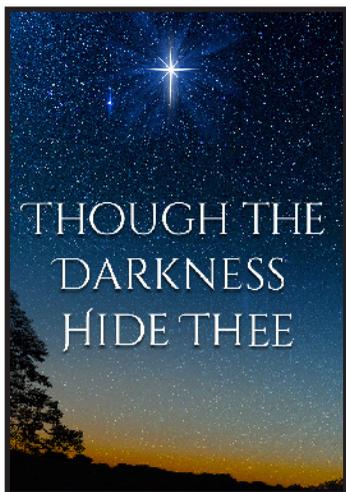


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent • December 11, 2016



"And blessed is she who believed that
there would be a fulfillment of what was
spoken to her by the Lord."

- Luke 1:45

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Tricia Lindley

PRELUDE Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Johannes Brahms)

Ty Woodward, Organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #230 United Methodist Hymnal – O Little Town of Bethlehem

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mikey Strauss, Lay Lector

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all the earth may stand in awe and wonder at your marvelous deeds.

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch,

**that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we
anticipate the coming of your light in Christ, the Messiah.**

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for
Christ will be their All!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please greet those worshipping near you.

As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. *Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Lindley

#2233 The Faith We Sing – Where Children Belong

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Dot, Kaitlyn and Emily Plukas

Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:

**○ God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As this candle is lit, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth.
May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#217 UMH – Away in a Manger (verse 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

As the congregation sings, the children may go to their Sunday School classes.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Robert English

Moments for Mission - Alternative Christmas

Linda Diane Anderson

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Amadeus Handbell Choir/ Mary Crawford, Director

Jesous Ahatonhia (arranged by Dale Jergenson)

Please turn to #244 UMH - 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime to read the text of this beautiful Huron Carol.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON James 5:7-8 (Pew Bible page 231, N.T.)

Mikey Strauss

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:39-55 (Pew Bible page 57, N.T.)

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Though the Darkness Hide Thee: Seeing Is Believing"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER ○ Come, ○ Come, Emmanuel (verse 6)

○ come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, ○ Israel.

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Rev. English

SILENT PRAYER

BIDDING PRAYER

Response: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Sing: **“O...star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.”**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Your generous gifts support the ministries and outreach of the church. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to “First UMC” in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also place your Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card in the offering plate. Give online at any time at www.santamonicaumc.org or by using the QR code in the insert. Credit cards are now accepted at the Sunday Hospitality Table during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.

THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

And the Glory of the Lord *from* Messiah (G.F. Handel)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tricia Lindley

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and have bound us together in love. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #249 UMH – There's a Song in the Air

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Tuba Tune (C. S. Lang)

Ty Woodward

*Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world.
You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.*

—VISITORS: Welcome! As you leave worship, please take an Advent candle as our gift to you in this holy season.

—As we gather for worship this morning, please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—The Spiritual Formation Council invites you to pick up your Advent Devotional in the narthex, at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office. Sign up to receive the daily email devotionals: santamonicaumc.org/adventdevotionals2016.

—Nursery Care is available at 9 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—First UMC takes the care and safety of children seriously. We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room. Please see an usher for directions.

—Flowers at the Reredos: Given to the glory of God, from donations to the First UMC Flower Fund. Please consider a gift to the Flower Fund, which will be used for Sundays such as today when flowers have not been ordered.

—Place your poinsettia orders and dedications at the Sunday Hospitality Table today or in the church office during office hours. The plants are \$12 each. Deadline to order is December 13.

—To request prayers, you may fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card found in the pews, and drop it in the offering plate during worship.

—If there are Prayer Quilts on the north wall of the sanctuary, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilts.

—Stop by the Hospitality Table in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center during Coffee Fellowship today for information, or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—If you have not already done so, please fill out a 2017 giving card (which can be found in the pew racks) and place it in the offering plate during worship or deliver to the church office.

—Stop by the Fireside Room to enjoy the photography exhibit by Allan Walker. These photos were all used as program covers for Westside Ballet of Santa Monica's annual *Nutcracker* productions.

—Next Sunday: Worship at 10 a.m.; Lessons & Carols: the annual worship service of music and word.

—Each time we worship, we collect food for the Westside Food Bank. In December bring peanut butters and other nut butters.

