the **BELLRINGER**



Official Newsletter of Holman UMC



Celebrating Motherhood:

In all Hs Flavors

MAY 2024

OUR MISSION

To fulfill the Great Commission by inviting people into discipleship with Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

OUR VISION

A place where bells are rung as we GATHER for dynamic worship, GROW through inspired learning, GO into joyful service, and LIVE the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CONTENTS



Foster Care Awareness: Beyond Labels



4

Embracing Family: A Journey from Foster Care to Self-Worth

<u>17</u>

General Conference Update



Embracing Family: A Journey from Foster Care to Self-Worth	4
Important Dates and <i>Bellringer</i> Updates	
April Birthdays	
Beyond Labels: Empowering Transitioning Foster Care Youth	
Aunt Caro - My Unsung Hero by Ruth Brown	
Women Are A Blessing to the World	
April in Review	
God is Good All the Time	
UMC Divestiture from Israeli Bonds	
Ads and Announcements	20

3

MAY 2024

Embracing Family: A Journey from Foster Care to Self-Worth

As Foster Care Awareness Month unfolds, it's imperative to spotlight the resilience and love found within the foster care system. My story, intricately woven into the fabric of foster care, is a testament to the transformative power of love and faith. Raised by Dorothy and Poindexter Washington of Compton, CA, I embarked on a remarkable journey from abandonment to belonging, from doubt to unyielding selfworth.

My journey commenced with a poignant moment of abandonment at birth, followed swiftly by the compassionate embrace of the Washingtons at just three days old. At the tender age of three, they made the profound decision to adopt me, welcoming me into their family with open hearts. Growing up alongside my sister, Shirley, who was the first foster child they adopted, I learned the essence of family – a bond forged not by blood but by love.

The Washingtons, specializing in fostering infants, extended their love to 29 other foster babies over an 11-year period. Despite our diverse backgrounds, they instilled in us the values of family and education above all else. In our household, there was no distinction between biological and foster children – we were all cherished members of the family.

While surrounded by love and encouragement, I grappled with inner turmoil throughout my formative years. A mentor's guidance led me to confront these issues head-on, urging me to break the taboo surround-ing therapy within the African American community. It was there, in the sanctuary of therapy, that I confronted the false beliefs ingrained in my psyche – the notion of being unwanted and unworthy of love. Through the transformative journey of therapy, I unearthed the profound truth – that I was chosen, cherished, and significant.

Therapy not only facilitated my journey to self-discovery but also became a pivotal moment in my faith journey. Learning of my adoption sparked a newfound belief in God, and through therapy, I came to trust in the divine orchestration of my life's path. Just as the biblical tale of Moses illustrates, I recognized God's guiding hand, shaping my experiences to lead me toward a purposeful existence.

As we honor Foster Care Awareness Month, let us celebrate the resilience of foster children and the compassion of foster families. Let us advocate for mental health awareness and support initiatives that promote healing and belonging for every child. My journey, woven with threads of love, faith, and resilience, serves as a testament to the transformative power of family and faith .

In closing, I extend this message to every individual: You are significant. Embrace your worth, trust in your journey, and know that you are deeply loved.

Pastor Christian Washington "You are Significant"

MAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

May 5	Rev. Christian Washington "Separate and Unequal" (Luke 4:18-19)
May 12	Rev. Christian Washington "I'll Always Love My Mammas": A Song of Moses (Acts 2:1-10)
May 19	Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin "A Change Is Gonna Come" (Acts 2:14-21)
May 26 8:00 am	Rev. Christian Washington "Wall Breaking 101": The Golden Rules of GO (Hebrews 12:1-3)
May 26 11:00 am	Rev. Gary Williams, Guest Preacher

A word from the Bellringer

The *Bellringer* gratefully acknowledges a generous individual gift that will allow us to offer copies in color to sick and shut-in members for a year. June 2024 will be our first sponsored color issue.

We also acknowledge the generosity of Holmanites who purchased Easter lilies for the sanctuary on Easter day. Donations are still being tabulated. We will publish a full sponsor ship list in the June issue.

Please consider contributing an article, photo or, announcement to one of the next issues. Send your content to the attention of one of the editors listed below, using the email address: info@holmanumc.com.

