

HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH BOOK STUDY

Sunday, March 25

Rev. John Fanestil's book Crossing the Border of Faith: What We Can Learn about Life and Faith from Mexican Immigrants to the United States will be the topic of discussion starting at 12 noon with a potluck lunch in Room 300 (note room change).

EASTER EGG HUNT & PICNIC

Palm Sunday - April 1 @ 11:30 am

You won't want to miss this fun annual tradition of children hunting for eggs and delightful picnic lunch with church friends and family. It all begins after the second service in Simkins Hall at 11:30 am.

SPRING MINI-BOUTIQUE

Palm Sunday - April 1

This is no April fool's! UMW's Second Annual Mini-Boutique will be held for your pleasure during coffee hour in Simkins Hall after both services. Stop by to purchase Spring-inspired gifts and goodies, knowing that the money will all go to missions.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 5 @ 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

We will share in the sacrament of Holy Communion and then move into the service of Tenebrae, or shadows, remembering the Last Words of Jesus at his crucifixion. This beautiful and powerful service ends in silent darkness, and lends depth to our Easter celebration to come. All are welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL

April 6 from 6 am - 12 midnight

Our chapel will be open for prayer all day on Good Friday. We encourage you to sign up for a 15-minute time (or more) when you will keep the vigil by praying. Look for the sign-up board in the narthex on Sunday morning.

EASTER LILIES

On Display on Easter Sunday

The deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is Monday, April 2. Please call the church office to reserve your flowers and to give your dedication for the Order of Worship.

THE KEISKAMMA ALTARPIECE

Photos by Allan Walker



A heartfelt thanks to all our docents and staff who worked tirelessly to host the Altarpiece and greet the many visitors and guests who came to view it. May we carry the message of hope, empowerment and transformation into the Easter season!

- Patricia Farris

Photos from top: docent training, Dr. Carol Hofmeyr at Opening Reception, Robin Henning and Joy Peterman, Mid-Week Recital, Rev. Patricia Farris



TRANSFORMATION

For ten days, we have been blessed to host the Keiskamma Altarpiece, to learn more and more about the people of South Africa, about the AIDS pandemic and about the responses of “ordinary people” and of the faith community. There have been many “aha” moments for me along the way, as we have planned and organized this event, worked with new coalition partners as well as our sister congregations

here in Santa Monica, and opened our hearts and minds to Dr. Carol Hofmeyr, Eunice Mangwane and the people of Hamburg, South Africa.

I hadn’t realized that the women of Hamburg began work on the altarpiece at a time BEFORE any antiretroviral drugs were available. Dr. Hofmeyr had brought them pictures of the Isenheim Altarpiece as a source of inspiration and hope. Depicting powerful images of the crucifixion and resurrection, it was created in the early 1500s to celebrate deliverance from the plague. These same themes of crucifixion and resurrection are now embroidered into the Keiskamma Altarpiece to commemorate the determination to prevail in the face of AIDS, the worst plague in modern history.

Hamburg is now being transformed by AIDS education, by the trust necessary to openly admit and confront AIDS and be tested, by the antiretroviral drugs which make fruitful life possible for adults and children, and by the hope engendered by all these developments. But.....the work on the altarpiece was begun BEFORE all that, in the darkest time, when people in the community were dying with no explanation and no available treatment. The women, weighed down by sorrow, shame and grief, gathered, designed the altarpiece and worked for many months in groups of ten to sew its panels. As they stitched, they talked, they grew to trust one another, they shared their stories...and gradually hope was born.

On Easter Sunday morning, we will hear again Luke’s story of the faithful women going to Jesus’ tomb early in the morning, before the sun had risen, before they knew that joy would again be possible for them, before they knew that the stone had been rolled away, before they had any inkling that their Crucified Savior had become their Risen Lord. And we, now privileged to stand on the other side, can look back and see how God was working through it all to transform lives and bring forth hope. Because of their courage, because of their witness, because of the mighty power of God, we can face into the darkness of any “before” situation of life with Easter faith. We know that fear and death have been conquered. We know that the darkness can never extinguish the light. We know that our Savior lives.

Patricia Jamis

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Prayer Quilt Thanks

-It’s hard to put into words the feelings I had after receiving my beautiful prayer quilt. Just knowing how many prayers had been said for me gave me such comfort and a sense of complete calm. I knew I was definitely in God’s hands. Thank you to all who made this wonderful quilt. I truly appreciate each of you for the hard work and love that went into it. I will treasure it always.

With love, Terry King

-Pastor Young sent 8 quilts and I have given them out. They have gone to persons living in FEMA trailers, senior citizens, and a 100-year-old in a nursing home in Nashville. You all have been such wonderful partners to us. I realize more each day that where we are today would not have been possible without your hands of love. We are still the only church open in about a 10-mile radius. We are having lots of visitors on Sundays. We have taken in 20 new members since we started back a year ago. That is quite good for a devastated community.

- Rev. Hadley Edwards

Greetings from Chinese Central Asia

Thank you very much for your Alternative Christmas gift. Wow, what a wonderful gift it was! Mari and I are encouraged and blessed. Your generosity is a big practical help. The past year we’ve had great opportunities, including moving to the western part of China which overlaps into the Central Asian region. I was asked to travel and teach a couple of times in a Kyrgyzstan school, as well as in Uzbekistan. We were also able to get involved in some good work here at home in western China. It has been very exciting. And we are studying the Uighur language at a local university (thankfully, it is close to the Kyrgyz language we already learned, so it is not too difficult). Thank you for your partnership in all we are doing. We have been helped, encouraged and blessed. With deep gratitude, David Hewitt

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of member Mary Barrett who passed away on March 10. A Memorial Service will be held for her on March 31 at 11 am in the sanctuary with a reception to follow in Simkins Hall.



**March 25 - Lessons and Anthems
Food Drive**

9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101
9 & 10:30 am Worship
10 & 11:30 am Coffee Hour, SH
11:30 am Libbie Ranslem's 100th Birthday
Celebration, SH
12 noon Rev. Farris Book Study & Potluck,
Rm 300
6:15 pm Youth Parent Meeting &
Potluck, FR

March 26

7 pm Disciple Bible Study, Rm 206

March 27

7 pm Church Council, FR

March 28

9 am UMW Work Party, WR
2 pm Death & Resurrection of Jesus, Rm 203
6 pm UBH Board, UBH Comm Rm
7 pm Death & Resurrection of Jesus, Rm 203
7 pm Gulf Coast Work Project, CR

April 1 - Palm Sunday

9 am Partnership with God Palm Sunday
Brunch, FR
9 & 10:30 am Worship
10 & 11:30 am Coffee Hour, SH
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic, SH/
CY/Preschool Play Grounds
12 noon Lay Leadership, Rm 303
7 pm Cantori Domino Concert, S

April 2

7 pm Disciple Bible Study, Rm 206

April 4

9 am UMW Work Party, WR
2 pm Death & Resurrection of Jesus, Rm 203
7 pm Death & Resurrection of Jesus, Rm 203

April 5 - Maundy Thursday

3 - 8 pm Labyrinth, SH
(last entry at 7:15 pm)
7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service, S

April 6 - Good Friday

3 - 8 pm Labyrinth, SH
(last entry at 7:15 pm)

April 8 - Easter

9 & 10:30 am Worship!!!

April 9 - Church Office Closed

UMCOR AT WORK

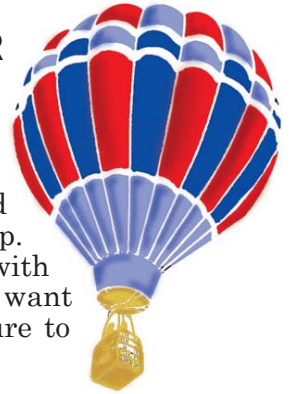
As expected, UMCOR—our United Methodist Committee on Relief—was on the job when tornados hit Alabama and Georgia earlier this month. In addition to providing immediate relief, an UMCOR staff person is helping communities such as Enterprise, AL, make plans for rebuilding.

Recent floods in Mozambique have displaced 250,000 people, many of whom have lost everything. UMCOR is on the scene providing relief in our name.

Contributions to UMCOR can always be made through the church, either for general relief or for particular situations. Your gift should be notated accordingly.

VBS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

With the Spring season just beginning it's hard to imagine that summer will be soon to follow. But, Vacation Bible School is on the way! It will be held from August 6 - 10 and we'll be joined by the staff and children of Westwood United Methodist Church so it's bound to be a great group. The theme is "Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with God." Children ages 3 through 5th grade won't want to miss this fun annual summer event. Be sure to mark your calendars!



NEWS FROM NIGERIA

Our fellow United Methodists in Nigeria have a new bishop. The Rev. Kefas Mavula was unanimously elected on March 3, replacing the Rev. Peter Dabale who died last summer. Bishop Mavula's first order of business will be to bring about reconciliation in the 400,000-member Nigerian church which has been divided by factions in recent years. We have learned from the Rev. Eunice Musa who attended the recent Conference in Nigeria that our partner churches in the Iware District have a new superintendent. We hope to make contact with him soon and learn more what is happening in the Iware churches.

DO YOU HAVE A CRAFTY NATURE?

The United Methodist Women's "Work Party" works throughout the year making all sorts of items for the Annual Holiday Boutique in November for which the proceeds go to missions. They invite you to join them any time! They meet every Wednesday from 9 am - 12 noon in the Work Room and lunch is always part of the day. This year's Holiday Boutique will be held on Friday, November 16 from 5 - 8 pm and Saturday, November 17 from 9 am - 12 noon. Mark your calendars!

The All-Church Thrift Sale is on its way again. While you're in the midst of your Spring cleaning be sure to reserve items like "attic treasures," clothing, jewelry, shoes, bed and bath linens, books, CDs/DVDs, and small appliances that you want to donate so that it can be put to good use

Thrift Sale



raising money for United Methodist mission projects around the world and in our own community. During the week of the sale, which will be Friday, April 20 (9 am - 5 pm) and Saturday, April 21 (9 am - 1 pm), you may bring your items to the UMW work room. Mark your calendars and spread the word about the sale and if you can lend a hand to help with the event, please contact Bernice deLeon at (310) 207-5228.



Lent and Holy Week

March 25 - Fifth Sunday in Lent - Food Drive - 9 and 10:30 am
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND ANTHEMS

This annual musical service juxtaposes the Passion narrative with anthems and hymns of the season sung by our Chancel Choir and congregation. The intent of the services is to give us the overview of what will transpire from Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter, so that we might prepare our hearts and minds to make this final earthly journey with Jesus, on the way to the cross and to resurrection.

April 1 - Palm Sunday - Holy Communion - 9 and 10:30 am

On Palm Sunday we will wave palm branches as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, days before his crucifixion and resurrection. We will also partake in Holy Communion together. In the evening at 7 pm a special concert performance of *Passion According to St. John* by J. S. Bach will be offered by Cantori Domino. Tickets (\$20 general admission, \$15 seniors/students) are available in the church office.

April 5 - Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday represents the day in which Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples, washed their feet, and gave them the new Commandment to love one another. We will share in the sacrament of Holy Communion and then move into the service of Tenebrae, or shadows, remembering the Last Words of Jesus at his crucifixion. Our Labyrinth will also be open from 3 - 8 pm in Simkins Hall.

April 6 - Good Friday - 12 noon (First Presbyterian Church)

A Community Worship Service of music and quiet reflection will be held at First Presbyterian Church at 1220 Second Street at 12 noon. You may also walk our Labyrinth, open from 3 - 8 pm, in Simkins Hall, for a time of centering prayer. Our Chapel will be open from 6 am - 12 midnight for our annual Prayer Vigil. Sign up in the narthex on Sundays.

April 8 - Easter - 9 and 10:30 am

Please visit our website for more details about all of these events and Easter.



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