



Mission Bell

El Segundo United Methodist Church

February 2019

Volume 54 No. 2

Our Mission Statement

We are a warm, caring community of faith, gathering to worship God and sharing the love of Jesus Christ through our friendship and service to our neighbors and the world.



Dear Friends,

*“So, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”
(II Corinthians 5:17)*

It’s the time of year when we feel the urge to give our lives a “make over,” and often that means cleaning out cupboards and closets. TV shows like Marie Kondo’s “Tidying Up” and countless self-help books promise to help us do this very difficult task. You can even pay someone to clear away the clutter for you!

So here is a news flash for you! I have discovered the best way to do this without devoting time to watching TV or reading or paying a specialist! You paint!

For the past three weeks, our church offices have been undergoing a transformation with new ceilings in all the rooms and new paint for the main office, the workroom, and my office. Having the office painted is wonderful; everything looks great . . . except for the piles of books and papers on my desk, my floor, and my table. In order to have my shelves painted, everything had to come off, and there are a lot of shelves in my office.

So, the process of sorting has begun—and, as you know, it’s job. A lot of *stuff* has accumulated over the eight and a half years I’ve been in this office, and I’m amazed at the things I’ve saved—or, rather, not thrown away—over the years. No, I’m not following Marie Kondo’s advice and saving things that “spark joy.” I’m making decisions on what to keep because I need to have space in which to work!

All this got me thinking, and I found myself asking some interesting questions: What room or space in my house do I want to clean out? What is keeping me from doing that? What help do I need? Hmmm . . .

When we are baptized, we are given a new start in life. With the water, we are symbolically washed clean. We die to our old lives and rise to a new one in Christ. It’s a new beginning. Most of us were baptized a while ago, even decades ago, and since then, stuff has accumulated in our lives: grudges and guilt, doubts and fears. Along with cleaning out cupboards and closets, maybe we need to do some spiritual cleaning out. Maybe we need to ask ourselves: What do I need to sort out in my relationship with others and with God?

Do I need to forgive or be forgiven? Is there a gift that I need to give? A broken relationship I need to mend? A new connection I need to make? Do I need to create space in which to be with God? What do I need to sort out in my relationship with others and with God? What is keeping me from doing this? What help do I need?

The season of Epiphany in which we find ourselves is a season of revelation, when we celebrate Christ as the Light of the world. May Christ shine some light in the crowded cupboards of our souls so that we can do some much needed “sorting.” May we open our hearts to the work of the Spirit and allow it to create space for new life. May God guide us into a life that will indeed bring us joy!

*Working on my shelves and my spirit,
Pastor Lee*

P.S. I will inadvertently have time in the coming weeks to do some spiritual sorting while I am recuperating from surgery on February 18. I am fine, but some physical “repair work” needs to be done, and I’ll be out three or four weeks. Glafy Carr and Eric Iki will be preaching on February 24 and March 3, respectively, and I’m lining up two other pastors for March 10 and 17, as needed. Rev. Erika Gara, pastor of Hope UMC, and Rev. Molly Vetter, pastor of Redondo First UMC, will be on call for pastoral care. You’ll be in good hands, and I ask for your prayers for successful surgery and recovery.

Dear ESUMC youth and family,

February is here! If you're like me, then you've already stopped doing your New Year's resolutions. I hope that some of you aren't like me and have been successful.

As we look to the calendar, we will have our monthly Friday Fun Night on Feb. 1st. Every Sunday except for President's Day weekend will have regular youth group.

There's a new signup sheet for dinner donations that is on the table in the hallway right outside of the sanctuary.

Thank you to all those who have generously donated dinner in the past. It really is a huge blessing and help! Lastly, applications for our spring retreat will go out in the middle of February so please be on the lookout for those.

Many blessings,
Eric Iki

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

**Come and share lunch on Sunday, February 10,
after worship**

We'll gather in the lounge downstairs to share some food and conversation about what it means to join our church family lunch.

Whether you simply want to know more about the church or are seriously considering becoming a member, this lunch is for you. Child care will be provided.

Please contact the church office to RSVP, and let us know if you (or your children) have any special dietary needs.



THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING...

- to **Don Carlile, Lisa Derr, Donna Fontana, Marilyn Harper, Becky Haynes, Krista and Tonio Martinez, and Brenda Ross**, who put away the sanctuary Christmas decorations.

- to those who acted as liturgists in January: **Donna Fontana, Colin Elder, Glafy Carr, and Becky Haynes**.

- to those who warmly welcomed folks to worship as greeters in January: **Becky Fisher, Kim Huntoon, Linda Kruse, Krista and Tonio Martinez, Beth Muraida, Jane Perkins, and Brenda Ross**.

- to everyone who graciously served as ushers in January, including **Ralph and Brenda Colbert, Colin and Craig Elder, and Gerry Muraida**.

- to our acolytes in January: **Porter Robbins, and Vicken and Jacques Semerdjian**.

- to those who graced our altar with gifts of flowers in January: **Helen Carr and Marilyn Harper**.

- to our January Sunday School teachers: **Mark Heaney and Carolyn and Craig Elder**.

- to those who cooked meals for Shared Bread: **Lisa Derr, Leslie Evans, Becky Haynes, and Brenda Ross**.

- **Special thanks** to all those who faithfully served on committees last year, and whose terms of service have ended or who have changed positions:

Bebe Buchen (Stewardship Chair)
Becky Crabtree (Member, Staff-Parish Relations)
Julia Clark (Lay Member to Annual Conference)
Becky Haynes (Chair of Missions)
Ellie Mackie (Chair of Staff-Parish Relations)
Krista Martinez (Chair of Education)
Jane Perkins (Member, Staff-Parish Relations)
Dee Peterson (Member, Staff-Parish Relations)
Brenda Ross (Member, Nominations)
Glafira Tinoco (United Methodist Women President)

Please add your own expressions of appreciation to those given in this column. We are blessed!



