

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Online and In-Person Worship • Third Sunday of Advent • December 12, 2021



WE GATHER

WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Tricia Guerrero

Will, Christine, Julian and Lauren Sweat

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As this candle is lit, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us. May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE Savior of the Nations, Come (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget

Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

RESPONSE Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing,

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Leigh Erlandson, Lay Leadership Team

We give thanks for God's Creating Spirit that continues to give us life and lead us forward!

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:46-55

Rev. Olsen Paget

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "The Hopes and Fears of All the Years"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

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.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Leigh Erlandson

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. Offering plates are located in the Narthex. You may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give; mail your gift to the church; or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. 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 Octet
Emily Senchuk, soprano saxophone

O Little Town of Bethlehem (arr. Dan Forrest)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth. How silently, how silently, the wond'rous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of His heav'n. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray! Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell! O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leigh Erlandson

God of grace, Child of peace, Spirit of truth, we join with all the church everywhere in the world in giving thanks for all the gifts you entrust to our care. Through our giving, we present ourselves to be useful to one another and to you, ready to “be the hope” for our weary world. Work in us now, and make us ready for the coming of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in B-flat (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward

Chancel Choir Octet: **Barbara Smith** & Claudia Flanders; **Vera Lugo** and Karen Cronquist
Anand Darsie & David Bremer; **Andrew Pringle** & Michael McClish

*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.*

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

—**Flowers:** "In celebration of our 4th wedding anniversary on December 16." From Ann and David Wilson.

—**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:** Offering plates are located in the Narthex. You may also give 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.

—**Westside Food Bank:** We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. Bins are located outside the Sanctuary Sunday mornings.

STAY CONNECTED:

- **Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 7 a.m.** via Zoom
- **Young Adults/Open Space:** Next meeting: December 15, via Zoom
- **Listening Hearts Women's Group: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays,** Next meeting - December 15, via Zoom
- **Sunday School for Kids: Today and next Sunday** - Preschool Playground.
- **Youth Ministry: Sundays, 6 p.m.** First UMC Courtyard

Sunday Social Hour: Both In Person and Online!

After Worship in the First UMC Courtyard
AND continuing Online 11 a.m. Zoom Social Hour

Zoom info: <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.

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

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Alternative Christmas Fair – Online

Sponsored by the Missions 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 e-card with the gift information. Share the SPIRIT of Christmas!

This year we celebrate Alternative Christmas on the website through December.

View the 2021 Projects, and fill out the Giving Form online, then you will receive a receipt via email with your donation. www.santamonicaumc.org/acfair

*Coffee Hour with Missions Council

Join Missions Council today as they join 11 a.m. Zoom Social Hour to discuss the Mission Projects of the Alternative Christmas Online Fair.

TODAY: 11 - 11:45 a.m., via Zoom (see page 2 for Zoom link)



Special Charge Conference - TODAY via Zoom

With the authorization of our District Superintendent, Mark Nakagawa, a Special Charge Conference has been called for today, at Noon via Zoom, for the purpose of authorizing our First UMC Board of Trustees to vote on behalf of the congregation regarding the recommendation of The United Methodist Ad Hoc Committee, and its position on the proposal by the Boy Scouts of America in its current bankruptcy case.

Today, December 12, at 12 p.m.

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

Zoom ID: 965 7839 7184 Password: fumc



Poinsettias

Beautiful poinsettias are back this year to grace our sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. To order, you may fill out an online form, or call the church office Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Each plant is \$15, and may be picked up after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Order early as we have a limited number of plants and are requesting one plant per family, but you may list several names for your dedication. Order online: www.santamonicaumc.org/poinsettias

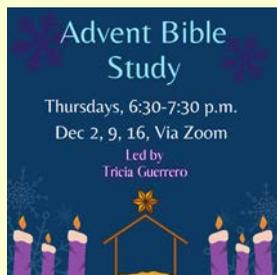
Deadline to order is December 21.

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



Creche in the Courtyard

Come by the church courtyard to view the annual Creche scene. At Christmastime, our hearts are drawn to the story of the humble birth of Jesus. You will find him in the creche with the Holy Family—Joseph and Mary—a shepherd, and the animals that shared their shelter and warmth. In him, God's love comes to be with us, bringing peace, hope and joy for all.



Advent Bible Study

There's one more session of Tricia Guerrero's Advent Bible Study on Zoom, and you may still join! The study helps us to prepare for Sunday worship in Advent, as we reflect on the coming Sunday's scripture, alongside parts of John August Swanson's artwork, *The Annunciation*. To sign up, visit www.santamonicaumc.org/advent.

Advent Bible Study: Thursday, December 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom



Stewardship 2022

Your steady and reliable financial support has seen us through lean times. We rejoice in these blessings and give thanks to God! Now it's time to lean into the hope that comes from God, pledging to do our part through our generous giving and financial pledge for 2022. Each gift makes a difference. Each pledge is an investment in the lives of God's people. Each act of faithful giving spreads God's love and hope far and wide and deep.

www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

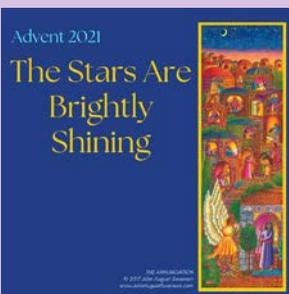


Sunday Social Hour: Both In-Person and Online

Come say "Hi" and spend some time in community after worship today. Following worship, come outside to the courtyard to visit and say Hello to one another. Then at 11 a.m., we offer Zoom Coffee Hour to all who would like to participate. **Sundays at 11 a.m. ZOOM MEETING ENDING AT 11:45 A.M. TODAY for Online Charge Conference starting at 12 p.m.**

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

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



Christmas Eve Services

**Christmas Eve Outdoor Worship
Friday, December 24, 4 p.m.**

First UMC Courtyard - Family Friendly
Celebrate with Christmas carols, re-telling the Christmas story, and rejoicing together! (service will be *Livestreamed from the Courtyard*)

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Friday, December 24, 7 p.m.**

In-Person and Online Worship
Choir, Organ, Harp and Candlelight