Our newsletter name, “Sentinel,” harkens back to the role of a lookout or person charged with keeping watch, patiently scanning the horizon to see what lies ahead. Aren’t we all “sentinels” these days, scanning the horizon, peering into the future to see what lies ahead? Is it more of the same-old, same-old in this pandemic time, or are we really seeing the dawn of a new future? Can we see a time when life in public is safer and healthier for all? Can we see a strong determination to overcome all obstacles to racial justice and equity? Can we see a commitment to the health and future of Planet Earth? Can we see a future with hope, as promised by God through the prophet Jeremiah? “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

At First UMC, as we peer into the future that God is creating, our core values continue to be to keep people healthy, to protect the vulnerable, to support vital community, to offer impactful worship online and later in-person, to embrace a blended ecology of congregational participation in-person and online, and to continue to adapt and innovate ministries. As we continue to move forward together, we will transition from the pandemic months in such a way that the health and safety of everyone is safeguarded, that all may experience the presence of God, that we continue as a renewed vital faith community, and witness and serve outside the walls of the church in the community and around God’s whole world.

In us and through us in this time, God is indeed “doing a new thing.” The work of a sentinel can be confounding, exhausting, and exciting all at once. We have to frequently take off our glasses and wash the lenses. As my Grandfather Ted, used to say: “Clean your glasses. You’ll see things you’ve never seen before.”

Stay tuned for exciting announcements of summer activities and outdoor worship opportunities. We will be working hard to be ready for new developments and new opportunities, becoming a “New Church” as God’s future comes into view.
Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Service
How to Participate Online
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. Sundays 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship:
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
- YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

Thanks to Adam Guerrero and Brandon Searfoss, two of our AV Techs helping us create a beautiful service for the church community.

Sunday May 16 - Methodist Foundation Applications Due
8 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks (masks please) 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, May 18
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
Wednesday, May 19
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer, In-Person (masks please)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Thursday, May 20
6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women’s Group, via Zoom
Saturday, May 22
1 p.m. West District Conference, online
Sunday, May 23 - Pentecost Sunday
8 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks (masks please) 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, May 25
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Conference Call

Wednesday, May 26
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Conference Call
Wednesday, May 12
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer, In-Person (masks please)
12:10 p.m. May Mid-Week Recital, (Facebook, website & YouTube)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom
Saturday, May 15
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, via Zoom
4:30 p.m. May Messy Church, via Zoom

Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Service
May After-Worship Coffee Hour
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
Link: https://zoom.us/j/96578397184
Zoom ID: 965 7839 7184 Password: fumc

May 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: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Sunday School for Kids: Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m. via Zoom
- UMYF Youth Group: Sundays, 6 p.m.
For more information on all of these programs, go to www.santamonicaumc.org

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
Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday
Holy Week began with a beautiful Palm Sunday service, complete with trumpet and loud (online!) hallelujahs!

Christ is risen!

Easter Sunday
The Easter story proclaims that God has done it! The tomb that held our worst fears and sorrows is empty. Life prevails! Love wins! Jesus is already going on ahead into a new future.

Sanctuary Open for Prayer
The sanctuary is open for prayer and quiet reflection Wednesdays from 12 noon-2 p.m. While continuing to follow the latest health and safety guidelines, we know that this sacred space holds a special place in our hearts and offer this as yet another way of nurturing our faith during these challenging times. We will follow these guidelines:
• Entrance through the front doors
• Hosted by church members who will greet you, direct you to seating areas, and answer any questions you may have
• Masks and physical distancing required
• 20-30 min. time blocks
• Hand sanitizers will be available. The restrooms will be closed.
• Bring your own Bibles, prayer books, or journals
• No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary
• Masks and physical distancing required
• 20-30 min. time blocks
• Entrances through the front doors
• Hosted by church members who will greet you, direct you to seating areas, and answer any questions you may have
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• Hand sanitizers will be available. The restrooms will be closed.
• Bring your own Bibles, prayer books, or journals
• No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary

Sunday Morning Walks
Sunday morning walks are back! Join with other congregants for a brisk walk in person on Sunday mornings, following social distancing protocols. The group makes their way towards Ocean Avenue and back, in time to participate in Sunday Morning worship online!

Sundays: Meet at the First UMC Courtyard at 8 a.m.
www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-morning-walks

Coffee Hour Visit with Harvest Home
Missions Council presents a Zoom Coffee Hour with Harvest Home in Santa Monica. Representative Ali will talk about her 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.

• How to Write Mother’s Day cards and Welcome Baby cards to the new Moms: There are currently 4 new moms at Harvest Home. Show your support and encouragement by writing cards to them. (no names please!) Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 9. The address for mailing cards: Harvest Home 2118 Wilshire Blvd PMB 258 Santa Monica, CA 90403

After Worship Coffee Hour with Ali from Harvest Home:
Sunday, May 2, 11 a.m. via Zoom

Sanctuary Open for Prayer
The sanctuary is open for prayer and quiet reflection Wednesdays from 12 noon-2 p.m. While continuing to follow the latest health and safety guidelines, we know that this sacred space holds a special place in our hearts and offer this as yet another way of nurturing our faith during these challenging times. We will follow these guidelines:
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• 10 or fewer people at a time
• No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary
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• 10 or fewer people at a time
• No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary

May Online Mid-Week Recital
Rulfs Choi, piano
Rulfs Choi, Korean-American pianist, finds the world his stage and the concert hall platform his home in performances to sold-out houses, where critics and audiences acclaim his artistry as musician and keyboard wizard. New York venues include Lincoln Center and Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall. In other parts of the international music scene Choi has been highly visible in performances at the Salzburg Festival, Herrenhausen Gardens, Great Hall at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, National Hall in Taipei, Sejong Hall (South Korea), and Seoul Arts Center as well as the Los Angeles Music Center and Pasadena Ambassador Auditorium, to name a few. To read the full bio, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals

The May Recital will be the last for the season until the Fall. You can still enjoy viewing past recitals on our YouTube Channel and website anytime.
How to watch:
• Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
• YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC
• Website: View the recital on the Livestream page, and view past recitals: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

May Messy Church
Join us in May at Messy Church on Zoom for A Birthday Party for the Church! Also known as Pentecost, it’s the time each year when we hear the story about the Holy Spirit coming to be with the whole Church. Even today, God continues to give each of us the gift of the Holy Spirit, to guide us and comfort us and to help us to share God’s love in the world. We hope you’ll join us for this fun birthday party with stories, songs, games and more! Sign up for Zoom info: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch

Saturday, May 15, 4:30-5:15 p.m. via Zoom

Methodist Foundation Scholarships
Attention students! An online application form for the annual Methodist Foundation Scholarships is available on the website. Please email Sarah Rold at s.rold@santamonicaumc.org, if you have any questions.
Application deadline (including essay) is Sunday, May 16.
Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation
Calling All Graduates!
First UMC wants to recognize all its graduates. The church community is proud of each of you and we would like to celebrate your hard work and accomplishment. Let us know where you are graduating from, your major, and what your future plans are. We are praying for each of you.
Contact Sarah Rold (s.rold@santamonicaumc.org), or 310.393.8258 x 106.

Prayer Quilts - How To Order
During this time of Covid-19, the Prayer Quilt Ministry continues 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 desired for.
4. There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love.

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.

Safe Sanctuaries®
At First UMC Santa Monica, we follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all our children, youth, and adults. Practices include:
- Every year First UMC mandates that each employee on the First UMC campus take part in a Safe Sanctuaries® class. This includes all Preschool staff and church office staff, Youth leaders, Vacation Bible School volunteers, and Sunday School teachers.
- Topics covered include: education and information on child abuse and requirements for mandated reporters, volunteer supervision guidelines, policies and guidelines within each ministry to ensure safety for children, youth, and volunteers.
- Anyone who has access to or works with children, youth, or vulnerable adults has a background check prior to interaction with them.

Looking forward
Graduation Sunday
On June 13 we are celebrating the graduates of First UMC. Stay tuned for the June Sentinel where we’ll feature each graduate and what their accomplishment. Let us know where you are graduating from, your major, and what your future plans are. We are praying for each of you.
Contact Sarah Rold (s.rold@santamonicaumc.org), or 310.393.8258 x 106.