Resident Bishop
Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
West District Superintendent
Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa

Senior Minister
Rev. Patricia Farris
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New & Emerging Ministries
Rev. Robert English
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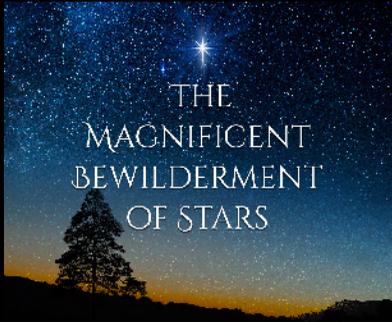
Communications Coordinator
Shalimar Carducci
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Head Custodian
Javier Espinosa

God is real. God is love. ■ Every person matters. You matter. ■ Together we can change the world.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258



THE
MAGNIFICENT
BEWILDERMENT
OF STARS

CHRISTMAS 2016

LESSONS & CAROLS

December 18 - 10 a.m.

A worship service filled with beautiful music of the season and the telling of the Christmas story from scripture.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

December 24 - 4 p.m. Children's Church & Youth

A "No Muss, No Fuss" Christmas Pageant for all ages.
Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24 - 11 p.m. Choir, Organ, Harp & Candlelight

A beautiful annual service of light, music, and the Christmas story as read from scripture.

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE

December 25 - 10 a.m. Carols and the Christmas Story

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www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258 · info@santamonicaumc.org

WORSHIPEvery Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**Every Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church***Theme: the meaning is in the waiting—signs & wonders.***MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK****Today** - 3rd Sunday of Advent

11 a.m. Alternative Christmas, Alcove

11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Alcove

Sunday, December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent •
Lessons & Carols • Children's Church

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, SH

11 a.m. Alternative Christmas, Alcove

11 a.m. Angel Tree Project (wrapped gifts due)
Alcove

2:30 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, SH

6:15 p.m. UMYF Christmas Party, FR

**CHILDREN & YOUTH****Children: Sunday School this Week**December Theme: *The Stories of Christmas*

Bible Verse: Isaiah 9:6 "A child is born to us."

Anchor Point: We celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 4: *Mary's Story* - Luke 1:26-38, 46-47**UMYF This Sunday**

Info: Youth Lounge, 6:15-8:30 p.m.

Program: Join us this week as we eat dinner together, play games, explore this time of Advent and begin plans for Youth Sunday!

*The youth program at First UMC is a safe, Christ centered environment where youth can gain tools to help them explore and grow in their faith.**Activities are designed to nurture relationships and build a strong, loving community. This is a place of acceptance, outreach and spirituality.*

For our full calendar of this month's events, including weekly group meetings, pick up a copy of the Sentinel located in the Narthex, or go to our website: www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar.

FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY**Ending 2016 in Good Health**

We look forward to everyone closing out their 2016 pledges. There's \$69k to go! Stop by the office, mail or make payment online via our church website. We will be accepting 2016 payments through the first week of January. Thank you for your support!

DISCIPLE: Whole Hearted 2017

It's not too late to fill out & turn in your giving card for 2017. The church budget for 2017 depends on the pledges we receive. The giving card can be found in the pew racks, in the church office, and online.

Santa Monica Nativity Scenes - Today

Starting today through January 6, the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes telling the life of Jesus Christ are on display at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at Ocean Park Blvd. and 14th Street.

Poinsettias

Beautiful poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary for the Lessons & Carols Sunday service, and Christmas Eve services. Order at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office. **Orders due by this Tuesday December 13.** Each plant is \$12.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**Angel Tree Project - Due Next Sunday**

First UMC is supporting Family Place of Upward Bound House with household items for the families and their apartments. Stop by the Angel Tree table during Coffee Fellowship to choose a gift. Then return the wrapped gift back to the church office by Sunday December 18. For questions, contact Chris Ruud: chr10is@yahoo.com.

Alternative Christmas

The Alternative Christmas Fair sponsored by the Missions Council offers the opportunity to make a gift in the name of a friend or loved one to one or more of local and global mission projects. Come by Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center after worship today to pick out your gift.

Upward Bound House - Home Run for Kids 2017

Register now for the February 12 5k/10k Walk/Run: www.homerunforkids.com.