Dedication of a new Bible, given by Calvin Martin and Carolyn Smith



FEBRUARY

The mission of Family Promise of the South Bay is to mobilize local faith groups, and other community resources, to provide, with compassionate care, temporary housing, meals and case management for newly homeless families with children as they seek stable housing.

Our church participates by providing housing and meals during four weeks throughout the year, with the help from St. Michael's Episcopal Church. We are in our fourth year of participation, and this year we will be hosting the weeks of February 10, April 28, September 22, and November 17.



Thank You!

*Dear Friends,
Many of you were kind enough to remember me at Christmas. With activities surrounding the holidays as well as my "house closure" I*

*was soon caught up in a "whirlwind" situation.
I so appreciated hearing from so many, and miss all of you.
Please come and visit me at my new house.*

*3927 Hackberry St.
Wellington, CO 80549*

God's blessings to everyone.

*Gratefully,
June Williams*



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*"Let all that you do be done with love."
1 Corinthians 16:14*

Happy February to all my UMW sisters!

The UMW Board had a very successful planning meeting on January 8. Thank you to the Board and to Pastor Lee for your ideas and commitment to our wonderful organization. We have a number of great things coming up this year, including a Legacy Luncheon celebrating United Methodist Women's 150th birthday!

During this midwinter season, I invite you to continue attending your Circle's monthly meetings, deepening your relationships with those in your Circle. I look forward to seeing everyone at our general meeting on February 23!

Here are some of our upcoming events:

January 28 Board Meeting, 6 pm, Lucas Chapel
February 23 General Meeting, 10 am, Lounge

*With love,
Ellie Mackie
UMW President*

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **Sunday, February 17** **2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Johnson Hall**

You are strongly encouraged to attend this special presentation on the 2019 Special General Conference that will take place February 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The General Conference is the primary legislative body in the United Methodist Church and the only body that speaks officially for the Church. Made up of representatives from all over the world, it is convened every four years to discuss and vote on petitions and resolutions proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences, and other groups within the denomination. These actions result in a revision of the Book of Discipline, our denomination's book of law.

This year's Special General Conference is being held to receive an act on a report of the Commission on a Way Forward, which was formed by the Council of Bishops "to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church." The Commission will present three plans for moving forward on these issues to the General Conference. We want to share information about the issues and the three plans with you.

The outcome of this Conference will affect the Church as a whole and, ultimately, our congregation. Please plan to attend. Child care will be provided.



Members of the Commission on a Way Forward participate in a letting-go prayer at the end of their four-day meeting at El Segundo United Methodist Church in Los Angeles on Thursday, March 22., 2018

February Volunteers

Liturgists

- 3: Brenda Colbert
10: Ellie Mackie
17: Brad Stine
24: Darcey Kuhn and Bryan Wiese

Greeters

- 3: Linda Kruse
10: Beth Muraida and Pat Bushrow
17: Debbie Jacobson
24: Becky Fisher and Kim Huntoon

Sign-up sheets can be found on clipboards in the Narthex.



FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS

- 2/8 Ralph Colbert**
2/10 Harlan Deeter
2/22 Tom Russ
2/23 Melanie Derr
2/24 Dick Wyckoff
2/27 Brad Stine
Jane Perkins



THE MISSION BELL

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STAFF

Bishop, Cal-Pac Annual Conf.

West District Superintendent

Pastor

Administrative Assistant

Youth Director

Chancel Choir Director

Pianist

Handbell Director

Custodian

Childcare

Sunday School Teachers:

Adult - Mark Heaney

Sunday School - Various

(Pre K and Kindergarten - 1st to 5th Grade)

Rev. Grant J.. Hagiya

Rev. Mark Nakagawa

Rev. Lee Carlile

Elisabet Port

Eric Iki

Patty Breitag

Kenner Bailey

Kathy Rutledge

Blanca Martinez Gonzalez

Paul Idelson, Sarah Johnson

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APPORTIONMENTS UPDATE

We are a connectional church, and every year our church dedicates a portion of our income to the mission and ministries of the United Methodist Church beyond our congregation.

Last year, our apportionment was \$35,772.72. Thanks to some extra giving at the end of the year, we were able to send in 82% of that figure. We are grateful to all who gave in support of this obligation!

However, this was the first year that we have not paid our apportionments in full since 2011. This year, our goal to pay 100%, and we are helped by the fact that, for the second year in a row, our apportionment asking has decreased by \$1,921.55 for a total of \$33,851.17. (In case you are wondering, that figure is determined by a formula that is based on our 2017 membership and operating expenses.)

So, what does all this money go for? Part of it—\$7,475.78—will help to support the work of the world-wide UMC. A tiny part of it—\$207.46—will help to support the work of the Western Jurisdiction, a regional body made up of the eight westernmost conferences in the U.S. Most of it—\$25,888.92—will help the work of our own California-Pacific Annual Conference, which, in turn, supports our congregation and the other 389 United Methodist Churches in Southern California, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. As you can see, our apportionments make a big difference!

Watch for more information about apportionments in the months to come. Right now, it's important for you to know that our apportionments not in the budget, and, in fact, our church only contributes offerings that are designated for that purpose. If you wish to support this giving, you need to indicate that on your check or envelope or online.

Thank you for sharing in our connectional giving!

God loves. God gives.

We love. We give.

Together, We Do More



Affectionately yours

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.