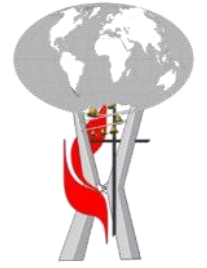


# *the* BELLRINGER



Official Newsletter of Holman UMC



SEE THE WAY  
STEP INTO THE WAY  
STAY IN THE WAY

*Lenten/Easter Issue*

MARCH 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

## 8

### *A Life Devoted to Service*



## 22

### God is Good...All the Time!

## 4

### Lenten Significance



The Significance of Lent .....	4
March Events Calendar .....	6
March Birthdays .....	7
A Life Devoted to Service .....	8
February in Review .....	10
God is Good All the Time .....	12
In the Black with Melitta Johnson .....	14
Ads and Announcements .....	15

## The Significance of Lent

In our Christian tradition, the season of Lent serves as a period of reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth, mirroring the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, facing temptations from the devil. These temptations act as powerful reminders of the struggles between the desires of the flesh and the call of the spirit that we encounter in our own lives.

During the civil rights movement, African Americans faced temptations akin to those experienced by Jesus in the desert. The first temptation, to turn stones into bread, symbolized the desire for immediate relief from centuries of injustice and hardship. Like Jesus, who resisted by affirming the importance of spiritual sustenance, African Americans found strength and resilience in faith, community, and determination to seek justice and equality.

The second temptation, offering all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship, mirrored the allure of societal acceptance and conformity at the cost of one's identity and values. Systematic discrimination and oppression can tempt us compromise principles for the promise of fleeting privileges. The God-given desire for connection and acceptance might be distorted into an appetite for power, fame and possessions. Yet, like Jesus, who stood firm in worshiping God alone (Matthew 4:10), and as our ancestors who remained steadfast in their commitment to justice, dignity, and freedom for all, so may we overcome by nourishing our souls with the word of God and a firm commitment to principle.

The third temptation, to throw oneself down from the pinnacle of the temple and call on angels to save, represented the temptation to rely on external saviors or miraculous interventions rather than taking action and responsibility for change. Jesus countered this temptation by declaring, "Do not put God to the test" (Matthew 4:7), emphasizing the importance of humility and absolute trust in God. In the struggle for civil rights, African Americans were urged to trust in their own agency, resilience, and perseverance, relying on God rather than passively waiting for others to rescue them.

As we reflect on the temptations faced by Jesus in the desert and draw parallels to the challenges encountered by African Americans during the civil rights movement, we are reminded of the enduring power of faith, courage, and resistance in the face of adversity. Just as Jesus overcame the temptations by relying on God's word, African Americans triumphed over injustice through their unwavering belief in justice, equality, and the inherent dignity of every individual.

Let us use this season of Lent to honor the legacy of those who fought for civil rights, to recommit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and equality for all, and to draw inspiration from their example of faith, resilience, and unwavering dedication to a better world. May we be guided by their courage and determination as we confront the temptations of our time and strive to create a more just, compassionate, and inclusive society for future generations.

Pastor Christian Washington  
UR Significant!





## **MARCH SERMON SERIES**

Based on Matthew 14:22-33

Rev. Christian Washington, Interim Pastor

March 3	Part 1	See the Way	Matthew 14:22-33
March 10	Part 2	Step Into the Way	Matthew 14:22-33
March 17	Part 3	Stay in the Way	Matthew 14:22-33

## **PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER**

March 24	Palm Sunday	The Outrageous Audacity of Jesus
March 31	Easter Sunday	The Significance of Jesus

