



# Mission Bell

El Segundo United Methodist Church

April 2018

Volume 53

No. 4

## 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.



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*(Dear Friends, This is a devotion that I wrote for a Conference Lenten series. I would like to share it with all of you as we enter this Holy Week.—Pastor Lee)*

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." - 1 John 4:7

The very first word in this reading stops me in my tracks. Beloved. I want to respond, "Who, me?" It's not a word that I usually apply to myself, and I suspect that I'm not alone in this. Most of us are quick to put ourselves down, all too aware of our faults and failings, especially in this season of self-examination and repentance. And yet, here in the heart of Lent, we find ourselves addressed as—named—"Beloved."

How can this be? The answer comes quickly: "because love is from God." God is the Lover, and we are the Beloved, and that truth enables us to do the thing that the author of this letter is urging: to love another. In his insightful book, *The Life of the Beloved*, Henri Nouwen writes, "The greatest gift my friendship can give to you is the gift of your Belovedness. I can give you that gift only insofar as I have claimed it for myself." We can only love others when we know what it is to be loved ourselves. We can only give what we have already received.

Years ago, I was introduced to a unique communal blessing by worship consultant Marcia McFee. I first tried it in an ongoing class in which we were studying Henri Nouwen's book. This is how it worked. I invited each person to turn to the one next to them and to say, "God loves you—and I love you—and there is nothing you can do about it!" The other person was then to respond in kind. The class loved it!

Given such a positive experience, I introduced the blessing to the congregation as a whole one Sunday. The response was the same every time. As each pair offered this blessing to each other, they would both laugh—which is exactly what happened in the small class setting too. At first, the laughter was a bit nervous. After all, we aren't used to telling the people sitting next us in the pews that we love them! However, after a week or two, it became clear to me that this laughter, accompanied by hugs and sometimes tears, was an expression of wonder and joy, a joy that came from deep in the soul.

Imagine what it would be like to receive that message of love every day. Now imagine what it would be like to share that message! Every day we have so many opportunities to let other people know that they are valued, respected, worthy—beloved. As we accept that we are loved and share that love with others, we will grow in our knowledge of the One whose unfailing love was embodied in Jesus Christ.

And so, dear friend, take this into your soul:

You are Beloved. God loves you—and I love you—  
and there's nothing you can do about it!

Prayer: O God, thank you for the living water of love with which you fill my life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may it flow through me to all whom I encounter this day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Sundays 5:30 pm**

Dear ESUMC youth and church,

It's the Easter season! We are God's resurrected people and we're reminded of that during this season. First off, I hope that everyone who gets to have a spring break is having a well-deserved time off from school.

As for youth news, **we will be going on our spring retreat to Big Bear on April 13th to the 15th.** We will spend time together in fellowship, exploring the lake and town, and getting to experience our great big God. Please pray that those attending the retreat are safe and have an open heart.

**During April, we won't have youth group on April 1st (Easter) and April 15th (retreat recovery), but we will meet all the other Sundays.**

For those who are invested in the youth ministry at El Segundo, you can get involved! First, I'm still looking for people who are willing to be youth mentors! You don't need any special talents, just the ability to meet once every two months with them. That's it! We're still continuing to look for dinner donations as well. The youth love getting fed and it really helps the ministry run smoothly when dinners are provided.

Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past! Thank you for reading!

**Many blessings,**  
**Eric Iki**  
**Youth Director**

***THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING...***

- to all who helped to care for our Family Promise guests March 4-11. A special "shout-out" to the folks at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, who are a great support team.

- to **Eric Iki**, who preached an excellent sermon at both services on Sunday, March 18, (which gave Pastor Lee a much needed break!)

- to **Polly Price**, who provided hospitality, refreshments, and the necessary coffee to fuel the work of a General Conference Commission that met here March 19-23. (Special thanks to **June Williams** who paid a visit to us just in time to help!)

- to our March liturgists: **Becky Haynes, Brenda Colbert, and Donna Fontana.**

- to those who warmly welcomed folks to worship as greeters in March: **Becky Fisher, Joann and Ed Gulian, Kim Huntoon, Linda Kruse, Louise Maloy, Beth Muraida, and Jane Perkins.**

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

- to our acolytes in March: **Porter Robbins and Vicken Semerdjian.**

- to those who graced our altar with gifts of flowers in March: **Polly Price, Marilyn Harper, the Elder Family, and Bill and Glafy Carr.**

- to **Mark Heaney** for teaching the children's Sunday School in March.

- to those who cooked a meal for Shared Bread in March: **Lisa Derr, 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!*

**"New" Members**



**Bill and Jean Bue**

**Noah and Samuel Furthuber receive a bible from the church.**





# MISSIONS CORNER APRIL

## EASTER OFFERING

On Easter Sunday, we are taking a special offering that will benefit United Methodist Missionaries. We have pledged \$1,500 in support of Katherine Parker, currently serving in Nepal, and \$1,000 to our own Joey Russ, currently serving in El Salvador. Below, please find a greeting from Katherine that we received by email. Thank you!

## ESUMC YOUTH GROUP

During the rest of the month, we are asking for support for our youth group. Many of our youth are new to church, and they are discovering that church is a welcoming place to be. Your support will help to continue this vital program that serves both church and community. Thank you!

## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY April 30

This is one of Six Special Sunday Offerings in the United Methodist Church. It benefits Native American outreach within our annual conference and others. It also provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans. Thank you for your generosity!

Dear friends at El Segundo UMC,

Thank you for your prayer and financial support for my work as a United Methodist Missionary in Nepal. I want to acknowledge the gift of \$1,500.00 from you and your congregation, El Segundo United Methodist Church, received on 02/05/2018. Thank you!

Your recent contribution to Advance 15187z enables our church to send missionaries from everywhere to everywhere. I am honored to be part of that connection, serving with the United Mission to Nepal. I hope that we can grow this connection with regular prayer and communication. Please let me know who from your church I can add to receive periodic email newsletters. Email me or fill out the Covenant Relationship Form if you would like to establish an ongoing connection.

Thank you for enabling me to be present here as we work towards fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepali society.

Your sister in service for Christ,  
Katherine



United Methodist Women Easter is almost here! Jesus said, "I will always be with you and you will always be with me, enjoying everlasting life in my Father's mansion." That is the promise that fills our hearts with joy, and gives us strength to continue working and doing the will of our master and savior Jesus Christ. The rest we leave to God; our part is only to do our best, clearly with His help.

I am so grateful for all of you. I want to extend my gratitude to Sandra Sims for all her work. Somebody told me, "Her moving is going to be a big loss to our church and organization." God be with you, Sandra, in your new adventure in life. We love you, come back soon to visit us.

### Please remember these dates:

Your monthly circle meetings.

March 26: Board Meeting, 6pm, Lucas Chapel

April 1: Easter

April 20-21: Rummage Sale, Johnson Hall (please come and help Brenda Ross set up)

April 23: Board Meeting, 6pm, Lucas Chapel

May 18-20: UMW Assembly, Columbus, OH

To all my brothers and sisters, have a wonderful Easter. \

*In Christ's Love,  
Glafi Tinoco  
President, UMW*

## SIXTH ANNUAL "BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS" Sunday, April 22, 1:30 pm In front of the church

In celebration of Earth Day, we will offer a blessing of the animals. This beautiful tradition reminds us that we share the earth with all of God's creatures and celebrates the love that we share with our pets.

You are invited to bring your pets to church to have them blessed by Pastor Lee. After we join together in a brief moment of worship, she will offer an individual prayer for each animal. You are encouraged to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to bring their pets to the church; this time of blessing is for the community as well as for our church. All animals are welcome!

Please note that all dogs must be on a leash, and cats should be in carriers. Other animals are welcome, but must be under the control of their owners at all times.

Water bowls will be provided.

Let us give thanks for the blessings of love, comfort and joy that our animals give to us!





## THE MISSION BELL

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### STAFF

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

# APRIL VOLUNTEERS

### Liturgists

01: TBD  
 08: Glafy Carr  
 15: Vaka Faletau  
 22: Pat Heaney  
 29: Debbie Jacobson

### Greeters

01: TBD  
 08: Beth Muraida and Jane Perkins  
 15: Debbie Gabrielson and Louise Maloy  
 22: JoAnn and Ed Gulian  
 29: Becky Fisher and Kim Huntoon

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



4/2	Justin McLees
4/4	Heather Gilbert
4/7	Nancy Cobb
4/9	Laverne Fust
4/16	Bill Bue
4/17	Sandra Sims
4/23	Debbie Jacobson
4/25	Sean Clark