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MESSENGER



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Pastor's Ponderings

by Rev. Sandy Olewine



As 2017 begins, we stand at a threshold. Every New Year offers us an opportunity to reflect on the past, learning lessons from the challenges and blessings we have experienced. It offers us time to ponder a desired future trajectory for our lives, creating and renewing a vision to guide our days. The gifts of the past and future, then, meet at the threshold of the present to give us insight into concrete actions we can take to live lives with purpose and joy.

FUMC has a long history to look back on. One hundred and forty-two years to be exact. We look towards 2025, eight years from now, when we will celebrate 150 years of mission and ministry, anticipating an ongoing vibrant future. As we look back over who we have been and what we have done and envision what we will be and how God will use us to transform the world, we are establishing concrete actions that will direct our current mission and ministry.

In August, leadership of the congregation met and shared how they hoped the world would describe FUMC in 2025 during our milestone year:

God/Jesus/Spirit centered
Christ-like servant disciples
Joyous and vibrant
Intergenerational, **Inclusive, and Diverse
Generous, Sharing and Grateful
Full of hope and possibilities
A beacon for the community – using our facilities as an incubator
Witnessing (scripture).

These are good words. Life-affirming, life-changing words. Words that build on the past and cast a vision for the future. Words that stretch and challenge us.

To live into them, we have to establish values, priorities, and commitments now. One area identified as crucial to such a future is growing as disciples. Going back to the basics, reminding ourselves

what is at the core of being a Jesus-follower, and grounding ourselves in that identity will be fundamental to this journey. Therefore, the next three years will emphasize a renewed and vitalized discipleship through worship, formation and service.

In 2017, "I am Becoming..." will be the theme that supports sermons, retreats, classes, fellowship and service, inviting each of us to engage in a process of renewal. Throughout this year, you'll see the logo (on the cover) as a reminder that our growth as disciples is never finished. God is ever beckoning us towards a deeper relationship guided by God's grace, sustained by God's love and lived out in community.

I pray that as we stand at this threshold of a new year we will commit ourselves to becoming... We will honor the past and create an exciting future if we do so.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Sandy



Holman Choir

The Third@First concert series continues with a performance by the

Holman Choir on **Saturday, January 21, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. This free program is open to everyone.

The Holman Choir, from Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, celebrates

the witness and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a concert of spirituals and gospel music.

This concert is free, however a free-will offering will be received. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the concert.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP



January 1 (Second Sunday of Christmas) New Year's Day "I am Becoming..."

Rev. Sandra K. Olewine preaching, Primary texts: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 and Matthew 25:31-46

What better way to begin this year than in worship, giving thanks for the blessings of God and renewing our commitment to be followers of Jesus! This morning, we begin a year of exploring the core values and practices of being disciples. As you continue to celebrate God's great gift in the birth of Christ, consider what God is calling you to become in 2017?



January 8 (Baptism of the Lord Sunday) "Baptized in Water"

Rev. Gregory Norton, preaching, Primary Texts: Isaiah 42:1-9 and Matthew 3:13-17

Water is a basic part of living and baptismal water is an essential element of Christian life. Water splashes its way through our stories as individuals and through our past and present as a faith community. According to scripture, even Jesus Christ needed to be baptized! In a world

that shuns commitment of any kind, the water of baptism invites us into deep covenant and refreshes us as we do God's work.



January 15 (Human Rights Sunday) "I am Becoming a light to the nations"

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, preaching, Primary Texts: Isaiah 49:1-7

The Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan is the 7th President and Professor of Hebrew Bible at Claremont School of Theology, beginning his tenure on July 1, 2013. This morning he will help us to consider what it means to be disciples in God's complex, diverse and beautiful world.

As a theological educator, Rev. Kuan is a strong proponent of religious pluralism and passionately committed to justice issues in the global and local contexts. As a biblical scholar, Dr. Kuan has long been a visible advocate for LGBT equality in churches and society. Beginning in the early 1990s, he has been teaching against the misuse of biblical texts towards lesbian and gay Christians.

We also collect one of the special denominational offerings this day. Our Human Relations Sunday Offering strengthens outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico and encourages social justice and work with at-risk youth. Your gifts help to build community across all races and peoples. (see article on pg 10 for more information)



January 22 (Epiphany +3) "All In"

Rev. Sandra K. Olewine, preaching; Primary Texts: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Rev. Olewine returns to the pulpit as we hear the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.

Matthew tells us they immediately left what they were doing to follow. Are we ready to throw ourselves all in when Jesus beckons us to follow? What would we have to leave behind? What fears would we have to face? What capacities would we need to develop?