Editorial Board

Education Don Norman

Features Donna Richardson Alvairene Scott Ida Younge

Liturgical Seasons Jennifer Hightower

> Photography Ida Younge

Testimonials Sharon Jackson

June Issue Celebrating Graduates Father's Day Black Music Month Pastor Washington Recognition

July Issue Welcome Pastor Victor Cyrus-Franklin Recognize Holman Nonagenarians Calling All Nonagenarians The <u>Bellringer</u> would like to interview you for our July issue!



Pastor Christian raves about Mrs. Mary Johnson, "She's 96 and still DRIVES to church every Sunday from Rancho Cucamonga!!!"

Send your name, photo, and contact info to: caroline@holmanumc.com

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2 1pm Bible Study	3 7:30am Prayer Service and Holy Communion	4 9am Church Council via Zoom
5 <i>Catter 6</i> CINCO DE MAYO 8am Worship Service 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11am Worship Service "Separate and Unequal" Luke 4:18-19	6	7 11:00-1:00 Holman Staff Meeting (voicemail only) 5:30 Lay Leader	8 12 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	8 1pm Bible Study	10 7:30am Prayer Service and Holy Communion	11 9am HUMM
12 Centre 7 MOTHER'S DAY 8am Worship Service 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11am Worship Service "I'll Always Love My Mamas": A Song of Moses Acts 2:1-10	13	14 11:00-1:00 Holman Staff Meeting (voicemail only) 6:30pm SPPRC	15 7:00 Discover Significance Bootcamp (L. L. White Hall)	16 1pm Bible Study	17 7:30am Prayer Service and Holy Communion	18
19 Pentecost 8am Worship Service 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11am Worship Service Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin "A Change is Gonna Come" Acts 2:14-21 3pm BMCR Mtg	20	21 11:00-1:00 Holman Staff Meeting (voicemail only) 7pm Trustee Board	22 12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 Discover Significance Bootcamp (L. L. White Hall)	23 1pm Bible Study 6pm Stewardship	24 7:30am Prayer Service and Holy Communion	25
26 <i>Pentecost 2</i> 8am Worship Service "Wall Breaking 101": The Golden Rules of GO 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11am Worship Service Rev. Gary Williams, Guest Preacher	27 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	28 11:00-1:00 Holman Staff Meeting (voicemail only) 6:30pm Finance	29 7:00 Discover Significance Bootcamp (L. L. White Hall)	30 1pm Bible Study	31 7:30am Prayer Service and Holy Communion	1

Beyond the Battlefield 24/7 PRAYER LINE

Bible Study (Phone)

Prayer Service (Phone)

Adult Sunday School Class

Children's Ministry/Sunday School

(323) 703-1545

(605) 313-4179/Code: 399683

(605) 313-4179/Code: 399683

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.

Electronic newsletter

Happy Birthday

May Celebrants

Victor Clay, Barbara Neal, Dr. Harold Jordan, Gary Lucy, Claudia Spears, Clifford Cannon, Ianthe Leslie, Bettye Walker, Mark. R. Dotson, Sheila Faulk, Nana Dennis, Susan James Jackson



Bless them with Your presence and surround them with Your love, that they may enjoy many happy years, all of them pleasing to You.

United Methodist Book of Worship

BEYOND LABELS

Empowering Transition Age Youth in Foster Care Awareness Month

JESSICA HENRY TILLMAN

As May unfolds, so does Foster Care Awareness Month, a time dedicated to shedding light on the experiences and needs of children and youth in foster care. While this month serves as an opportunity to advocate for support systems and resources, it's essential to approach the conversation with sensitivity, especially when working with transition age youth who are on the brink of independence.

One of the most critical aspects of mentoring transition age youth is understanding the impact of language. The words we choose can either empower or inadvertently reinforce negative stereotypes and limitations. Transition age youth are individuals with dreams, aspirations, and unique talents beyond the label of "foster child." As mentors, it's our responsibility to recognize and celebrate their multifaceted identities. tips for creatives

HERE ARE SOME GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR USING LANGUAGE THAT UPLIFTS AND EMPOWERS TRANSITION AGE YOUTH:

1. Person-first language: Emphasize the individual over their circumstances. Instead of saying "foster child," opt for "youth in foster care" or "young adult with a foster care background." This subtle shift acknowledges their identity beyond their placement in the child welfare system.

2. trength-based language: Focus on strengths, resilience, and potential rather than deficits or challenges. Highlight their accomplishments, skills, and personal qualities that demonstrate their capacity for growth and success.



