



Mission Bell

El Segundo United Methodist Church

March 2018

Volume 53

No. 3

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.



From the
Pastor

Dear Friends,

There are times when life just seems overwhelming. There are too many things on the "to-do" list, too many people to see, too many phone calls to make or emails to send, too presentations to prepare, too obligations to meet, too papers to finish, too many tasks to complete, too many errands to run, etc., etc., etc.

Do you ever feel like that? I do. In fact, that's how I'm feeling as I write this column. My "to-do" list is long, my time is short, and I woke up this morning feeling tired before I even started the day.

Hmmm . . . maybe I need to change something. Maybe I need to reassess my commitments. Maybe I need to find some time to breathe . . . to think . . . to pray.

Maybe I need Lent.

When we think of Lent, we tend to think of it as a solemn, gloomy time, a time when we focus on our shortcomings and deprive ourselves.

But that's not what Lent is meant to be! To be sure, Lent is serious business, and, traditionally, it is a time of reflection, prayer, fasting, and confession. But we do those things, not to put ourselves down, but to lift ourselves up and to renew a relationship with our God in Christ, a relationship that is fulfilling, life-giving, and joyful.

It may help to think of Lent as "spring training." (After all, the word "Lent" comes from an Old English word that means "spring.") I don't know much about baseball, but I do know that before the opening of the season, there is a period of intense preparation when the players work hard to improve their throwing, catching, running, and batting skills.

Like spring training, Lent is meant to be an intense period of preparation before Easter during which we hone our spiritual skills. It's a time to stretch our spiritual muscles in order to become

more aware of those areas in our faith life that need work and to practice the things that will strengthen our ability to play and work and live as Christians. Instead of practicing batting and throwing, of course, we practice praying, reading the Bible, and worshiping and serving together.

During spring training, baseball players also strive to change habits that keep them from being good at what they do. Likewise, Lent is an opportunity for us to take a look at our lives and our priorities and to consider what enhances our faith and gives us life and what does not. (Sounds like something I need to do!) Perhaps the best way to do that is to develop our relationship with our "coach," Jesus Christ! Just as baseball players listen to their coach and pay attention to his strategies, so Lent is a time to focus on Christ's words and actions, a time to watch for signs of God's grace-filled presence in our lives and in the world, a time to listen for the whispers of the Holy Spirit that guide and direct us.

Of course, just as baseball players constantly practice their sport, so we can and should do these things all the time. Unfortunately, it's all too easy to be distracted by things outside the ballpark/church and by the roar of the society in which we live. That's why Lent is important. It offers us a time to be intentional about the way in which we live as Christians and to focus on what is most important in our lives: the relationship with God in Christ that gives us life and love and joy!

That joy is embodied in the celebration which we anticipate during Lent—Easter. Not even the most anticipated opening game can match the hope, the glory, the wonder of Christ's resurrection!

Praise and thanks be to God!

*In training with you,
Pastor Lee*



March

Sundays @ 5:30 pm

Dear ESUMC,

I hope that your Lent season is going well. For everyone that has courageously taken up Lenten tasks, keep going! I gave up video games which is equivalent to television for most people since I don't really watch TV often. I decided to fill the time with things that better myself. We're all in this together and I pray that you continue faithfully!

Some updates regarding the youth ministries.

The youth group will meet every Sunday in March.

On **Saturday March 10th**, we will have our **monthly Saturday fun night** which falls on the 2nd Saturday of the month. We will be going to play laser tag and will meet at church at 6:30pm. **Please RSVP by Thursday March 8th** so that I'm able to coordinate rides. Youth are encouraged to invite friends!

Registration for our spring retreat is due on March 31st. Please contact me if you'd like any details or a soft copy of the registration form.

Please consider signing up to become a youth mentor. There's a signup sheet in the hallway between the sanctuary and Lucas chapel or you can contact me for details. There's also a signup sheet for youth dinner donations. At each of our youth group meetings we have dinner and it's been a great way for the youth to connect, so please consider signing up!

Lastly, on March 18th I'll be preaching for the first time at ESUMC. In some small way, I hope that it fills your soul!

*Many blessings,
Eric Iki
Youth Director*

Thank you for being a blessing . . .

- to **Kathy Rutledge** for stepping in to help in the office while our Administrative Assistant, Elisabet Port, was on vacation. Thank you, Kathy!

- to **Polly Price, Bebe Buchen, and Krista Martinez**, for setting up our "Mardi Gras" potluck on February 11 and to all those who brought food to share and graciously helped to clean up afterwards.

- to the **Chancel Choir and Bell Choirs** for the wonderful music that we enjoyed on February 11, when Bishop Hagiya worshiped with us. Special thanks to the Chancel Choir who sang as part of a mass choir at the Community Ash Wednesday service on February 14.

