

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WORSHIP

Christmas Day Family Service • December 25, 2016



"...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

– Luke 2:11-12

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WE GATHER

PRELUDE Carol Rhapsody (Richard Purvis)

Ty Woodward, Organ

WELCOME

Tricia Lindley

*Please fill out the attendance pad at your pew and pass it to your neighbors, then back down to the end.*

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #234 United Methodist Hymnal – O Come, All Ye Faithful

\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

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 CHRIST CANDLE

Sandra, Jeff, Jessica & Jamie Jones

*Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:*

**Loving God, we rejoice in your steadfast presence in our lives, and in the gift of your Son Jesus. Come Lord Jesus, be born in us this day, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May your light be kindled within us, leading us to the shining truth of God with us, God for us, God in us. 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 return to their seats for Family Sunday.*

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Robert English

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

**Thanks be to God!**

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 (Pew Bible page 58, N.T.)

Shannon Sturges, Lay Lector

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

SERMON "The Christmas Story"

Rev. Patricia Farris

#217 UMH – Away in a Manger

"Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale" (Martin Waddell and Jason Cockcroft)

#229 UMH – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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## WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #242 UMH – Love Came Down at Christmas

CORPORATE PRAYER

Rev. English

**Dear God: On this special day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we come together as a family with thanksgiving and praise. We praise you for your gift of salvation and for loving us as we are. We thank you for our family and friends who love and care for us. We pray for each member of our family, for your love and peace to surround us, for your Holy Spirit to guide us, for your loving arms to comfort us. We pray for families who are suffering and in need. Give us loving hearts to reach out and love them. We dedicate this day to you. We pray for your blessings upon our home. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## 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.**

## WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

*We thank you for your generous support for the mission and ministries of the congregation. You will find an envelope in the pew rack for your Christmas Offering. The offering plates will be passed to gather our gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC." You will find church brochures at the Welcome Table as you leave the service. You may give online or find out more information at [santamonicaumc.org](http://santamonicaumc.org).*

THE OFFERTORY Sing We Now of Christmas (arr. S. Clause)

Ty Woodward

\*RESPONSE #234 UMH – O Come, All Ye Faithful (verse 6)

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tricia Lindley

**We present these gifts to you, O God, and pray that they may be used for your work of love in the world. For the gift of Jesus and all your blessings, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN #246 UMH – Joy to the World

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Good King Wenceslas (arr. Robert MacDonald)

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.*

—There is no Sunday School or Nursery Care today. All ages are welcome in the worship service as we share together in the wonder of Christmas morning. Activity bags are available for the kids—see an usher for assistance. Parents with young children are also welcome to worship in the Kids Zone in the Narthex where there is comfortable seating, floor space and a few toys and the worship service can be heard through our sound system. A changing station is provided in the restroom located in the hallway just West of the Fireside Room.

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

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

—Flowers at the Reredos: In loving celebration of our wonderful son Dominic's first birthday and in celebration of Christmas Day, with love, Dane and Sarah Rold.

—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.; Epiphany; Holy Communion; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

—Each time we worship, we collect food for the Westside Food Bank. In January bring nutritional bars: protein, granola, energy or breakfast bars.

*Resident Bishop*

**Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**

*West District Superintendent*

**Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa**

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**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

# JANUARY at FIRST UMC

Pick up a copy of the First UMC brochure at the Welcome Table at the sanctuary doors as you depart. If you would like more information or have questions, email us at [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org), or visit our website at [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org). We hope to see you again soon! Here are a few upcoming events:

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## January Mid-Week Recital

The first mid-week recital of 2017 features Sean O'Neal, organ. These monthly concerts are free and open to the public and perfect for your lunch break. A short reception with the artist immediately follows. All are welcome!

**Wednesday January 11: 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

## Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Prayer, readings and song coordinated by the Westside Interfaith Council kicks off the 32nd Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations. The theme this year is "Stand Against Injustice."

**Friday January 13: 7:30 - 9 a.m. Simkins Hall**

## Youth Choir Initiative

United Methodist Youth Fellowship is excited to announce a new Youth Choir initiative led by Jack McHugh! We are seeking any youth interested in sharing the message of God's love through music of all kinds, styles and genres. While called Youth Choir, they will call on a multitude of talented instrumentalists as well—strings, woodwind, brass and percussion.

**Beginning January 15: 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Youth Lounge**

## January Book Study/Potluck with Rev. Patricia Farris

The first in the 2017 *Loving God with Our Minds Book Study* is *Not In God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Rabbi Sacks tackles religious extremism and violence committed in the name of God. If religion is part of the problem, he argues, then it must also be part of the solution. Come for a lively discussion that will help you ask your questions and clarify your thinking on the most timely topic. Bring a dish to share.

**Sunday January 15: 11:30 a.m. Fireside Room**

## *Hello Dolly!*

All Community Theater (A.C.T.) performs *Hello Dolly!*, the story of Dolly Levi (a strong-willed matchmaker), as she travels to Yonkers, New York, to find a match for the miserly "well-known unmarried half-a-millionaire" Horace Vandergelder. Tickets: \$20/adult, \$10/child.

**Friday January 20, 7 p.m., Saturday January 21, 7 p.m., Sunday, January 23, 1 p.m. Simkins Hall**

## Sacred Yoga

Santa Monica yoga instructor Temitope leads Sacred Yoga, a monthly spiritual yoga class open to all. Whether you are new to yoga and meditation or practice regularly, this class is the perfect way to find stillness in your mind and body as well as center and strengthen your spirit. Bring a mat. Donations welcome.

**Saturday, January 21: 10 a.m. Fireside Room**

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**5 p.m. **simple church** \*no simple church today**MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK****Today - Christmas Day**

10 a.m. Christmas Day Worship, (Family Sunday, children remain in worship, no Sunday School) S

**Sunday, January 1 - Epiphany • Holy Communion**

5 p.m. simple church, Chapel

**Church Campus Closed:**  
December 26-30, January 2

**CHILDREN & YOUTH****Children: Today is Family Sunday**

Children will stay in worship today.

**No United Methodist Youth Fellowship today****Save the Date: Youth/Scout Sunday**

Come enjoy the annual Youth/Scout Sunday service. The youth of First UMC have the opportunity to lead the Sunday service, from reading scripture to preaching the sermons that they have written. This day also celebrates the Scouting Ministries (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies) and their long-standing traditions of service to the community while transforming the lives of the youths.

**Sunday January 29: Worship 10 a.m. Sanctuary, Pancake Breakfast 7 a.m. - 1 p.m., Simkins Hall**

*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.*

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

We look forward to everyone closing out their 2016 pledges. There's \$33k 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**

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.

**Baptismal Renewal**

We will have a special time of reflection on baptism and have the opportunity to remember our own baptism experience during worship. Sunday January 8, 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES****Upward Bound House - Home Run for Kids 2017**

Register now for the 5k/10k Walk/Run on February 12: [www.homerunforkids.com](http://www.homerunforkids.com).

**Pennies for Haiti**

Start saving your pennies now for the Haiti Work Team's 2017 fundraiser, coming mid-February.



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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar).