

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

SENTINEL

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HORIZONS

From World Communion Sunday to the Blessing of the Animals to the 20th Celebration of our Prayer Quilt Ministry to the Preschool Fall Festival and on to Children's Sabbath, we will be celebrating our way through October!

It's fun to think of all the ways that the ministries and mission of First UMC bless so many throughout our community of faith and beyond each and every day, week, and month. From big festivities to whispered prayers, we share God's love with those near and those far and wide.

Jesus put it this way: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Let us be known by our love, and by the love of God shining through all that we do and in the very people that we are.

Rev. Patricia Farris

Senior Minister

Prayer Quilt Ministry Celebrates 20 Years!

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the First UMC Prayer Quilt Ministry, and we invite you to celebrate with us! The worship on **Sunday, October 15**, will be a special service to lift up the impact of this meaningful ministry. If you've received a quilt, prayed over and tied a quilt knot, requested a quilt for someone, or received a prayer or pocket square—(essentially everyone in the congregation!)—you won't want to miss this celebration!

Highlights of the day include:

- **Pocket squares** will be handed out to everyone as they enter the Sanctuary
- **Prayer quilt displays** will grace the chancel with their beauty
- A special **Moments for Mission** during worship with Char Smith, with a personal testimonial from Carol Greenwood
- After worship, the celebration continues with **quilt displays***, and a **special video of the history** of the Prayer Quilt Ministry that will be aired during coffee hour.

Prayer Quilt Ministry 20th Anniversary Celebration: Sunday, October 15, during 10 a.m. worship and coffee hour

*If you have received a Prayer Quilt that you would like to have displayed during the celebration coffee hour and then returned to you, please contact the church office to arrange dropping off your quilt from October 9 - 13. You may also bring your quilt with you on Sunday, October 15, to share with others during and after worship.

"It's not about the quilt, it's all about the prayers."



*Sue Payne (left), and Maile Marquand, (right)
two of the founding members of the
First UMC Prayer Quilt Ministry*

A Prayer Quilt is a personal quilt, tied with heavy thread. These threads are tied with a square knot by members of the congregation during a worship service. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is offered for the person receiving the quilt. There is no cost for the quilt – it is a gift of love and prayer. It is a statement of our faith in God and our belief in God's power to comfort, strengthen, and heal.





WORSHIP 10 a.m. In-Person & Online

Worship in the Sanctuary

We worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person in the Sanctuary each week. 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.



Thanks to **Char Smith** for baking the Communion bread for October. **Berneice Southcott** prepares the Communion elements before worship, with the help of Congregation Care Associate **Anne Premer**. **Mary Crawford** and **Rose Kujawa** help take care of the elements after worship. Thank you all for your service!

Worship Online

We offer several options for participating in online worship. **You may join in the service Livestream in real time or later at your convenience on these platforms:**

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream (no ads)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live
- YouTube Channel: search [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC)
- The First UMC App: (download from the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

October Ongoing Ministries:

- **Men's Bible Study** Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom
- **Open Space Young Adults** First and third Wednesdays Oct 4 & 18
- **Listening Hearts Women's Group** Oct 4 & 18, Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025) Oct 11 & 25, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Prayer Quilt Ministry** Third Saturday of the month: Oct 21, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Room 300
- **The Chancel Choir** Rehearsals on Thursdays 7:40 p.m. in the Choir Room
- **Nursery Care** Sundays: 9:30 - 11 a.m. Room 204
- **Blood Pressure Screenings** Sunday Oct 22, after worship in the Alcove
- **Sunday School for Kids** Sundays, 10 a.m. in Room 206, for ages 2 and up.
- **UMYF Youth Group** Meets Sundays, 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

For more information on all of these programs, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/small-groups



Children's Ministry

You may have noticed the re-instated Children's Message during worship recently! Jamie Jones, the Sunday School teachers, and a few other special guests, will be offering weekly messages to children at the beginning of worship each Sunday. This means our families will begin worship with us each week before heading to Sunday School following the Children's Message. To help welcome our kids back into the Sanctuary, you are invited you to look around and greet a child and their family each Sunday. You might hear a few more giggles and whispers or see a few more wiggles...let's celebrate the joyful and life-filled presence each beloved child brings to our community each week!



Listening Hearts Women's Group with Tricia Guerrero

Listening Hearts is a group for women of all ages, grounded in the practices of sacred listening, prayer and reflection. We gather both in person and online. For the Fall, we will meet for coffee and community at Literati Cafe on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 10 a.m. We will gather on Zoom for meditation and prayer, a topic for discussion, and sharing with one another on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join! Contact Tricia Guerrero to learn more:



t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Open Space Young Adults

A place of community for "youngish" adults (loosely in your 20's, 30's... even 40's!). We seek to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. We gather twice a month for conversations and connection.

Wednesdays, October 4 & 18, 7 p.m. off-site

Youth Ministry

Youth Group has resumed meeting after a summer break and is open to all 6th - 12th graders in the community. They gather weekly on Sunday evenings in the Youth Lounge for dinner, games and a program or topic for discussion and reflection. This year's adult volunteers, or Youth Counselors, include: Adam Guerrero, Emily Payne, Maddy Ing, Brandon Searfoss, Jamie Jones, and Elsa Taylor.



Sundays, 6- 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

October at a Glance

Sun Oct 1	World Communion Sunday ACT presents The "Give My Regards to Broadway" Sing-A-Long in Simkins Hall
Wed Oct 4, 11, 18 & 25	
Thurs Oct 5, 12, 19 & 26:	
Fri Oct 6	Rev. Larry Young Online Bible Study: Study of Psalms
Sat Oct 7	Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open
Wed Oct 11	Blessing of the Animals / Art Exhibit
Sun Oct 15	Mid-Week Recital Online: Aaron Shows
Sat Oct 21	Prayer Quilt Ministry Celebrates 20 years!
Sun Oct 22	Prayer Quilt Ministry Workparty
Sun Oct 29	Free Blood Pressure Screenings
Fri Oct 27	Youth Halloween Overnighter
Sat Oct 28	Preschool Fall Festival
Sun Oct 29	Children's Sabbath

World Communion Sunday

Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday, United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to intentionally recognize our universal and inclusive connection in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. On this special Sunday, we will have a variety of breads for the altar table to visually symbolize our unity amidst diversity. **Sunday, October 1, during 10 a.m. worship**



ACT presents the "Give My Regards to Broadway" Sing-A-Long

Songs from 1904 to 1966
First UMC's All Community Theater (A.C.T.) players are getting ready to lead you in song. With you, they are going to sing through a few of their favorites from the golden age of American musical theater. Songbooks provided. Join in the fun!

Sunday, October 1, after worship in Simkins Hall



Walk the Labyrinth & Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth is open every first Friday of the month from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation. For those unable to walk, we have finger labyrinths. A finger labyrinth is similar to a full sized labyrinth you would walk except it is on a much smaller and more portable scale. The First UMC Chapel will also be open for prayers that day from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

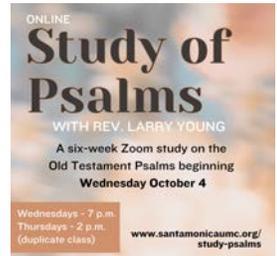
Friday, October 6, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall and the Chapel

Fall Bible Study with Rev. Larry: Study of Psalms

Rev. Larry Young will be leading a six-week Zoom study on the Hebrew Scriptures Psalms beginning Wednesday October 4. Duplicate sessions will be offered on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m. This study, like the previous one on Matthew, will be based on Yale Bible Study curriculum, and will feature a video in each session by Yale faculty with a study guide sent in advance. There will be no charge for the class. The Psalms evolved as the worship book for the ancient Jewish people, and it covers a whole range of human situations as individuals and worshipping communities sought to address God. Today it can still provide words for our own prayer and worship life. To sign up, please email Larry at lyoung@lyoung.net.

Wednesday October 4, 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct 5, 2 p.m. via Zoom
Zoom link on the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/study-psalms/



Blessing of the Animals 2023

We look forward to our 16th Annual Blessing of the Animals! This event is for our church AND neighborhood, an opportunity to celebrate beloved pets and those who care for them, along with offering gratitude for the animals in our world and renewing our commitment to care for all of God's creation. This year we will celebrate with:

- Walk-Up blessings in the First UMC Courtyard.
- Drive Thru car blessings in front of the Courtyard.
- For the kids, we'll have a fun arts and crafts table, and the kids can bring stuffed lovies to be blessed.
- All are invited to bring donations of pet food for our local pet shelters.
- Share photos of your beloved pets that have passed for the Memorial Board. You may send in photos or bring them with you.
- View the **Blessing of the Animals Art Exhibit** in the Fireside Room. Featuring animal art by the congregation and friends, Sunday School and Preschool.



