

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W O R S H I P

Fourth Sunday in Lent • March 26, 2017



Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

—John 11:38-39a

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Tricia Lindley

PRELUDE O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, Organist

\* CENTERING ON GOD

*Please stand and turn toward the cross in the center aisle.*

#484 United Methodist Hymnal — Kyrie Eleison

Psalm 130:1-6

#484 UMH — Kyrie Eleison

Owen Ing, Lay Lector

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #178 UMH — Hope of the World

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

O mortal, can these bones live?

**Only the Lord God knows.**

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

**The Spirit of God will be our life and the grace of God our righteousness.**

O people, hope in the Lord.

**With the Lord there is steadfast love. God who raised Jesus from the dead gives life to our mortal bodies also. Praise be to God!**

\* CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Hope in the Lord, O my soul, for I will praise Him who is the health of my countenance, and my gracious Lord and God."

\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. \*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Lindley

#191 UMH - Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

*As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.*

I Am a Child of God

**I am a child of God; You are God's child, it's true. Children of God are called to love one another, as Jesus taught to do.**

*As the congregation sings, the children may go to their Sunday School classes.*

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Robert English

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service.

**Thanks be to God!**

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### ANTHEM

Psalm 121 (Susan Ullom Berns)

The Amadeus Handbell Choir/Mary Crawford, Director  
Matt Crawford, Narrator

### THE GOSPEL John 11:1-44 (Pew Bible pages 104-105, N.T.)

Owen Ing

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON "Remove the Stone"

Rev. Patricia Farris

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## WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #2219 The Faith We Sing — Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Rev. English

SILENT PRAYER & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With humble hearts we pray:

**Lord, have mercy.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

*Your generous gifts support the ministries and outreach of the church. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also place your Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card in the offering plate. Give online at any time at [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org). Credit cards are now accepted at the Sunday Hospitality Table during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.*

### THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Lead, Kindly Light (arr. Mack Wilberg)

Lead, kindly light, amid th'encircling gloom; lead thou me on! The night is dark, and I am far from home; lead thou me on! Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene - one step enough for me. I was not ever thus, nor pray'd that thou shouldst lead me on. I loved to choose and see my path; but now, lead thou me on! I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears, pride ruled my will. Remember not past years. So long thy pow'r hast blest me, sure it still will lead me on o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till the night is gone. And with the morn those angels smile, which I have loved long since, and lost awhile!

\*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tricia Lindley

**Holy God, giver of Life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN #707 UMH – Hymn of Promise

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward

*Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world. You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.*

—Nursery Care is available at 9 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room.

—First UMC takes the care and safety of children seriously. We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation.

—Please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—Flowers: Dried floral arrangements at the reredos help to remind us of our Lenten Discipline during the season of Lent.

—Now is the time to donate toward the purchase of Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday morning sanctuary worship in celebration of a loved one, an event, a joy, or a remembrance. Stop by the Sunday Hospitality Table or call, email or mail your dedication (please print clearly) along with \$12 per plant to the church office. Deadline to order is April 9.

—Today's Coffee Hour: In celebration and memory of Helen Chang. With love, Jessica and Eric Chang.

—To request a prayer, fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card and drop it in the offering plate during worship.

—If there are Prayer Quilts on the north wall of the sanctuary, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilts.

—Visit the Fireside Room to view drawings and writings by First UMC Sunday School kids, the Youth Group, and adult groups, based on the Lenten theme of Authenticity/Compassion/Courage.

—Stop by the Hospitality Table in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center during Coffee Fellowship for information or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—Next Sunday: Lessons & Anthems.

—We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. In March bring canned fruits and vegetables.

—Look for the special Habitat for Humanity LA Lenten Devotional Calendar which you can pick up at the Sunday Welcome Table, and the Hospitality Table. This is a great way to combine support for Habitat Culver City with your Lenten spiritual practice.

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**Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**

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**Javier Espinosa**

God is real. God is love. ■ Every person matters. You matter. ■ Together we can change the world.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA**

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258

March 26, 2017

by Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister

The “Loving God With Our Minds” Book Study and Potluck is an opportunity each month to read something chosen to challenge our thinking, deepen our faith, and draw us into conversation with one another about things that really matter. Each year’s selection of books covers theology, ethics, interfaith relations, Scripture studies, and contemporary issues seen through the eyes of faith.

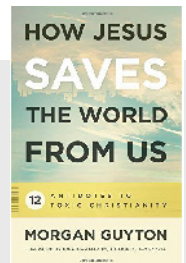
Reading, studying, and continually growing in faith are all things that go to the heart of what it means to be United Methodist. John Wesley said that “Reading Christians are growing Christians. When they cease to read, they cease to grow.” The Book of Discipline goes so far as to say: “Our theological task is constructive in that every generation must appropriate creatively the wisdom of the past and seek God in their midst in order to think afresh....Our summons is to understand and receive the gospel promises in our troubled and uncertain times.”

The Book Study is just one of the ways we at First UMC are encouraged to “love God with our minds.” Our excellent Preschool has been shaping the lives of children and families since 1948. Bible Studies and other groups provide opportunities for learning and discussion. Our new Pop-Up Library became hugely popular the day it opened and is seen by our neighbors as a wonderful outreach.

Everyone is welcome. Sometimes people even read the whole book! Conversation is lively and there is no pressure to be of one mind. And somehow the potluck lunch always materializes with enough for all and more. Find the books at the Hospitality Table or the church office and jump in!

**Book-of-the-Month Study/Potluck meets today at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.**

Today’s book study looks at: *How Jesus Saves the World From Us: 12 Antidotes to Toxic Christianity* by Morgan Guyton. Guyton is a UM minister serving as a Campus Minister in New Orleans. Well acquainted with young adults’ critiques of the church, he challenges us all to look again at the church we love and sometimes question. Have we become the religious authorities that felt it necessary to put an end to the life, ministry, and vision of Jesus? How does Jesus shine the light on us and point us to reformation and renewal? You will be challenged, maybe infuriated, refreshed, and renewed. There is hope!



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### WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**  
 Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**  
*simple church theme: going with-in to live with-out:  
 pure unbounded love*

### MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Today** - Fourth Sunday in Lent  
 11:30 a.m. Book Study/Potluck, FR  
**Sunday, April 2** - Fifth Sunday in Lent • Lessons & Anthems • Holy Communion moved to April 9  
 11 a.m. Youth Service Project See's Candy Fundraiser, Alcove  
 11:30 a.m. Covenant Bible Study-Next Session Begins, Room 203

### Lent 2017

Visit this special page on the website to see what's happening at First UMC during the Lenten season, Holy Week, and the celebration of Easter:  
[www.santamonicaumc.org/lent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/lent).

AUTHENTICITY • COMPASSION • COURAGE

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Children: Sunday School this Week**  
 March Theme: Jesus Shows Love  
 Bible Verse: John 13:34  
 "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you must also love each other."  
 Anchor Point: Jesus shows us how to love each other.  
 March 26: "In the Garden" (Matthew 26:31-58)

#### UMYF: This Sunday

\*6-9 p.m. in Youth Lounge (\*note time change)  
 Program: Mission Impossible

*The youth ministry at First UMC is a safe, Christ centered environment where youth can gain tools to help them explore and grow in their faith. Activities are designed to nurture relationships and build a strong, loving community. This is a place of acceptance, outreach and spirituality.*

### FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY

#### West District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

This year First UMC will host Lay Servant Ministry classes on Monday nights, beginning April 17 thru May 15, class time 6:30 - 9 p.m. This is a foundational course for all Lay Servants. For registration info, stop by the Sunday Hospitality Table. Deadline for early registration is April 1 (\$40), after April 1, \$50.

#### Covenant Bible Study: Next Session Beginning

A new segment of Covenant Bible Study begins next Sunday. *Trusting the Covenant* focuses on finding hope and strength in the face of difficult times. All are welcome, whether or not you have participated in a past Covenant study. Class meets 90 minutes each Sunday for the next 8 weeks (excluding Easter). Sign up for daily Bible readings, and a participant's guide (\$20), today at the Sunday Hospitality Table. See the class co-leaders Rev. Larry Young or Andy Goebel for further information. Sunday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 203.

#### Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly worship where we learn about God's love through crafts, activities, story and a shared meal. At Messy Church we grow in our relationship with God and with one another. This month's theme: *Jesus is the Good Shepherd*. Invite your friends and family and be ready to get messy! Saturday April 8, 4 - 6 p.m. Chapel and Simkins Hall.

#### Vacation Bible School - Registration Open

Go to [www.santamonicaumc.org/vbs](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/vbs) to sign up now.  
 VBS: Monday July 31– Friday August 4, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

#### Red Cross Community Blood Drive

Today, and every Sunday before Easter, sign up for the Red Cross Community Blood Drive at the Sunday Hospitality Table. Special treats and surprises! Child care while you donate, with prior arrangements. And best of all, the knowledge that you've helped to save up to 3 lives! For more information, questions, or to volunteer, contact Dorothy Williams ([dorothywil@gmail.com](mailto:dorothywil@gmail.com)).  
 Blood Drive: Sunday April 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Simkins Hall.

For our full calendar of this month's events, including weekly group meetings, pick up a copy of the Sentinel located in the Narthex, or go to our website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar).