

SENTINEL

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HORIZONS

“Gather us in—the lost and forsaken, gather us in—the blind and the lame; Call to us now and we shall awaken! We shall arise at the sound of our name.”

Let’s all COME HOME on Homecoming Sunday, September 10th. Come home to worship in person to see one another’s face and share one another’s joys and needs. Come home to worship online if that fits your circumstance and share in worship and prayer. Return home to be renewed.

“We are the young—our lives are a myst’ry, we are the old—who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of hist’ry, called to be light to the whole human race.”

The beauty and strength of being TOGETHER nourishes our hearts and unites us in service and mission. Being TOGETHER requires intentional commitment from each of us, making a priority

Homecoming Sunday

Fellowship and Events Committee is excited to bring back Homecoming Sunday - stay after worship for food (Men’s Bible Study is heading the BBQ!), fellowship and fun for all ages as we reunite after the summer!

Sunday, September 10, 10 a.m. worship, 11 a.m. Lunch and Festival Fun (bounce house and bubbles!) in the Courtyard

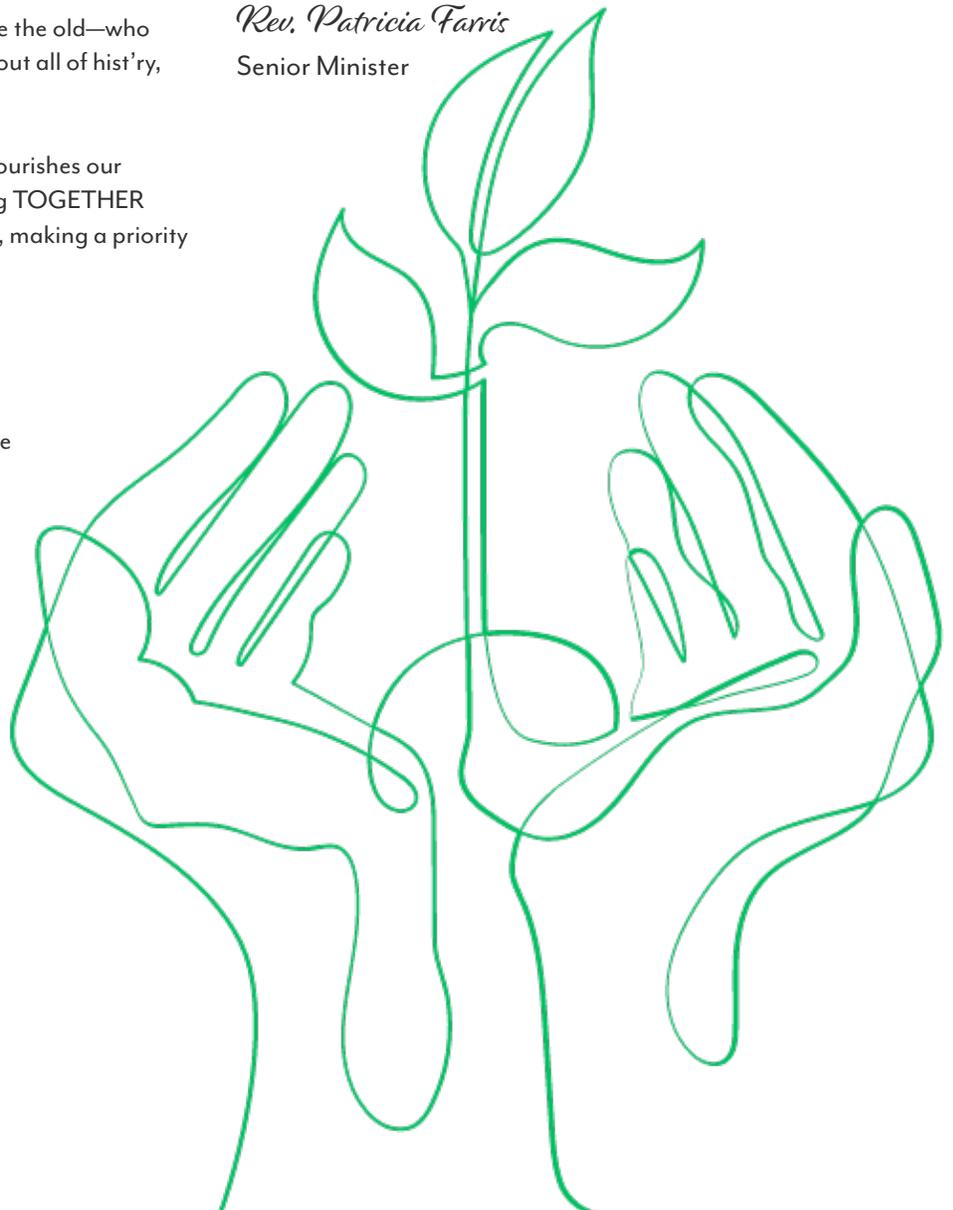


of life in this beloved community, the Body of Christ, the church. We do it for ourselves. We do it for the world. We do it at Christ’s call. Return home to be revived.

“Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in—all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.”
(“Gather Us In,” Marty Haugen, #2236 The Faith We Sing)

RETURN + RENEW + REVIVE

Rev. Patricia Farris
Senior Minister





Worship in the Sanctuary

We worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person in the Sanctuary each week. Masks are optional, but always acceptable and welcome. Everyone is strongly encouraged to get your vaccinations and booster shots. If you feel ill, please choose to worship from home online. Let us know if you need assistance in joining online.

Berneice Southcott prepares the Communion elements before worship, with the help of Congregation Care Associate Anne Premer. Mary Crawford and Rose Kujawa help take care of the elements after worship. Thank you all for your service!



Worship Online

We offer several options for participating in online worship. **You may join in the service Livestream in real time or later at your convenience on these platforms:**

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream (no ads)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
- YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC
- The First UMC App: (download from the App Store, search FirstUMC.SM)

After Worship Social Time

Join others in the courtyard after worship to say "Hello!" and enjoy the coffee and donuts table. Stop by the Welcome Table and visit with staff member David Penson if you have any questions.



On Sunday, August 20, special coffee hour snacks were provided by Tricia and Adam Guerrero, who brought back treats from their recent trip to Hawaii. Donations during coffee hour were accepted benefitting the Cal-PAC Relief fund for Lahaina.

September Ongoing Ministries:

- Men's Bible Study **Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom**
- Open Space Young Adults **First and third Wednesdays** Sept 6 & 20
- Listening Hearts Women's Group **Sept 6 & 20, Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025) Sept 13 & 21, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**
- Prayer Quilt Ministry **Third Saturday of the month: Sept 16, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Room 300**
- The Chancel Choir **Rehearsals resume Thursday, Sept 7, 7:40 p.m. in the Choir Room**
- Nursery Care **Sundays: 9:30 - 11 a.m. Room 204**
- Blood Pressure Screenings **Sunday Sept 17, after worship in the Fireside Room**
- Sunday School for Kids **Sundays, 10 a.m. in Room 206, for ages 2 and up.**
- UMYF Youth Group **Resumes Sunday, Sept 17, 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge**

For more information on all of these programs, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/small-groups

Listening Hearts Women's Group with Tricia Guerrero

Listening Hearts is a group for women of all ages, grounded in the practices of sacred listening, prayer and reflection. Alongside one another, we share our stories, listen to one another, and grow in God's loving presence. www.santamonicaumc.org/small-groups. See the September schedule in Ongoing Ministries above.

Open Space Young Adults

If you're a "youngish" adult (loosely in your 20's, 30's... even 40's!), you are invited to join the Open Space Young Adult Group for some time in community. Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. They gather once a month in person, and sometimes on Zoom, for conversations on faith and life, engaging in prayer and study.

Visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space

Wednesdays, September 6 & 20, off-site

Men's Bible Study Zoom Meetings

Men's Bible Study is a weekly meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture during online breakfast. As men try to navigate the stresses and complexities of this modern world and daily life, Men's Bible Study is a place for community, prayer and fellowship through the sharing of God's Holy word. Come by online as your schedule permits! For more info and to sign up, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/biblestudy.

Every Tuesday, 7 a.m., via Zoom

Flowers: To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund. **Open dates: Sunday, September 24**



September at a Glance

Fri Sept 1	Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers
Sun Sept 3	Holy Communion
Wed Sept 6	Listening Hearts meets for coffee Open Space meets
Mon Sept 4	Labor Day, church campus closed
Sun Sept 10	Homecoming Sunday - celebration after worship
Wed Sept 13	September Mid-Week Recital Listening Hearts meets via Zoom
Sat Sept 16	Prayer Quilt Ministry workparty
Sun Sept 17	Moments for Mission: United Women in Faith with Karen Ing Blood Pressure screenings in the Fireside Room
Wed Sept 20	Listening Hearts meets for coffee
Sat Sept 23	Women's Tea with the United Women in Faith
Sun Sept 24	Youth Service Project Report Back
Wed Sept 27	Listening Hearts meets via Zoom

Walk the Labyrinth & Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth will now be open every first Friday of the month from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., starting Friday, September 1, in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation. Take an hour for yourself in this "device-free" zone.

For those unable to walk, we have finger labyrinths (see photo below).

A finger labyrinth is similar to a full sized labyrinth you would walk except it is on a much smaller and more portable scale. The user traces the path to the center using your finger rather than with their feet. Tracing the labyrinth with your finger can be calming and relaxing, giving you time and space to let go of worries and "just be." You may also view the Virtual Labyrinth on our website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/labyrinth

The First UMC Chapel will also be open for prayers that day from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, September 1, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall and the Chapel



Wooden Finger Labyrinths

New Season of Mid-Week Recitals

The Fall season of online 2023 Mid-Week Recitals will begin on Wednesday, September 13, at 12:10 p.m, featuring **Margaret Thornhill, clarinet; Hui Wu, piano.**

Clarinet soloist, chamber musician, teacher, and conductor **Margaret Thornhill** made her New York recital debut at Merkin Hall in 1980 and her UK debut at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in 1991. Margaret has taught clarinet and coached chamber music as a member of the faculty at the University of California Santa Cruz, Stanford University, and is currently on the faculty at Claremont Graduate University.



Praised as "sparkling" by The New York Times and "a rising star" by China Musical Weekly, pianist **Hui Wu** has continued to display her versatility in a creative approach to programming which stems from a contemporary/classical music duality. Hui studied at The Juilliard School for her Bachelor and Master's degrees with full scholarships and completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at USC Thornton School of Music. To read complete artist's bios visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

How to watch the Livestream:

- Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)
- YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/santamonicaumc
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- The First UMC App: (To download, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM) You may view past recitals on these channels as well.

Wednesday, September 13 at 12:10 p.m, online.

Women's Tea hosted by the United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be hosting a Women's Tea on Saturday, September 23, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Invitations have been sent to women connected to First UMC, but if you have not received an invitation, or haven't yet RSVP'd, please contact Tricia Guerrero: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org. This



will be an opportunity for community with other women from First UMC, and to learn about the mission and work of our unit of the United Women in Faith. Childcare is available upon request (the children will have a tea party too!) Let Jamie Jones know if you would like childcare: j.jones@santamonicaumc.org

Saturday, September 23, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. (room tbd)

Youth Service Project Report Back

We are excited to hear from the YSP team about their Summer trip to Jonesville, Virginia, helping residents by repairing homes through the organization Appalachia Service Project. Stay after worship for a light lunch and listen to the Youth's stories and experiences.

Sunday, September 24, after worship in Simkins Hall



LOOKING FORWARD TO

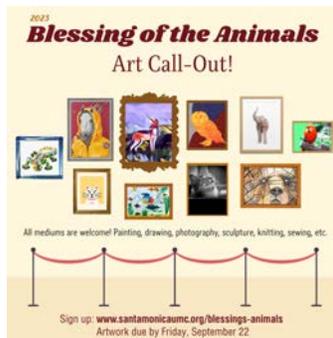
October

Blessing of the Animals Art Exhibit Back! Call out for ART

First UMC is pleased to announce that alongside our Annual Blessing of the Animals event in October, we are bringing back the Blessing of the Animals Art Show in the Fireside Room! After a three year hiatus we're excited to put the call out for art from YOU, the congregation, and any friends or family that would like to participate. This year's theme is art representing ALL of God's creatures! All mediums are welcome - painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, knitting, sewing, poetry, etc.

Exhibit opens Saturday, October 7.
Artwork is due anytime before Friday, September 22. *Our online friends may email images of their submissions for the online exhibit.

Fill out the online form to participate:
www.santamonicaumc.org/blessings-animals



Blessing of the Animals 2023

We look forward to our annual Blessing of the Animals! This year we will have:

- Walk-Up blessings in the First UMC Courtyard
- Drive Thru car blessings in front of the Courtyard.
- For the kids, we'll have a fun arts and crafts table, and the kids can bring stuffed lovies to be blessed.
- All are invited to bring donations of pet food for our local pet shelters.
- Share photos of your beloved pets that have passed for the Memorial Board. You may send in photos or bring them with you.
- View beautiful animal art by the congregation and friends in the Fireside Room.

Don't miss this annual tradition!

www.santamonicaumc.org/blessings-animals

Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the First UMC Courtyard, and the Fireside Room



Scenes from last year's Blessing of the Animals

Fall Bible Study with Rev. Larry: Study of Psalms

Rev. Larry Young will be leading a six-week Zoom study on the Old Testament Psalms beginning Wednesday October 4. Duplicate sessions will be offered on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m. This study, like the previous one on Matthew, will be based on Yale Bible Study curriculum, and will feature a video in each session by Yale faculty with a study guide sent in advance. There will be no charge for the class. The Psalms evolved as the worshipbook for the ancient Jewish people, and it covers a whole range of human situations as individuals and worshipping communities sought to address God. Today it can still provide words for our own prayer and worship life. Sign-up information will be available soon.

First Zoom Classes: Wednesday, October 4 at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 5 at 1 p.m.

Prayer Quilt Ministry Celebrates 20 Years!

First UMC is delighted to announce that the Prayer Quilt Ministry will celebrate their 20th Anniversary on Sunday, October 15, during and after worship. If you've received a quilt, prayed over and tied a quilt knot, requested a quilt for someone, or received a prayer or pocket square--(essentially everyone in the congregation!)-come celebrate the impact of this meaningful ministry. After worship there will be a special coffee hour with displays of quilts, and more.

Sunday, October 15, during 10 a.m. worship, and after worship



Maile Marquand (left) and Rose Kujawa, (right) during a recent Prayer Quilt Ministry workparty in Room 300

Request a Prayer Quilt

Led by Sue Payne and Maile Marquand, the Prayer Quilt Ministry continues to offer Prayer Quilts to those in need. To request a quilt: 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 (mailemarquand@gmail.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, where you may tie a prayer knot during in-person worship, or view the quilt on the Livestream.

The next Prayer Quilt Ministry meeting is Saturday, September 16, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Room 300 in the Education Building. Contact info@santamonicaumc.org if you would like to volunteer.

Prayers & Support for Maui

In response to the devastating fires in Hawaii, a special giving link has been set up at the Conference center. 100% of all you give will go towards helping the people of Hawaii. We are committed to supporting the community of Lahaina as they navigate the challenges before them. All of the money collected through the links provided will go towards helping this community in their time of need. Go to: www.calpacumc.org/lahainarelief



*As of press time, First UMC has raised just over \$1,200 to benefit Lahaina. Thank you to all who have donated!

Prayer Requests

The First UMC Prayer Group is a network of persons who provide regular, dependable, and confidential prayer support. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time, and our Prayer Group will be notified of your request. <https://santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/>

Communion Server Ministry

Each month when communion is offered in church, members of the Communion Server Ministry take communion out to those who cannot be present during the service. By including others, we expand the Table of the Lord to include those who cannot be present in body. The volunteers who are involved in this ministry feel blessed in being able to serve in this way. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Anne Premer (a.premer@santamonicaumc.org) or the church office.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

UMCOR and its partners respond to disasters in the U.S. and across the globe every day. For the most up-to-date information, follow the UMCOR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UMCOR

Mission and Outreach Partners

We at First UMC work in partnership with a variety of groups and organizations throughout our community and the larger UMC to bring hope and healing where it is needed most. Together we can change lives and transform the world.

To read more about the Outreach and Mission groups supported by First UMC, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions



Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council hosts Blood Pressure screenings every third Sunday of the month (subject to change.) We are grateful to this ministry for their continued care of the congregation!

Sunday, September 17, after worship in the Fireside Room

Report to Congregation on Annual Conference 2023

On June 14- 17, the Cal-Pac Annual Conference was held in Los Angeles, and Rev. Patricia Farris, Rev. Larry Young, Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Jack Fry, Dick & Mary Crawford, and Bee Campbell attended, representing First UMC.

Here are some impressions from Dick and Mary Crawford:

"We attended the 2023 Cal-Pac Annual Conference in person.

It was held at the Sheraton Hotel near the Los Angeles International Airport, about a fifteen-minute drive from our house in Culver City, and literally next door to a building in which Dick spent about a decade of his working career.

The primary facility was a ballroom. This room played host to all of the plenary sessions (the conference business meeting) as well as the worship services. We attended none of the worship services: when we arrived for registration on Thursday (the first of three days), the noise from the ballroom was painfully loud even outside the room; we registered and moved away from the ballroom.

The plenary sessions ran quite smoothly. Voting was easy and efficient; since the computer knew whether an individual was lay or clergy, when we were electing clergy and lay delegates (actually alternate delegates) to the Quadrennial and Jurisdictional Conferences, the clergy and lay elections could be held simultaneously. Thus, the entire process took roughly an hour, instead of several days.

Our new Bishop Dottie, as everyone addressed her, is warm, caring, and informal. She also wants all decision-making in the AC to be as transparent as possible. To that end, many topics, such as systemic racism within the Conference, multicultural appointments, and so on, that in the past were referred to the "appropriate Conference entity," were discussed in the open meeting. We think this is much healthier. She also encouraged us all to be strong and courageous. (Dick took this to heart; he proposed an amendment which would have taken some of the sting out of a clearly popular resolution. It failed, but by a much smaller margin than that by which the resolution ultimately passed.)

As always, we took advantage of the gathering of so many folks to check in with many attendees who have had a connection with our congregation in the past: Jane Voigt, John Woodall, Greg Batson, and Kurt Poland, to name but a few. For us, this is one of the more important activities of the Conference."

Read entire article, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/report-annual-conference-2023

Giving Matters

There are many ways to contribute to the mission and ministry of First UMC. You may give online via the QR code on the right (take a photo of the code with your phone camera), via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot. To learn more about ways to give, including the annual Stewardship campaign, Planned Giving, Tree of Life, support for the Music Program, and the flower fund, visit:

www.santamonicaumc.org/give





Congratulations!

- **Zoë Izabella Corsiga Hughes** was born to First UMC member Jeff and Jenith Hughes on July 6.
- First UMC Paul Glenney's daughter **Kaylee** on her marriage to Henry Ball.
- to First UMC member **Will Buxton** on his marriage to Kisa Rozenbaoum.
- **Rev. Dorothy Bimber Worley** has been appointed Interim Pastor at the UMC Church of the Foothills in Duarte through December 31st. We will keep her and the congregation in our prayers through this new season of ministry.
- Congratulations and Happy 26th Appointed Year with us **Rev. Patricia Farris!** We look forward to a great year of wisdom, hope, missional service, and life together.

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 **Betty Jo Toccoli**, who died June 15, 2023.
- First UMC member Dick Crawford's mother **Betsy Crawford** died July 3, 2023.
- First UMC member **William Fredrick Humphreys** died on July 28, 2023.
- We give thanks for the life and life everlasting of **Carol Ann Gutierrez**, who died August 14, 2023.
- First UMC member **Ruth Smoot** died August 12, 2023. A memorial will be held Saturday, September 9 at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Congregation Care Corner

If you have any questions or need pastoral care, you may always call the Pastoral Care line (310-393-8258 and enter extension 1), which is 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 Congregation Care Associate: **Anne Premer**: a.premer@santamonicaumc.org. Or, call (310)393-8258 ext. 103. Visit the website for **Community Care** - a list of local resources including info for senior assistance, Medicare, American Red Cross, bereavement resources, and more!

www.santamonicaumc.org/care

First UMC member, **Fran Blemker**, celebrated her 100th birthday on July 15. Pictured with Anne Premer.



Pennies + for Haiti 2023: Thank You!

We are grateful for the good work made possible through your support and participation. We raised just over 2k through this year's Pennies + for Haiti campaign! We give thanks for you, for our friends in Haiti, and for all that has been built through this good work. Thank you! To read past blog posts, view Haiti Team Leader **Todd Erlandson** during his July Moments for Mission update, and check out this CBS report titled "Fighting for Haiti," visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/haiti



Back to School Blessings

We celebrated the beginning of the school year and ask for God's blessings upon students of all ages, teachers and educators, and the families who support them. Family Ministries sent out over 300 blessing tags to teachers and students in our church and preschool community. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring. May each of us experience blessings of wisdom and courage during this school year and remember: **You Got This!**



70th Anniversary of the Sanctuary

This Fall, we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the First UMC sanctuary! On November 22, 1953, a little over a year after construction began, the building of the sanctuary was completed. First UMC member **Jerry Brown** recounts the entire building process in his book, *Be the Hope! The Story of First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica*—from the fundraising efforts, the congregation led by Rev. Kenneth A. Carlson, to the community rallying together to complete the sanctuary even in the midst of Rev. Carlson's heart attack. To read Jerry's book, and to see photos, visit the website, or call the church office for a printed version:

www.santamonicaumc.org/first-umc-history



The placement of the cornerstone in the narthex, in 1953

St. Monica's Fall Bereavement Group

St. Monica's Catholic Church sponsors a 10-week peer support group that is co-facilitated by at least two bereavement ministers, who have also lost loved ones, and have received training to effectively and sensitively facilitate the group. The first Orientation is on Thursday, September 7, at 7 p.m. It's a chance to meet the facilitators and other prospective group members. After the Orientation, you can decide whether you'd like to join the group. The group will then meet weekly through November 16. For more info and to sign up:

www.stmonica.net/ministries/pastoral-care/bereavement

COMMUNITY PHOTOS



Many thanks to Todd Erlandson (above) for his inspiring update on the Haiti Mission Project in support of this year's Pennies+ for Haiti campaign.



Vacation Bible Camp was so much fun! Thanks to Jamie Jones and all of the volunteers for making it possible. The mission supported this year by VBC was a school supply drive for Upward Bound House, and we're proud to report that 25 backpacks full of supplies were donated to UBH just in time for the new school year.



Kids Night Out gave parents a well-deserved night out, while children were provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team (thanks Jamie and crew!)



Janet Guyette (above right with hat) spearheaded the Community Free Market, organizing new and gently used kitchenware goods that were donated from the congregation, and holding a one day FREE market for the Santa Monica community at large. Thank you, Janet, for your efforts!



PRESCHOOL CORNER CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!



The Preschool's Back to School Night was a joyful event of excited parents and preschool staff, welcoming in the beginning of the new school year! We are grateful to Dane Rold, Assistant Director; Dee Menzies, Director; and Johanna Holman, Associate Director, (upper left) for leading the way.



UPCOMING EVENT:

Save the Date: Preschool Fall Festival

Saturday, October 28, in the Courtyard. All are welcome!

More details coming soon.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh St.

Santa Monica, CA 90403

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www.santamonicaumc.org

  @santamonicaumc



FIRST UMC OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment

Pastoral care by appointment only: 310-393-8258, enter ext. 1

Stay Connected

To join in fellowship and ministry online, here's how to connect:

First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc

Instagram: @santamonicaumc

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC

The First UMC App:

First UMC offers a free app - download it and give it a try! With the app, you can:

- Participate in Sunday's service, in real time or anytime at your convenience, right from your smartphone or iPad.

- Access our calendar of our events

- Invite a friend to an event, or share info about a special program we offer.

- Access an **audio/written Bible** with a built-in daily reading plan.

To download the app, go to: <https://subsplash.com/76vw/app>.

Or, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM



First UMC's visit to the Fowler Museum

A group from Santa Monica UMC visited the Fowler Museum at UCLA to view Haitian artist **Myrland Constant's** work. Congregants Carlee Forbes, Leigh Erlandson, and Claudia Flanders shared their thoughts on the visit with us:

"We enjoyed creating community among congregation members, discussing the artist's biography, and looking at the details of the intricately beaded works."

—Carlee Forbes

"It was exciting to view the first U.S. museum exhibition devoted to the work of a Haitian female contemporary artist! It was meaningful to be with others from our congregation and beyond who share a deep passion and interest in the artistry and wellbeing of our Haitian brothers and sisters. We all appreciated the opportunity to be at a cultural event together and get to know each other better!"

—Leigh Erlandson

"Phil and I were amazed at the beauty of the art work. We have never seen anything like and recommend seeing it if you haven't already. A not to be missed indescribable art form." —Claudia Flanders