Don't miss this annual tradition!

www.santamonicaumc.org/blessings-animals

Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., First UMC Courtyard & Fireside Room

Children's Sabbath

Save the date for Sunday, October 29, when we celebrate Children's Sabbath. We'll have Halloween festivities and pumpkin decorating following worship! We encourage everyone to wear Halloween-inspired attire to worship. *Nursery care will be provided for 6 months through 3 years, but no Sunday School.*

Sunday, October 29, during 10 a.m. worship and after worship in the Courtyard



October Mid-Week Recital

The October Mid-Week Recital features **Aaron Shows, organ.**

Aaron Shows (b. 1989) is a composer, organist, and pianist originally from Montgomery, Alabama. He has played some of the finest European pipe organs in Germany, France, and Denmark, and composes often for the instrument.

He is currently the organist at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena. Former teachers include organists Harald Rohlig, Ann Labounsky, and Steven Cooksey. As a composer, his original works have been performed throughout the United States as well as in Europe, and has composed original scores for both feature and short films as well as web series and commercials. In 2012 he served as an assistant to conductor John Mauceri on a series of film music concerts in Copenhagen with the Danish Radio Orchestra.

For more information, and to view past recitals, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

How to watch the Livestream:

- Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)
- YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/santamonicaumc
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- The First UMC App: (To download, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM) *You may view past recitals on these channels as well.*

Wednesday, October 11 at 12:10 p.m., online



Stay Connected

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

First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc

Instagram: @santamonicaumc

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC

The First UMC App:

First UMC offers a free app - download it and give it a try! With the app, you can: Participate in Sunday's service, in real time or anytime at your convenience, right from your smartphone or iPad. • Access our calendar of our events • Invite a friend to an event, or share info about a special program we offer.

• Access an **audio/written Bible** with a built-in daily reading plan. To download the app, go to: <https://subsplash.com/76vw/app>. Or, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM

Men's Bible Study Zoom Meetings

Men's Bible Study is a weekly meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture during online breakfast. As men try to navigate the stresses and complexities of this modern world and daily life, Men's Bible Study is a place for community, prayer and fellowship through the sharing of God's Holy word. Come by online as your schedule permits! For more info and to sign up, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/biblestudy.

Every Tuesday, 7 a.m., via Zoom

LOOKING FORWARD TO NOVEMBER



All Saints Sunday

Each year in our All Saints Sunday worship, we lift up the names of the beloved members of our congregation who have died in the past year and gone home to be with the Lord. We will also offer the White Ribbon Memorial, with opportunities to request a ribbon online, (email: s.rold@santamonicaumc.org), and also sign a ribbon before and after in-person worship beginning on Sunday, October 22.

Sunday, November 5, 10 a.m. during worship

Screening of "Marine First Platoon Reunion" with Larry Wilson

Join First UMC Member Larry Wilson as he hosts a special screening of the documentary "Marine First Platoon Reunion" in Simkins Hall, on Sunday, November 5, following worship. A lunch will be sponsored by Executive Producer Peter McNulty, Esq, provided by El Cholo restaurant. Introductions, comments and opportunities for questions will be provided. Members of the production team along with some Platoon members will be available to respond to all. *(For more information about the documentary, see page 5.)*

Screening of Marine First Platoon Reunion: Sunday, November 5, after worship in Simkins Hall

Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk '23

Registration is open now! Join Team First UMC, and let's put our faith into action and support our community! This year's Hunger Walk is scheduled for **November 5, 2023**. Check-in begins at 12 p.m., at Ocean View Park. Join the First UMC Team!

<https://my.wsfb.org/team/521834>

All Church Charge Conference

Save the date for **Sunday, November 19**, as we celebrate Church Charge Conference, and welcome our new District Superintendent, **Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**.



Giving Matters

There are many ways to contribute to the mission and ministry of First UMC. You may give online via the QR code on the right (*take a photo of the code with your phone camera*), via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot. To learn more about ways to give, including the annual Stewardship campaign, Planned Giving, Tree of Life, support for the Music Program, and the flower fund, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/give



Marine First Platoon Reunion by First UMC Member Larry Wilson

In 1967 I had the honor of leading United States Marines in battle during the Vietnam War as a Rifle Platoon Commander. The experience was extremely challenging and emotionally stressful, not only for me, but for the Marines who had to fight an enemy who was vicious and willing to kill innocent civilians and anybody who opposed their determination to impose their Communist ideology.

Exasperating this challenge was the way we entered the war. Unlike in other wars, we did not go to Vietnam as a unit, but actually transferred into the war zone individually, meaning that we didn't get to know each other until meeting in combat. Our tour of duty was 13 months, so we came back home, again individually.

The stress of combat had to be dealt with on an individual basis and the combat veterans were also facing ridicule and rejection from a large part of our society who blamed the veterans for doing what their country asked them to do, face mortal combat in a far-off land. As a result, the combat veterans kept all their combat experiences to themselves, not even telling children they had after returning home. This caused significant post combat pressure and stress without the ability to share their challenges with anybody, particularly those who they experienced combat with and who understood their challenges of coming home.

The First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica became a source of spiritual inspiration to me when I started attending in 1984. I often referred to it as truly, "The House of God." As mentioned in Acts 2:46, visit God's house, worship, and things can happen when we come together and God's Spirit moves upon his worshipping people.

That happened to me. In 1996, thanks to the inspiration of First UMC, I gained the spiritual strength to again lead my Marines. This time by creating Platoon Reunions, once every two years to allow for sharing, healing and support. I also was inspired to write about some of the

battles we were engaged in, which attracted attention by a publisher who included one of the stories in their book, "True Stories of True Grit, which was followed by an interest from Life Books, which incorporated our story in their book, "The Vietnam Wars."

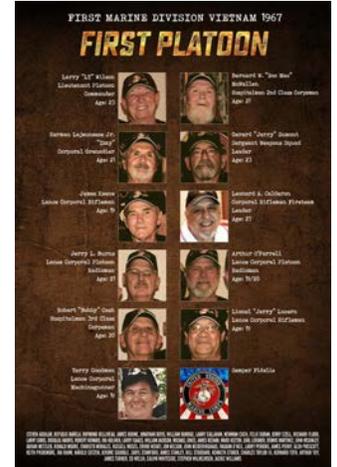
I shared these publications with members of First UMC and received an enormous amount of support. That also inspired me to continue the reunions, which were extremely helpful to my Marines. On the occasions when we had the reunions in Los Angeles, we did attend the services at First UMC.

In 2017, my neighbor and friend, movie producer George Lascu of REX Films, believed that the fact of these reunions and the success we are receiving together, needed to be documented. As a result, he and his professional associates decided to create a documentary, on their own volition and through volunteering their talents.

The documentary has progressed to a point where it is now ready for presentation to the public. As a result of the support we have received from First UMC, Mr. Lascu and the Executive Producers have chosen the First UMC to receive a private screening on November 5, immediately after the services that day in Simkins Hall. All church attendees, staff and clergy will be invited and a hosted lunch will be sponsored by Executive Producer Peter McNulty, Esq, provided by El Cholo restaurant.

The title of the documentary is "Marine First Platoon Reunion" and introductions, comments and opportunities for questions will be provided. Members of the production team along with some Platoon members will be available to respond to all.

Screening of Marine First Platoon Reunion: Sunday, November 5, after worship in Simkins Hall



PRESCHOOL CORNER CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!



The First Preschool Chapel of the Fall season, with Tricia, Adam and Jamie



Save the Date: Preschool Fall Festival
Saturday, October 28, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
All are welcome!



Congratulations!

• **Thomas Kekoa Dimalanta** was born to First UMC members Leah and Gabe Dimalanta, and grandparents Henry and Phebe Guerrero, on September 13, 2023.

Deaths

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of these departed loved ones:

- First UMC organist's Ty Woodward's mother **Glenna Woodward** died September 20, 2023. A memorial was held in Phoenix, AZ, on September 28.

Congregation Care Corner

If you have any questions or need pastoral care, you may always call the Pastoral Care line (310-393-8258 and enter extension 1), which is available for people to leave a message requesting care. If you have questions, need assistance, or would like to volunteer to help with our homebound folks, please contact Congregation Care Associate: **Anne Premer**: a.premmer@santamonicaumc.org. Or, call (310)393-8258 ext. 103. Visit the website for **Community Care** - a list of local resources including info for senior assistance, Medicare, American Red Cross, bereavement resources, and more!

www.santamonicaumc.org/care

Time for Medicare Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Medicare 2024 is from October 15 - December 7.

If you're 65 or older, this is when you can start thinking about signing up for Medicare or reevaluate your coverage and make changes if necessary. To help with that decision making, the WISE and Healthy Aging is offering FREE Medicare counseling. You can reach them at (310)394-9871 to make an appointment. Also, AARP offers following link that will walk you through the process:

www.aarp.org/health/medicare-insurance/enrollment-guide

Request a Prayer Quilt

Led by **Sue Payne and Maile Marquand**, the Prayer Quilt Ministry offers Prayer Quilts to those in need. To request a quilt:

1. Talk to the intended recipient. Ask if the person is willing to be prayed for and to receive a quilt. Ask what specific prayers are wished for.

There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love. 2. Contact Maile Marquand (mailemarquand@gmail.com) or Sue Payne (sue.f.payne@gmail.com). 3. Select the quilt if some are already made, or suggest colors if one is to be selected for you. Once the quilt selection has been made, First UMC will display the quilt in the Friday Community Email, and also during Sunday 10 a.m. worship, where you may tie a prayer knot during in-person worship, or view the quilt on the Livestream.

The next Prayer Quilt Ministry meeting is Saturday, October 21, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Room 300 in the Education Building.

Contact info@santamonicaumc.org if you would like to volunteer.

Prayer Requests

The First UMC Prayer Group is a network of persons who provide regular, dependable, and confidential prayer support. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time, and our Prayer Group will be notified of your request. <https://santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/>

Communion Server Ministry

Each month when communion is offered in church, members of the Communion Server Ministry take communion out to those who cannot be present during the service. By including others, we expand the Table of the Lord to include those who cannot be present in body. The volunteers who are involved in this ministry feel blessed in being able to serve in this way. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Anne Premer (a.premmer@santamonicaumc.org) or the church office.

Mission and Outreach Partners

We at First UMC work in partnership with a variety of groups and organizations throughout our community and the larger UMC to bring hope and healing where it is needed most. Together we can change lives and transform the world.

To read more about the Outreach and Mission groups supported by First UMC, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

UMCOR and its partners respond to disasters in the U.S. and across the globe every day. For the most up-to-date information, follow the UMCOR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UMCOR

Prayers & Support for Maui

In response to the devastating fires in Hawaii, a special giving link has been set up at the Conference center. 100% of all you give will go towards helping the people of Hawaii.

We are committed to ongoing support of the community of Lahaina as they navigate the challenges before them. All of the money collected through the links provided will go towards helping this community in their time of need. Go to:

www.calpacumc.org/lahainarelieff

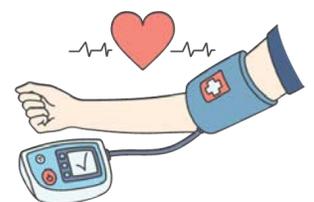


Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council hosts Blood Pressure screenings every third Sunday of the month (subject to change.)

We are grateful to this ministry for their continued care of the congregation!

Sunday, October 22, after worship in the Alcove



COMMUNITY PHOTOS



Homecoming Sunday!



Sandra Jones leading the Children's Message on Sunday, September 17



The Guerreros hosted an Open Space gathering at the Princeton Street parsonage.



The Youth are back to their weekly meetings after Summer break!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
email: info@santamonicaumc.org



310.393.8258

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@santamonicaumc



FIRST UMC OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment
Pastoral care by appointment only: 310-393-8258, enter ext. 1

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Number of Quilts Made Per Year

2003	— 22
2004	— 59
2005	— 80
2006	— 90
2007	— 66
2008	— 72
2009	— 48
2010	— 67
2011	— 57
2012	— 52
2013	— 45
2014	— 39
2015	— 31
2016	— 26
2017	— 29
2018	— 30
2019	— 28
2020	— 10
2021	— 21
2022	— 21
2023	— 25...and counting!

includes Hurricane Katrina recipients

The Prayer Quilt Ministry over the years...



Many thanks to all who have volunteered, or donated money, fabric or supplies to the Prayer Quilt Ministry.