January 29 (Epiphany +4) "Love's Foolish Ways"

Rev. Sandra K. Olewine, preaching; Primary Texts: Micah 6:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

One of the most beloved scripture texts, Micah 6:1-8 - God's love language - joins with Paul's reminder from his first letter to the people of Corinth that God chooses what seems foolish to the world to affect transformation to call us to embrace Love's foolish ways. Are we ready to be fools for Christ? Will we live God's way in the world? Discipleship is not a foolish endeavor for the faith-hearted!



Duruflé's Requiem

The Chancel Choir is joining with the Chancel Choir of Glendale's

First United Methodist Church to present Maurice Duruflé's ethereal *Requiem* in two March concerts at the two churches. If you – or someone you know – have wanted to sing in the choir but cannot commit to weekly participation, this short-term project is for you!

About 45 minutes in length, the Requiem is a Mass of remembrance composed by the French organist Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986) in the 1940's and dedicated to

the memory of his father. As with much of Duruflé's music, the Requiem is based on ancient Gregorian chant melodies and this give the music a peaceful "ancient/modern" quality that is very appealing. This has contributed to the piece's popularity with singers and listeners alike.

For more information, including a schedule of rehearsals, please contact Gregory Norton at greg@fumcpasadena.org



Save the Date for Cabaret

Save the Date! The Sounds of the Risen Son Youth Choir and Messiah's Harmonies Handbell

Choir present their annual Cabaret performances: **BROADWAY!**

In Fellowship Hall, Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25

Silent Auction and Appetizers begin at 6:00 p.m. - Tickets available soon!

NEW FROM THE NAVIGATION TEAM



New Year's Pancake Breakfast

FUMC will host its annual pancake breakfast for visitors to the Rose Parade on Monday, January 2.

Volunteers are needed to work on Parade Day morning and to set up on Wednesday and Thursday, December 28 and 29. Most people will report in at 4:15 a.m.

on Monday and work till mid-morning. Despite – or because of – the early hour, it is great fun for the church community and our guests. If you are interested in helping, contact Woody Hain at 626.794.5611 or hainfamily@att.net



2017 Leadership Retreat

In 2017, FUMC begins a three-year focus on discipleship. The overarching theme for year one is "I Am Becoming." Growing as disciples of Jesus is a life-long process; there is no finish line while we have breath. To ground this journey, an important leadership retreat will be held on Saturday, January 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Worship and bible study will begin the day, giving way to decisions about concrete actions for this year. We are going back to

basics to remind ourselves what is at the core of who we are. Make the commitment to begin the New Year in covenant community as together we listen for God's Living Word and seek the inspiration of the Spirit. For more information, please contact our lay leaders: JP Harris (jpthenvgtr@gmail.com), Mikala Rahn (mikala@learningworkscharter.com), Paul Audley (Audley.Paul@gmail.com), Rosalie Niemann (rniemann23@hotmail.com) or Pastor Olewine (solewine@fumcpasadena.org)



Winter Rally Day & All Church Conference

On Sunday, January 8, FUMC will celebrate Baptism of the Lord Day with a renewal of baptism in worship. Following service, we will have a New Year Celebration Friends & Family Lunch and an All-Church Conference to learn about next steps in the Vision 2025 plan, elect additional leadership, adopt the 2017 Ministry Budget and adopt mission and ministry goals for the year. Everyone is invited to attend.



Pastor Olewine on Vacation

Rev. Olewine will be on vacation from the afternoon of Sunday, January 8 - Saturday, January 14. While she is away, Rev. Millsap and Rev. Norton will be available for pastoral emergencies. Contact the church office or either of them directly if you are in need of support. Pray for Pastor Sandy that this week will be a time of renewal and rest.



Office Closures

The church will be open for the Rose Parade breakfast on January 2, 2017, but the church office will be closed, reopening at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 3. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 16, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The regular schedule will resume on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

Meet Our Newest Members



Leslie Black has been among us for a while, having moved from Tennessee with her daughter Emma. She is active in leadership with youth ministry, often behind the scenes.



Patricia (Pat) Spalding is new to the area, having moved from outside the St. Louis, Missouri, after the death of her best friend and husband who had battled long with MS. She now lives in the Eagle Rock area with her adult daughter. Pat is adjusting to a new chapter in her life. However, she notes that she is a Rams fan.



Amy and Steve Jaffe are originally from the San Diego area. They have been active in the church, especially in support of their children Grace and Dylan. Amy said, "We just hadn't gotten around to joining." Steve has enjoyed participating in the Bad Weather Shelter ministry by cooking.



George Chang and Emily Hui-Ying Huang (in absentia) transfer from Duke Memorial UMC, Durham, NC. George is a retired USC professor of psychology who has since felt the call of God on his life and is pursuing it at Claremont School of Theology in the Fall 2017. Emily will join him from Taiwan this July after she completes her work engagement there.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT



Happy New Year!

Can you believe we are starting a new year!?! Thank God for this great opportunity! The youth are not going to waste it. January is going to be a month of preparation and service for the youth. We've got our parking lot fundraiser, led by Hank Lambert (parking) and John Moran (seating). Youth will also be participating in the pancake breakfast before the parade as well. The parent potluck will be the following week, and serve as a great time to set our sights on the rest of the year. The youth will serve on MLK Sunday,

then spend the rest of the month fellowshiping and exploring gentleness and meekness.

- 1.1 - Parking Lot Fundraiser (parking + seating)
- 1.2 - Pancake breakfast
- 1.8 - Parent Potluck
- 1.15 - MLK SunDay of Service
- 1.22 - Activities Day
- 1.29 - Gentleness and Meekness



Tuesday Night Children's Ministries

Beginning Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. join us in the new year at Pasadena First for our Family Food and Fun nights. We'll be

making soups and having arts and craft, science fun and games. Each month we will be offering a new theme for

our family nights. Check it out! Children younger than grade 1 are welcome to attend with parents and enjoy activities together. Parents can stay too or drop their children in grades 1-6. The theme for January is Science and Culinary, followed by Love and the Arts, which runs February 14 - March 7.



Children's Winter Camp

Children's Winter Camp for children in 1st-6th grades, will be held at Sky Meadows in the beautiful San

Bernardino Mountains, January 21 & 22, with campers meeting in the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to carpool together. The theme this year is "I Am Becoming... Caught Up in God's Love"

parent and counselor cost is \$35. Registration is open: now and ends on Tuesday, January 17, 5:00 p.m.

We will explore our faith as children of God and how we are becoming disciples, enjoy camp traditions, activities, songs and maybe even a campfire. Brochure, registration form and health forms are in the Fellowship Hall and Children's Education bulletin board or contact the church office, maudley@fumcpasadena.org.

The cost of the camp is \$50 per child. The fee includes four meals, craft material supplies, and camp fees, and



"Steeped in Grace" – a Mother's Afternoon Tea

On February 4, 2017 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., the Agape group invites all moms with young children for a time 'away' as Pastor Sandy hosts "Steeped in Grace" – a Mother's Afternoon Tea. Being a mom with young children is a blessed but busy life! Finding time to nourish the soul as you care for the souls of everyone

else can be a challenge. Lovely food, a beautiful setting, and delightful conversation will provide a mini-retreat to renew and restore your soul. Child care will be provided so your little ones will be well taken care of. Reservations are necessary for this event. Please contact the church office (626-796-0157, office@fumcpasadena.org) or Heidi Neuroth, hneuroth@outlook.com, by January 25.



Hospitality Begins with “Welcome”

We have a wonderful ministry of greeters and ushers who are the front line of “welcome” to God’s house of love. In reality, we are all the front line of welcome to the many guests who come and worship God among us. “Hello, my name is _____”

One of the ways to facilitate welcoming is to wear your name tag. If you need a new name tag, or never have had

one, now is the time to get one so we can begin the new year with a welcome that allows the guest to easily see who we are. *You do not need to be a member to have a name tag.* Just email both Pastor Connie Millsap: cmillsap@fumcpasadena.org AND Maggie Audley maudley@fumcpasadena.org so we can order one for you.



I Am Becoming...

This year, 2017 is the beginning of an emphasis on our becoming and growing in our discipleship, of becoming and growing as Jesus-people in the world. We begin with two studies on Sunday, January 8, 2017, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sign up on the clipboards on the “I Am Becoming” bulletin board or contact Pastor Connie Millsap, cmillsap@fumcpasadena.org.

A Disciple’s Path – Deepening Your Relationship with Christ and the Church.
6 week study, January 8 - February 12, Church Library, facilitator: Woody Hain

This study is an engaging approach to discipleship from a distinctly Wesleyan perspective. It is good for those new to Methodism, as well as a renewal course for existing members. The study will guide participants in a weekly pattern of study which combines a Wesleyan understanding of God’s love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Participants will develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world.