Cal-Pac Annual Conference 2021
The 37th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference will take place virtually on June 17-19, 2021, with the theme “Renovation 2021: Remaking Ministry from the Inside Out.”

Re-Gathering Task Force Update
Our Re-Gathering Task Force continues to meet. We monitor community and consider CDC and health expert advice as we go forward. We are moving forward step-by-step, keeping safety and health considerations at the forefront while staying open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as God works in us to create a new church.

On the Website: Dismantling Racism
There are several new articles on the Dismantling Racism page of our website. One article is the statement from the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church on the Derek Chauvin verdict, dated April 21:
“‘The Council of Bishops stands together with all justice-loving people around the world in prayerfully bearing witness to the jury’s decision that convicted former police officer Derek Chauvin of murdering George Floyd. The racial violence experienced by communities of color has pushed us to think more deeply about how white supremacy functions in our society. We must continue the work of dismantling systemic racism so that the lives of black, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander and Native American sisters and brothers will no longer be needlessly taken. We are called as people of faith to work for a world in which love, peace and justice reign. It is our hope that United Methodists around the world will take up this work as a continuing commitment of our baptismal vows. As we reflect on the importance of this verdict and on our work in the days ahead, we pray for peace in the midst of truth telling, empathy in the midst of grief and action that leads to healing and greater justice for all of God’s children.’"

To read all articles, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/united-against-racism/
Calling All Graduates!
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Contact Maile Marquand (maile@rugbooks.com) or Sue Payne (sue.f.payne@gmail.com).

Prayer Quilts - How To Order
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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.
4. There is no charge for the quilt — it is a gift of love.
5. Contact Maile Marquand (maile@rugbooks.com) or Sue Payne (sue.f.payne@gmail.com).
6. Select the quilt if some are already made, or suggest colors if one is to be selected for you.
7. 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.

Legacy Circle
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We are planning a variety of experiences to worship and connect this Summer—introducing outdoor worship Fellowship events in the Courtyard, Sunday Morning Walks, Wednesdays in the Sanctuary for prayer and reflection. Watch for further developments as we prayerfully look towards a possible resumption of in-person worship in the Sanctuary in the Fall. Let us know your thoughts! And please consider to follow safety guidelines—masks, physical distancing, hand-washing, limited in-door activities with persons outside your household. Stay safe! Stay healthy! Stay prayerful! Stay grounded in God’s love and promise! Live the Way of Love!
To read past updates, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/task-force

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There are several new articles on the Dismantling Racism page of our website. One article is the statement from the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church on the Derek Chauvin verdict, dated April 21: “The Council of Bishops stands together with all justice-loving people around the world in prayerfully bearing witness to the jury’s decision that convicted former police officer Derek Chauvin of murdering George Floyd. The racial violence experienced by communities of color has pushed us to think more deeply about how white supremacy functions in our society. We must continue the work of dismantling systemic racism so that the lives of black, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander and Native American sisters and brothers will no longer be needlessly taken. We are called as people of faith to work for a world in which love, peace and justice reign. It is our hope that United Methodists around the world will take up this work as a continuing commitment of our baptismal vows. As we reflect on the importance of this verdict and on our work in the days ahead, we pray for peace in the midst of truth telling, empathy in the midst of grief and action that leads to healing and greater justice for all of God’s children.” To read all articles, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/united-against-racism/

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At First UMC Santa Monica, we follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all our children, youth, and adults. Practices include:
- Every year First UMC mandates that each employee on the First UMC campus take part in a Safe Sanctuaries® class. This includes all Preschool staff and church office staff, Youth leaders, Vacation Bible School volunteers, and Sunday School teachers.
- Topics covered include: education and information on child abuse and requirements for mandated reporters, volunteer supervision guidelines, policies and guidelines within each ministry to ensure safety for children, youth and volunteers.
- Anyone who has access to or works with children, youth, or vulnerable adults has a background check prior to interaction with them.

