



Mission Bell

El Segundo United Methodist Church

May 2018

Volume 53

No. 5

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,

Bless you! Three Sundays ago, I invited our congregation to bless three people that week (including one who didn't deserve it), and what a joy it was to hear your stories the following week! Mark Heaney then picked up the theme of blessing and invited, first, the people who attended the monthly Table of Faith dinner, and then the members of Church Council, to read blessings from the Bible to each other—and that, too, was a joyful experience.

I love the idea of blessing others, but I have also heard that folks aren't quite sure just how to do that. What does it mean to bless someone?

I looked up “bless” on my handy computer dictionary, and the first definition that I read was: “to pronounce words in a religious rite, to confer or invoke divine favor upon; to ask God to look favorably on.” That makes it sound as though only someone ordained can give a blessing. Personally, I think that's nonsense. While blessing people (and animals!) is part of my ministry, God gives any and all of us the ability to bless others. Likewise, the blessings that I offer don't come from me; they come from God through me. It's the same for anyone, including you.

A blessing is a kind of prayer, and indeed, we bless one another when we pray for each other. However, that doesn't mean that you have to come up with some words when you feel moved to bless someone! Remember the Beatitudes in Matthew 5? All of them start out “Blessed are you . . .,” but then they describe many different ways in which we are blessed and can bless, including being merciful, making peace and hungering and thirsting for—that is, acting to bring about—righteousness.

It seems to me that to bless someone is to see him or her through the eyes of a loving God and to act accordingly. That might mean offering words of encouragement. It might mean offering a smile and expressing gratitude. It might mean offering a hand to help, or a shoulder to learn on. It might mean playing with a child. It might mean sending someone a note or a card. And, yes, blessing another person might mean saying a prayer. The point is that there is no “right” way to bless another, and there are no limits to the number of ways by which we offer God's blessing to others.

All of us have been blessed by God; let's pass on that blessing to others, in the name of Jesus Christ. I encourage all of us to continue to practice blessing others and to celebrate the ways that God is blessing others through us by our stories with one another! Let's make 2018 the “Year of Blessing.”

Right now, most people know our church as the “big, white church on the corner of Main and Mariposa.” Wouldn't it be wonderful if people in our community identified us in another way: “El Segundo United Methodist Church? Oh, that's the church that blesses!”

*Feeling blessed by you,
Pastor Lee*

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 5:30 pm

May Youth News!

Dear ESUMC youth and church,

We're getting closer and closer to summer and all that summer has to offer!

The month of May is here and in that we look forward to a number of events going on in the youth group. First we have Cardboard Box City on May 5th! This event helps Family Promise of South Bay which ESUMC is actively involved with. The youth will build shelters from cardboard boxes and then sleep in them overnight. It's a great event, and to help fund-raise for Family Promise, the youth group has started a fundraising campaign which can be found here: <https://grouprev.com/cbc2018-eric-iki>

Our due date to sign up for the mission trip to San Diego is May 6th. All I need is an RSVP and deposit of \$50. We will then work throughout the next month getting everything ready for the trip.

On May 12th we will have our monthly Saturday fun night and most likely head to Mulligans family fun center. More details will be sent out via email later on. Youth group dates for the month of May are every Sunday except May 27th since I'll be out of the country! We will meet on Mother's Day, but please don't feel obligated to come. Spend it with your mom! Thank you!

Many blessings,

Eric Iki
Youth Director

A note to Louise Maloy from Russell Crook to share:

Dear Louise,

So kind of you to send me a note. Yes, I caught the bug that is going around. Robin has it now, but we are doing better.

I too miss seeing you and all my church family in El Segundo, I don't know how much you know about my travels since leaving So. Cal. I had a position in northern VA for about 17 months. It required me to be there, so Robin would come out and visit me for about 10 days a month. It was nice to visit all the museums in DC, but I hate being away from Robin and my daughter Natalie.

I have a job now back in Utah. I love having dinner with Robin.

Natalie is a junior at the University of Utah, majoring in Architecture and Graphic Design.

Please send much love to all at ESUMC.

Love, Russell

THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING...

- to **Krista and Tonio Martinez**, who decorated the sanctuary for Palm Sunday. Special thanks to **Gerry Bushrow**, who once again trimmed his palm tree for our use.
- to **Patty Breitag, Kathy Rutledge, Kenner Bailey, the Chancel Choir and the Bells of Joy** for glorifying God with wonderful music on Palm Sunday and Easter.
- to **Eric Iki and Leslie Evans**, who led the Palm Sunday "Congregation and Canines" worship service.
- to **Blanca Martinez**, our custodian, for handling all the set-ups for Holy Week with willing hands and a cheerful spirit.
- to **Elisabet Port**, for her support during a busy Holy Week (and every week!)
- to **Kathy Rutledge** for playing for the children's Good Friday service.
- to **Don Carlile, Mark Heaney, and Brad Stine** for acting as readers during the Good Friday service that we shared with St. Michael's Episcopal Church.
- to **Annie Semerdjian** for "hiding" eggs in preparation for the children's Easter Egg Hunt.
- to **Mike Rutledge** for spearheading the installation of a new sound system, which we began using on April 29!
- to **Mike Rutledge and Eddie McMasters** for their work on the sanctuary lights.
- to the **United Methodist Women, especially Brenda Ross**, for the hard work that raised funds for mission at this year's spring Rummage Sale.
- to our April liturgists: **Mark Heaney, Glafy Carr, Vaka Faletau, Pat Heaney, and Debbie Jacobson**.
- to those who warmly welcomed folks to worship as greeters in April: **Becky Fisher, Debbie Gabrielson, JoAnn and Ed Gulian, Kim Huntoon, Louise Maloy, Beth Muraida, and Jane Perkins**.
- to everyone who graciously served in April as ushers, including **Brenda and Ralph Colbert, Tim Colbert, Colin Elder, Gerry Muraida, and Mike Rutledge**.
- to our acolytes in April: **Porter Robbins, and Alexandria and Burke Taylor**.
- to those who graced our altar with gifts of flowers in April: **Polly Price and everyone who donated lilies for our Easter altar**.
- to **Annie Semerdjian and Krista Martinez** for teaching the children's Sunday School in April.
- to those who cooked a meal for Shared Bread in April: **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!





