I know the plans I have for you, says our God, plans for welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope.
— Jeremiah 29:11

A future and a hope. What an amazing gift to receive from God’s creating Spirit as we move together into the month of September. We still have a lot of work ahead of us—to keep one another safe and healthy, to lean into becoming a church that is more and more both in-person and online, to give generously wherever people are in need, especially now through our partnership with the church in Haiti.

We have a lot of work to do, and it’s going to take our best thinking, extravagant generosity, and compassion towards one another, especially when we differ. It’s going to require of us flexibility and resilience. This work of creating a new church together and of repairing the brokenness of the world will ask of us creativity and perseverance.

The good news is that God “has our back,” as the expression goes. God is the ground under our feet and the expanse of the heavens. God is the bread of our bodies and spirits. God is the breath of life and the wind of change.

God has plans for us—plans for welfare and not for harm, giving us a future and a hope. In this season let’s inhabit those holy plans, giving thanks always to God, caring always for one another, staying open always to God’s vision, power and peace.

Rev. Patricia Farris
Senior Minister

A New In-Person and Online Church!

With the support of the First UMC Church Council, District Superintendent Mark Nakagawa, and Bishop Grant Hagiya, First UMC is looking towards Sunday, September 12, to launch a new chapter in our life together as an in-person and online worshipping congregation. We will worship together every Sunday both in-person in the sanctuary and online as the service is live-streamed and also available 24/7.

Safe and responsible re-opening is our first priority, always mindful that many of the activities we are excited to resume might lead to higher risk for those who have not, or are unable to choose to be, vaccinated, such as young children, immunocompromised people, and cancer patients. We will continue to be mindful and cautious, following the guidance of health experts and government leaders. We care for one another and for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

The worship service will be 35-40 minutes. After worship there will be time for informal gathering in the Courtyard. Online Coffee Hour will continue to be held at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

On the Website
Congregation and Pastoral Care:
We are here for you! Feel free to leave a phone message anytime (310-393-8258) or email message for any of the church staff. The Pastoral Care line (310-393-8258 and enter extension 1), is always available for people to leave a message requesting care.

Visit the website to read about the First UMC Pastoral Care team: www.santamonicaumc.org/pastoral-care-team

Guidelines for in-person worship:
• Masks will be required for everyone.
• If you are feeling ill, please worship online rather than in-person.
• Ushers will guide us to maintain physical distancing in the Sanctuary.
• We hope to resume congregational singing at a later date.
• Offering Plates will be available in the Narthex to receive tithes and offerings. You may also continue to give online.
• We encourage everyone to greet one another with elbow or fist bumps, or with hands pressed together and a small bow, rather than with hugs or handshakes.
• Children’s Ministries
  • Our Nursery will not be open
  • Sunday School will alternate weekly in the Preschool playground or on Zoom.

God’s Creating Spirit continues to give us life and lead us forward!

SUNDAYS, beginning September 12, 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary
SEPTEMBER Calendar

Worship Sunday 10 a.m.

We will worship in-person in the Sanctuary each week at 10 a.m., beginning Sunday, September 12. See guidelines for in-person worship on page 1.

SUNDAY MORNING - ONLINE

Worship Online - Sunday 10 a.m.

During the last year and a half of Online Worship, the livestreamed service has been pre-recorded Saturday mornings, edited by Adam Guerrero, and then livestreamed Sundays at 10 a.m. on Facebook, YouTube and our website. Beginning September 12, the service will be recorded in real time, as it is happening in the Sanctuary, and broadcast on those same platforms.

Some new features:

- Website: We’ll have a LIVESTREAM button on the Home Page of the website, as well as the Livestream page. Look for the button at the top of the Home Page on Sunday mornings.
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Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:
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Online After-Worship Coffee Hour

Zoom Online Coffee Hour will continue Sundays at 11 a.m. If you worship in the sanctuary or online, there will be an informal gathering time in the First UMC Courtyard. Everyone is welcome to come to church in-person and then join the Zoom meeting for community time when you get home!

Sundays after Worship, 11 a.m. via Zoom
Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/96578397184
Zoom ID: 965 7839 7184
Password: fumc

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

The sanctuary will continue to be open for prayer and quiet reflection Wednesday from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. We continue to follow the latest health and safety guidelines. Visit the website for more info:
www.santamonicaumc.org/sanctuary
open-for-prayer

Wednesday, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Flowers and Displays

To donate to the flower fund, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund
COMmUNITY continued:

Thank You
• to Children’s Ministries Coordinator Jamie Jones for her work in Children’s Ministries and the Planning and Events Committee. Jamie has moved to North Carolina to attend UC Berkeley, but will continue her work with Children’s Ministry.

