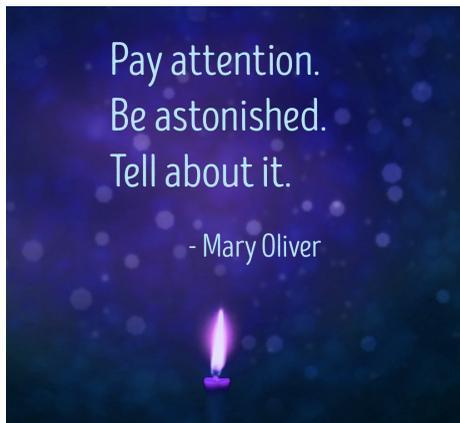


# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent • December 8, 2019



“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”  
- Matthew 3:11

---

## WE GATHER

WELCOME

Nathan Oney

PRELUDE Creator of the Stars of Night (George Oldroyd)

Ty Woodward, Organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #209 United Methodist Hymnal – Blessed Be the God of Israel

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Annika Dodd, Lay Lector

Timeless God of past and future, gift us now again with the Holy Spirit

**that we may make way for you to the humble with good news:**

to the captives with promise of release; to the bereaved with the comfort of beauty and new gladness; to the brokenhearted with tender, loving care; and to the oppressed with the promise of justice.

**Embolden us to be doers of your Word and heralds of your love and peace.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Tricia Guerrero

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Guerrero

#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

John and Kylie Sarley, Ada and Luke

*Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:*

**O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As these candles are 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

Nathan Oney

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

**Thanks be to God!**

---

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10 (Pew Bible pages 640-641, O.T.)

Annika Dodd

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

THE GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12 (Pew Bible pages 2-3, N.T.)

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

SERMON "Be Astonished"

Rev. Patricia Farris

---

## WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #211 UMH – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*verse 1*)

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Tricia Guerrero

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL 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.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Nathan Oney

*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](http://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

Who But the Lord? (Craig Courtney)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Who but the Lord can give the shadows light, can break into the dark, draw morning from the night? Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"? Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see, brings music to the deaf, sets the lonely captive free? Who but the Lord will by his glory show the paths of peace? Who but the Lord? O shine on us the brightness of Your face, to earth's remotest end, ev'ry people, ev'ry race. O shine on us until to each is shown Your saving grace. Who but the Lord can give the shadows light? None but the Lord.

\* RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

\* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Nathan Oney

**God of Isaiah and John the Baptist—through all such faithful people you proclaim your future of unending joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise: that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and sighing will be no more and the story of God's people will be joy. Amen.**

---

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* HYMN #218 UMH – It Came upon the Midnight Clear

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE In Thee Is Gladness (J. S. Bach)

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.

—We are now welcoming you to also use the parking garage pedestrian entrance/exit on Washington. The gate will remain unlocked for convenience on Sundays between the hours of 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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

—In case of an emergency, please direct your attention to one of the scheduled ushers, head usher, or Sunday coordinator Sarah Rold.

—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](http://santamonicaumc.org/advent).

—Flowers: 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.

—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 Fireside Room to see a selection of artwork by John August Swanson from the collection of First UMC member Meg Flanders, held in her memory.

—Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

—We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. In December, please bring peanut butter and other nut butters. You may leave items in the bin located outside the Sanctuary.

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

Senior Minister  
**Rev. Patricia Farris**  
[p.farris@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:p.farris@santamonicaumc.org)  
Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries

**Tricia Guerrero**  
[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

Pastoral Associate  
**Nathan Oney**  
[n.oney@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:n.oney@santamonicaumc.org)

Business Administrator  
**Christina Eddy**  
[c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org)

Congregation Care Associate  
**Anne Premer**  
[a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org)

Preschool Director  
**Dee Menzies**  
[d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org)

Assistant to the Preschool Director  
**Dane Rold**  
[d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)

Music Director  
**Dr. James Smith**

Organist  
**Ty Woodward**

Office Manager  
**Sarah Rold**  
[s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)

Membership and Facilities  
Coordinator  
**David Penson**  
[d.penson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.penson@santamonicaumc.org)

Communications Director  
**Tina Gage**  
[t.gage@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.gage@santamonicaumc.org)

Ministries & Communications  
Coordinator  
**Shalimar Carducci**  
[s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org)

Head Custodian  
**Javier Espinoza**  
Children and Youth Ministry Intern  
**Jamie Jones**

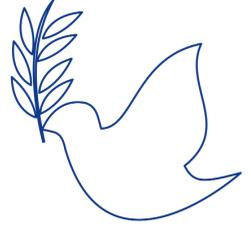
God is real. God is love. ■ Every person matters. You matter. ■ Together we can change the world.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA**

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) · 310-393-8258

December 8, 2019

Sponsored by the Mission Council, the Alternative Christmas Fair is a way to support mission projects and programs in the community and around the world, by giving a financial gift in the name of a loved one. Each donation (\$5 minimum) comes with a card with the gift information and envelope. Share the SPIRIT of Christmas! Here are the featured projects:



• **SFV REFUGEE CHILDREN CENTER, INC.** ([noestassolonorthhills.org](http://noestassolonorthhills.org))

SVC Refugee Children Center offers a healing embrace to the hundreds of unaccompanied children who have made the perilous journey from Central America to seek refuge in the San Fernando Valley.

• **WESLEY FOUNDATION SERVING UCLA** ([wfsucla.org](http://wfsucla.org))

WFSUCLA provides a spiritual home base and resource center for UCLA students, staff, and faculty through weekly worship, community service, and fellowship. Students can relax, study (with free Wi-Fi), eat (free food!), share faith, and meet friends at 580 Café, a gathering place near the UCLA campus.

• **CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY COLLABORATIVE** ([cyfcla.org](http://cyfcla.org))

CYFC serves foster youth in Los Angeles, Compton, Pomona, Hacienda, La Puente, Lynwood, the Antelope Valley, Long Beach and Montebello Unified School Districts through intense academic assistance and careful Pre-Emancipation Planning and Post-Emancipation support.

• **HARVEST HOME** ([theharvesthome.net](http://theharvesthome.net))

Harvest Home transforms the lives of homeless pregnant women and their children by providing housing, support, and programs that equip women to become great mothers.

• **INNERCHANGE** ([innerchange.org](http://innerchange.org))

At InnerCHANGE, we journey with the poor, working long-term with people who face enduring poverty.

• **ACTIONS OF THE HEART** ([santamonicaumc.org/acfair](http://santamonicaumc.org/acfair))

A Christian non-profit organization which supports restorative efforts in poor areas around the globe.

• **UPWARD BOUND HOUSE** ([upwardboundhouse.org](http://upwardboundhouse.org))

UBH provides homeless families with short and medium-term housing with a variety of supportive services such as job training, professional and emotional development, and life and parenting skills enrichment, designed to empower parents and their children to obtain housing stability, build healthy relationships, and enjoy emotional and financial well-being.

• **OPERATION GRATITUDE** ([www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com))

Operation Gratitude provides civilians anywhere in the USA a way to say “thank you” through sending individually addressed Care Packages to service members deployed overseas, to veterans, to Wounded Heroes, and to their caregivers.

• **THE PEOPLE CONCERN** ([thepeopleconcern.org](http://thepeopleconcern.org))

The non-profit organization provides highly effective, fully integrated services to the most traumatized, vulnerable and needy members of our community—homeless individuals, victims of domestic violence, at-risk youth, indigent Veterans, and people dealing with severe physical or mental illness or substance abuse.

**Today, and next Sunday, December 15, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., after worship in Simkins Hall**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *of* SANTA MONICA  
 1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258  
[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) • [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org)   [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

**WORSHIP & PRAYER**

Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**  
 Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**  
*simple church tonight: reflections by Nathan Oney*

**MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Today** - *Second Sunday of Advent*  
 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, SH  
 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Alcove  
 11 a.m. UMW Mini Bazaar, UMW Workroom  
 7:30 p.m. Christmas Concert/Reception, S/SH  
**Tuesday, December 10**  
 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, FR  
**Wednesday, December 11**  
 7 p.m. Methodist Foundation Meeting, CR-A  
**Friday, December 13**  
 4 p.m. Preschool Christmas Concert, Sanctuary  
**Saturday, December 14**  
 4:30 p.m. Messy Church, Chapel/Simkins Hall  
**Sunday, December 15** - *Third Sunday of Advent*  
 11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Alcove  
 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, SH (*final day*)  
 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Alcove (*return wrapped gift*)  
 11 a.m. UMW Mini Bazaar, UMW Workroom (*final day*)  
 3 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, SH

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**Children's Ministry** - December Theme: Church Communities Celebrate Jesus

Today: Sunday School in Room 206

**United Methodist Youth Fellowship**

6 p.m. UMYF Caroling tonight, OS

*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****First UMC Christmas Concert - TONIGHT!**

First UMC's Music Ministry Director Dr. James E. Smith conducts *A Christmas Celebration*, featuring Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax*, and Franz Schubert's *Magnificat*, for Choir and Chamber Orchestra, and the annual *An Evening of Carols, Etc.* with audience participation. Ty Woodward, organist, will be joined by the Mark Twain Ringers directed by Ron Theile, and spoken words will be read by Rev. Patricia Farris. Suggested donation at the door is \$20, seniors and children under 12, \$10. Don't miss this yearly event which, for many, sets the mood for the coming Christmas season.

**Tonight 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary, reception to follow in Simkins Hall.**

**Poinsettias**

Beautiful poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary for the Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve service, and Christmas Eve Family and Candlelight Services. Order at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office. Each plant is **\$13**, and may be picked up after 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

**Deadline to order is Sunday December 15.**

**Angel Tree Project**

First UMC church member Chris Ruud is organizing her 17th year of the Angel Tree Project - a community effort to provide homeless families at Upward Bound House with much-needed household items. Stop by the Angel Tree table during Coffee Fellowship today in the Alcove to sponsor a gift. Then return the wrapped gift back to the church office by next Sunday, December 15.

**Today, and December 15, 11 a.m. in the Alcove**

**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)

### UMW 2019 Mini Bazaar

The Mini Bazaar is open! Don't miss the UMW's famous peanut brittle, baby and toddler blankets, fine jewelry, ornaments, handcraft items, sachets, dilly dips, delicious casseroles and more, sold in the UMW Workroom. All proceeds benefit the missions and ministries supported by the UMW.

**UMW Mini Bazaar: Sundays: Today, and December 15, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the UMW Workroom**

### Preschool Christmas Concert

All are welcome to watch the Preschoolers perform their Annual Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary. Note new time this year, with show time starting at 4 p.m.

**Friday, December 13, 4 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

### Messy Church - Advent

At Messy Church, we grow in our relationship with God and with one another through crafts, activities, music, and stories of God's love. *December's Theme: "Messy Advent."* Advent is a special time of year, yet also very busy, as we get ready for Christmas. Jesus is at the heart of it all and so we set aside time at Messy Church this month to prepare ourselves to make room for the baby Jesus to be born into our hearts this Christmas.

**Saturday, December 14, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Simkins Hall/ Chapel**

### Parents Date Night & Kids Fun Night - Register Now

This month's theme - Christmas! While parents enjoy an evening out (and finishing up that last minute Christmas shopping) children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team. For questions, please contact Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries, at [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) or 310-393-8258 (ext. 104). Register here: [www.santamonicaumc.org/date-night-2019](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/date-night-2019).

**Friday, December 20, 5 - 8 p.m. 2nd Floor Edu Bldg.**

### Be The Hope! The Story of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica

If you haven't yet picked up your copy of the book *Be The Hope! The Story of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica*, written by First UMC member Jerry Brown, it's not too late! In 1975, Jerry wrote the Centennial History of First United Methodist Church in monthly installments, overviewing each decade of the church up to the 100th Anniversary. In this book, Jerry recounts the span of 144 years, starting from 1875 to the present, with historical photos and documents illustrating each era. Stop by the Hospitality Table during coffee hour to pick up a copy. (One per family.)

### 2019 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 always contact Christina Eddy ([c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org](mailto: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 these remaining worship services: Dec 8, 15, 22, 29.
- Mail your check postmarked by 12/31/2019.
- Contribute online at [santamonicaumc.org/give](http://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 12/31/2019.
- Bring your gift to the church office.
- Lastly, if you are paying in January for the 2019 year, be sure to date your check 2019 and mark your check "prior year fulfillment."
- Giving statements will be prepared and mailed out Friday, January 10, 2020.

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

### Lay Leadership Team and "I See a New Church"

The lay leadership team of Michael Olsson, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Sherry Erlandson and Todd Erlandson invite you to email your comments, questions and ideas to: [leadership@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:leadership@santamonicaumc.org). To read the *I See a New Church* Statement from the Lay Leadership team presented at Charge Conference, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/new-church](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/new-church), or pick up a copy at the Hospitality Table.

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### **UMCOR - Responding to the Southern California Fires**

The California-Pacific Conference Disaster Response Task Force is monitoring the current and recent fires in the Southern California area and offers suggestions to frequently asked questions in responding to the fires.

Go to: [www.calpacumc.org/announcement/responding-to-the-southern-california-fires-oct-2019](http://www.calpacumc.org/announcement/responding-to-the-southern-california-fires-oct-2019).

### **West Side Food Bank**

Food is collected every Sunday to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found outside the Sanctuary and in the Preschool. For the month of December we are collecting peanut and other nut butters.

## OPEN INVITATIONS

### **simple church presents: Blue Christmas**

Grieving is hard at Christmas time. If you are experiencing the loss of a loved one, a separation, illness, or other cause for pain, it may seem that you are alone while everyone else is experiencing the joy of the season. But the Christmas story itself is full of pain and loss. The Blue Christmas service is for everyone who might not be feeling up to the cheeriness of other holiday celebrations, aiming to make space for grief, meeting it head on, and perhaps finding some hope. If you or someone you know are in need of this space apart, please join us for a time of worship.

**Sunday, December 22, 5 p.m. in the Chapel**

*For more information, or to learn about our ministries and missions, go to [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org).*

## LOOKING FORWARD

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

**DEC 22 - 10 a.m.** Service of Lessons and Carols

**DEC 22 - 5 p.m.** simple church: Blue Christmas

**DEC 24 - 4 p.m.** Christmas Eve No Fuss, No Muss Family Worship

**DEC 24 - 11 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