Learn more about our policy and practices on our website: www.santamonicaumc.org/safe-sanctuaries

Looking Forward
Graduation Sunday
On June 13 we are celebrating the graduates of First UMC. Stay tuned for the June Sentinel where we’ll feature each graduate and what their hopes are for the future.
Sunday, June 13, during 10 a.m. online worship service
Cal-Pac Annual Conference 2021
The 37th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference will take place virtually on June 17-19, 2021, with the theme “Renovation 2021: Remaking Ministry from the Inside Out.”
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Missions Council presents a Zoom Coffee Hour with Harvest Home in Santa Monica. Representative Ali 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.

- How to Write Mother’s Day cards and Welcome Baby cards to the new Moms: There are currently 4 new moms at Harvest Home. Show your support and encouragement by writing cards to them, (no names please) Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 9. The address for mailing cards:
  Harvest Home
  2118 Wilshire Blvd PMB 258
  Santa Monica, CA 90403

After Worship Coffee Hour with Ali from Harvest Home:
Sunday, May 2, 11 a.m. via Zoom

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

The sanctuary is open for prayer and quiet reflection Wednesdays from 12 noon-2 p.m. While continuing to follow the latest health and safety guidelines, we know that this sacred space holds a special place in our hearts and offer this as yet another way of nurturing our faith during these challenging times. We will follow these guidelines:

- Entrance through the front doors
- Hosted by church members who will greet you, direct you to seating areas, and answer any questions you may have
- 10 or fewer people at a time
- 20-30 min. time blocks
- Masks and physical distancing required
- Hand sanitizers will be available. The restrooms will be closed.
- Bring your own Bibles, prayer books, or journals
- No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary

May God bless us with strength, comfort, and peace.

• No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary
• Bring your own Bibles, prayer books, or journals
• Hand sanitizers will be available. The restrooms will be closed.
• 20-30 min. time blocks
• Entrance through the front doors
• Hosted by church members who will greet you, direct you to seating areas, and answer any questions you may have
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• Hand sanitizers will be available. The restrooms will be closed.
• Bring your own Bibles, prayer books, or journals
• No food or beverages are permitted in the sanctuary

Sunday Morning Walks

Sunday morning walks are back! Join with other congregants for a brisk walk in person on Sunday mornings, following social distancing protocols. The group makes their way towards Ocean Avenue and back, in time to participate in Sunday Morning worship online!

Sundays: Meet at the First UMC Courtyard at 8 a.m.

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-morning-walks

May Online Mid-Week Recital

Rufus Choi, piano

Rufus Choi, Korean-American pianist, finds the world his stage and the concert hall platform his home in performances to sold-out houses, where critics and audiences acclaim his artistry as musician and keyboard wizard. New York venues include Lincoln Center and Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall. In other parts of the international music scene, Choi has been highly visible in performances at the Salzburg Festival, Herrenhausen Gardens, Great Hall at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, National Hall in Tokyo, Sejong Hall (South Korea), and Seoul Arts Center as well as the Los Angeles Music Center and Pasadena Ambassador Auditorium, to name a few. To read the full bio, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recitals

The May Recital will be the last for the season until the Fall. You can still enjoy viewing past recitals on our YouTube Channel and website anytime.

How to watch:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
  Be sure to “like” our page.
- YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicalUMC
  Subscribe to the First UMC YouTube channel to receive notifications.
- Website - View the recital on the Livestream page, and view past recitals: www.santamonicaumc.org/live-stream.

Online Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, May 12, 12:10 p.m.

May Messy Church

Join us in May at Messy Church on Zoom for A Birthday Party for the Church! Also known as Pentecost, it’s the time each year when we hear the story about the Holy Spirit coming to be with the whole Church. Even today, God continues to give each of us the gift of the Holy Spirit, to guide us and comfort us and to help us to share God’s love in the world. We hope you’ll join us for this fun birthday party with stories, songs, games and more! Sign up for Zoom info: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch

Saturday, May 15, 4:30-5:15 p.m. via Zoom

Methodist Foundation Scholarships

Attention students! An online application form for the annual Methodist Foundation Scholarships is available on the website. Please email Sarah Rold at s.rold@santamonicaumc.org, if you have any questions.

