

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

ONLINE Worship • Back to School Blessings • August 15, 2021



Ecclesiastes © John August Swanson

WE GATHER

Today's service is an Online service. Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream, for more information.

WELCOME

Melanie Hutsell, Lay Lector

PRELUDE Cavatina (Stanley Myers)

Jory Schulman, guitar

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leigh Erlandson, Lay Lector

Come and hear the good news.

Our God is a God of blessing.

God's love is for all people and all of creation.

Our God is a God of compassion and justice.

No matter who you are or what is happening in your life.

Our God is a God of wisdom and truth.

We are called to lives of faithfulness in beloved community.

We have been blessed to be a blessing.

RESPONSE The Doxology Aaron Shows, organ
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE Melanie Hutsell
We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service.
Thanks be to God!

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS (see insert) Rev. Patricia Farris, Leigh Erlandson
Response: **Pour out your blessings, O God.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV) Michael Olsson, Lay Lector
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "A Time for Everything: Back to School" Rev. Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Aaron Shows
Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD Michael Olsson

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

Sunday, August 15, 2021

BLESSING LITANY

Rev. Patricia Farris

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for this school year, a beginning filled with hope and expectation as well as uncertainty and anxiety. May the blessing tags which we give to our students and teachers bless and remind them that they have everything they need to learn, to teach, and to grow this year in school.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

Leigh Erlandson

We ask your blessing on school supplies and backpacks, on our computers and phones that help us to learn, to teach and to connect as this new school year begins.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

Rev. Farris

We ask your blessing on the students in our church and community. They commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. Give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to grow.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

Leigh Erlandson

We ask your blessing on our Preschool. Empower it to be a place to grow in knowledge and love for our youngest students and to be a community of support for teachers, students and families.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

Rev. Farris

We ask your blessing on parents. May they be guided by your love and given strength for patience, understanding and wisdom this year. May they also be reminded of the love and prayers of this church family that surround them.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

Leigh Erlandson

We ask your blessing on teachers. Help them to teach in new ways and to grow in knowledge and wisdom during this school year. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

Rev. Farris

We ask your blessing on the administrators in our school systems. Guide their decision-making with wisdom and love as they navigate and lead in this uncertain time.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Melanie Hutsell

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. You may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give, or mail checks through your online banking programs. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts. Thank you.

OFFERTORY

Chancel Choir Quartet

And All the Earth Shall Own Him Lord (Jerusalem) *from* “Chariots of Fire”
(C. Hubert H. Parry, arr. Fred Bock)

And did those feet in ancient time walk upon Israel’s mountains green? And did the Christ of heav’n come down? Was God in flesh both heard and seen? And did He die to prove His love? And did He rise again more pow’rful still? And was His rule on earth started there upon Golgotha’s tragic hill? Bring me my bow of burning gold! Bring me my arrows of desire! Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold! Bring me my Chariot of Fire! I will not cease to spread His light: My faith a shield, His Word my sword; “Til Christ, my God, is crowned as King, and all the earth shall own Him Lord!

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Melanie Hutsell

Holy God, we come with joy and thankfulness for the blessings we have been given. Use our gifts today to share your blessings in our community and world. Be with us in all that we do so our lives may be a blessing to others and give praise to you. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

POSTLUDE Postlude No. 5: Triumph (Aaron Shows)

Aaron Shows

*Chancel Choir Quartet: Barbara Smith, Vera Lugo, Anand Darsie, and Troy Robertson
Guest Organist: Aaron Shows*

—**Welcome New Visitors!** We're happy you're here. You may fill out a New Visitor Sign-In form online to send us your prayer requests, questions, comments, and suggestions. Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new.

—**Flowers:** To donate to the Flower Fund or to send flowers to home-bound seniors, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund

—**Prayer Quilts:** If there is a prayer quilt during service, you may call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you; she will let you know the requested prayers: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org, Prayers will be collected Tuesday – Friday of the following week, and the prayer knots will be tied by the church staff. To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry.

—**Give Online:** Thank you everyone for all your support during these uncertain times. The Finance office continues to receive your gifts securely online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give, via mail, or onsite through the office mail slot. No gift is too small. Thank you!

—**Prayer Requests:** The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. You may send a prayer request at any time, and our Prayer Chain will be notified of your request. For more info, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests.

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE via ZOOM or Phone In

- **Men's Breakfast/Bible Study: Tuesdays, 7 a.m.**
- **Young Adults/Open Space: Wednesdays, 7 p.m.**
- **Listening Hearts: a women's group for all self-identifying women, with Tricia Guerrero: Resumes in September**
- **Children and Family Ministry, Sunday School for Kids:**
On break for the summer.
- **Youth Ministry:** *On break for the summer.*

After Worship Social Hour: Sundays, 11 a.m. via Zoom

All are welcome via Zoom for a post-worship virtual "Coffee Hour."

<https://zoom.us/j/96578397184>

Zoom ID: 965 7839 7184 - Password: fumc

For information on how to join any of these ongoing ministries, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org.

Resident Bishop
Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

West District Superintendent
Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa

Senior Minister
Rev. Patricia Farris
p.farris@santamonicaumc.org
Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries
Tricia Guerrero
t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Business Administrator
Christina Eddy
c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org

Congregation Care Associate
Anne Premer
a.premer@santamonicaumc.org

Preschool Director
Dee Menzies
d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org

Assistant Preschool Director
Dane Rold
d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Music Director
Dr. James Smith

Organist
Ty Woodward

Office Manager
Sarah Rold
s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Membership and Facilities
Coordinator
David Penson
d.penson@santamonicaumc.org

Communications Director
Tina Gage
t.gage@santamonicaumc.org

Head Custodian
Javier Espinoza

Children's Ministries Coordinator
Jamie Jones

Social Media and Outreach
Coordinator, Summer
Jamie Kolnes

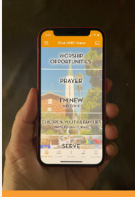
God is real. God is love. ■ Together we can change the world.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258

The First UMC App

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We are a community that prays for one another and the world.
Request a prayer anytime



Download the app

The First UMC App

If you haven't had a chance to download the app yet, we invite you to give it a try! With the app, you can: Listen to Sunday's sermon anytime, right from your smartphone or iPad. • Access a list of our events and get text notification reminders that pop up on your phone the day of events. • Access an audio/written Bible with a built-in daily reading plan. • Share the app with a friend.

Download the app here: <https://subsplash.com/76vw/app>

THRU AUGUST



Donations Needed for School Supplies

Benefitting:
- Sherman Indian High School
- School Bell Backpack Program

Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/give
Select "School Supplies" in dropdown menu

Donations for School Supplies

During the month of August, First UMC will continue the tradition of taking donations that will enable us to support low-income and marginalized communities. This year we are expanding our school supply support to two new organizations: Sherman Indian High School and the School Bell Backpack Program through the Assistance League of Santa Monica. We are ONLY accepting money donations (not supplies) towards the purchase of supplies in bulk.

To donate, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/give, click Give Online, then select "School Supplies" in the dropdown menu. Thank you for your support!

COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAYS 11 A.M. ZOOM



COME BY FOR
COMMUNITY AND CONVERSATION!

Sunday Zoom Social Hour

Catch up with the church community and chat about the topic of the day during after worship "Coffee Hour" **Sundays at 11 a.m.**

All are welcome via:

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96578397184>

Zoom ID: **965 7839 7184** Password: **fumc**

Next Sunday, August 22:

Join Rev. Patricia Farris for coffee hour!

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever: www.santamonicaumc.org/give

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