3. Avoid stigmatizing language: Be mindful of stereotypes and avoid language that perpetuates stigma or marginalization. Refrain from using terms like "at-risk" or "troubled," which can carry negative connotations and undermine their self-esteem. 4. Foster open dialogue: Create a safe and inclusive environment where transition age youth feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and feelings about Foster Care Awareness Month and their experiences in the system. Encourage open dialogue and active listening to validate their perspectives and concerns.

5. Amplify voices: Elevate the voices of transition age youth by providing opportunities for them to share their stories, insights, and advocacy efforts. Empower them to take ownership of their narratives and advocate for systemic change within the foster care system.

Ultimately, Foster Care Awareness Month should serve as a catalyst for meaningful conversations and actions that support the holistic well-being and empowerment of transition age youth. By using language that respects their individuality and fosters a sense of belonging, we can help cultivate a culture of empathy, dignity, and opportunity for all young people, regardless of their past experiences in foster care.

My Aunt Caro (Carrie) - An Unsung Hero

by Ruby C. Brown

he was born in Gaffney, SC, the sixth of 8 children, and named Carrie Jolly. Aunt Caro migrated to Washington, D.C. after completing all of the schooling that was for "Colored" available children in South Carolina; she followed her older siblings there. She was industrious and found work shortly. It was the thirties and she landed a job at an upscale women's clothing store where she applied the sewing skills she had learned childhood. during Aunt Caro worked in the bridal alterations department and she was sought out for her skill in that area.



Well, folks, after several years at this job, WWII started, and the store's "Powers that Be," in an effort to promote employee morale in support of the war effort, decided to give employees a free lunch in the "employees lunch room"; of course, the lunch room was for White employees only. The lunch was provided every Thursday and Black employees ate their lunch in the usual places, the lock-er room or wherever they could find "approved space." Aunt Caro took a look at that situation and decided that something was not right about this employee morale boasting program; weren't Black people fighting in the war too? In fact, her brother Al was in the service.

Aunt Caro refused to eat the free lunch and caused much consternation among the employees, especially the Black ones. Management got "wind" of this situation and called Aunt Caro in for a chat. She was not persuaded to change her course of action and simply stated that she would continue to refuse to eat Black employees joined Aunt Caro in boycotting the free lunch. By now management was at its wits end.

Again Aunt Caro was called in for a chat. When asked what would persuade her to change her ways, she replied that all employees should be able to eat the free lunch in the employees' lunch room. And so it came about that all employees ate in the lunch room beginning with the Thursday free lunch and going forth.

The summer after my first year of college, I worked at that store and I ate in the employee lunch room that my Aunt Caro had helped to integrate. Aunt Caro always said that she had done "nothing special"; she thought she had done what is right.

By the way folks, Aunt Caro got that name Caro because one of my older cousins couldn't say Carrie and so all of the cousins followed suit and the name Caro stuck. Aunt Caro never had any children of her own, but all of her siblings' children and their children were Aunt Caro's children; she nurtured and supported us in our dreams and ambitions. In my senior year in college, I ate many a meal at Aunt Caro's house and she always sent me back to the dorm with a care package of homemade food and sweet treats. She cooked the best chicken I've ever eaten.

After graduating from college, I followed my family to California. Aunt Caro passed away before my children really got to spend time with her. I'm so sorry that they did not have an Aunt Caro like mine.

