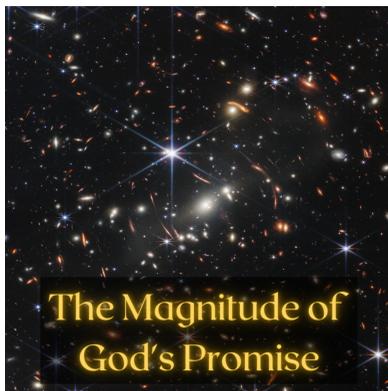


# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent • Holy Communion • December 4, 2022

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

PRELUDE Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Johannes Brahms)

Ty Woodward, organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#209 United Methodist Hymnal — Blessed Be the God of Israel

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free, who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given; a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day. On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Wilbur Fitzgerald, 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! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

*\*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Howard, Debra and Emma Wollitz,  
Adrian and Nathan Corrales

**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.**

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Dorothy Nichols, Lay Lector

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

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12 (Pew Bible pages 2-3, N.T.)  
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Wilbur Fitzgerald

HOMILY "The Magnitude of God's Promise"

Rev. Patricia Farris

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## WE RESPOND

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Dorothy Nichols

*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](http://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

The Chancel Choir

The Holly and the Ivy (arr. June Nixon)

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown, of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown, O the rising of the sun, the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ sweet singing in the choir. The holly bears a prickles as sharp as any thorn and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn, O the rising of the sun, the running of the deer, the playing of the organ, sweet singing in the choir. The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all, O the rising of the sun, the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ sweet singing in the choir. The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown, O the rising of the sun, the running of the deer, the playing of the organ, sweet singing in the choir.

\*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Wilbur Fitzgerald

**God of the prophets 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Farris

*I invite you to take the communion elements you have in your home—a piece of bread or cracker and a cup of water or juice—or the packet you received as you entered the sanctuary. As I consecrate the elements at the altar table, I invite us to commune all together, receiving the bread and cup which make Christ present and real to us in our bodies, hearts, and souls.*

*We experience the presence of Christ in our hearts through the grace of God which knows no walls or boundaries, in which there is no distance or separation. We are always truly “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world!”*

## HYMN #196 UMH — Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (verse 1)

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.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

## UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tricia Guerrero

**God of grace, Child of peace, Spirit of truth, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. Work in us to make us ready, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ’s coming in glory. Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL 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.**

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE Prelude in C (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.*

—**Welcome New Visitors!** We're happy you're here. You may fill out a New Visitor Sign-In form outside the sanctuary, go online: [www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new), or scan this QR code for the online form.



—**Flowers:** "In honor of my dear husband Wendell Furnas."  
From Karen Furnas.

To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund).

—**Give:** There are many ways to give! Checks, cash, stocks or wills, or your gift of time! You may give securely online at: [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give), via mail, or onsite through the office mail slot. Thank you!

—**Safe Sanctuaries®:** 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.

—**Prayer Quilts:** If there is a Prayer Quilt in worship, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilt on the north wall of the Sanctuary, or call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or [s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org). To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry).

—**Prayer Requests:** The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. Request a prayer at any time. Go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests](http://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:

To join in fellowship and ministry, here's how to connect:

First UMC website: [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

First UMC app: Download from the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM

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

Instagram: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC)

UPDATED: Currently, based on state and local recommendations, **masks are optional, but always acceptable and welcome.** Everyone is strongly encouraged to get your vaccinations and booster shots. If you feel ill, please choose to worship from home online. Let us know if you need assistance in joining online.

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)

Deacon Associate  
**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**  
[k.olsen@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsen@santamonicaumc.org)

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

Congregation Care Associate  
**Anne Premer**  
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Preschool Director  
**Dee Menzies**  
[d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org)

Assistant 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)

Head Custodian  
**Javier Espinoza**  
Children's Ministries Coordinator  
**Jamie Jones**

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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) · 310-393-8258



### Stewardship Continues

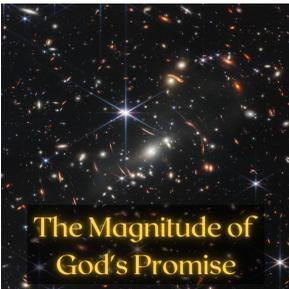
The 2023 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites us each and all to prayerfully consider our financial pledge to support the mission and ministries of First UMC. To fill out a pledge card online visit [www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship), or fill out a pledge card available in the pews, and drop it in box in the Narthex.



### Update

Dr. Jim Smith, Director of Music, will be on Leave through the end of the year to receive treatment on mobility issues. While this year's Christmas Concert will not be held as planned, we are fortunate that Ty Woodward, Principal Organist, will step in to assume direction of our choir. We will continue to enjoy beautiful music for the Advent/Christmas season in worship in addition to the December Midweek Recital.

## First UMC's Advent Guide



Today marks the beginning of Advent. We invite you to celebrate the season, inviting new life to be born in you at this time when we need it most. It is the gift of God's grace, bringing salvation to all. This year we celebrate the theme "**The Magnitude of God's Promise.**"

On the following pages is a list of ways to engage and move through the holiday season. All events may also be found on the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/advent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/advent)

### Advent Devotional

This year's Advent Devotional booklet is now available in the Narthex and at the Welcome table, and daily emails are underway. This year we meditate on these scriptures with the theme "The Magnitude of God's Promise." The collection of writings is offered as a framework for your own Advent ponderings. The writers are a diverse group of people, though all are from this congregation. To sign up to receive Advent Devotion daily emails, visit the website and click the Subscribe button at the bottom of the page: [www.santamonicaumc.org/advent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/advent). Audio devotions as read by the writers (*subject to change*) will be included in the emails from Sunday, December 18 thru Sunday, December 25.

# First UMC's Advent Guide



## Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree is back and is again being chaired by church member, **Chris Ruud**. This church/community project provides new household items to families of Family Place/ Upward Bound House with new things for Christmas. Celebrating her 19th year coordinating this fundraiser, Chris is excited that there will be a table in the Courtyard after worship to take sign-ups. If you worship online, or can't make it to church, please call or email Chris (310 393.3255, [chr10is@yahoo.com](mailto:chr10is@yahoo.com)) for info on what you can do to help. **Runs thru December 18, in the Courtyard**

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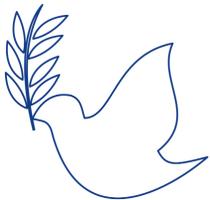


## Family Ministry's Advent Toy Drive

Family Ministries is hosting an Advent Toy Drive benefiting the Children, Youth & Family Collaborative (CYFC), one of two covenant missionaries supported by First UMC, and headed by Lydia Templeton. Toy donations continue - look for the bin in the Courtyard or outside Room 206 to drop off your toy donations. Then on December 11 during Sunday School, children and youth are invited to participate in a Faith in Action service project to wrap all the toys!

**Runs thru December 11**

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## Alternative Christmas: In-Person and Online

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. After worship visit the displays in the Courtyard celebrating this year's featured missions: Harvest Home, Upward Bound House, Wesley Foundation of UCLA, CYFC, InnerChange, The People Concern, Haiti Missions, Good Samaritan Medical and Dental Ministry, and Westside Food Bank. To find out more about each group, and donate through December, visit the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/mission-partners](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mission-partners)

**December 4 and December 11, in the Courtyard, through December online**

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## United Women in Faith: Peanut Brittle Sales, and a Mini Boutique

United Women in Faith are excited to be back selling hand-made **peanut brittle** on the Sundays of December 4 and December 11, after worship in the Courtyard. Then on December 18 they're offering a "Mini Boutique," selling more peanut brittle and a limited amount of home-made items.

**December 4, 11 & 18 in the Courtyard**

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## Open Space Christmas Party

All young adults are welcome to join Open Space for their Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, on Wednesday December 14, from 7 - 9 p.m., at the Princeton Street Parsonage. Contact Tricia for details ([t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org), or DM @openspacecm on Instagram)

**Wednesday, December 14, 7 - 9 p.m.**

FIRST UMC'S



United  
Women  
in Faith



Open Space  
Santa Monica, CA

2022

**Beth Chouinard-Mitchell, tuba**  
**Hannah Yi, piano**

Wednesday  
**DEC 14**  
12:10 P.M. PT

STREAMING LIVE ON

Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](#)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/santamonicaumc](#)

Online  
**MID WEEK RECITALS**

## December Mid-Week Recital

Listen to beautiful music this Advent Season! The December Mid-Week Recital features: Beth Chouinard-Mitchell, tuba; Hannah Yi, piano.

**How to watch:** • Facebook Live - Search @santamonicaumc • YouTube Live- Search "Santa Monica UMC" • Website - [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream) • The App - download the app at the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM

**Wednesday, December 14, 12:10 p.m. Livestream**

*Available to watch anytime afterwards on the above platforms.*

Hosted by Fellowship and Events

**Advent Brunch**  
**Sunday, December 18**  
after worship in Simkins Hall

Activities will include seasonal crafts, card making for homebound members, caroling, and a special visit from Santa!



## Advent Brunch

Save the date for a special Advent Brunch following worship of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 18, hosted by Fellowship and Events. Activities will include seasonal crafts, card-making for homebound members, caroling, and a special visit from Santa! *A light lunch will be served.*

**Sunday, December 18, after worship in Simkins Hall**

ORDER NOW!

**Poinsettias**  
• \$15 PER ORDER •



## Poinsettia Dedications

Beautiful poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Family and Candlelight Services. A dedication insert will be in the Order of Worship for December 18, and the Christmas Eve services. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, online here: [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund), or call the church office. Each plant is \$15, and may be picked up after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Any plants remaining will be delivered to members unable to attend service this season.

**Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 13.**



## Preschool Christmas Concert

The First UMC Preschool is excited to have the Preschool Christmas Concert back in the Sanctuary this year! All are welcome to watch the adorable Preschoolers perform their holiday songs.

**Friday, December 16, 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**



## First UMC Creche

We invite you to our courtyard to view our Nativity scene, or creche, with the Holy Family—Joseph and Mary, and the animals that shared their shelter and warmth. We celebrate God's love that comes to be with us, bringing peace, hope and joy for all. The display will be on view through December.



## Santa Monica Nativity Scenes

The Calvary Baptist Church, located at 1502 20th Street, will again be the home of Santa Monica's annual Nativity Scenes display starting on December 11, and continuing through the beginning of January.

# First UMC's *Advent Guide*

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

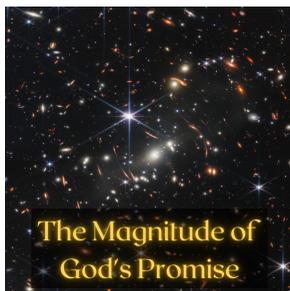
- Sun Dec 4** Holy Communion / Second Sunday of Advent  
*After worship:* Alternative Christmas  
Angel Tree Project  
Family Ministry's Advent Toy Drive  
United Women in Faith selling Peanut Brittle
- Sat Dec 10** Family Connection Christmas Party
- Sun Dec 11** Third Sunday of Advent  
*After worship:* Alternative Christmas  
Angel Tree Project  
Family Ministry's Advent Toy Drive  
United Women in Faith selling Peanut Brittle  
Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel - 4 p.m.
- Wed Dec 14** December Mid-Week Recital  
Open Space Christmas Party
- Fri Dec 16** Preschool Christmas Concert
- Sun Dec 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent, Service of Lessons & Carols (Part 1)  
*After worship:* Advent Brunch  
Angel Tree Project (final Sunday)  
United Women in Faith Mini Boutique  
Blood Pressure Screenings  
UMYF Christmas Party
- Fri Dec 23** United Methodist Youth Alumni Christmas Party
- Dec 24** **Christmas Eve Services - 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.**
- Sun Dec 25** Christmas Day - Family Sunday, Service of Lessons & Carols (Part 2)
- Dec 26 - Jan 2** Church Office Closed



### Blue Christmas Service

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 11, 4 p.m. in the Chapel**



### CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

A "No Muss, No Fuss" Christmas Pageant for all ages. Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate.

**Saturday, December 24, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Special choir music and candlelight.

**Saturday, December 24, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

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