- to our February liturgists: **Mike Rutledge, Glafy Carr, Carolyn Elder, and Ellie Mackie.**

- to those who warmly welcomed folks to worship as greeters in February: **Jean Bue, Craig Elder, Becky Fisher, Joann and Ed Gulian, Linda Kruse, Beth Muraida, and Jane Perkins.**

- to everyone who graciously served in February as ushers, including **Ralph and Brenda Colbert, Tim Colbert, Colin Elder, Gerry Muraida, and Mike Rutledge.**

- to our acolytes in February: **Samuel Forthuber, Porter Robbins, and Vicken Semerdjian.**

- to those who graced our altar with gifts of flowers in February: **Nita and Harlan Deeter's Family and Kim Huntoon and her sisters.**

- to **Krista Martinez** for teaching the children's Sunday School in February.

- to those who cooked a meal for Shared Bread in February: **Leslie Evans, Becky Haynes, Brenda Ross, and Eddie McMasters.**

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



- 3/1 Taylor Howat**
- 3/11 Alicia Maples**
- 3/17 Peter Amara, Joelle Bushrow, Kasi Hensley**
- 3/19 Jay Bushrow**
- 3/21 Nita Mann**
- 3/25 Carolyn Elder, Vicken Semerdjian**



Glafira Tinoco, Bishop Hagiya and Pastor Lee



UMCOR SUNDAY

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special One Great Hour of Sharing offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope.

Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover our costs of doing business. They make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR doesn't receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without these offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Because we keep operating costs under 10% of our total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, they are channeled to under-funded programs, where they're most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

The Worship Committee is offering the opportunity to share a beautiful Easter Lily to decorate our sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service on April 1. The lilies will be ordered and delivered to the church. A special insert will be placed in the Bulletin listing those donating them and in whose memory or honor the lilies are shared.

You will find order forms in the office and in your Sunday bulletin, starting March 11.

Orders need to be placed by March 27. If you want to bring your own lily, it should be brought to the church by Friday March 30.

The cost is \$8 per lily.



The current, and a few previous, El Segundo Mayors of stopped by.

Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday



United Methodist Women

Thanks be to God for helping us work for him despite our limitations.. He can use each one of us in his work.

I am so excited by the work our organization, the UMW, is doing around the world, helping women, children and communities to a better life. It is evident in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Ireland, Palestine, Israel and in the United States. Glory be to God.

“All I (we) can do in God who strengthens me (us).”

Fil 4:13. Yes! With him we can do it!

Dates to remember:

- Feb. 26 Board Meeting, Lucas Chapel, 6:00 pm
March is the month of Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- March 3 Quiet Disciple Event, Downey UMC (District)
- March 4 CWU Word Day of Prayer. 10:30 am, Manhattan Beach Community Church. There is a \$5 donation for lunch.
- March 26 Board Meeting, Lucas Chapel, 6:00 pm.
- May 18-20 UMW Assembly in Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus Ohio.

Please check with your circle presidents for information regarding work days for the Bazaar.

A special Thank You!, to Brenda Ross for putting together our UMW directory.

The Peace of God be in our hearts, homes, country and World.

*In Christ's Love
Glafira A. Tinoco*

BUNNIES FOR TOBERMAN



Help us collect bunnies for Toberman for Easter. Purchase a new stuffed bunny and place in a Toberman bin, which are located in the Narthex and in the church office, by March 20 latest..

Thank you!



March 11

March Volunteers

Liturgists

- 04: Becky Haynes
11: Brenda Colbert
18: Donna Fontana
25: Darcey Kuhn and Bryan Wiese

Greeters

- 04: Linda Kruse and Louise Maloy
11: Beth Muraida and Jane Perkins
18: JoAnn and Ed Gulian
25: Kim Huntoon and Becky Fisher

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



THE MISSION BELL

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STAFF

Bishop, Cal-Pac Annual Conf.	Rev. Grant J. Hagiya
West District Superintendent	Rev. Mark Nakagawa
Pastor	Rev. Lee Carlile
Administrative Assistant	Elisabet Port
Youth Director	Eric Iki
Chancel Choir Director	Patty Breitag
Pianist	Kenner Bailey
Handbell Director	Kathy Rutledge
Custodian	Blanca Martinez Gonzalez
Childcare	Paul Idelson, Dora Gregg
Sunday School Teachers:	
Adult - Mark Heaney	
Sunday School - Various	
(Pre K and Kindergarten - 1 st to 5 th Grade)	

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Holy Week

Palm Sunday,

March 25, 10:30 am

Hosanna! Join us as we walk with Jesus into Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday

March 29, 6:30 pm

Supper and Communion

Bring finger food to share.

Good Friday

March 30

Children's Service, Sanctuary, 4:00 pm

Joint Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm

at St. Michael's Episcopal Church

"Faces at the Cross"

Easter Sunday

April 1

Community Easter Service - 6:30 am, Library Park

Children's Easter Experience - 9:30 am, Tinoco Chapel

This special time for children to celebrate Jesus' resurrection will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in Library Park.

Festival Easter Service - 10:30 am, Sanctuary

Alleluia! Join us as we rejoice in Christ's Resurrection with glorious music from all of our choirs and Holy Communion.