Disciple Fast Track – New Testament
12 week study, January 8 - March 26, Adult Education Room 205, facilitator: Pastor Connie Millsap

This is a mid-level Bible study. Participants will need to have some knowledge of the Bible. Each participant will need a study Bible with extensive footnotes in addition to the workbook. If you need a study Bible, it can be ordered for you. Participants will engage in a weekly study pattern of reading prior to class. We will have the benefit of leading Christian leaders in the fields of theology, biblical scholars, and pastors presenting in a DVD format each week to prompt discussion. This is a very engaging class that will deepen your biblical knowledge, but more importantly, that will allow scripture to speak to you in a personal way. Studying God’s word with the movement of the Spirit is sure to get you caught up in God’s love.

OTHER CLASS opportunities will be coming as we move into the year. Next up will be an all-church Lenten study which you might want to consider.



Upcoming Road Closures

Colorado Blvd. will be closed for the Pasadena Half Marathon and 5K on Sunday, January 22. Please plan accordingly as you attend worship that morning. Learn more at pasadenahalf.com.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY



Celebrating FUMC's Christmas Generosity

How great it is to report the outcome of the Alternative Christmas Market. You have been very generous to the local and international ministries we provided for your choosing. We will be sending off \$7,260 to the organizations as you indicated in your choices. A couple of donations are pending, so the total will be even higher.

You donated to The FUMC Social Service Center, Friends in Deed, Learning Works Charter School, the San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity, Union Station Homeless Services, Heifer International, Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) Methodist Mission, and Muleji Christian High School in D.R. Congo. All of these organizations work year-round on behalf of the poor, the vulnerable and the homeless. Thank you for your support of their work.

The congregation also raised an additional \$1,288 through support of the Africa Team Ministries, which offered jewelry, accessories and household art on November 27, and December 4. Half of the proceeds from these purchases will be donated to the Muleji Christian High School in D.R. Congo. There were other items from the Third World Handarts which supports the handwork of African craftsmen and women. Together we raised 1275.50 to support impoverished artisans and their families.

God is helping us to grow in generosity as a congregation, reaching beyond ourselves to express the loving concern of our Lord Jesus Christ for those in need.

-Wanda Gae Stephenson

RISK-TAKING MISSION & SERVICE



Bad Weather Shelter

The Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter (BWS) is a Friends In Deed program that provides shelter for homeless individuals during the winter season. For the last few years, and again for the 2016-2017 season, the Bad Weather Shelter has been weather activated (a forecast of 40 degrees or below and/or 40% chance of rain) from the day after Thanksgiving until the 1st of March. During the 2015-2016 season, the BWS was open a total of 33 nights. For those 33 nights, they served a total of 1,941 Guests – 1,423 men (205 unduplicated) & 518 women (77 unduplicated).

First United Methodist Church of Pasadena is on call to serve dinner, set up cots, and greet homeless guests every Tuesday during the season. There are two categories of work:

1. Make the meal for 100 guests. This can be done ahead of time and frozen or made that day. The

meal needs to arrive at the Shelter by 6:00 p.m. or earlier depending on what we are cooking and if it is frozen. There are full kitchen facilities.

2. Set up the Shelter and serve dinner. This includes setting up all the cots and handing out bedding to the guests. We set up the tables and chairs to serve the meal and check guests in. The meal is served at 8:00 p.m. along with dessert service. Our team of 10-12 needs to arrive no later than 6:30 p.m..

The Bad Weather Shelter is located in the gymnasium of the Pasadena Covenant Church, at 539 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101, next door to Fire Department Station 33, and just north of the Gold line. To find out if the shelter is open during the active bad weather season, call the Hotline, 1-888-915-8111. If you are interested in participating, please call Mikala Rahn at (626) 688-7961 or mikala@publicworksinc.org



Coach Foster Families Seeking Reunification

Train now for an amazing transformational ministry! Helping parents rebuild their frayed ties with their children in hopes that the family can eventually be restored and reunited is a life-changing ministry for families and coaches alike in which FUMC Pasadena, All Saints Church and the Foster Care Project work together. At the end of January, training for new coaches will be held over two weekends: Friday, January 27, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 28, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Friday, February 3, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Held at Learning Works (90 North

Daisy, Pasadena, 91107), dinner on Fridays is provided as is breakfast and lunch on Saturdays. If you are interested, contact Mikala Rahn at Mikala@publicworksinc.org or (626) 688-7961.

Following this exceptional training, approved coaches are given a two-hour time slot each week to accompany a foster family. Coaches can take a break when needed. This is truly a calling and amazing ministry, so please consider this in your heart. The training is free but participants are asked to bring their own note-taking materials. Participants will receive a certificate at the end of the training.



20th Anniversary GYTTE Mission Team Set to Go

“Give Ye Them to Eat” (GYTTE), an integrated development near program Puebla, Mexico, will receive FUMC’s 20th anniversary work/study team at the end of January. The team is: Noelle Boardman, Tommy Elrod, Diane Harris, JP Harris, Sheldon Haase, Doss Jones, Connie Millsap, Rosalie Niemann, and Pat Zeider. The team departs on Friday, January 27 and will return on Friday, February 5. We will dedicate the team on Sunday, Jan 22 and hold them in prayer while they travel and work on our behalf.

The team will participate in the AWARE program (Alternative Work-study and Reality Experience), raising their awareness of the needs of rural Mexico and giving them opportunities for service in response to hunger

and poverty in our interrelated world. The educational and work experiences focus on Mexico and rural reality; appropriate technology; environmentally-sound livestock management; sustainable agriculture; health issues; creation stewardship; development; and Christian outreach.

GYTTE is an Advance Special Mission project of the UMC and was founded in 1977 as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church of Mexico to combat hunger and poverty of in rural Mexico. The purpose of GYTTE program is to strengthen the capabilities of marginalized people and communities to meet their basic needs, and to determine and sustain a just and integrated development process. GYTTE is located in Puebla, 75 miles southeast of Mexico City.



Update Your Contact Info

Have you moved? Did you get a new cell phone number? Update your information with the Church Office today! This will ensure that you are kept up-to-date on all that is going on in the church. New information can be sent to office@fumcpasadena.org or call 626.796.0157.

**UNITED METHODIST
SPECIAL
SUNDAY
PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY**

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Your generous gift today strengthens
community outreach and empowers
at-risk youth.

“We are here to connect with the people through being disciples of Jesus Christ in spreading God’s work throughout our communities.”
THE REV. ANNA TROY, OUTREACH COORDINATOR FOR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY,
LAURINBURG, NORTH CAROLINA

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

660717

Please write check payable to your local church or donate online at www.umciving.org/giveHRD.

Emma Wooten, 85, jotted down her prayers with Scriptures and put them in her Bible. Then she prayed over the list and asked God to provide.

Her list was simple – but impossible for her to accomplish alone. Wooten’s home was in dire need of repair. She had tried to insulate her water-damaged house with cereal boxes. Ceilings buckled under her leaky roof. Electrical wiring was unsafe.

Thanks to Partners in Ministry (PIM), Wooten’s prayers were answered. PIM, explained the Rev. Anna Troy, “reaches people where they are and works with them to achieve their goals.”

Three main areas of focus include urgent home repair, an after-school program for at-risk children and youth and a resource/referral center for area families. A community garden provides fresh, healthy food for people of all ages.

“Within each of these ministries,” Troy said, “Education is a key component” to equip people “to work their way out of difficult situations.” In 2015-16, PIM provided urgent home repairs to more than 40 families, fed over 4,000 families and mentored more than 300 children.

Generous gifts on Human Relations Day enable Partners in Ministry and other Christ-centered programs to reach out to Emma Wooten and other people who long only for helping hands and loving hearts.

Why Do We Do It That Way?

Brief discussions about the way we worship at First United Methodist Church

Scripture by Gregory Norton

As we open our minds and hearts to the Word of God through the words of human beings inspired by the Holy Spirit, faith is born and nourished, our understanding is deepened, and the possibilities for transforming the world become apparent to us. —The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012. ¶105, Section Four: “Our Theological Task”



The close relationship of tradition, experience, and reason appears in the Bible itself. Scripture witnesses to a variety of diverse traditions, some of which reflect tensions in interpretation within the early Judeo-Christian heritage. However, these traditions are woven together in the Bible in a manner that expresses the fundamental unity of God’s revelation as received and

experienced by people in the diversity of their own lives.
—¶105, “Our Theological Task”

One of my few truly irreplaceable possessions is my mother’s Bible. Bound in black leather, with her name printed in gold on the cover, it contains far more than the scripture. Many of its verses are underlined in various colors and my mom’s handwritten comments appear in its margins. As it rests on the shelf, the book is stretched to double the width of its spine due to the countless scraps of paper and card that she stashed among its pages. These contain bits of wisdom and truth that she encountered along life’s way and that she decided belonged in the Bible for safekeeping. They remind me of the adage, “it’s not true because it’s in the Bible, it’s in the Bible because it’s true.”

