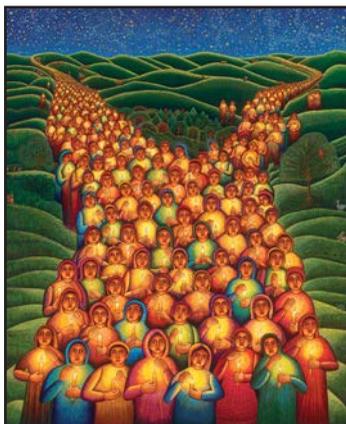


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 22, 2019



## SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

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### WE GATHER

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

PRELUDE

Brass Quintet

*Il est ne, le devin Enfant - He Is Born, The Divine Christ Child* (arr. Mark Questad)

\* 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

Nathan Oney

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Nathan Oney

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

#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

Debbe and Peter Adamson,  
George and Sydney

*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 go to Faith in Action in Room 206.*

## A TIME OF PRAYER

Nathan Oney

## 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

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

Angels from the Realms of Glory (arr. Dan Forrest)

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth. Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!* Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. (*Refrain*)

Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar. Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen His natal star. (*Refrain*)

All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One! (*Refrain*)

\*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

Nathan Oney

**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.)

Nathan Oney

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.)

Rev. Farris

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.)

Nathan Oney

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

Rev. Farris

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

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

**\* BENEDICTION**

Rev. Farris

**\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** Prelude in F (Dietrich Buxtehude)

Ty Woodward, Organ

*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 welcome guest musicians David Searfoss and Steve O'Connor, trumpets; Jon Titmus, horn; Brad Close, trombone; Doug Tornquist, tuba; Gary Gray, piano.

—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 David Penson.

—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: "This singer wishes to thank the pastoral, clerical, and custodial workers of our church, who enable the musical members to put the GLOW into the glory of our Advent activities. God bless everyone."

—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.

—Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services: Christmas Eve Family Service - 4 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 11 p.m., Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

—Next Sunday: Covenant Renewal Service; Rev. Larry Young and Nathan Oney will lead the service.

—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**

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**Dr. James Smith**

*Organist*

**Ty Woodward**

*Office Manager*

**Sarah Rold**

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*Coordinator*

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*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

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2019



artwork:  
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS  
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John August Swanson

## LESSONS & CAROLS TODAY • DECEMBER 22, 10 a.m.

Sunday worship service of music and word



## simple church BLUE CHRISTMAS TONIGHT • DECEMBER 22, 5 p.m.

A contemplative service for those experiencing grief



## CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE TUES • DECEMBER 24, 4 p.m.

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 TUES • DECEMBER 24, 11 p.m.

Choir, Organ, Harp & Candlelight



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA  
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258  
www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org   @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** - *Service of Lessons & Carols • Faith in Action*  
 5 p.m. simple church presents Blue Christmas, Chapel  
**Tuesday, December 24** - *Christmas Eve*  
 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, S  
 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, S  
**Wednesday, December 25** *Christmas Day, through*  
**Saturday, December 28** - *Church campus closed*  
**Sunday, December 29** - *Covenant Renewal Service •*  
*Family Sunday*  
 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship, S  
 5 p.m. simple church, Chapel

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

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

Today: Faith in Action in Room 206

This month the children will put their faith into action by making Christmas-themed care kits for those experiencing homelessness. Each kit will include hygiene products, candy, and a homemade Christmas card. The kits will be given to people through Martha's Kitchen, a program through The Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills that provides a home cooked meal for over a hundred people every week.

**United Methodist Youth Fellowship**

No UMYF meeting tonight, Christmas break

**FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY****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.

**Tonight, 5 p.m. in the Chapel**

**Covenant Renewal Service**

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 29, 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship**

**Bible Study on John's Gospel**

The Gospel of John contains some of the most beloved passages in our Bible but also some of the most confounding and opaque. It was written for a particular culture at a particular time in Christian history different from our own. Rev. Larry Young with Nathan Oney will resume leading a study of this distinctive gospel and what it has to offer our own faith. No advance signup needed—just come, and bring a Bible!

**Sunday, January 5, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Room 101**

**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)

### January Messy Church Meet-Up

Instead of our traditional Messy Church in the Chapel and Simkins Hall, we will have an off-site, casual meet-up at Virginia Park.

**Saturday, January 11, between 10 a.m. to 12 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 2020.

**Sunday, January 12, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.**

### Artist Talk with John August Swanson

First UMC is pleased to host an artist talk with John August Swanson in the Fireside Room. John will talk about his artwork that is currently being displayed from the collection of First UMC member Meg Flanders, and held in her memory. *Light refreshments served.*

**Sunday, January 12, 11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room**

### simple supper

simple supper is a simple church monthly potluck. Sharing a meal has always been a holy act of hospitality and of fellowship, and there is no reason to make it complicated; bring a dish to share, eat, and enjoy. There is no need to RSVP, all are welcome, and we will celebrate with those who are present.

**Sunday, January 12, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room**

### Financial Peace University

Need to get your financial house in order in the New Year? Learn about renowned financial author Dave Ramsey's tenets of eliminating debt, saving and security, and giving back. Join our 9-week Financial Peace University class led by Pastoral Associate Nathan Oney and past instructor Sarah Rold. For more information or to register, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/fpu](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/fpu).

**Wednesday, January 16, 6 p.m., in Room 301A**

### Family Place Community Meal

Going on its fourth year, simple church hosts the monthly potluck *Community Meal* with Upward Bound House's Family Place. Upward Bound House provides homeless families with housing and supportive services to suit their specific needs. They empower parents and their children to obtain housing stability, build healthy relationships, and enjoy emotional and financial well-being. The *Community Meal* potluck is an opportunity to help feed about 30-40 adults & children, served buffet style. Invite your friends and join the next potluck for an evening of conversation, crafts/games with the kids, and a shared meal.

For more information, contact the *Community Meal* Volunteers by emailing: [meal@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:meal@santamonicaumc.org) or call the church office (310) 393-8258.

**Thursday, January 23, 5:30 p.m. Family Place (1020 12th St. Santa Monica)**

### 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 (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) and their long-standing traditions of service to the community while transforming the lives of the youths.

**Sunday, January 26, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Simkins Hall**

### Save the Date: Parents Date Night / Kids Fun Night

While parents enjoy an evening out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner and a movie with the First UMC trained childcare team.

**Next Date Night: Friday, February 14, 5 p.m. 2nd Fl. Education Building**

### 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 - Disaster Response

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. To find out more about U.S. and International Disaster Responses, go to: [www.umcmision.org/umcor](http://www.umcmision.org/umcor)

### 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.

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

## 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.

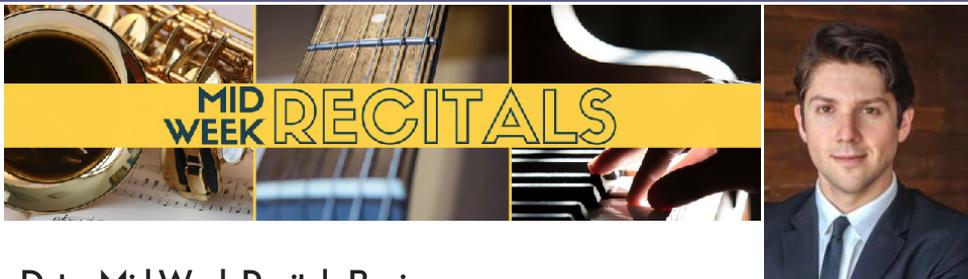
**Next meeting: Saturday, January 18, Room 300**

### Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study is a weekly meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture. As men try to navigate the stresses and complexities of this modern world and daily life, Men's Breakfast is a place for community, prayer and fellowship through the sharing of God's Holy word. Come by as your schedule permits.

**Tuesdays: 7 a.m., Fireside Room**

## LOOKING FORWARD



### Save the Date: Mid-Week Recitals Begin

The first mid-week recital of 2020 features David Childs, *baritone*. David holds a degree in Vocal Performance from UCLA, and specializes in Jewish Music. He currently serves as Cantorial Intern at Sinai Temple in Westwood and is studying at the Ziegler School of Rabbinics at American Jewish University.

**Wednesday, January 8, 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow in the Fireside Room.**

*Presented by Dr. James E. Smith, Music Director, the Mid-Week Recital series is held January - May on the second Wednesdays of the month (subject to change.) Recitals begin promptly at 12:10 p.m., followed by a reception with the artists. Free admission.*

**For the full list of 2020 Recitals, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series).**