Application deadline (including essay) is Sunday, May 16.

Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation

Methodist Foundation Scholarships
MAY Calendar

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT THIS MONTH

Sunday, May 2 - Holy Communion
8 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks (masks please) 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, special guest Ali from Harvest Home
4 p.m. UMYF Gathering

Tuesday, May 4
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom

Wednesday, May 5
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer, In-Person (masks please)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Thursday, May 6
6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women’s Group, via Zoom
Sunday, May 9 - Mother’s Day - Baptism during worship
8 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks (masks please) 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, May 11
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Conference Call

Wednesday, May 12
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer, In-Person (masks please)
12:10 p.m. May Mid-Week Recap, (Facebook, website & YouTube)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Saturday, May 15
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workshop, via Zoom
4:30 p.m. May Messy Church, via Zoom

Sunday, May 16 - Methodist Foundation Applications Due
8 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks (masks please) 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, May 18
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom

Wednesday, May 19
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer, In-Person (masks please)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Thursday, May 20
6:30 p.m. Listening Hearts Women's Group, via Zoom

Saturday, May 22
1 p.m. West District Conference, online

Sunday, May 23 - Pentecost Sunday
8 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks (masks please) 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, May 25
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain Conference Call

Wednesday, May 26
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer, In-Person (masks please)
7 p.m. Open Space Young Adults Soul Care, via Zoom

Sunday, May 30 - Trinity Sunday
8 a.m. Sunday Morning Walks (masks please) 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

Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day, church campus closed

Thank you to our Missions Team in feeding the food drive for the Westside Food Bank during Holy Week, and helping us come together to make a difference.

May After-Worship Coffee Hour
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 ID: 965 7839 7184
Password: fumc

May 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: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- 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

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

Thanks to Adam Guerrero and Brandon Sears for, two of our AV Techs helping us create a beautiful service for the church community.

EASTER HOP-BY

We give thanks for the blessings of Holy Week!
A big thank you to our Events Team of Jamie Jones, Sandra Jones and Dot Plukas, and all of the volunteers, for their work to create an outstanding Easter Hop-By, where people of all ages were able to safely celebrate Easter!

Photos courtesy of Allan Walker

Preschool Corner

Teacher Appreciation Week!

Dominic Rold, learning about what makes a good foundation, in the first “Science and Faith” online class, led by Jamie Jones.

We give thanks to our amazing Preschool teachers and staff for their leadership and guidance while creating such a fun environment for the kids!

Photos courtesy of Allison Walker
Our newsletter name, “Sentinel,” harkens back to the role of a lookout or person charged with keeping watch, patiently scanning the horizon to see what lies ahead. Aren’t we all “sentinels” these days, scanning the horizon, peering into the future to see what lies ahead? Is it more of the same-old, same-old in this pandemic time, or are we really seeing the dawn of a new future? Can we see a time when life in public is safer and healthier for all? Can we see a strong determination to overcome all obstacles to racial justice and equity? Can we see a commitment to the health and future of Planet Earth? Can we see a future with hope, as promised by God through the prophet Jeremiah? “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

At First UMC, as we peer into the future that God is creating, our core values continue to be to keep people healthy, to protect the vulnerable, to support vital community, to offer impactful worship online and later in-person, to embrace a blended ecology of congregational participation in-person and online, and to continue to adapt and innovate ministries. As we continue to move forward together, we will transition from the pandemic months in such a way that the health and safety of everyone is safeguarded, that all may experience the presence of God, that we continue as a renewed vital faith community, and witness and serve outside the walls of the church in the community and around God’s whole world.

In us and through us in this time, God is indeed “doing a new thing.” The work of a sentinel can be confounding, exhausting, and exciting all at once. We have to frequently take off our glasses and wash the lenses. As my Grandfather Ted, used to say: “Clean your glasses. You’ll see things you’ve never seen before.”

Stay tuned for exciting announcements of summer activities and outdoor worship opportunities. We will be working hard to be ready for new developments and new opportunities, becoming a “New Church” as God’s future comes into view.