

The MESSENGER

August 2017
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FALL IS HERE

Rally Day

On September 10 don't rush off after worship to the nearest Pasadena restaurant because it is time for Rally Day Friends and Family BBQ Lunch! Tri-tip, veggie burgers, potato salad, green salad, baked beans and more will be available.

- The morning kicks off with a spirit-filled worship service at 10 a.m. including the return of the Chancel Choir.
- "Sunday Conversation" begins at 11:15 a.m. as part of our goal to increase participation in faith formation for all ages. (See separate article).
- At noon we gather together in front of the church for feast and fellowship. Invite friends! Can you help that day? Let us know in the church office (office@fumcpasadena.org or call 626 796-0157).



Sunday Conversations

Beginning on September 10, First UMC begins a new Sunday schedule as we seek to align the morning with our commitment to deepen our faith through worship and growing discipleship for all ages. Each week, following the morning service there will be a Sunday Conversation. This 45-minute gathering will provide space to explore sermon and scripture topics more thoroughly, hear from guest speakers on pressing issues of our day, practice different spiritual disciplines and much more. Each Conversation will stand on its own so there is no long-term commitment necessary. Other options will continue to be offered following worship, including both once/month groups and short-term studies. Our hope is that we'll move from worship, grab some coffee and choose one of the opportunities for learning, imagination and faith development. Watch for the Adult Learning Brochure for the Fall Season for the topics and offerings each week.

In It Together

First UMC's Fall Focus is on being community in the manner of Jesus. This theme begins September 10, 2017 and runs through World Communion Sunday, October 1. Living as community is at the heart of the Christian story and we offer a sign of hope to the world when we embody Kin-dom values in how we live with each other. Rather than retribution, judgment, entitlement or arrogance, Jesus' followers are called to model reconciliation, restoration, generosity and humility. Don't miss this series as we wrestle with how we live together as witnesses of Christ's love.

Worship Highlights

September 3, 2017

Work for Us to Do
Rev. Gregory Norton, preaching
Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:21-28

Summer Choir: *God has work for us to do*
- Mark Miller

September 17, 2017

Repeat without Ceasing
Rev. Sandra K. Olewine, preaching
Romans 14:1-12 and Matthew 18:21-35

Chancel Choir: *The Last Words of David*
- Randall Thompson

September 10, 2017

Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones
Rev. Sandra K. Olewine, preaching
Romans 13:8-14a and Matthew 18:15-20

Chancel Choir: *O How Amiable*
- Ralph Vaughan Williams

September 24, 2017

Thanks a Lot!
Rev. Sandra K. Olewine, preaching
Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16

Chancel Choir: *Because You Are God's Chosen Ones*
- G. Alan Smith

On The Horizon

October 1
Rise Against Hunger

October 13-14
ArtWalk

October 21
Third@First: Baroque Showcase

October 28
Trunk or Treat

10 to 12 NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

10 a.m. WORSHIP Children dismissed from worship to Church School classes following Time for Young Christians and continue on to choir rehearsals at 11 a.m.	11 a.m. FELLOWSHIP and EDUCATION Education offerings for adults and youth begin at 11:15 a.m.	NOON Classes and rehearsals conclude Friends and Family lunch once a month
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STARTS SEPT. 10

All of First UMC's choirs resume rehearsals this month!

Join us at one of the first rehearsals:

Chancel Choir (adults)

Thursday, September 7 - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. - Choir Room

Resound Handbell Choir

Sunday, September 10 - 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.

Sounds of the Risen Son Youth Choir (grades 7-12)

Sunday, September 10 - 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. - Choir Room

Messiah's Harmonies Youth Bells (grades 7-12)

Sunday, September 10 - 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. - Handbell Room

All Choirs for Children (pre-K to grade 6)

Sunday, September 10 - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Office Closure

The Church office will be closed, Monday, September 4 in recognition of Labor Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 5.

Kidspace Children's Museum

On September 5 families with children are invited to join us at the Kidspace Children's Museum in Brookside Park, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to get to know Jen and her family. Admission is free. Sandwiches and snacks will be provided. Contact Mikala Rahn with questions (626) 688-7961 or mikala@learningworkscharter.com.



Adult Ministries Wine Tasting at artWORKS

On Friday, September 8, from 6:30-8:30 come meet Rev. Jen Chapman and her family at a fun "wine-tasting with a twist" event:

wine paired with junk food! We want to see all adult ages from young adults to silver sneakers tasting wine and eating chips. artWORKS is located at 2914 E. Walnut Avenue, Pasadena. Contact Mikala Rahn to RSVP or for more info at (626) 688-7961 or mikala@learningworkscharter.com.



All Hands on Deck!

On Saturday, September 9, everyone is encouraged to participate in the Annual Time and Talent work day at FUMC, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The UM Men will serve a pancake

breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and at 9:00 a.m. we'll split into teams to tackle the 'Fall Cleaning' of our facilities. Come with rags, buckets, pruning shears, gloves, rakes, trash bags and lend a hand as we make sure our campus is a welcoming place for all as we begin our fall season of mission and ministry. There will be project lists and work for folks of differing ages and abilities. So, join us for a hour or stay the morning. To help the UMM prepare for breakfast, please email office@fumcpasadena.org to let us know you are coming.

Messenger Redesign

With this month's MESSENGER we begin a pilot program seeking to increase readership by mailing a briefer version to households. Periodically the newsletter will be expanded to include content beyond the announcement of events. Weekly emails will continue, each Sunday's bulletin will contain current announcements, and a PDF of each issue of The Messenger will always be available at fumcpasadena.org.



Support Children and Youth Ministries

We have big plans for the children and youth ministries. In order to make it all happen we need your help! Needed are adult and youth (16+) helpers for Children's Sunday School and Children's Music; adult Sunday School leaders for youth;

and counselors for Sunday evening UMYF. Contact Rev. Jen Chapman, jchapman@fumcpasadena.org.

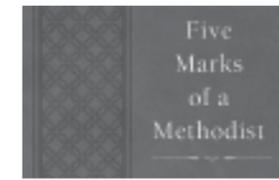
Rise Against Hunger

On October 1, World Communion Sunday, youth and adults will gather in Fellowship Hall after worship, along with friends from the Islamic Center of Southern California, for our Sunday Conversation about global hunger. Then at 12 noon, we'll move to Great Hall and be joined by our children to work in teams at various stations. For only \$0.29/meal, through coordinated effort, we'll pack 20,000 meals in 2 hours. The afternoon will speed by, new friendships will be built and we'll make a significant impact on helping to feed the hungry. What better way to spend a World Communion Sunday that making sure there is 'bread' for all!



Travels with Charley

On September 17, at 11:30 a.m. Turn-A-Page Book Club will discuss John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* in the church lounge. Steinbeck said that because he spent much of his time writing about America and its people, he wanted to traverse the country - a road trip if you will - to find out what Americans were like "today" (1960's). He set out with his standard poodle, Charley, to do just that, and upon his return Steinbeck said he had many concerns about the 'new' America that he witnessed. The meeting will be facilitated by Jim Doyel. A light lunch will be served with a voluntary offering. All are welcome.



Five Marks of a Methodist

Have you ever wondered what it is that makes Methodists so methodical? Come and find out

starting September 24 when a six week study will commence entitled "Five Marks of a Methodist." The Sunday Study group that meets at 11:15 after worship in room 205 is inviting all the curious to join with them in this interesting exploration. If you cannot commit to all six sessions, that is perfectly acceptable, (although you will still be expected to practice the "five marks!")

A small book (emphasis on small) and study guide are available in the church office for a \$10 donation and can be picked up anytime so you can dig right in. If you are a life-long Methodist or just sticking your toe into the water, you will find this study interesting and downright inspirational!



Eydie Alyson Leaves Music Staff

The longtime director of First UMC's Cherub Choir (preK-grade 2) has resigned. For over 11 years Eydie Alyson taught music to our youngest singers

each week and has led them in countless worship services and programs. This fall Eydie begins a new teaching position at Westwood Charter Elementary which will require more of her time each week, prompting her decision to leave First UMC.

We all thank Eydie for all she has meant to us and wish her well in her new endeavors.

Philip Butler Returns to Los Angeles

First UMC's former Youth Director, Philip Butler, has been appointed to his first faculty position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Theological Studies Department at Loyola Marymount University - right here in Los Angeles! After spending the summer at home in the Washington D.C. area, Philip, Tresse, Michael and Edmund are heading west again. Congratulations!



United Methodist Women

You have a choice. You can choose to be busy. You can choose to make time.

Take time to join UMW on Monday,

September 18 at 1:00 p.m., Christy Bootjer will share her story with us. Planning has already begun with commitments from Bishop Beverly Shamana, Susan Rogers, Charlene Reichert, Rosalie Niemann, Ann Burke and Aaron Shows to headline our future meetings.