Women Are a Blessing to the World

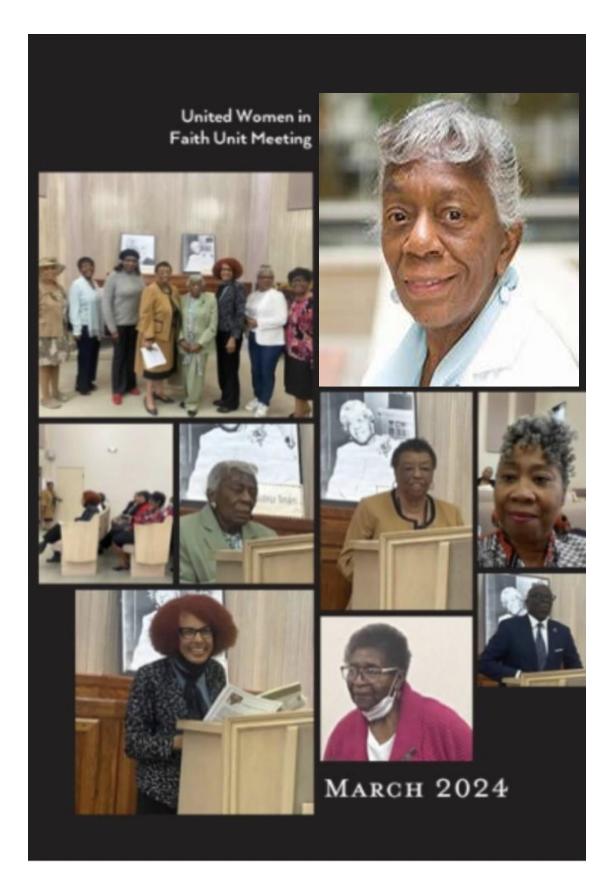
by Bonzie R. Williams

Women are blessings to the world. They are as precious as pearls.From, North, South, East and West, They have withstood the tests.Women are blessings to the world.

Women are lights to the world, Their love and beauty is unfurled. With their beacon lights, They brighten up the nights. Women are blessings to the world.

Women are helpers to the world, They are as beautiful as pearls. With outstretched hands they stand, Willing to do what they can. Women are blessings to the world.

April in Review ... and a little March, too!













Pastor Christian snaps selfies with office staff during Administrative Professionals week. *Clockwise from the top*: Aamina Mahir, Receptionist; Bettye Fontenot, Operations Manager; Jules Green; Tech Wizard, Systems Manager, and Jubilant Voice; Caroline McKenzie, Pastor's Assistant; Nancy Harris, 3FN Executive Director. *Opposite*: Dr. Josephine Isabel-Jones (upper right) was the featured speaker at Holman UWF's unit meeting in late March.

Scholarship Update

by Don Norman

Claudia Whitmore/Beatrice Borders Memorial Scholarships

Deadline: June 15, 2024

Holman United Women in Faith sponsors the 2024 Claudia Whitmore/Beatrice Borders Memorial Scholarships **for Holman women graduating high school and those continuing college/university classes**. It was founded in 1975 making it the oldest grant provider at Holman. Students have participated in church school, Youth Ministries, choirs, Summer Bible Camp and other activities. Winners traditionally receive \$1000, although five students were given \$1200 each last year. Scholarship applications will be available beginning May 1 through June 15 of this year.

Aside from the application, an official transcript is required with a minimum 2.5 GPA, a 500-word essay describing academic, academic, church and extracurricular activity, and community volunteer participation. Also, two letters of reference from non-family members are needed. Contact Claudia Spears, Scholarship Committee Chair, by e-mail at *cjspears1@aol.com* or call (323) 294-8622. Full details can be also found at Holmanumc.com. Scholarships will be awarded at the United Women in Faith Whitmore/Borders Memorial Scholarship program on Sunday, June 23.

Alen Henry Memorial/Permanent Endowment Scholarships

Beta Chapter Double Ring Club promotes the Alen Henry Memorial/ Permanent Endowment Scholarships. The grant was established in 1986 in honor of member Henry, an L.A. County Deputy Sheriff, who was slain in the line of duty. The Holman organization, founded in 1962, has awarded over \$86,000 to Holman members and those recommended by one who were graduating high school seniors and continuing college/university students. Either men or women are eligible.

Type-on applications can be accessed through the Holmanumc.com website. No hand-written applications will be accepted. Inquiries can be directed to Don A. Norman, (310) 892-6436. Deadline for all applications (delivered via mail or hand-carried) is May 15.



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Where will you be in September? We'd like to feature you in the June *Bellringer*. High school seniors, send us your happiest college acceptance photo - video for the digital *Bellringer* - along with your name, high school, and the college you'll attend next fall.

College, graduate and professional school graduates...

caroline@holmanumc.com

God Is Good All the Time! Sharing My Testimony

Has something like this ever happened to you?



One evening, I was driving through the residential streets towards San Vicente, on the north side of West Los Angeles.

I had stopped at a red light. It seemed like it took forever to change. As I was sitting there waiting on the light, I started thinking about driving on a green light the minute it changes.

Given the angle of my car, I could not see left or right traffic coming, so I inched out a little. The light turned green. There was no traffic in sight. A thought came back in my head about going on a green light so soon again.

So I waited five seconds, seven seconds, and then I proceeded out on the green light. It seemed the moment I crept out, a big truck flew in front of me, running a red light. I hit the breaks hard. My heart dropped.

I could not believe it. I would have been broadsided big time. I finally went on. I humbly said, "Thank you, Lord, for that little instinct which saved my life. I get it. Don't be in such a rush. *Be still*."

"Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10) reads the sign on God's waiting room wall. You can be glad because God is good. You can be still because He is active. You can rest because He is busy.

Sharon Jackson

Share Your Testimony

God is good all the time! If you have a testimony, you wouldn't mind sharing about what the Lord has done for you, please send it to my attention at this address:

info@holmanumc.com

2024 General Conference Update: UMC Divestitures

For Immediate Release Media Contact M. Theresa Basile info@kairosresponse.org (323) 253-9087

United Methodist Church votes to divest bonds of Israel and other occupier governments *Palestine is a theme at the UMC General Conference with groundbreaking legislation, public actions, and more.*

Charlotte, North Carolina – On April 30, 2024, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church made a groundbreaking call for church investment managers to exclude the bonds of three countries – Israel, Turkey, and Morocco – that are holding subject populations under prolonged military occupation.

In the first such divestment action by a major Christian denomination, the church has called on all its investment managers to avoid "the governmental debt of each such country until the time when each government ends their military occupation."

The church resolution, "Excluding Government Debt of Countries Involved in Prolonged Occupations," makes clear the church's desire to avoid profiting from the suffering and oppression caused by these decades-long occupations: Israel's occupation of the West Bank including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip since 1967, Turkey's occupation of Northern Cyprus since 1974, and Moroc-co's occupation of Western Sahara since 1976.

The UN has identified flagrant human rights violations in all three occupations, including: land confiscation, theft of natural resources, home demolitions and illegal colonization, deprivation of food and water, violence against civilians, mass incarceration for population control, brutality against children, and more.

"The timing of this decision is especially significant. When we see the ongoing genocide happening in Gaza, we do not want to be supporting the Israeli government with unrestricted governmental funds" said Lisa Bender, chair of United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR), the group that wrote and organized passage of this divestment legislation.

While much of the church's legislative session in Charlotte has been focused on church restructuring and issues related to LGBTQ+ rights within the church, deep concern regarding Israel/ Palestine also has been a prominent theme of the two-week gathering.

Bishops, delegates, and church members have participated in two public actions over the last week. At the <u>Rally for Palestine</u> on April 25, organized by UMKR, calls were made to "save Gaza" and "stop arming Israel." A <u>silent vigil on April 30</u>, organized by students from eight United Methodist seminaries, expressed solidarity with Palestinians and also with students advocating on campuses for Palestinian rights. Several statements and prayers by bishops and others in the plenary sessions have spoken of the suffering in Gaza and need for church action.

Besides the resolution on government bonds, the church has adopted this week several other important pieces of legislation related to Israel/Palestine and advocacy for Palestinian rights.

<u>"Addressing Israeli Detention of Children"</u> decries the abuse of Palestinian children at the hands of the Israeli military and seeks to stop U.S. military aid to Israel being used for those human rights violations.

<u>"Protecting the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice"</u> opposes the proliferation of anti-boycott laws in the U.S. and worldwide, which seek to intimidate and penalize those who support economic campaigns related to Israel and its treatment of Palestinians.

The church has renewed its longstanding position on the Israeli occupation in <u>"Opposition to Israeli</u> <u>Settlements in Palestinian Land,"</u> which includes calls for a global boycott of Israeli settlements products and an end to all financial support for the settlements.

Two more resolutions renewed by the church were "<u>United Nations Resolutions on the Israel-Palestine Conflict</u>" and "<u>Holy Land Tours</u>" which sets important guidelines for church members when they visit the region.

Also noteworthy was the defeat of a resolution which would have the church endorse the highly controversial IHRA definition of antisemitism, a document that many human rights defenders have opposed.

"For over a decade, Palestinian Christians have been calling out to the worldwide church for partnership in ending occupation and apartheid. Once again, we United Methodists are responding in a concrete, impactful way even as we continue to pray for peace and justice," said Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, who also spoke at the Rally for Palestine held in the first week of General Conference.

Colleen Moore, Director of Peace With Justice at The General Board of Church and Society, the social justice agency of the United Methodist Church, stated: "For decades, the United Methodist Church has advocated for an end to occupation for all people in the Middle East. The General Board of Church and Society is pleased that General Conference has renewed longstanding resolutions calling for a just peace in Israel and Palestine, strengthening advocacy and witness for a ceasefire and demilitarization."

This week's vote on Israeli and other governments' bonds is not the first time the United Methodist Church has supported actions that reflect the <u>Palestinian call for BDS</u> (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions). Besides the longstanding resolution calling for a global boycott of settlements products, the church's investment agency Wespath has barred investment in <u>five Israeli banks</u> and the Israeli company Shikun & Binui, as well as <u>the international corporation G4S</u>, in relation to the illegal Israeli settlements and other violations of Palestinian human rights.

###

United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) is an international justice movement in The United Methodist Church responding to Palestinian Christians' urgent call for action, in "Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth." UMKR seeks, through nonviolent means and in partnership with Palestinian Christians, freedom, justice and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis. For more information, visit <u>www.kairosresponse.org.</u>

For further General Conference 2024 updates, visit <u>https://calpacumc.org/gc2020/</u>



Radio Broadcast Sponsorship Holman **Bell Tree of Life** Ar & Mrs. Name of In Honor of Name of Honoree stember 18, 2005 Altar Flowers Sponsorship To donate, call the office (323) 703-5868



THE BELLRINGER

Foundation

A COMMUNITY CHARITY EVENT

HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST MEN

SATURDAY, 11 MAY

1ST ANNUAL

GOLF

TOURNAMEN1

Tieleist

AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, 11 MAY

Rio Hondo Golf Club

2024

REGISTER NOW

jmgambrell@earthlink.net

www.golfingwithcharities.com 323 503 5675

10627 Old River School Rd. Downey, CA 90241

MAY 2024

Golfing with Charities

2024



ZNDANNUAL KRUN/W/

SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024

CHECK-IN AND WARM UP 7:00AM - 7:30AM RACE BEGINS AT 7:30AM

HISTORIC LEIMERT PARK CORRIDOR 4395 LEIMERT BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90005 POST-RACE RECEPTION AT AZIZ GALLERIE 3343 W 43RD PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90008 THERE IS AMPLE STREET PARKING PRIZES AWARDED

3 MILE ROUTE EAST ON 43RD PLACE LEFT TURN ON 4TH AVE. 4TH AVE. TURNS INTO ROXTON LEFT TURN ON OBAMA BLVD. LEFT TURN ON DEGNAN BLVD.

MEMBERS: FREE NON-MEMBERS: \$20.00

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT BLACKWOMENLAWYERSLA.ORG REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 16TH

> FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HOLLY M. PARKER AT VICEPRESIDENT (PRLACKWOMENLAWYERSLA, ORG

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE OHOLMAN UMC

TURNING VISION INTO A PLAN

Boo camp

JOIN US FOR A 4-WEEK SERIES "DISCOVER SIGNIFICANCE BOOTCAMP

You will explore your purpose guided by faith and empathy. Our goal is to help you discover God's plan for your life, relationships, work, and goals. Through activities and discussions, you'll learn to make decisions that align with God's vision. With a clear structure, we'll guide you step by step, helping you gain confidence and clarity.

> Beginning MAY 15th 6:30 PM—Refreshments

> > 7:00-Bootcamp



facilitated by Pastor Christian Washington

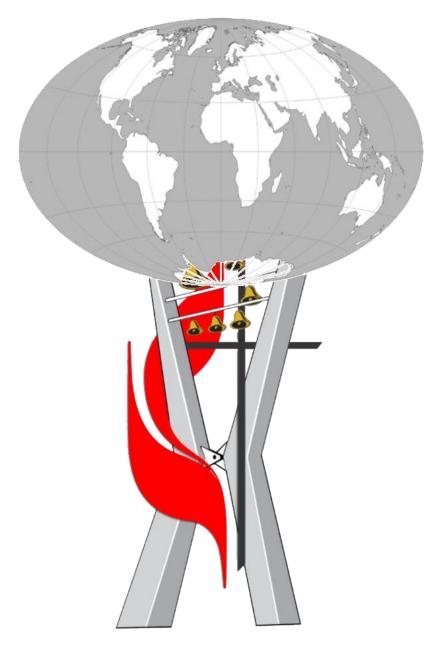
Sign up!

HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH L.L. White Hall

3320 West Adams Blvd. | L.A., CA 90018

323.703.5868 | www.holmanchurch.com

MAY 2024



Copyright © 2023 Holman United Methodist Church

323-703-5868

www.holmanumc.com

holman@holmanumc.com

All rights reserved