Documentary about Gale Williams: The Living Years
Brenda Williams, daughter of long-time member Gale Williams, has made a documentary about her father’s life, entitled The Living Years. Currently on the film festival circuit, stay tuned for a possible local screening of the film. Watch the trailer here: www.livingyearsfilm.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
Our Health Ministry Council is sponsoring a Blood Drive through the Red Cross on Saturday, September 5th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. You can sign up by appointment so they can ensure safe physical distancing, and once you’re there you’ll see your familiar First UMC face! Sign up: www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 RED CROSS.

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• Listening Hearts Women’s Group, with Tricia Guerrero: Meeting on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: September 1 & 15, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

September 5th: Saturday Morning Walks, Sundays, 8 a.m., First UMC Courtyard
• Saturday School for Kids: Sundays, 11:00-1:45 a.m., will meet for a combination of in-person and online meetings (*new time!)

UMYK Youth Group: Sundays, 6 p.m., beginning September 12, First UMC Courtyard
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Open enrollment for Medicare 2022 is just around the corner (October 15 - December 7). If you’re 65 or older, this is when you can start thinking about signing up for Medicare or reevaluate your coverage and make changes if you want to do so. To help with that decision making, the following link will walk you through the process: https://www.medicare.gov/applicates/default/2021-02-12/164%2021-715-2008.php. Or, if you’re more comfortable speaking to a local Medicare expert, WISE and Healthy Aging recommends contacting Bruce Johnston at: (310) 351-7772, or on his website: www.101medicare.com/annual-election-period-news

September Mid-Week Recital
Now in its 21st year, the Mid-Week Recitals are back online for the Fall! The first of the fall series features Tengyue (Ty) Zhang, classical guitar. The highlight of Ty Zhang’s international career was the Grand Prize of the 2017 Guitar Foundation of America (GFA-ICAC) International Concert Artist Competition (GFA-ICAC), known as the most prestigious guitar contest in the world. Ty became the first Chinese person to be honored with this prize. His win was followed by a tour with over 50 concerts in the U.S., including his Carnegie Hall debut. In 2018, Ty released his solo album with Naxos company as the Laureate Series • Guitar Recital. It was praised as: “one of the most talented young players… I’m struck by the extraordinary levels of mastery, comfort and relative ease.” – Classical Guitar Magazine. Read full bio: www.santamonicumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

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Online: October 17-24. Details coming soon.

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Haiti Earthquake Relief - Thank You
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You, the congregation, jumped in to help. Through our ongoing relationship with David Drager, mission volunteer coordinator for the Methodist Church in Haiti, First UMC was able to get much-needed funds directly into the hands of those who could use it immediately. Within a week of launching a fundraiser, First UMC and the Haiti Work Team, led by Todd Erlandson, raised nearly $12k. Thank you to all who donated. We will continue to provide updates as we receive them from our in-country team. www.santamonicumc.org/haiti

A Blessed Thank You to a Wonderful Church Family
“I am so blessed to have a wonderful church family that is loving, caring, and supportive. I am thankful to have a family of friends, who went above and beyond to pray for me when I was going in for my surgery. I am ever so grateful to know there is a prayer quilt ministry that people can sponsor a prayer for recipients of a prayer quilt request. I am especially grateful for Dobi Jenkinson Wang, who sponsored my prayer quilt, but also made sure that I was comfortable, and got the word out that I needed prayers. Thank you also to the church staff for all their help. God Bless this wonderful church family.” God Bless, Chris Reagh

Congratulations
• to former First UMC Youth Counsellors Jack McHugh and Marisa Morgan, who are engaged and have moved to Denver, where Jack has accepted a position as a Music Teacher at St. Mary’s Academy.
• to former First UMC pastor Kurt Poland, and his wife Katie, who are expecting a baby this Winter.
• to Christian Dodd, who passed his Nursing Board Certification test and is now an Army Practical Nursing Specialist. He will graduate at Walter Reed in Bethesda before reporting to his new post at Fort Pullo, Louisiana.

Deaths
We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of these departed loved ones:
• First UMC member Shirley Elaine Gholson, who died June 25.
• Long-time First UMC congregant and Upward Bound House founder, K.J. Laosgg, who died peacefully at home on July 22.
• to former First UMC pastor Rev. Camille Mattick in the death of her mother, Stephanie.
• We send love and prayers to Rev. Martha Wingfield, former Associate Pastor at First UMC, in the death of her husband, Rev. Myron Wingfield. A memorial service will be held: Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church of San Diego 2111 Camino Del Rio South San Diego, CA 92108 The service will also be live-streamed at fumsd.org.