MISSIONS CORNER

MAY MISSIONS SPECIAL

Peace with Justice Sunday, May 27



Established by the 1988 General Conference, Peace with Justice Sunday supports programs that advocate peace and justice at home and around the world. Since half of the offerings collected by your annual conference is retained to fund local peace with justice programs, you can see a difference made locally. In addition, half of the offering is remitted to the General Board of Church and Society to help fund U.S. and global work in social action, public-policy education and advocacy.



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, LA

Nine out of every 10 children are taken to hospitals that do not have the right equipment or staff to provide pediatric care.

From child-sized needles to instruments sized for children of all ages, most hospitals are not fully prepared to care for children. *When it comes to medicine, experience matters.*

Children's Hospital Los Angeles, help patients more than 528,000 times each year in a setting designed just for their needs—while adult hospitals treat only a fraction of that number.

Their medical experts offer more than 350 pediatric specialty programs and services to meet the needs of their patients.

CHLA is a provider of more than \$232.6 million in community benefits annually to children and families. As the first and largest pediatric hospital in Southern California, CHLA relies on the generosity of philanthropists in the community to support compassionate patient care, leading-edge education of the caregivers of tomorrow and innovative research efforts that impact children at our hospital and around the world.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Another month has passed, and with God's help we will be marching forward.

Thank you to Brenda Ross and all helpers for setting up and running the Rummage Sale last weekend.

We have postponed the annual UMW Luncheon to September 8, and the theme this year is "Angels Among Us". Please check with the circle chairs for tickets, and come and join us.

Speaking of angels, it makes me think of missionaries all around the world, especially our own Joey Russ. Please pray for them all.

If you are interested in visiting any of the UMW circles, their meeting times are as follows:

Martha - First and Third Tuesday at 9:30 am in the Lounge. Chair Louise Maloy and Polly Price .

Rebekah - Second Monday at 7:00 pm at a member's home. Chair Brenda Ross

Susannah - Third Monday at 7:00 pm in the Lounge. Chair Becky Crabtree.

Elizabeth - Third Wednesday at 1:00 pm in Lucas Chapel. Chair Pat Bushrow

Mary Ruth - Third Thursday at 12:00 pm in the Lounge. Chair Ellie Mackie.

We are welcoming Beth Muraida to our UMW Board. She is taking over as the Social Action Coordinator after Sandra Sims,

At our last board meeting we talked about the homeless, and it touched my heart. Please help us God, to do more for them beside offering our prayers.

I leave you with this verse from the Bible:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment and the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself". Matthew 22:37-39

*In Christ's Love,
Glafira A. Tinoco*

7 Years



Cancer Free



Alexandria and Burke Taylor receive their Bibles

May Volunteers

Liturgists

- 06: Darcey Kuhn and Bryan Wiese
13: Mike Rutledge
20: Ellie Mackie
27: Brenda Colbert

Greeters

- 06: Beth Muraida and TBD
13: Ed and JoAnn Gulian
20: Linda Kruse and Louise Maloy
27: Gerry and Pat Bushrow

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



Happy Birthday!

- 5/2 Christian Elder
5/7 Stephanie Burns
5/8 Brenna Bushrow
5/11 Joey Russ
5/12 Sarah Amara
5/18 Julia Clark
5/20 Pat Heaney
5/27 Brenda Colbert
5/28 Rachel Crabtree
5/29 Adam Muraida



THE MISSION BELL

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STAFF

Bishop, Cal-Pac Annual Conf. West District Superintendent Pastor	Rev. Grant J. Hagiya Rev. Mark Nakagawa 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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New Book Study to Begin in May

Beginning on May 5, the Wednesday Study Group will be reading Nadia Bolz-Weber's book *Accidental Saints*. Nadia Bolz-Weber is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado.

The jacket cover describes the book in this way:

"In *Accidental Saints*, New York Times best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls "a religious but not-so-spiritual life." Tattooed, angry, and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people . . .

As she lives and worships alongside these "accidental saints," Nadia is swept into first-hand encounters with grace—a gift that often feels less like being wrapped in a warm blanket and more like being hit by a blunt instrument. But by this grace, people are transformed in ways they couldn't have been on their own.

. . . *Accidental Saints* demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with scripture together, and tell each other the truth about their real lives. This unforgettable account of their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike.

Pastor Lee says, "It should be a wild ride. Be prepared for coarse language, honest talk, and, maybe, some new understanding of what it means to be one of God's "accidental saints."

A paperback version of the book can be purchased on Amazon for about \$10.00, or you can have the church office order one for you. The Wednesday Study Group meets on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in Lucas Chapel. All are welcome!

**NEW
ADDRESS**



**Donna and Daniel Murphy,
Stan and Martha Williams, in their new home.**

**27001 Durango Lane
Mission Viejo, CA 92691**

Matich Heaney Baptism



Blessing of the Animals