## MARCH 2024

Date	Time	Event
8	All Day	International Women's Day
9	9:00	HUMM via Zoom
10	8:00 11:00	<b>Worship Service - Destroying the Fear Factor</b> "Step into the Way" (Matthew 14:22-33)
12	6:30	<b>SPPRC</b>
13	12:00 7:00	<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> (Crockett Library) <b>Lenten Book Study</b> Zoom ID 856 0940 5566
14	1:00	<b>Bible Study</b>
15	7:30a	<b>Prayer Service and Holy Communion</b>
16	11:00-2:00	<b>STAND-L.A. Community Workshop</b>
17	8:00 11:00 3:00	<b>Worship Service Destroying the Fear Factor</b> "Stay in the Way" (Matthew 14:22-33) <b>BMCR Meeting</b>
19	7:00	<b>Board of Trustees</b>
20	7:00	<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> (Crockett Library) <b>Lenten Book Study</b> Zoom ID 856 0940 5566
21	1:00	<b>Bible Study</b>
22	7:30a	<b>Prayer Service and Holy Communion</b>
24	8:00 11:00	<b>PALM SUNDAY Worship Service</b> "The Outrageous Audacity of Jesus"
26	6:30	<b>Finance Committee Meeting</b>
28	5:30	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY Seder</b> Contact <a href="mailto:HolmanLentenTaskForce@gmail.com">HolmanLentenTaskForce@gmail.com</a>
	7:30	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>Prayer Service and Holy Communion</b>
29	12:00-3:00	<b>Seven Last Words (BMCR)</b>
	7:00	<b>Faure Requiem</b> (Holman Choir)
31	8:00 11:00	<b>EASTER SUNDAY Worship Service</b> "The Significance of Jesus"

**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 @ 9:30am

[Electronic newsletter](#)

\*Contact the office for details: (323) 703-5868



*CONGRATULATIONS*  
**MARCH 2024 CELEBRANTS**

2	MARY NORRIS	7	JO-ISABEL JONES
2	DIANNE EUBANKS	7	AARON EUBANKS
2	LYDIA BLANDFORD	9	WILLIAM CAMPBELL, JR.
3	CHEYENNE ADDERLEY	10	EARL BARNER
3	BARBARA HARTELL	11	SHERYL E. W. RAINEY
3	KEITH MCGRUDER	16	KAREN STREETER
3	POLLY ANN MCKINNEY	21	HOWARD HOBSON III
3	MAYA RENE MONTEZ	21	MARY F. TURNER MILES
4	ERETHA MINOR	21	WILMA J. PINDER
5	DONNA RICHARDSON	25	WENDELL BELGRAVE
6	SANDRA JEFFERSON	28	ERIN BRIANA JOHNSON
		28	KAREN MIDDLETON-HILL
			BRITTANY RABB

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*

## *A Life Devoted to Service*

**K**evin Mc Gruder transitioned on January 1, 2024. His life was devoted to stewardship, and it is fitting that we pay tribute to him.

Webster's dictionary has said, "stewardship is careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Kevin lived up to this definition. Many of us here at Holman had the privilege of knowing him for his entire 47 years of life. He was a member of the stewardship committee and stewardship was present throughout his life. It was at his funeral that we found out that he devoted 33 years of his life to Holman Handbell Choir. Kevin served many ways within the music ministry at Holman. He sang in the Jubilant Voices and Holman Choir. Kevin was the Director of the Chimes Choir and alternate Director of the Holman Handbell Choir. He was a Church School Educator and camp counselor at Holman's Summer Bible Camp.



When I think of Kevin, the scripture Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." His life reflected this verse and paid honor to God, family, and church. Kevin lived life to the fullest wither he was in the Christmas Live Nativity or honorary member of the United Women Faith as their Internet Technician. Even when he was having health challenges, he continued to serve Holman. Kevin's life was one that focused on stewardship and was a wonderful example for us all. The poem "A Limb Has Fallen" from his obituary is a fitting way to close our tribute to Kevin.

Kevin Clay-Keele  
Member of the Stewardship Committee



## *A Limb Has Fallen*

*A limb has fallen from the family tree  
I hear a voice that whispers, 'Grieve not for me'  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the songs  
The good I lived while I was strong  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you  
Keep on smiling, the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest  
Remembering all...how I was truly blessed  
Continue traditions, no matter how small  
Go on with your lives, don't stare at the wall  
I miss you all dearly so keep up your chin  
Until that fine day we're together again.*

Author Unknown



# February in Review

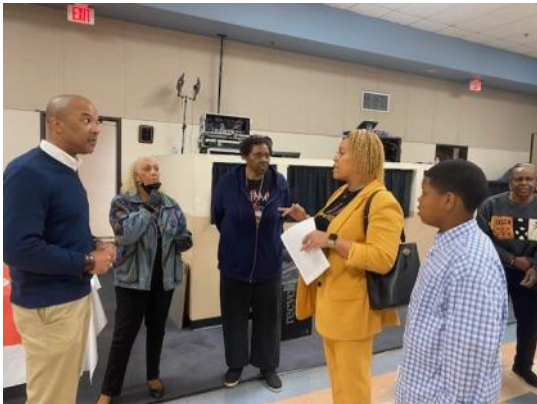






February was a month of celebration, goodbyes and new beginnings. *Opposite, clockwise from top left:* Dr. Josephine Isabel Jones (Dr. Jo) spearheads the Saturday School of African American History open house. Emcee Madison Mahyo pulls it all together; Dr. and Mrs. Walden pleasantly surprised at their farewell celebration; SSAAH panelists take questions from the floor.

*Clockwise from the top:* Members of Inner City Youth Orchestra of LA (ICOYLA) drum squad kick of the SSAAH open house; the Waldens honored by UWF; Interim Senior Pastor Christian Washington flanked by his mother-in-law, wife and Community Engagement minister, Rev. Louis Chase; Rev. Chase and Alvairene Scott at SSAAH; Dr. Walden, Camille Woolfolk, Sandra Jefferson, and Att'aya and Quincy Brown, Jr. in conversation at SSAAH.



# God Is Good All the Time!

## Sharing My Testimony

**I** worked at a LAUSD Elementary School for 28 years. It was around the spring of 2006 when the school I worked at had a minimum day schedule for a week. All the children got out of school at 12:00 pm.

I had been driving to work and back home. Well, I decided I would start walking to work since it wasn't that far. I felt I could get plenty of exercise by walking. The next morning, I walked to work.

I had a very good day with the children and my co-workers, I started walking home on a residential street, carrying my coat and purse. By the time I got about three blocks from the school, I had an eerie feeling.

I turned around and looked behind me, and there was someone ducking behind the bushes. I thought it was a child playing, so I continued to walk. I turned and looked again. A young man was stalking me. I began to walk faster and faster. Soon I made a right turn. I ran all the way to the end of the block and turned to see if he was going to show up on the other end from where I ran, and he did. He came out of a crouching position and stood straight up, seeming to wonder how I got way on the other end of the block so fast. He was discouraged and walked back to where he came from.

I went home angry because of that young guy. The next morning, I was getting ready to drive to work. I stopped and was thinking, I want to walk and get my exercise. So I said to myself and to the Lord, "I'm not going to let that stop me from getting my exercise. This is something I want to do." This time I walked the boulevard to work that morning. Once again, I had a great day. and instead of going down the residential street, I went back the way I came on the main street.

As I was crossing the street on my way home, a German Shepherd dog walked up next to me. It made me jump because no one was with the dog, and I didn't know whether he would bite. But as we both crossed the street, I stopped and he stopped. I walked and he walked, I thought that was very peculiar, so I did it again. I walked he walked. I stopped he stopped. I said, "Oh, this must be a friendly dog," but as I reached over to rub his head he walked way away from me. I couldn't touch him. When I withdrew my hand he came back to my side and continued to walk down the Main Street with me.



I was about five blocks away from home. I walked by some stores. Some were abandoned, and some were not. This one particular store I came to was abandoned with a deep hallway. All of a sudden, two rough looking men jumped out at me in broad daylight, ready to grab me. I jumped back, and then they yelled with fear and ran because they saw the German Shepherd with me. I realized that this German Shepherd had protected me from the two guys. I continued to walk home. When I got two blocks near my house, the dog and I stopped. The German Shepherd stared at me. I tried to coax him into coming home with me because I felt he would be a good watchdog- he had saved my life. Instead, he walked on, and I went on home. All I could say was thank you God.

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!

*Sharon Jackson*



Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

**Hebrews 13:2**

# *In the Black* with Melitta

## Building Wealth in the Black Community



*Melitta Johnson, MHA, grew up at Holman United Methodist Church. She is the daughter of the late Michael and Mrs. Annie Stafford.*

**Mission:** To increase wealth and share information in the Black community.

[melitta@melittajohnson.com](mailto:melitta@melittajohnson.com)

**Purpose:** To share bite-size chunks of information to increase wealth in the Black community through Real Estate. This information is for personal use or it can be shared with your loved ones.

### March into your blessings during Women's History Month

The Lord graciously remembered and visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for her as He had promised." - Genesis 21:1

In this scripture, we are reminded of God's promise. although we set timelines to achieve goals, our timing is not God's timing. In all that we do, we must trust in Him and remain faithful. Sarah's joy arose after learning that she would soon give birth to a child - even in her advanced age. We can relate Sarah's experience to any part of our lives, whether it's the idea of birthing a child, a new relationship, business venture, a new idea, or the desire to become a homeowner.

Ownership has been the goal of many over the years. Many want to buy property but have been unable to purchase for a number of reasons: historical discrimination, high home prices, high interest rates, fear and so on. Others feel like the timing is never quite right, BUT GOD! Trust in God's timing. He has a plan for you.

If it is your goal to purchase property/invest in real estate, trust Him. Seek Him. God will make the way. Remember God's promise to Sarah. Find joy in knowing that God has a unique plan for you.

Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." - Genesis 21:6

With love and gratitude,  
Melitta Johnson, MHA

Want to learn more? Call or text me at 310.245.7888, or email

[melitta@melittajohnson.com](mailto:melitta@melittajohnson.com)



California-Pacific Black Methodists for Church Renewal

# THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

Good Friday  
March 29, 2024  
12:00 noon

**Holman UMC**  
3320 W Adams Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90018





# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

\*MUST BE 21 OR OVER TO APPLY\*

## THE MAYOR'S CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM (CRT)

### SPRING 2024 CRT ACADEMY

MARCH 26TH - MAY 23RD (9 WEEK TRAINING)

TUES & THURS 6:00PM-9:30PM/ LAPD ACADEMY ELYSIAN PARK



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM?

The Mayor's Crisis Response Team (CRT) was established in 1998 to assist the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) during crisis situations. CRT is committed to providing resources and support on scene to survivors of critical incidents in the City of Los Angeles.



Required to complete and attend an interview session

Commit to volunteering for 36 on-call hours per month

Joseph Avalos,  
CRT Director

Ané Vecchione,  
Program Manager




To learn more or request an application, visit us online:  
[www.lacrt.org / volunteer](http://www.lacrt.org/volunteer)

Attend 9-week short term crisis training program

Respond to critical incidents providing support and resources

Contact: Edward Alamo,  
Deputy Director

 [Edward.alamo@lacity.org](mailto:Edward.alamo@lacity.org)



**Join the Lenten Task Force  
at Holman United Methodist Church  
as we celebrate the 2024 Lenten Season**

<b>Ash Wednesday</b> February 14	Receive ashes and worship <b>8:00-9:00am</b> Drive-by ashes in the parking lot <b>12:00pm</b> Service in the Chapel <b>6:00pm</b> Services in the Chapel
Concert of Negro Spirituals February 25	Enjoy the 62nd Annual Concert of Negro Spirituals Holman UMC Sanctuary @3:00pm
<b>Book Study</b> <b>Wednesdays</b> 7:00 pm via Zoom Meeting ID: 856 0940 5566	Read <i>Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith</i> by Selina Stone February 21 Dr. Walden February 28 Rev. Louis Chase March 6 Rev. Christian Washington March 13 Rev. Louis Chase March 20 Rev. Christian Washington
<b>Palm Sunday</b> March 24	Celebrate the start of Holy Week <b>8:00am and 11:00am</b> Worship in the Sanctuary and live streamed on YouTube <b>11:00am</b> listen on 102.3 KJLH FM radio
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> March 28	Commemorate the Last Supper 3rd Annual virtual Seder Meal @ 5:30pm RSVP to HolmanLentenTaskForce@gmail.com
<b>Good Friday</b> March 29	Celebrate the <i>Seven Last Words</i> with <b>BMCR</b> 12:00-3:00 pm in the Holman Sanctuary 7:00pm Holman Choir sings the Faure <i>Requiem</i> in the Holman Sanctuary
<b>Easter Sunday</b> March 31	Celebrate the resurrection of Christ <b>8:00am and 11:00am</b> Worship in the Sanctuary and live streamed on YouTube <b>11:00am</b> listen on 102.3 FM KJLH

Please consider a sacrificial Lenten/Easter offering of \$2 a day.



