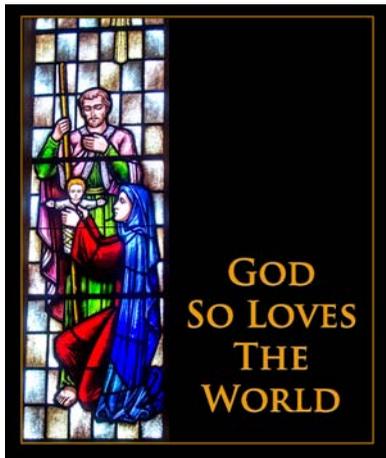


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W O R S H I P

Christmas Eve • Family Sunday • December 24, 2017



SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Rev. Robert English

PRELUDE Conventry Carol (arr. Keith Snell)

Brass Quintet

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #250 United Methodist Hymnal – Once in Royal David's City

*CALL TO WORSHIP

David Bremer, Lay Lector

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way.

To give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Noel! Christ is born today. Glory to God. Noel!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please greet those worshipping near you.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. English

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

Thanks be to God!

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Guerrero

#191 UMH – Jesus Loves Me (verse 1)

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Adam, Brittany, Caleb and Mia,
Patty and Mike Eskridge

Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:

Living God, come to our world. May the light of Christ shine brightly - at the center of our lives, spreading warmth and light, in us, in this congregation, and everywhere. 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. Children remain with their families for congregational worship for when there is no Sunday school. Worship packets for children can be found with the ushers.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. English

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

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. 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

Gloria in Excelsis Deo *from* Christmas Cantata (Daniel Pinkham)

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all men of goodwill.

O be joyful in the Lord, ye nations, with gladness serve the Lord, with gladness serve ye Him. *Refrain.*

Come before Him, come before His presence, come unto Him with singing, joy and exultation. *Refrain.*

Now know ye: know that the Lord He is God strong and mighty, He created us and not we ourselves.

Refrain. Alleluia!

*RESPONSE #234 UMH – O Come, All Ye Faithful (verse 1)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tricia Guerrero

O God, all the morning stars sang to you at creation. The angels praised you in song at the birth of your Son. May our offering be a true rendering of praise to you, speeding the time of peace on earth and goodwill among all your children. Amen.

Service of Lessons & Carols

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Patricia Farris

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 (Pew Bible page 638, O.T.)

Rev. Farris

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #216 UMH – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

SECOND LESSON Micah 5:2-5a (Pew Bible page 865, O.T.)

Rev. English

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #230 UMH – O Little Town of Bethlehem

THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 37-38 (Pew Bible pages 56-57, N.T.)

David Bremer

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #239 UMH – Silent Night, Holy Night

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 (Pew Bible page 58, N.T.)

Tricia Guerrero

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #221 UMH – In the Bleak Midwinter

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-15 (Pew Bible page 58, N.T.)

Rev. English

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #238 UMH – Angels We Have Heard on High

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 (Pew Bible page 2, N.T.)

David Bremer

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #254 UMH – We Three Kings

*** SEVENTH LESSON** John 1:1-14 (Pew Bible pages 91-92, N.T.)

Rev. Farris

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*** CAROL** #240 UMH – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE Carol Rhapsody (Richard Purvis)

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.*

—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.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room.

—First UMC takes the safety of the children and youth very seriously. We follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth, and adults.

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

—Please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—We welcome today's guest musicians: David Searfoss and Stephen Billington, trumpets; Jon Titmus, horn; Amy Bowers, trombone; and Doug Tornquist, tuba.

—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/advent.

—Flowers in the Reredos: "In honor of Herb and Mollie Krieger, David and Mary Williams, and Dixon Young." From Sandra and Ronnie Krieger.

—Flowers in the Narthex: "In celebration of Dominic Rold's 2nd birthday! The best Christmas present ever." With love from Great-Uncle Phil and Great-Aunt Claudia.

—You make pick up your Poinsettias tonight after Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.

—To request prayers, fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card and place 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 for information or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—Visit the Fireside Room to view *Shining Through: Photographs of First UMC Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows*, by photographer Fabian Lewkowicz.

—Next Sunday: Covenant Renewal Service; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

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

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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



GOD
SO LOVES
THE
WORLD

CHRISTMAS 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

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

DECEMBER 24: 4 p.m.

Children & Youth Choirs



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24: 11 p.m.

Choir, Organ, Harp & Candlelight



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

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**
 Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**
no simple church tonight

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 24 - *Christmas Eve*
 10 a.m. Lessons & Carols, S (*Family Sunday, children remain in worship, no Sunday School*)
 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, S
 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, S
Sunday, December 31 - *Faith in Action Sunday*
 10 a.m. Covenant Renewal Service, S

Church Campus Closed:
 December 25-30, January 1

**CHILDREN & YOUTH****Children's Ministry**

The Children's Ministry provides Sunday School classes, family programming and events throughout the year. Every third Sunday of the month, the children gather in the Chapel for song and movement, snacks and crafts, as they explore what the heart of worship is all about. Every fifth Sunday of the month, the children put their Faith in Action by working together during Sunday School to perform a loving act of service.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The youth ministry at First UMC is a safe, Christ centered environment where youth 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**January Mid-Week Recital**

The first mid-week recital of 2018 features Sal Soria, 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.

Wednesday, January 10: 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., Sanctuary

January Messy Church Meet-Up

Messy Church is a great opportunity for families to be together in worship without the worry of being too silly or "messy" because, let's face it, life can be messy! At Messy Church, we grow in our relationship with God and with one another through crafts, activities, music, and stories of God's love. This month we will have an off-site, casual meet-up at Virginia Park.

(2200 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica)

Saturday, January 13 between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leaders

Baptismal Renewal is a special time of reflection on baptism and on our own baptismal experience. During this worship we will also recognize and install the new Church Leadership for 2018.

Sunday, January 14, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.

DanceFit

Start dancin' and stay fit in the new year with DanceFit - a FREE monthly workout class with First UMC member Whitney Hagan, licensed Zumba instructor. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a towel. Tell your friends and check out the new dates for 2018: www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry.

Saturday, January 20, 10 - 11 a.m. Simkins Hall.

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 they have written. This day also celebrates the Scouting Ministries and their long-standing traditions of service to the community.

Sunday, January 28, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast 7 a.m. - 1 p.m., Simkins Hall

After worship, all are invited to stay for Coffee Fellowship in Simkins Hall.

If you are a new visitor today, feel free to ask any questions you may have at the Hospitality Table in the Simkins Hall Alcove.

FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Loving God with Our Minds Book Study/Potluck

The featured book for January: *And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning* by Dr. Joel M. Hoffman, professor, author, and translator. Rabbi Jeff Marx will be with us to lead our discussion around the riches of the Hebrew language and how inaccurate or misleading English translations often obscure or alter the meaning of the Scriptures. To whet your appetite, the author asks: "What's wrong with the Ten Commandments, starting with the word 'commandments'?" Come one and all for what will no doubt be a lively and spirited discussion. Book may be purchased on Amazon or at the Sunday Hospitality Table. Bring a dish to share.

Sunday, January 28, 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

2017 Pledge Contributions Due

The end of the year is coming. Some of you have said you will be out of town in the last days of the year. You may contact business administrator Christina Eddy (c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org) to arrange your giving at this busy time of year. Our church office is closed December 25 - December 30, but special arrangements can be made:

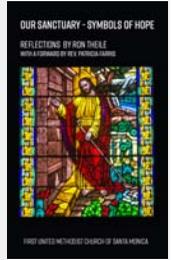
- Give at one of the worship services today or next Sunday.
- Mail your check postmarked by 12/31/2017.
- Contribute online at santamonicaumc.org/give.
- Use your bank's bill pay system.
- If giving stock or funds managed by a broker, ask for a transfer to be completed by 12/31/2017.
- Bring your gift to the church office.
- Lastly, if you are paying in January for the 2017 year, be sure to date your check 2017 and mark your check "prior year fulfillment."
- Giving statements will be prepared and mailed out Friday, January 8, 2018.

Thank you for making a difference in countless lives in our community and around the world.

For more information on these events, or to learn about our ministries and missions, go to www.santamonicaumc.org.

Our Sanctuary - Symbols of Hope

First UMC is pleased to present Ron Theile's writings in a new book called *Our Sanctuary - Symbols of Hope*. Originally written as monthly installments for the First UMC monthly newsletter *The Sentinel*, we've compiled each reflection and paired it with photographs of the Sanctuary stained glass windows, taken by photographers Fabian Lewkowicz and Allan Walker. Included is a forward by Rev. Patricia Farris. Ron highlights each of the stained glass windows, and includes a brief history and personal reflection. You may pick up a copy at the Sunday Hospitality Table or the church office. **\$5 suggested donation.**



In conjunction with the release of the book, visit the Fireside Room through December to view *Shining Through: Photographs of First UMC Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows*, by photographer Fabian Lewkowicz.

For more information on these events, or to learn about our ministries and missions, go to www.santamonicaumc.org.

Please wear your name tag to worship every Sunday. If you would like a name tag, or are missing yours, please email info@santamonicaumc.org to receive a new one.



2018 Stewardship Campaign – Say Yes!

The Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites us each and all to prayerfully consider our financial pledge to support the mission and ministries of First UMC. Pledge cards are found

in the pews, and may be dropped into the offering basket. For more information about the ways to give, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/give.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Houston Mission Work Team

This church community has felt called to respond in many ways after the devastation in Houston from Hurricane Harvey. Beginning with prayer that then led into the prayerful actions of collecting items for hygiene kits, and raising money for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. We have responded over and over to the call for help and will continue to do so this Spring. A work team will be sent to Houston in April to put our faith into action! If you are interested or would like to learn more, email Team Leader, Tricia Guerrero: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org or call the church office. Visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/disaster-response.

*For more mission opportunities, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions.*

OPEN INVITATIONS

Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is an outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. There are a number of ways to be involved: When a prayer quilt is hanging in the Sanctuary come tie a knot and say a prayer. Remember the recipients in your prayers in the following days. And join the ministry for work and fellowship on the third Saturday of each month in Room 300 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. You don't have to know how to sew to help.

Next meeting: January 20

Lectionary Scripture Discussion

A lectionary is a collection of readings or selections from the Scriptures, arranged and intended for proclamation during the worship of the people of God. The lectionary provides a guide to those who wish to read, study, and pray the Bible in tune with the church's prayer and preaching. Center your mind by joining the conversation! The coffee is hot and the discussion is engaging. Come and go as you need – and prepare for worship with deeper insight and understanding.

Sundays: 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

There are many opportunities available at First UMC for spiritual growth, fellowship and community. To view more, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org.

LOOKING FORWARD

Covenant Renewal Service

With the Sunday after Christmas falling on New Year's Eve this year, December 31, we have an opportunity to experience first-hand a worship service that had special significance for John Wesley. Starting in the mid-1750's, Methodist people observed a Watch Night or Covenant Service. While we normally think of New Year's as a time of making resolutions, the Covenant Service invites us to renew our covenant with God, whom Wesley called "Our Covenant Friend." Following a short homily, we will enter into a time of congregational prayers and covenant renewal led by our pastors. It is a deeply prayerful service, and it is our hope that it will be a true time of reflection and commitment as we begin a new year as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Next Sunday, December 31, 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

