

January 2018
Volume 88 • Issue 1



1st Saturdays Beginning January 6, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Messy Church is an alternative, intergenerational, interactive community of faith for all kinds of people with all kinds of messiness in their lives. It's for people of all ages, and it's especially great for families with young children. At Messy church, we keep everyone together in the same space. Parents and kids stay together. Adults without kids are welcome, too. Couples, singles, people with disabilities and learning differences, people of all ethnicities, gender identities and sexual orientations, everyone is welcome! We'll play together, create together, share stories and laugh together, and finally, we'll gather around big tables and eat together.

Faith Seeking Understanding



Faith Seeking Understanding, a four-week sermon series on the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, begins on January 21, 2018. How do Christians shaped by a Wesleyan-spirit discover God's "heart and mind" and live in faithful response? John Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illuminated by Tradition, vivified in personal Experience and confirmed by Reason. Each week in worship and in the Sunday Conversation, we'll explore one of the lenses of this foundational approach to faith for Methodist disciples.

This series begins with the preaching and teaching of the Rev. Dr. John C. Holbert, as he guides our reflection on the primary role of scripture in our theological discernment. The Rev. Jen Chapman will offer her insights into how the teachings of the Church influence our walk of faith. Rev. Sandra K. Olewine returns to the pulpit to unpack how contemporary personal and communal experience impacts scriptural interpretation in today's world and completes the series offering insights into the interplay between faith and reason.

Plan now to be in worship and to participate in the Sunday Conversation each week as we delve into this central theological approach for Methodist-shaped Christians.

Sunday CONVERSATION

After Worship at 11:15 a.m. - Noon

January 7: Rev. Sandy Olewine will guide our discussion about how we live out our baptismal covenant every day.

January 14: Rabbi Joshua Levine-Grater, Executive Director of Friends-In-Deed, will engage participants in a post-sermon dialogue about the need for ongoing justice work by people of faith.

January 21: Youth and adults will join together for four weeks as we explore the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. On January 21, Rev. Dr. John Holbert will help us wrestle with the role of scripture in our personal and communal decision-making.

January 28: First UMC will again participate in Rise Against Hunger.

Give God the Glory

An important part of our Advent/Christmas season at First UMC is the opportunity for giving alternative gifts. Making donations to mission partners in honor of those we love, donating gifts and stockings for foster children, purchasing items from Africa Team Ministries and Third World Handarts, and filling the Reverse Advent Calendar bags with items for the Social Service ministry undergird that we best celebrate God's great gift to us in Jesus by giving to others. This year we showed great generosity once again.

All of the "numbers" are not yet in but we know that over \$8,200 was given for mission partners this year through the alternative gift process. Countless lives will be touched by life-changing ministries due to your generosity. Thank you one and all.

Pastors Away

Revs. Olewine and Norton will be out of the country from the night of January 7 - January 25, 2018.

During this time, we will be blessed by the preaching of Rabbi Joshua Levine-Grater and Rev. Dr. John Holbert on January 14 and 21 respectively. James Walker, former Director of Music at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, will be directing the Chancel Choir and our own Cynthia Crass will be leading the youth choir rehearsals. If you are in need of pastoral care, Rev. Jennifer Chapman will be available. Rev. David Farley and Rev. Dr. Kirsten Oh are also on call to assist in a time of crisis. If you are in need of support, please contact the church office so that one of the pastors can respond.

Hold Sandy, Greg, Paul and their friends in prayer for a safe and rejuvenating adventure in New Zealand.

Youth Winter Retreat

The youth will spend Martin Luther King Jr. weekend January 12 - 15, at Camp Sky Meadows. This year our retreat will include a day skiing/snowboarding at Big Bear in addition to time spent on the campgrounds in fellowship and spiritual formation, being challenged by the words and actions of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Spirit Chorale of Los Angeles

The Third@First Concerts continue this month with a visit from The Spirit Chorale of Los Angeles on Saturday, January 20, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. As always, Third@First concerts are free to all.

The Spirit Chorale celebrates over 20 years on a journey of preserving music of African-American composers; especially the Negro spiritual. Director and founder, Byron J. Smith, has the pleasure of working with some of the most sought-after voices in Los Angeles to make up this dynamic choral ensemble.



Stop Hunger Now Reprise

On Sunday, January 28, adults and youth will gather at 11:30 a.m. as we work to complete the Rise Against Hunger event from October. We will package the additional 10,000 meals that we were unable to do then due to the weevils in the rice! Children will join us after they have finished with music. With fifty people, we should be finished in about 1 hour. Plan now to participate as we complete our pledge to packages over 27,000 meals to end hunger here and around the world.

Thursday Noontime Bible Study

The Lectionary Bible Study held on Thursdays from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge will take January off as Rev. Olewine is on vacation. Classes will begin again on Thursday, February 1. The texts for that class will be Isaiah 40:21-31, and Mark 1:29-39. Consider taking a lunch break once a week to prepare your heart and mind for worship as participants discuss the main scriptures for each week's Sunday service. Contact Pastor Sandy (solewine@fumcpasadena.org) if you have questions.

MOXIE MATTERS

JEN HATMAKER | NICHOLE NORDEMAN

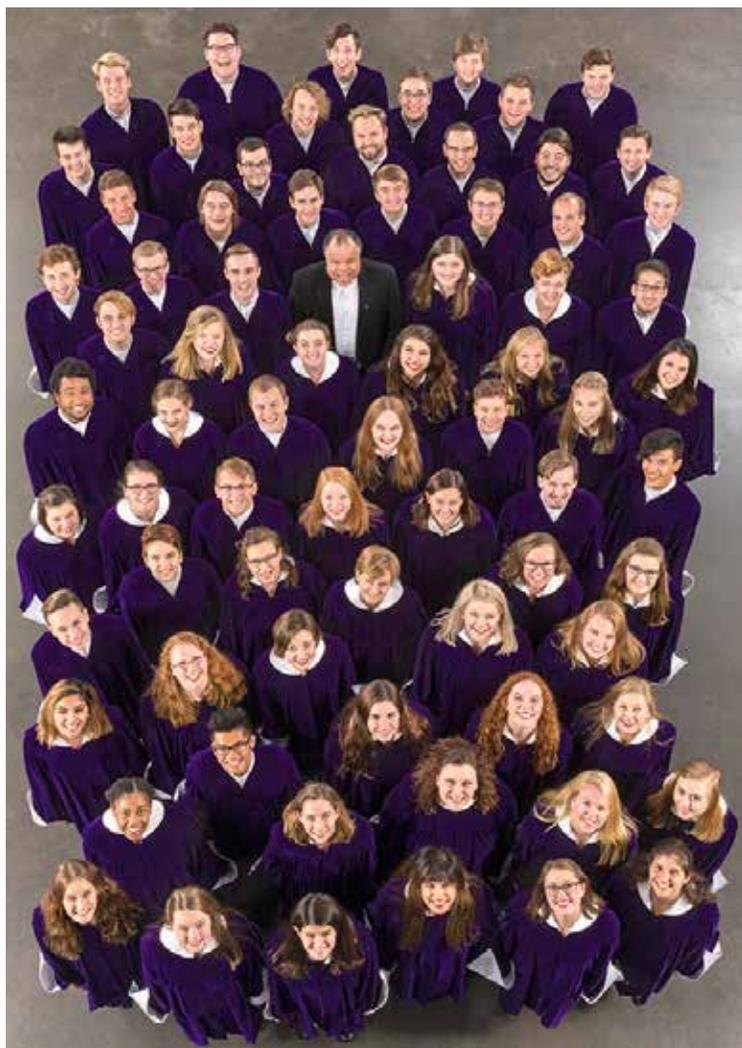
February 6 • 7:00 p.m.

We are proud to host Jen Hatmaker and Nichole Nordeman's Moxie Matters Tour featuring a lively conversation and heartfelt music on wrangling delight out of the mess of life. Tickets start at \$24 and can be purchased at moxiematterstour.com with code:MMHOST18.

St. Olaf College Choir

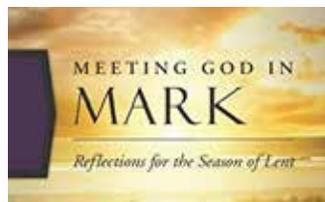
The world-renowned St. Olaf College Choir from Northfield, MN, will be appearing in concert in the Sanctuary on February 9, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. Founded in 1912, the choir has been singing for capacity audiences in major venues across America and around the globe for over 100 years, sharing the finest sacred choral repertoire, inspiring people of all faiths, garnering immense critical acclaim and setting new standards for choral excellence. Plan to be present! Tickets are \$40/adults and \$10/students at stolaf.edu/tickets or 800-363-5487.

Volunteers attend free - help host the choir by serving as an usher or assisting Curt Elrod in the kitchen. Contact Greg Norton to volunteer!



Soul What? Children's Camp

February 17 - 18, children in grades 1- 6 (and younger children accompanied by a parent) are invited to join us at Camp Sky Meadows for a weekend in the mountains. In addition to playing, singing campfire songs and enjoying the mountain air, we will spend time exploring the practices of Lent and learning to answer John Wesley's question, "How is it with your soul?" The cost for camp is \$55 per child, \$45 for parents serving as counselors. Registration and payment are due by Sunday, February 11.



Lent Study Groups

From February 14 - March 31, First UMC will be using Rowan Williams' *Meeting God in Mark: Reflections for the Season of Lent* as the six-week seasonal study

book. This book helps us read Mark's Gospel slowly, to go back over the surface simplicity of the text and tune in to some of the deeper themes – above all to listen to the various ways in which Mark challenges us not simply to read but to expose ourselves to a new and transforming relationship with the figure at the heart of his story - Jesus.

Multiple classes will be offered to allow the most people to participate. In order to plan for the times and locations of classes, please sign-up in Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office by January 31.

On The Horizon

February 3: Messy Church - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

February 6: Moxie Matters (Tickets Required)

February 9: St. Olaf Choir Concert (Tickets required)

February 10: All-Church Leadership Retreat (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

February 13: Mardi Gras Celebration (6:00 - 7:30 p.m.), Colorado Blvd. Patio

February 14: Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. and 12 noon: 30-min Prayer Services with Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m.: Worship service with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

February 17: Third@First Concert - 4:00 p.m.

February 17-18: Children's Winter Camp Retreat - Camp Sky Meadows

February 23 - 24: Youth Cabaret

January 7, 2018

Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Water-Drenched, Spirit-Filled
Rev. Sandra K. Olewine
preaching; text: Mark 1:4-11

Chancel Choir: *The Waters of Life* -James Biery

January 14, 2018

Second Sunday after Epiphany
Dr. King, Heschel and Moses: The Struggle Continues
Rabbi Joshua Levine-Grater, preaching
Primary text: Exodus 6:1-8

Chancel Choir: *Sound Over All Waters* -Paul Halley

January 21, 2018

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Vulture, Child of Wretchedness
Rev. Dr. John C. Holbert
preaching; Text: Jonah 3:1-11 and Luke 15:11-24

Chancel Choir: *He Comes to Us* - Jane Marshall

January 28, 2018

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Something Old, Something New
Rev. Jennifer Chapman, preaching
Text: Mark 1:21-28

Chancel Choir: *I Have Longed for Thy Saving Health, O Lord* -William Byrd

February Messenger deadline: Tuesday January 16