*Beautify the Sanctuary for Easter*

*Purchase Easter lilies in honor or memory of a loved one. Order via the Holman website, [www.holmanumc.com](http://www.holmanumc.com), or access the Google form [here](#).*

**Radio Broadcast  
Sponsorship**



**Holman  
Bell Tree of Life**



**Altar Flowers  
Sponsorship**



To donate, call the office  
(323) 703-5868





**HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST MEN  
SATURDAY, 11 MAY**

**1ST ANNUAL**

**GOLF**

**TOURNAMENT  
AND AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**2024**



**A COMMUNITY  
CHARITY EVENT**

**SATURDAY, 11 MAY**

**2024**



**Rio Hondo Golf Club**

**REGISTER NOW**

[jmgambrell@earthlink.net](mailto:jmgambrell@earthlink.net)

[www.golfingwithcharities.com](http://www.golfingwithcharities.com)

323 503 5675

10627 Old River School Rd,  
Downey, CA 90241

**Golfing  
with Charities**



**ATTENTION  
HOLMANITES & FRIENDS**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
MARCH 31, 2024**

**COME HOME FOR**

*Easter*

**CELEBRATE WITH  
PASTOR CHRISTIAN  
WASHINGTON**

 **HOLMAN**  
united methodist church

**WORSHIP SERVICES AT  
8:00 AM AND 11:00 AM**

**NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH AVAILABLE**

*sunday*

**POST-SERVICE  
CELEBRATION WITH**

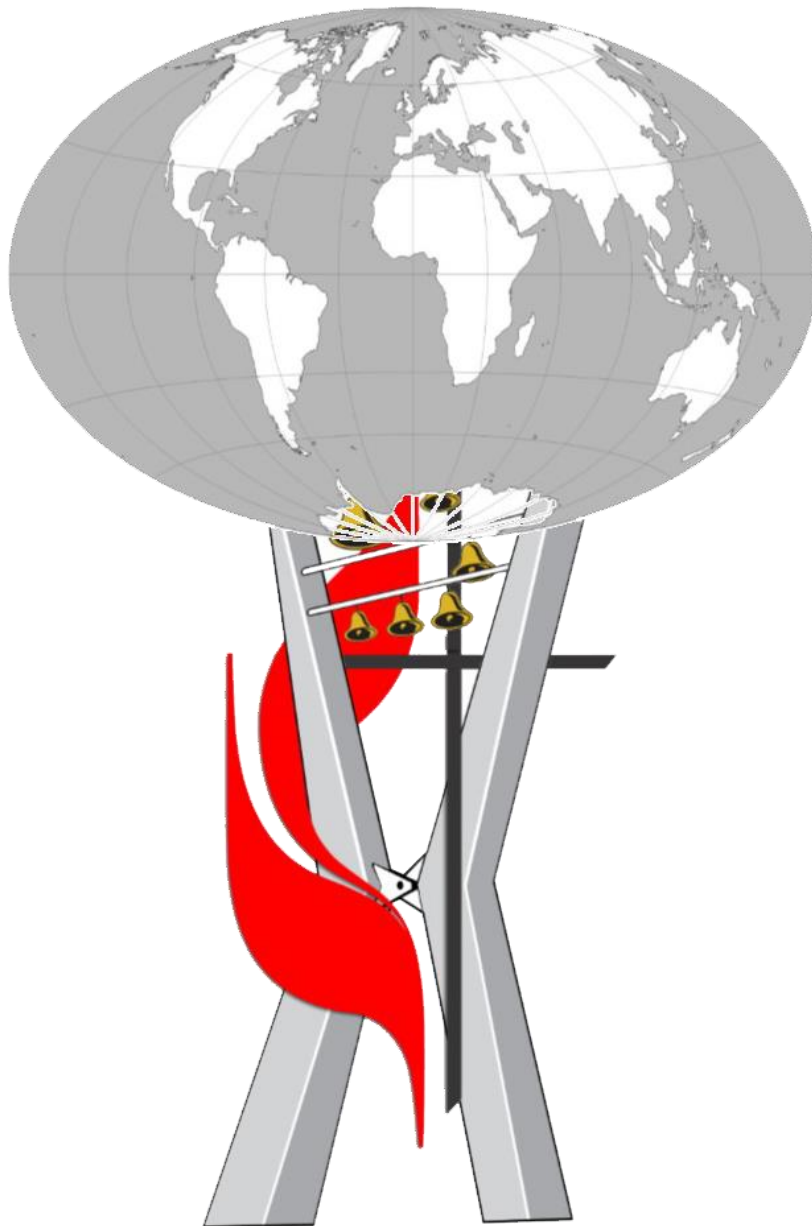
**FOOD+  
MUSIC+  
FAMILY  
PHOTOS**

**HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
3320 WEST ADAMS BLVD  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90018**

**SCAN QR CODE  
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PHONE: (323) 703-5868**



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Holman United Methodist Church

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