Choir News
• We welcome new choir member Troy Robertson. Troy says “My name is Troy Robertson and I am thrilled to be joining First UMC. I am from Springfield, MO and moved to Los Angeles about a year ago to pursue a Master’s degree in Vocal Performance at UCLA. My hobbies include running, hiking, snorkeling, and petting cats. My wife, Elizabeth, is a teacher at Carson STEAM High School and we have been married for about two years. We live in Poines and have a sweet cat named Lulu.”

A Thank You to...
School Supply Drive - Thank You

Our church has a long history of supporting students through the gift of backpacks and school supplies each fall. In recent years, we have partnered with Upward Bound House families at Family Place. This year, UBH received an outpouring of support from community organizations, so this year we expanded our school supply support to a few new organizations: Sherman Indian High School, the School Bell Backpack Program through the Assistance League of Santa Monica, and The People Concern in Santa Monica. In total, First UMC raised 1k! Thank you to those who donated, and for supporting the kids and families in our communities to help them to learn and succeed this school year!

Open Space Young Adult Ministry

We are a young adult community that seeks to foster an open-minded culture where all are invited to spark deep conversation and find spiritual meaning in a safe and diverse environment. People ask us what this means. For us, it means that everyone is invited to the table, just as you are. It means holding space for one another as we explore spiritual meaning. It means gathering together and learning ways to better love the world around us. And it means we have a lot of fun together!

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at a local park, and the following Wednesdays on Zoom. We would love to answer any questions or get you connected to our gatherings. 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.

Prayer Quilts - How to Request

The First UMC Prayer Quilt Ministry continues 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.rold@santamonicaumc.org.

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

Visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry.
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September 8, 2021: Tengyue (Ty) Zhang Guitar Recital

September 15, 2021: Konstantin Stolbov Piano Recital

September 22, 2021: Alexandra Balabanova Violin and Piano Recital

September 29, 2021: William Sylwia Valletta Flute Recital

Congratulations

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  Online: October 17-24. Details coming soon.

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Please continue to provide updates as we receive them from our in-country team.

www.santamonicaumc.org/hiati

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TOGETHER!

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Questions? Contact the church office: 310.393.8258

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Password: fumc

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www.santamonicaumc.org/santa-umc/sunday-sanctuary-open-for-prayer

Wednesday, September 8
7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom
Saturday, September 4
8:00 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, meet in the First UMC Courtyard
10 a.m. Sunday School for Kids, meet in the First UMC Courtyard
11 a.m. After Worship Coffee Hour, via Zoom
2 p.m. Sunday School for Kids, meet in the First UMC Courtyard
6 p.m. UMYF Meeting, First UMC Courtyard
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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.rold@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

School Supply Drive - Thank You

Our church has a long history of supporting students through the gift of backpacks and school supplies each fall. In recent years, we have partnered with Upward Bound House families at Family Place. This year, UBF received an outpouring of support from community organizations, so this year we expanded our school supply support to a few new organizations: Sherman Indian High School, the School Bell Backpack Program through the Assistance League of Santa Monica, and The People Concern in Santa Monica. In total, First UMC raised $11k! Thank you to those who donated, and for supporting the kids and families in our communities to help them to learn and succeed this school year!

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Prayer Quilts - How to Request

The First UMC Prayer Quilt Ministry continues 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.
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A New In-Person and Online Church!

With the support of the First UMC Church Council, District Superintendent Mark Nakagawa, and Bishop Grant Hagiya, First UMC is looking towards Sunday, September 12, to launch a new chapter in our life together as an in-person and online worshipping congregation. We will worship together every Sunday both in-person in the sanctuary and online as the service is live-streamed and also available 24/7.

Safe and responsible re-opening is our first priority, always mindful that many of the activities we are excited to resume might lead to higher risk for those who have not, or are unable to choose to be vaccinated, such as young children, immunocompromised people, and cancer patients. We will continue to be mindful and cautious, following the guidance of health experts and government leaders. We care for one another and for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

The worship service will be 35-40 minutes. After worship there will be time for informal gathering in the Courtyard. Online Coffee Hour will continue to be held at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Guidelines for in-person worship:
• Masks will be required for everyone.
• If you are feeling ill, please worship online rather than in-person.
• Ushers will guide us to maintain physical distancing in the Sanctuary.
• We hope to resume congregational singing at a later date.
• Offering Plates will be available in the Narthex to receive tithes and offerings. You may also continue to give online.
• We encourage everyone to greet one another with elbow or fist bumps, or with hands pressed together and a small bow, rather than with hugs or handshakes.
• Children’s Ministries
  • Our Nursery will not be open
  • Sunday School will alternate weekly in the Preschool playground or on Zoom.

God’s Creating Spirit continues to give us life and lead us forward!

SUNDAYS, beginning September 12, 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary