

HIGHLIGHTS

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

September 9 @ 9 & 10:30

Our Homecoming and Open House takes place this Sunday! We will celebrate with worship services at 9 am and 10:30 am. We will also be coll-



ecting clothing for children at Esperanza Elementary School - preK through 5th grade. Be sure to drop off your items in the bins around the church beginning this Sunday through October 14. If you are new to our congregation or know of someone who is, be sure to pick up a red Welcome Packet filled with information about FUMC. Ol' timers and new faces alike are encouraged to fill out the service form that can be found in the packets, at the welcome table, at coffee hour, or by asking one of our Lay Leadership representatives. Homecoming will be filled with meaningful worship, information about the church, refreshments, and fellowship. All are Welcome!

4TH GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sunday, September 16

During worship on September 16 we will recognize our 4th graders with a brand new Bible. Come support them and congratulate them as they move up in Sunday School and in their Christian faith.

WORSHIP RENEWAL: YEAR 2

Workshop - Saturday, September 22

If you enjoy traveling and would like to reflect on your experiences in light of your faith journey, you are especially invited to the first Worship Renewal Workshop of the year with Dr. Thomas Thangaraj. Please RSVP to Linda Burch in the church office. If you can't attend the workshop on Saturday, join Dr. Thangaraj and Rev. Patricia Farris for the Book Study and Potluck on Sunday, September 23 at 12 noon in the Fireside Room!

FALL/WINTER OFFERINGS AT FUMC

Upcoming Events:

Worship Renewal Grant - Part of the excitement for this fall comes as we implement our second Calvin Institute of Worship Renewal grant. The grant will allow us to explore providing ongoing relationships with and the development of resources for two populations who are not in worship with us on any given Sunday morning. The first are those who may be traveling throughout the world. The second are families with children and youth in sports. We will be pulling together focus groups, providing weekend workshops (the first of which is on Saturday, September 22 with Dr. Thomas Thangaraj), examining current trends, and exploring other worship possibilities with these groups. You will be hearing a lot more about this as the year unfolds. Look on the website, in the Order of Worship, at Friday E-mails, and upcoming Sentinels for more information.

Blessing of the Animals - a special service for pets and their owners on October 6 at 10 am in the courtyard.

Taize Service - a worship service of music and prayer on December 16, at 7:30 pm in the chapel.

Ongoing Groups:

Christian Meditation - also known as Centering Prayer, with Lectio Divina, meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm in the balcony of the sanctuary.

Partnership with God - an older adult Sunday School class meets every Sunday morning at 9 am for topical programs and fellowship in Rm 101.

Shareringers - an adult fellowship group that meets regularly at church and at members homes for programs and events.

Open Table - a young adult and young family group that meets every Sunday evening at 6:30 pm at a member's home for food and fellowship.

the bridge - a young adult group that meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm in Rm 308 for Bible/topical studies and fellowship and also meets for service projects, social events and retreats.

Family Connection - a group for young and established families alike that meets for fellowship and events throughout the year.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship - a youth group for those in 6th through 12th grades who gather every Sunday evening at 6:15 pm in the Youth Lounge for the purpose of developing as Christians and being transformed through God including programs, food, fellowship and spiritual growth. The group also participates in social activities, camps, service projects and retreats throughout the year.

Prayer Quilt Ministry - a quilting group for anyone interested in the craft and anyone who believes in the power of prayer. The group gathers once a month on Saturdays at 9 am in Rm 300 to make quilts for those in need of healing prayer.

United Methodist Women - a service/missions/fellowship group for women of all ages, made up of several "circles" that meet monthly for crafting, food, education/Bible study, fellowship and service.

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast Group - a group of men who meet every Tuesday morning at 7 am for breakfast, Bible study and fellowship.

Book Study & Potluck - this faith and theology based book study with Rev. Patricia Farris is held once a month after the second worship service and often includes the author of the book - not to mention lunch!

All of these groups and events are open to those who are interested. Find more information on our church website or by calling the office.



I have just recently returned from the Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies. It was a rich immersion into the world, theology and practice of John and Charles Wesley. I worshipped in Christ Church Cathedral where they worshipped and were ordained, using the 1662 Prayer Book which was the book out of which they prayed. I walked the steps and halls where the first Methodist groups formed and visited the prison where John preached and ministered. I was struck again at how

very contemporary their insights and admonitions are, as we in our time also wrestle with social issues of wealth and poverty, slavery and abundant living, war and peace.

The experience of the Institute inspired me in two additional ways as well. One is the notably Methodist vital interplay of church and academia. The Oxford Institute is very much engaged in learning for the sake and life of the church. Numerous pastors and bishops interacted with scholars from our Methodist seminaries across the course of the ten days. We were enriched on both sides and came away recommitted to the life of the church as well as to the vitality of academia.

The second was an unexpected bonus. Our meal times and study group experiences offered plenty of time to get to know one another and share experiences of ministry. I spent time with pastors, bishops, seminary presidents and professors from the church in Britain, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Russia, India, the Caribbean, Korea, Southern Africa, Samoa, Argentina, Uruguay and all parts of the U.S. My prayers are now full of petitions on their behalf, especially for those who serve in very challenging and difficult situations where resources are scarce.

But my prayers also include prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the myriad ways in which the Holy Spirit continues to pour out life into God's church. We focus far too much on numbers and decline. I am deeply convinced that God is at work in it all, in ways we cannot now fully see or understand. It is ours to be faithful with all that has been entrusted to us—and for us at FUMC Santa Monica, that indeed is a great deal—and to have confidence that God is working in and through us to accomplish God's purposes for the church and the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this most wonderful experience as my Continuing Education for this year. I am deeply grateful. And may God bless us with a faithful, fruitful and joyful ministry and with grace-filled lives of love and service.

Patricia Jarvis

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Wedding Invitation

Amy Rosenbalm a friend of our congregation and her fiance Alan Nadir graciously invite you to their wedding ceremony on Saturday, September 15 at 5 pm in Gates Chapel. All are welcome.

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to:

- the family and friends of Jack Armstrong who died on August 29.

- the family and friends of Leo "Bob" Holliday who died on August 21. A service was held on August 25 at 11 am in the chapel.

- the family and friends of Robert Sears who died on August 8.

Congratulations

We send a heartfelt congratulations to our friend Amy Liggett. On August 22, Amy was appointed to the position of Minister of Education at North Long Beach Christian Church. This has been a dream of hers for many years and she thanks everyone for their support. Congratulations, Amy! The next time you see her you might want to call her Reverend.

Seeking a Host Family

Nina is a 16 year old high school student from Germany who would like to attend high school in the Los Angeles area in the spring of 2008. She is looking for an English speaking host family who would be willing to take her in for three months. Nina is a very active member of her local UMC in Wilhelmshafen near Hamburg. If you know a family or if you are a family who would like to help, please contact Thomas from First German UMC at pastor@christuskirche.us.

Harvest Home Position

Harvest Home, a shelter for homeless, pregnant women, located in Venice Beach is seeking a full time house manager. The position is live-in and Harvest Home provides a one bedroom with bath with separate entrance plus board along with a minimum annual salary of \$12,000. The position can either be 5 or 6 days per week consisting of house management and supervision of 9 residents (approximately 20 hours per week) and nannying one 7 month baby (approximately 30 hours per week). The position is available only to single, committed Christian women. If interested, please contact Jennifer Jenson at (310) 452-1223 or jjenson@theharvesthome.net. This opportunity is truly for those interested in ministry! A more detailed job description is available by contacting the church office.



September 9

Homecoming/Open House

9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101
 9 am Worship
 10 am Coffee Hour/Open House
 10 am Blood Pressure Screenings, FR
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Coffee Hour/Open House
 11:30 am Blood Pressure Screenings, FR

September 13

6:30 pm Preschool Committee, Rm 203

September 15

9 am Prayer Quilt Ministry, Rm 300

September 16 - Food Drive 4th Grade Bible Presentations

9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101
 9 am Worship
 10 am Coffee Hour/Open House
 10:30 - 12 noon Labyrinth (last entry at 11:15 am), SH
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Coffee Hour/Open House
 11:45 am Fellowship & Events, Rm 203
 11:45 am Spiritual Formation, Rm 303
 2 - 4 pm Labyrinth (last entry at 3:15 pm)

September 18

7 pm Finance Committee, CR
 7:30 pm Lay Leadership, Rm 203

September 20

5:30 pm Trustees, CR

September 22

8 am Worship Renewal Workshop, Rm 300

September 23

12 noon Rev. Farris Book Study & Potluck, FR, *Relating to People of Other Religions: What Every Christian Needs to Know* by Thomas Thangaraj

October 6

10 am Blessing of the Animals, CY

LAY LEADERSHIP - FALL 2007 CAMPAIGN

Representatives from our Lay Leadership Committee, along with church council chairpersons, will have a booth and also be circulating during the coffee hours of September 9, 16, and 23. Our mission and charge is simple: we wish to be information agents regarding the work of our great church. So, when a friendly representative stops by to say hello (they will be the people with badges declaring "ASK ME" or something clever to that effect), please ask those questions about the work of our committees and how you can help. Our campaign this year is based upon JFK's inaugural speech indicating "ask not what your CHURCH can do for you but ask what you can do for your CHURCH"! Also, please look forward to upcoming heartfelt testimonials based upon this theme. We look forward to seeing you during coffee hour.

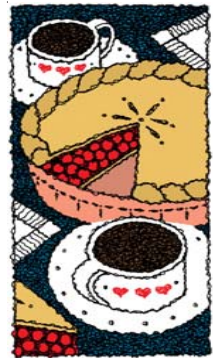
TO PROMOTE TRUTH AND JUSTICE

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica will be serving as host to a very important event sponsored by the Christian-Muslim Consultative Group entitled "Obsession Salon" on Sunday, September 30 at 2 pm in Simkins Hall. You are invited to this event to promote truth and justice in the face of prejudice and propaganda. The film *Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West* will be screened followed by a Discussion with Q&A with panel guests: Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles; Edina Lekovic, Muslim Public Affairs Council; Dr. Maher Hathout, Author of "Jihad vs. Terrorism" & "In Pursuit of Justice," and will be moderated by Jihad Turk, Islamic Center of Southern California.

The Christian-Muslim Consultative Group is a partnership working with leaders in various streams of Southern California Christian and Muslim communities to enhance mutual understanding, respect, appreciation and support of the Sacred in each other. The future of American pluralism depends on what we do now. We encourage you to attend and discover what that might be. All are welcome!

DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING GAMES?

The United Methodist Women will be hosting their Annual Game Day Fundraiser on Saturday, October 6 at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Games such as Bridge, Scrabble and Mah-Jong will be played among others. Dessert will also be served and prizes awarded to winners at each table. You won't want to miss this fun event to raise money for UMW missions and our Youth program! A suggested donation of \$10 will be charged at the door. Please call Joy Williams at (310) 476-9480 for more information or to reserve your spot at one of the game tables. And, be sure to wear your game face!



SEPTEMBER TIP FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Family Food and Water Plan:

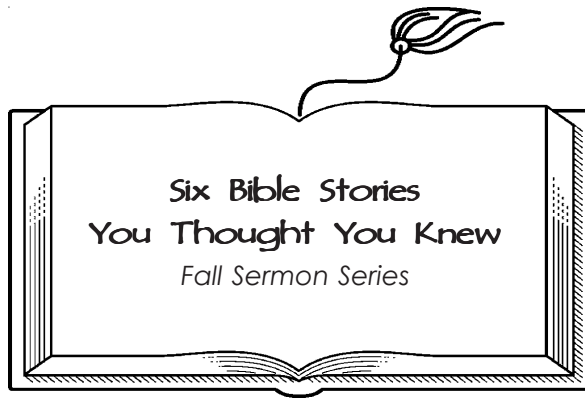
Water is a top priority in an emergency! Store at least one gallon per person per day. You should store at least a two-week supply of water for each member of your family. Rotate frequently by using it for normal use and replacing as needed.

Although, it is unlikely that an emergency would cut off your food supply for two weeks, you should prepare a supply that will last that long. To do this, just increase the amount of basic nonperishable foods you normally keep in your pantry. Some examples of nonperishable foods include dried fruit, nonfat dry milk, canned tuna, stews, soups, beans, canned fruit juices, nuts, graham crackers. Don't forget baby food, older adult food needs and pet food. Be sure to have a manual can opener handy as well.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Independent Transportation Network (ITN Santa Monica) is a new transportation program for adults 65+ and visually impaired individuals. ITN is looking for persons interested in driving older adults in the Pacific Palisades and Brentwood areas. Volunteers drive their own vehicles and determine their own hours. For more details, contact the church office.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 am & 10:30 am



September 9 - Homecoming Sunday

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Creation "In the beginning... it was ALL good!"
Genesis 1 *Rev. Patricia Farris*

September 16 - 4th Grade Bible Presentation

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Noah's Ark "Who Was In the Ark or under the Ark?"
Genesis 6-8 *Rev. Patricia Farris*

ADULT GULF COAST WORK TEAM

The Adult Gulf Coast Work Team (team V) will be heading to New Orleans October 27 - November 3. Though the date is drawing near, there are still ways for you to participate in this trip or the support those going. Please contact the church office if you are interested or contact Jim Krause directly at jkrause@nonprofitventures.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Get your walking group together now! The Westside Food Bank's Annual HUNGER WALK will happen Sunday, October 28 beginning at 12:20 pm. Gather your friends and form a walking team to support Westside Food Bank. How often can you say that a simple walk on the beach can help feed hungry kids? This 5K (about 3 miles) walk starts at Santa Monica High School, continues on to the beach and then back along Main Street. All walkers are welcome, adults, kids, stroller moms, dogs on leashes - it's a fun event for all! Enjoy food and drink, games and activities, a moonbounce, great raffle prizes and entertainment at the home base. Register online at www.westsidefoodbankca.org or call (310) 828-6016, x18. Join us in "walking" toward a hunger free community!



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