

# 150 YEARS SENTINEL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

1875 2025

## HORIZONS

BY REV. GREG BATSON

I hope that you and your loved ones are enjoying some time for rest and renewal this summer. I took a fishing and hiking trip with a group of friends in the Eastern Sierras last month, disconnecting for a few days from the stress of daily life and reconnecting with God's magnificent creation. It was a reminder of how important "sabbath" is...so important that God commanded it from the beginning: "On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So, God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation." (Genesis 2:2-3).

While we take time for rest this month, we continue to provide opportunities for ministry. On August 17, Dr. Jefferey Kuan of the Claremont School of Theology will preach and share with us the latest from our United Methodist seminary. On August 23, we will host our Community Free Market in the Courtyard, providing free household items for our neighbors. On August 24, we will bless students, teachers, and families as we begin a new school year. And on August 31, we will eat ice cream provided by the United Women in Faith, a great way to celebrate the Labor Day weekend!

This fall will be a season of joy and remembrance for our congregation. We are looking forward to celebrating our 150th anniversary, kicking off on Sunday, September 7th in worship. There will be an extensive display of memorabilia from our history and archives you may peruse over six weeks. Each week we will feature a different ministry area, including our legacy, music, mission, and women in leadership. Our celebrations will culminate on Sunday, October 12th with worship featuring our bishop, district superintendent and past pastors, followed by a celebratory luncheon. We celebrate all that we have been, are presently, and will be in the future!

## SECOND HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMUNITY GATHERING

As part of First UMC's 150th Anniversary Celebration, we're honoring the stories that shaped us. Join us for the second History and Archives Gathering during Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 3, in the United Women in Faith Work Room.

We'll have a **video booth** set up—an easy and fun way for you to share a short memory, a meaningful moment, or answer one of our story-starter questions. (We'll provide a list!) Whether it's a joyful milestone, a funny moment, or a quiet act of kindness, your story is part of our shared legacy. Come help us tell it! All are invited to participate - whether you've been part of this community for 50 years or a few weeks!

**Sunday, August 3, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. UWF Room**



## AUGUST *at a Glance*

<b>Fri Aug 1</b>	Last day of Messy Camp
<b>Sun Aug 3</b>	Holy Communion / Sunday School on break, nursery care available for the month of August Second Archives Community Gathering
<b>Wed Aug 6</b>	Speaking Across Differences with Rev. Keri ( <i>last session</i> )
<b>Fri Aug 8</b>	*Labyrinth/Chapel Open (*date change)
<b>Sat Aug 9</b>	Community Free donation Drop-off day
<b>Sun Aug 10</b>	Prayer Workshop: Lectio Divina and Ignatian Examen
<b>Sat Aug 16</b>	Prayer Quilt Workparty 580 Cafe/UCLA celebrates 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
<b>Sun Aug 17</b>	Claremont School of Theology Day during Worship, Dr. Jeffrey Kuan preaching Q&A about Claremont Graduate School after worship Blood Pressure Screenings Community Free Market donation drop-off day
<b>Mon Aug 18</b>	Lay Leadership 150 <sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting (Zoom)
<b>Sat Aug 23</b>	Community Free Market Event Kids Night Out
<b>Sun Aug 24</b>	Back to School Blessings in worship Youth Service Project Report-Back
<b>Wed Aug 27</b>	First Day of Preschool
<b>Fri Aug 29</b>	Monthly Westside Food Bank volunteer day
<b>Sun Aug 31</b>	United Women in Faith Ice Cream Social Back to Sunday School Parent Meeting

## SPEAKING ACROSS DIFFERENCES: NAVIGATING DIALOGUE IN POLARIZED TIMES

It's not too late to participate in the last of a three part minicourse from the Institute for Islamic, Christian, Jewish Studies (ICJS) in Baltimore, MD, featuring Jewish Scholar Ben Sax, Ph.D., even if you haven't attended the first two classes. This course interrogates what it means to dialogue within our current sociopolitical climate, and examines how different philosophers, political theorists, historians, and theologians have broached these questions during their own times of political peril. Watch the prerecorded class sessions when it is convenient for you. Rev. Keri will facilitate a dialogue on August 6th with those who have viewed the content.

LAST ZOOM SESSION:

**Wednesday, August 6, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** *Session Three: Dialogue as Resistance*

To RSVP and receive the course content register here:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/differences-workshop](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/differences-workshop)



## WALK THE LABYRINTH / CHAPEL OPEN FOR PRAYERS

This month the Labyrinth is open on the second Friday of the month, 1– 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation, or see a labyrinth host for guidance. Children and families welcome! For those unable to walk, we have finger labyrinths available. The Chapel is also open for prayers during this time.

**Friday, August 8, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall and the Chapel**

## THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY FREE MARKET

First UMC is pleased to present the third annual Community Free Market—a one day event where all are welcome to come by and pick up FREE new or gently used kitchen /household items! Now's the perfect time to declutter and donate your gently used goods to the Market. We're gladly accepting:

- Kitchenware & housewares
- Small appliances
- Holiday decorations
- Toys & books



We will NOT be accepting furniture, clothing of any kind, electronics, large appliances, or items that aren't gently used or new. Contact **Janet Guyette**: 310-663-9861 or

[janetguyette@gmail.com](mailto:janetguyette@gmail.com), with questions.

**Drop-off days: Saturday, August 9, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Sunday, August 17, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** *Library off of Courtyard*

**Third Annual Community Free Market:**

**Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Courtyard**

## PRAYER WORKSHOP: LECTIO DIVINA AND IGNATIAN EXAMEN

Are you interested in trying different ways to engage Scripture, pray or reflect on your day? The First UMC Spiritual Formation Council presents an opportunity to learn about and engage two different prayer practices that do just that: Lectio Divina and the Ignatian Examen. The program will begin at 4:30 p.m. and a pot luck dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Please remember to bring serving utensils for your dish to reduce waste and clean up time. You can attend both the program and dinner or just one, based on your interest and availability. Please RSVP by emailing Rev. Keri at [k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org) by Friday, August 8.

**Sunday, August 10, 4:30 p.m.  
in the Fireside Room**



## CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY DAY

On Sunday, August 17, we are excited to celebrate the Claremont School of Theology in worship, with the Co-President and Professor of Hebrew Bible, Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan preaching, followed by a Q&A with Rev. Kuan after worship during coffee hour.

**Sunday, August 17, during 10 a.m. worship followed by a Q&A Coffee Hour after worship in the Fireside Room**



## KIDS NIGHT OUT

Kids Night Out will be back in August! While parents enjoy a well-deserved night out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team. \$35/child + \$15 for each additional sibling, 2 years – 5th grade. Sign up for the Children and Family Ministries email for registration info:

[www.eepurl.com/h94fAX](http://www.eepurl.com/h94fAX)

**Saturday, August 23, 4 – 8 p.m. in the Education Building**



## YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT REPORT BACK

We are excited to hear from the YSP team about their Summer trip to San Diego's South Bay with an organization called the Sierra Service Project! This urban placement offered opportunities connected to the unique challenges of this area, specifically focusing on poverty, immigration and the environment. We're so grateful to our amazing church family for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout the journey. Come to the report back on Sunday, August 24! The team can't wait to share more about all they did.

**Sunday, August 24, after worship in Simkins Hall**



Scenes from this year's trip

## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

Come to worship on Sunday, August 24, for Back to School Blessings, where we celebrate 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. Backpack tags will be available to take home. If you would like a blessing tag(s) but can't make it to church, call the church office (310-393-8258) and we are happy to put them in the mail for you. Don't miss this special Sunday!



**Sunday, August 24, during 10 a.m. worship**

## WESTSIDE FOOD BANK ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Westside Food Bank continues to help with the long recovery period in the aftermath of the LA fires. The damage has been devastating, and Westside Food Bank is doing everything in its power to help our community. Join First UMC for the last Fridays of the month to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.



**Friday, August 29, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

*Fall Dates: September 26, October 24, November 21 December 19*

Contact Tricia to register:

[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

## UWF ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The United Women in Faith are hosting an Ice Cream social after worship on **Sunday, August 31**. Stay after church to enjoy fellowship and an end-of-summer treat! *Free-will offering taken.*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT MEETING

Join us after worship for our Back to Sunday School Parent Meeting — it's your chance to get the inside scoop on all the exciting things coming up this year! Childcare is provided.

**Sunday, August 31, after worship in the Alcove**





## MEET THE TEAM BEHIND FIRST UMC!

Welcome to the second installment of our monthly Staff Spotlight series! Each month, we'll lift up members of our dedicated team—sharing how they help bring the missions and ministries of First UMC to life throughout the week, and offering a glimpse into who they are beyond the office. It's a chance to celebrate their gifts, their service, and the lives they lead both within and beyond our church walls.

**Anne Premer** joined the First UMC staff in 2016. Originally from New York, she graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.A. in Psychology. In June 2023, she received a certificate in Pastoral Care from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. After working years in the entertainment industry and experiencing some life-changing events, Anne felt compelled to follow a calling to serve in pastoral care. She is passionate about helping people and finds working with our congregation very meaningful, particularly as they face the challenges of aging. She feels privileged to bring God's grace and healing touch of humor to our homebound members as well, always reminding them that they're never alone and never forgotten. In her free time, she loves music, yoga, pickleball, and spending time with family and friends.

## Community News



### CONGRATULATIONS

- First UMC member **Kate Beckerman** was awarded the \$1,000 Lois Balsley Scholarship through the Cal-Pac United Methodist Foundation.
- First UMC member **Julia Rogers** married Ross Tannenbaum in July.

### DEATHS

- **Shelley Wiggins**, wife of the late Rev. Chuck Wiggins, former First UMC Associate Pastor, died July 25.

### THANK YOU!

- To all who donated towards the Upward Bound House backpack fundraiser! We raised enough to cover the costs for **50 fully stocked backpacks!** Together in love and generosity you helped the kids at Upward Bound House walk into the new school year with dignity, confidence, and everything they need to succeed.

### UCLA 580 CAFE CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

We're turning 15! Join us as we celebrate 15 years of sowing, growing, and blooming at 580 Café – a community rooted in radical love, justice, and compassion. *The Pico House 424 N Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012.* To read more about the event and purchase Gala tickets, visit the website: [www.580cafe.com/gala15](http://www.580cafe.com/gala15) **Saturday, August 16, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**

## CALLING ALL AGES: BE PART OF A LABYRINTH CELEBRATION!

We are looking for as many different types of people, young, old and in between to help us CELEBRATE THE LABYRINTH, after church, Sunday, October 5th! Participants will be working with **Dorothy Nichols** for one to four rehearsals (dates to be set around participants' schedules) to set a very short but very fun **theatrical movement piece on the labyrinth**. No experience necessary. Sign up ASAP by calling or texting Dorothy Nichols at 310-592-4402.

### 50+ MEMBER CHECK IN

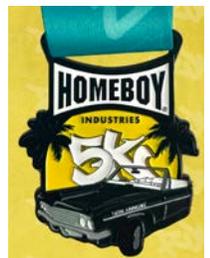
If you believe you have been a member for 50+ years at First UMC, but have not been acknowledged, please reach out to the church office to make sure we have accurate records! Contact Sarah: [s.roid@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.roid@santamonicaumc.org).

### 2025 HOMEBOY 5K RUN/WALK

Join Homeboy Industries (one of First UMC's mission partners), and 5,000+ runners, walkers, volunteers, and families for our 16th Annual Homeboy 5K Run/Walk through historic Downtown Los Angeles! **Sign up with team *Wilson's Walkers*, First UMC members Ann and David Wilson's team!** (Click on View Teams, scroll down the list.)

Sign up: <https://homeboyindustries.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d32fa38c6828f28b23978df88&id=d99ba76c0d&e=114f1d8010>

**Saturday, September 20, 8:30 a.m. 5K Race Starts**



2025 marks a milestone year for First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica—our **150th Anniversary!** We're gearing up for a joyful season of celebration, with a series of special Sundays leading up to the grand 150th Anniversary Celebration! All are welcome to join us as we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward with hope to the future! *All Sundays: 10 a.m. in-person and online worship followed by special events*

- **Sunday, September 7** - 150th Kick-Off begins; Special Coffee hour includes **History & Archives Exhibit** in the Fireside Room.
- **Sunday, September 14** - **Celebrating the Legacy Circle** in worship, followed by a tour of the First UMC stained glass windows with church member Ron Theile.
- **Sunday, September 21** - **Celebrating Missions at First UMC**; Special Coffee hour featuring a tour of Upward Bound House.
- **Sunday, September 28** - **Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday** in worship, followed by a tour of the First UMC organ with Ty Woodward, principal organist.
- **Sunday, October 5** - World Communion Sunday, Celebration of **First UMC Women in Leadership**; Special Coffee Hour hosted by women-led ministries.

**Sunday, October 12 - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!**  
**Special worship service with Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank preaching, followed by 150th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon in Simkins Hall**



## BECOME A PART OF HISTORY!

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary, we are asking all to consider making a special milestone gift. The special donations received will be used to digitize the Sanctuary welcome monument sign, located at the corner of 11th & Washington, so we can spread our message throughout the community. Additional amounts will be used for fellowship and events during the Fall. Donations accepted anytime, online or a part of Sunday's offering. Thank you!



Artist rendering of signage (not exact representation)

## ORGAN TOUR WITH TY WOODWARD

After worship on Sunday, September 28, all are welcome to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at our magnificent pipe organ, led by Principal Organist Ty Woodward. Want to know the exact specifications of the First UMC organ? Visit the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/the-first-umc-organ](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/the-first-umc-organ)



## STAINED GLASS WINDOW TOUR

Back in 2016–2017, First UMC's own **Ron Theile** took us on a journey through our sanctuary's stained glass, writing 15 captivating monthly installments for the Sentinel that revealed the stories, history, and meaning behind each window. Now, Ron is bringing those stories to life! **Join us for a special stained-glass tour led by Ron on Sunday, September 14, after worship.** To get you inspired, here's the very first installment— from April 2016—featuring the beautiful window behind the chancel.

### Our Sanctuary: Symbols of Hope by Ron Theile

*"Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock"*  
The stained glass window that gets more "looks" than any other is probably the window above the altar (the area behind the altar is called "reredos" or decorated screen behind the altar). The reredos that encases this masterpiece window is made of Philippine mahogany. The stained glass soars to a height of 37 1/2 feet.



It is interesting to note that this window is a copy of one that occupies space at the United Methodist Church of Sacramento. The person who commissioned our window, Dr. Hubert T. Wilken, came across this window when visiting up north. He liked it so much that he commissioned the window to be made and installed by the Church Glass Co. of San Francisco. However, when first installed, the door at which Jesus is knocking contained a door knob. Dr. Wilken, upon seeing this and noting that the door can be only opened from within, paid for the removal of said knob.

The inspiration for this stained glass comes from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 3, verse 20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." It is the window that has been pondered and meditated over by so many who are immediately drawn to it when they enter and sit in our sanctuary. We see Jesus standing patiently at the door. We do not get the impression of impatience or distraction. He is earnest in His waiting. The lack of a doorknob or handle tells us of our responsibility to open the door from within. It is we who must act. It is our decision to open the door to our hearts and let a loving Christ enter. This window is filled with the hope and the promise of the everlasting love that we are filled with when Jesus resides in our hearts, soul and mind. He knocks....

This window is a symbol of hope, so that we can be the hope.



# Community Photos



Baptism of Gibson Peter Rossiter



Scholarship Sunday, led by Mira Pak, with help from Brian Wong



The Youth Service Project Lunch and Learn after worship



The United Women in Faith held a book study after worship on the book, "Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent and How to Speak Up," by Kathy Khang



Thanks to all of the volunteers helping out at the Westside Food Bank produce packing days



The United Women in Faith held their annual Christmas in July sale



## PRESCHOOL CORNER



Annual Preschool 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade!



# WORSHIP

Commissioning of the  
YSP Team



## WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and we Livestream the service on the platforms listed below.

## COMMUNION SUNDAYS

**Char Smith** will bake the bread for this month's Holy Communion. **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

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

- **Website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream)  
After 10 a.m. livestream airs, go to:  
[www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](http://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)
- **YouTube Channel:** [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC)
- **The First UMC App:** Go the App Store, search *FirstUMC\_SM*

Let us know if you need assistance in joining online.

# ONGOING MINISTRIES

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study is a weekly Zoom meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture. 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. For more information and to add yourself to the email list call the church office: 310-393-8258.

**Tuesdays: 7 a.m. via Zoom**

## LISTENING HEARTS WOMEN'S GROUP

Listening Hearts is a group for women of all ages, grounded in the practices of sacred listening, prayer and reflection. We gather both in person and online. All are welcome to join! Contact Tricia Guerrero to learn more:

[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

**Wednesdays: August 6 - Lunch at Tacos Por Favor, meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. to carpool.**

**August 20:** Coffee and Connect, 10 a.m.  
Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd)  
Wednesday, **August 12**, 2 p.m. via Zoom



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY / SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday School will be taking a summer break for all Sundays in August, plus Labor Day weekend.** But don't worry—we'll be back in full swing on **Sunday, September 7!** During the break, we'll still offer childcare in the Nursery Room for little ones ages 6 months to 5 years. And for our older kids joining us in the Sanctuary, we'll have worship activity bags available to help them stay engaged during the service. We hope you enjoy this time of rest and renewal with your families—and we can't wait to see you in September!

[www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry)

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group is open to all 6th -12th graders in the community. They gather on Sunday evenings for dinner, games and a program or topic for discussion and reflection.

Youth Group meetings are on break for the summer, but come to the **Youth Service Project Report Back on Sunday, August 24**, after worship in Simkins Hall. See page 3 for more info.

Contact Tricia with questions: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

The Health Ministry Council hosts Blood Pressure screenings one Sunday of the month in the Fireside Room. We are grateful to this ministry for their continued care of the congregation! Next Screening: **Sunday, August 17, after worship in the Alcove**

## THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Sing in the Chancel Choir! **Thursday evening rehearsals are on summer break.** Contact Jim Smith if you are interested: [djes@roadrunner.com](mailto:djes@roadrunner.com)

## 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. Call the church office, or visit:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/)



## CONGREGATION CARE

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.



**Pastoral Care Resources:** Caring for You – Body, Mind, and Spirit at First UMC. Your well-being matters to us. Explore the resources on our website to see how we can support you and your loved ones through every season of life.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact: Anne Premer [a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org) or (310)393-8258 ext 103. [www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry)

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA



Scan to visit  
the website



@santamonicaumc  
www.santamonicaumc.org

1008 11th St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
310-393-8258



## FIRST UMC OFFICE HOURS

**Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment. (Office closed on Fridays.)**

Pastoral Care : 310-393-8258, enter ext. 1



## CITY OF SANTA MONICA CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

First UMC was founded the same year as the City of Santa Monica, and we are excited to celebrate with the city! To commemorate Santa Monica's 150th anniversary, the community is coming together December 2025 to reflect on our shared history—honoring achievements and sharing stories, while acknowledging the injustices that have shaped our past. This milestone marks 150 years since July 14, 1875, when the town of Santa Monica was first mapped out and the initial plots of land were sold. As we look back, we also look forward—celebrating Santa Monica as a hub of innovation and collective civic engagement.



To read more and view list of celebration events, visit the website: <https://santamonica150.com>



## REQUEST A PRAYER QUILT

Led by **Sue Payne and Maile Marquand**, the Prayer Quilt Ministry offers 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 and Sue Payne at: [prayerquilts@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:prayerquilts@santamonicaumc.org). (**Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.**) 3. Select the quilt, if some are already made, or suggest colors if one is to be selected for you. First UMC will display the quilt in the Friday Community Email, and 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 meeting date is Saturday, August 16, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 300.**

Contact [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to volunteer. [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry)