



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2019

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2019

PRELUDE – Christmas Music for Harp

Amy Wilkins, Harp

WORDS OF WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

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 (verses 1-3)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Lamb, Lay Lector

He came as a baby in a manger.

O come let us adore him.

He came in a lowly stable.

O come let us adore him.

Shepherds brought their worship.

O come let us adore him.

Angels sang his praise.

O come let us adore him.

Magi brought their gifts.

O come let us adore him.

What shall we do?

O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

* CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

Wolcum, Yole!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Todd & Sherry Erlandson, Frances

Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:

Great God of love and light, we thank you now for the light of that special star that guided shepherds and wise men to the holy baby. Lead us now, by the light of your love, that we may also follow you to new life in him. Amen.

THE LESSON Isaiah 9:2b-4, 6-7

Michael Lamb

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Sussex Carol (arr. Dale Wood)

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Tricia Guerrero

UNISON PRAYER

O God our redeemer, when we have strayed from your paths, you light our way home. You send us your Holy One to guide the way. Let us follow in the way of your light, walking faithfully in the paths of justice and peace which lead to abundant life. Let the star of your hope touch our minds and hearts this night with bright beams of mercy and truth. May we find our way home to the fullness of your love for us, and for the whole creation. In Christ's name 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE Nowell, Nowell (Randall Thompson)

The Chancel Choir

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Ron Theile, Lay Lector

HYMN #221 UMH – In the Bleak Midwinter

RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Nathan Oney

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 in the Narthex as you leave the service. You may give online or find out more information at santamonicaumc.org.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Angels' Carol (John Rutter)

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Nathan Oney

O Holy God, in whom all hearts find welcome, we worship you this night with the simplest wonder. We are filled with love and hope because you offer us your life and your light. We offer back to you the gift of our hearts and our praise. May the birth of the Christ Child renew our lives and rekindle our hope. Amen.

HYMN #229 UMH – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

SERMON "Festival of Lights"

Rev. Patricia Farris

MOMENTS OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION – Lighting of the Christ Candle

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The lights in the Sanctuary will be turned out. The minister will light her candle and the ushers will light their candles from hers. The ushers will then light the candle of the first person in each pew, and they in turn will light the candle of their neighbor and so on, until all the candles in the pew are lit. It is requested that no lit candles be tipped. Candles are to be extinguished at the conclusion of the service.

*HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night (see insert)

During the singing of the last stanza, the congregation will stand and hold their candles aloft.

*THE RINGING OF THE BELL

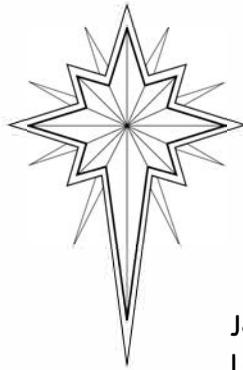
*HYMN Joy to the World (see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata on Adeste Fidelis (Richard Purvis)

Ty Woodward, Organ

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



Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin
mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister
Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries
Nathan Oney, Pastoral Associate
Dr. James Smith, Music Director
The Chancel Choir
Ty Woodward, Organ
Lay Lectors: Michael Lamb, Ron Theile
Acolyte: Cassy Williams
Crucifer: Annika Dodd
A/V Engineer: Michael Groethe
Head Usher: David Mayhan

All children are welcome to worship. There is also an area labeled “Kids Zone” in the lobby of the sanctuary just inside the front doors that is open to all parents with small children if needed during worship. You may sit or play with your children and still hear the service from this area. A changing station is provided in the restroom in the hallway just west of the Fireside Room. Please see one of the ushers if you need assistance.

Welcome! We count it a privilege and a blessing to worship with you on this joyous Christmas Eve. If you come as a guest, we hope you will leave as a friend.

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

We express our appreciation to Mike Eskridge and the Seasonal Displays Committee for the special floral arrangements and greens that beautify the Sanctuary. If you dedicated poinsettias, you may take them home tonight.

For information about what we offer, or to contact one of our pastors or staff members, visit our church website at www.santamonicaumc.org, or call the church office.

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 happy to have you worship with us this evening and we hope you will return often. Weekly **Sunday Sanctuary worship services** are at 10 a.m.; **simple church** meets every Sunday in the Chapel at 5 p.m., and **Messy Church** is a family worship service held monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SANTA MONICA**

1008 Eleventh Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403

www.santamonicaumc.org

310.393.8258

email: info@santamonicaumc.org



December 24, 2019

If you are new to First UMC of Santa Monica, welcome!

Whether you are familiar to the church community, in search of a connection to spirituality or are simply exploring, a full range of programs and opportunities for worship, study, service and fellowship are available here for you. Come as you are and be welcomed with open arms! Here are some events and on-going programs happening in January:

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. in Room 101

January Mid-Week Recital

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.*) These monthly concerts are free and open to the public and perfect for your lunch break. Recitals begin promptly at 12:10 p.m. and are followed by a reception with the artists. 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. To see the complete list of 2020 recitals, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series.

Wednesday, January 8, 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., in the Sanctuary, reception in the Fireside Room

January Messy Church Meet-Up

At Messy Church, we grow in our relationship with God and with one another through crafts, activities, music, and stories of God's love. Then, together we enjoy a shared meal. Children and adults of all ages are welcome so invite the grandparents, your neighbors and school friends to this church community. Be ready to get messy! For the month of January, instead of our traditional Messy Church in the Chapel and Simkins Hall, we will have an off-site, casual meet-up at Virginia Park. *Messy Church resumes February 8 on the First UMC campus.* Sign up for email reminders: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch.

Saturday, January 11, between 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Virginia Park: 2200 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404

[more >>](#)



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *of* SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258 · info@santamonicaumc.org

JANUARY FELLOWSHIP / COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leaders

Baptismal Renewal is a special worship service 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.

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 homeless 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 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

There are many opportunities available at First UMC for spiritual growth, fellowship and community.

For more info, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Home Run for Kids - 2020

Registration is now open for the 8th Annual Home Run for Kids Walk/Run in the Brentwood community of West Los Angeles. This year's event—including a 5k/10k chip-timed course, and a stroller & pet friendly Kiddie K— expects to draw over 1,200 participants with all proceeds benefiting Upward Bound House. This is a great opportunity for kids and parents alike to work together to solve family homelessness, a growing crisis across Los Angeles. Join the First UMC Team! To register, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/home-run-for-kids. (Team name: *First UMC Santa Monica*) Before the race, First UMC will hold a brief on-site worship service complete with Communion at 8 a.m. Look for the white First UMC tent. Find out what it means to pray on your feet!

Sunday, February 9, 5k starts at 9 a.m. Darlington Ave. & 11645 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA

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.umcmmission.org/umcor

Food Drives

Canned food is collected every Sunday to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found in the Sanctuary and Preschool. In January, we collect nutritional and granola bars.

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

Livestreaming Sunday Morning Worship

We now livestream Sunday morning Sanctuary worship at 10 a.m. via our Facebook page. If you're out of town or unable to make it into church, you can still watch the service in real time, or later at your convenience. (Barring any technical difficulties) Go to the First UMC Facebook page: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc).

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sunday – 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Sanctuary Worship is our morning worship service of prayer and praise. Through Scripture and sermons, prayer, music, and sacrament, we gather to grow in faith, find comfort and support, enjoy fellowship, and glory in God's presence through the beautiful music of our Chancel Choir and organ. Children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary, in the Kids' Zone in the narthex, or at Sunday School.

Sunday – 5 p.m. simple church

simple church meets in the Chapel, where we gather to cultivate calm, centered and compassionate lives which are possible by living by these rules: do no harm.....do good....stay in love with God.

Second Saturdays of the month – 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Messy Church

An intergenerational worship experience where we learn about God's love through crafts, activities, story and a shared meal.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry provides opportunities for children's faith formation within a community of care and love. On Sundays we offer Sunday School in the Education Building for fun, age-appropriate Bible story curriculum, music programs and Faith in Action service projects. We offer additional family programming and community events throughout the year.

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.

First UMC's ministerial team offers pastoral care. Please let us know if we can help you.
310.393.8258 x 114

www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook & Instagram: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)

OPEN INVITATIONS

Shareringers

The Shareringers is a group of mostly retired, but active people. We meet monthly for a Friday potluck dinner with a speaker in the Fireside Room. We alternate religious programs with travel, book sharing, and topics-of-current programs. Also, we have an outing each month, such as museum tours, barbecues and picnics, game nights, theatre outings, restaurant dining, and craft making. We are a caring, sharing group and welcome new members! For more information, call the church office: 310.393.8258.

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

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

Walk the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth laid in the Simkins Hall floor of First UMC is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth laid in the cathedral around 1220 CE. Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice, a way to quiet our minds and open our spirits to the presence of the Holy. The Labyrinth is open one Sunday a month, and also available for individuals, groups and retreats by appointment.

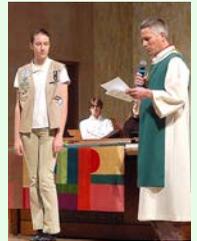
Sunday, January 19, 3 - 5 p.m. in Simkins Hall.

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

SCENES FROM PAST FIRST UMC EVENTS:



UBH Home Run for Kids - join the 2020 First UMC team!



2019 Youth / Scout Sunday



Messy Church meets on the second Saturday of the month, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Simkins Hall/Chapel



Family Place Community Meal



From the 2019 Mid-Week Recital series