For my mother’s generation it was common to bring one’s copy of the scriptures to worship, and I suspect that many of the additions to her Bible were made while she was in church. These days the only time many Methodists read the scriptures or hear them read is in worship. It’s a central part of what we do together on Sundays. Each week we bear witness to the importance of the Bible as a large copy of it is carried in procession along with the cross and light. We print the passages for the day in the bulletin each week as a help to those who might have trouble locating them, and each Sunday’s scripture is the foundation upon which the preacher builds the sermon.

And as for carrying around a personal copy of the Bible? Nowadays, “There’s an app for that!”

For Methodists, scripture is one of the four sources of Truth that we use for Christian formation. The other three are tradition, experience and reason. The Book of Discipline describes the interaction of the four:

While we acknowledge the primacy of Scripture in theological reflection, our attempts to grasp its meaning always involve tradition, experience, and reason. Like Scripture, these may become creative vehicles of the Holy Spirit as they function within the Church. They quicken our faith, open our eyes to the wonder of God’s love, and clarify our understanding.

This Wesleyan approach to God’s Word is distinct from that of many of our brothers and sisters across the Christian Church. I believe that the divergent views about encountering scripture are at the root of the deep divisions that characterize our generation of American Christianity. While it is tempting to critique the views of literalists or Fundamentalists, our energy is better spent in perceiving how scripture “expresses the fundamental unity of God’s revelation as received and experienced by people in the diversity of their own lives.” Taking scripture seriously is hard work and a life-long discipline.

Early in my career I encountered Harrell Beck, an Old Testament professor at Boston University for over three decades and a contributor to the Psalter in the back of our United Methodist Hymnal. Professor Beck had been brought to the west coast as a guest speaker to the clergy here and was in demand as a visiting preacher and teacher. “One of these days,” he said, “I’m going to end a talk by ripping the back cover off the Bible in full view of everyone present.” He was prevented from doing it, he continued, because he knew that such drama would obscure the point he was trying to make – that God’s revelation did not conclude centuries ago at the completion of the Canon. God is speaking still – in the witness of the traditions and habits we have inherited from those who preceded us and in the minds, prayers and experiences of Christians living today. All of these things take their place alongside these ancient writings as we worship together each week and seek to be formed into people that God will use to transform the world.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
—2 Timothy 3: 16-17

On the Horizon

January 1

Wesley Covenant Service

January 2

Church Office Closed

January 7

Leadership retreat

January 8

Winter Rally Day
All Church Conference

January 15

Human Relations Sunday

January 16

Church Office Closed

Weekly Events

SUNDAYS

8:55 AM SpiritSeekers
Church Lounge
9:00 a.m. Children, Youth, and
Young Adult Sunday
School

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

After Coffee Hour
Fellowship Hall

MONDAYS

7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
Great Hall

TUESDAYS

10:00 AM Social Services
Great Hall
Norma's Nook
3rd Floor

WEDNESDAYS

9:30 AM Prayer Quilt
Church Lounge

SATURDAYS

9:30 AM Quilt Ministry
Church Lounge

FUMC Prayer List

for healing:

Jann Atha, Harry Audley, the Baca/Olivas Family, Susan Beckett, Edna Boardman, Joan Bothast, Brent Bowers, David Brooks, Nancy Bumb, Marcus Chone, Peggy Cox, Juliet DeGuzman, Mike Devlin, Neal Dougherty, Penny Eiker, Brandi Figari, Carlos & Katie Figari, Khan Fischer, Larry Friedman, Kristin Funari, Amy Germain, Steve Gothold, Peggy Gott, Sofia & Woody Hain, Brian Houck, Cindy Kariotis, the Ketterling Family, Fred Kitonga, Julie Ann Kosakowski, Marilyn Lemp, Viola Mallory, Rev. George Mann, Rev. Alan Mark, Tricia McRae, Kendra Millsap, the Miyasaka Family, David Moran, Susan Rehm, the Rogers Family, Rev. Mark Ulrickson, Howard Underwood, Gary Webster, Benny Woodell, Deb Waskowiak, the Waterhouse Family, Sarah Wright, Anne Zeiss



We are a Christian community seeking intentionally to welcome all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, and education, socio-economic or marital status. We practice God's ministry of reconciliation through worship, devotion, compassion, and justice for all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination. Our greatest challenge and only hope is to receive and share God's all-encompassing love.



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
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Pasadena, CA 91101