday Worship, (Facebook, website & YouTube)
7 p.m. After Worship Online Community Gathering, via Zoom

**Friday, April 2**  Good Friday
9 a.m. 4 p.m. Westside Food Bank Food Drive, First UMC Courtyard
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Labyrinth Open for Prayer, in Simkins Hall

**Saturday, April 3**
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Easter Hop-By Event, In-Person event at the First UMC Courtyard (for details see page 3)

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7 a.m. Sunrise Walk with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, meet at the First UMC Courtyard
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook, website & YouTube)
11 a.m. After Worship Coffee Hour, via Zoom

**Tuesday, April 6**
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Larry Young, via Zoom

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

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*6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women’s Group, via Zoom (*note in April meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays)

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9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Meeting Conference Call

**Wednesday, April 14**
12:10 p.m. April Mid-Week Recital, (Facebook, website & YouTube)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

**Saturday, April 17**
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, via Zoom

**Sunday, April 18**
7:30 a.m. Prayer of Peace and Worship
7:30 a.m. Confirmation Class, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

**Thursday, April 22**
9 a.m. Walk with Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, First UMC Courtyard
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, via Zoom
10 a.m. Online Worship Service (Facebook, website & YouTube)
11 a.m. After Worship Coffee Hour, via Zoom
4 p.m. UMYF Gathering

**Tuesday, April 27**
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Meeting Conference Call

**Wednesday, April 28**
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Meeting Conference Call
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom

**Thursday, April 29**
4 p.m. Rev. Larry Young, via Zoom

**Friday, April 30**

**Saturday, May 1**

**Sunday, May 2**
**Easter Sunday**
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, via Zoom

**HAPPIENESS**

**April Ongoing Ministries via Zoom:**

• Men’s Breakfast/Bible Study: Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom
• Open Space Young Adults Soul Care: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. via Zoom
• Listening Hearts Women’s Group, with Tricia Guerrero: In April: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
• The Gospel of Mark Bible Study with Rev. Larry Young: LAST CLASS: Tuesday, April 13, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
• Sunday School for Kids: Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m. via Zoom
• UMYF Youth Group: Sundays, 4 p.m.

For more information on all of these programs, go to www.santamonicaumc.org

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**HOW TO PARTICIPATE ONLINE**

**Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Service**
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
To the First UMC Facebook Live page: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live_videos, or, anytime on the First UMC YouTube page: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC, where you can also find recordings of past services.

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**HOW TO KEEP A HOLY LENT: SPIRITUAL PRACTICES GUIDE**

**April 1 & 3**
Pray for peace

**April 2**
Come to the Easter Hop-By!

**April 3 & 5**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 4 & 6**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 7 & 9**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 8 & 10**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 11 & 13**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 12 & 14**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 15 & 17**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 18 & 20**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 19 & 21**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 22 & 24**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 23 & 25**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 26 & 28**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 27 & 29**
Easter Hop-By!

**April 30 & June 1**
Easter Hop-By!

**Flowers and Displays**
To donate to the flower fund, or to send flowers to go to home-bound seniors, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.

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**Thank You to Rev. Larry Young**

Many thanks to Rev. Larry Young for leading the Lenten Bible Study The Gospel of Mark, held on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The last online class gathering will be Tuesday, April 13. All are welcome to attend the final class. We give thanks for all that we’ve learned from the study and for Pastor Larry’s generous sharing of gifts for teaching and building community. Email Larry at lyoung@ljyoung.net, and he will send you the Zoom link for the class.

**Gospel of Mark Bible Study:** Last class, Tuesday, April 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., via Zoom

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**During Lent, First UMC offered a downloadable file called How to Keep a Holy Lent Spiritual Practice Guide, which was also featured on our social media. Since there are still a few days left in Lent, take a look at a few of the Spiritual practices you may follow.**

**Players in ACT (AV Community Theater) got together to do an informal Zoom reading of “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot.”**

**An Easter egg hunt for the toddlers.**

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**Ms. Yesica awaiting a student making bunny decorations for Easter.**

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**Wearing of the green at the St. Patrick’s Day coffee hour, held on March 14**

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Horizons by Rev. Patricia Farris

March brought us an extra hour of daylight and the first day of Spring! What might April bring? Well, let's see... how about some flickering light at the end of the long pandemic tunnel? How about the Confirmation of eight of our amazing youth? How about the first ever First UMC Easter “Hop By?” How about praying with our feet in this year's virtual Home Run for Kids? How about a stone rolled away and an empty tomb? How about a Risen Savior?!?

Wow! These are just some of the many things that will mark our Eastertide season this year as together we are “Living the Way of Love!” Our theme is based on Bishop Michael Curry’s book “Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times.” Bishop Curry is the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, the first African-American to lead the denomination. As he writes, you can almost hear him speaking and preaching. In one chapter, he quotes the preacher at his Aunt Callie’s funeral. The sermon was based on Ezekiel and the Valley of the Dry Bones. He kept calling out to Callie. Bishop Curry remembers, calling her to hear the Word of the Lord and rise up. He writes about that day: “We couldn’t see heaven, we couldn’t see resurrection, but we could feel its possibility. God had been factored into the equation of our experience and something in reality changed. That’s where and when hope happens—when reality is altered by a new possibility.”

So, church—let’s hear the Word of the Lord in these Eastertide days and rise up! Let’s live with joy into all the possibilities and potentialities that God’s resurrecting power is opening to us. Let’s Live the Way of Love!

Living the Way of Love

Our Eastertide theme, Living the Way of Love, comes from Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry’s book, Love Is the Way. In it, Bishop Curry invites us all to create a “rule of life” for ourselves. A rule of life comes out of the ancient Benedictine tradition. It is a gentle framework or pattern to help us grow spiritually each day.

Here’s how to go about creating one for yourself. Go easy on yourself at first. This is not about becoming perfect overnight—it’s about growing deeper into the loving Child of God that God has created you to be.

Identify one to three core values or principles that you would like to live more deeply into. Make some notes on paper or on your computer. (For example: What do you admire in others you most love or respect? What might most contribute to your growth?)

Use the value(s) you chose to write your own vow or promise to translate them into changes in your daily life. (For example: “I vow to spend more time listening to others,” or “I vow to read Scripture each day,” or “I promise to try to treat others as I wish to be treated...”)

Think of some daily practices that will help you incorporate your values into your life. (For example: I will set aside time each day for prayer, or spend time with the ones I most love, or give of my time and material resources to promote my values...)

Write your daily practice into your daily schedule. Hold yourself to it and keep with it. (For example: make it part of your routine, like brushing your teeth or eating a healthy breakfast.)

Give thanks to God who is always with us!