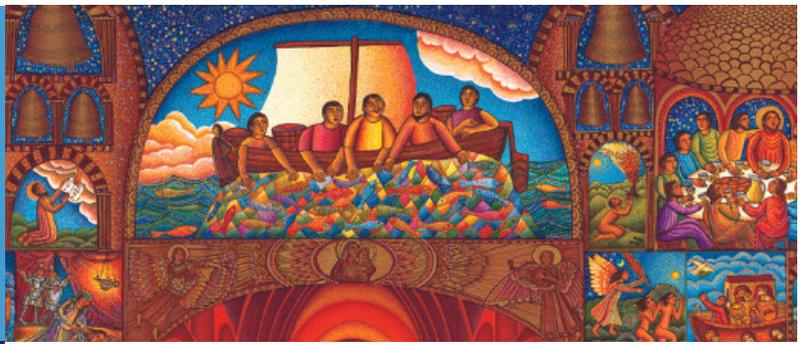


SENTINEL

vol.cxlviii, no. 10 • November 2023



OUR SEASON OF

JOY



The Procession

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All Church Charge Conference

Join First UMC for the annual Church Charge Conference! We will engage in a joyful and worshipful celebration of this year's accomplishments, both in person in Simkins Hall, and via Zoom so online viewers can be a part of the conference. This year's theme is "Nourish." The agenda includes reports on the ministries and missions of First UMC, financial items, membership matters, and election of officers and council members for the coming year. We are excited to welcome our new District Superintendent, **Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**. Lunch will be served and child care will be provided. Online viewers may join us here:

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82850087802>

Sunday November 19, after worship, in Simkins Hall

Horizons

Our Season of Joy! November will carry forward the celebrations of October in wonderful ways. The first Sunday brings our annual All Saints commemoration, as we give thanks for church members and all dear to us who now dwell in God's everlasting care and pray for us as we journey forward through this earthly life.

Our annual Giving Campaign brings the opportunity to celebrate all that God is doing through the mission and ministries of First UMC thanks our generous giving, giving that grows each of us in faith as a disciple of Christ Jesus. We will consecrate our gifts on November 19 in worship, and then move into Simkins Hall for lunch together and our annual Church Charge Conference with our new District Superintendent, Pastor Siosaia Tu'itahi, presiding. This wonderful time together is an exciting opportunity to hold up all the work of First UMC through the year, giving thanks for God's faithfulness and opening our hearts and minds to all that awaits in God's future.

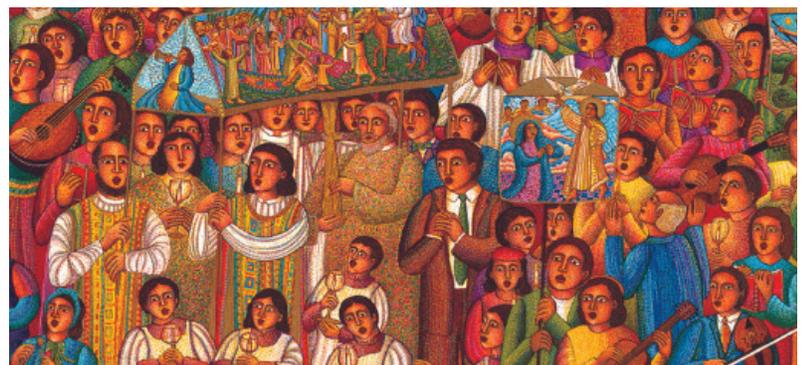
November 22 brings us to the 70th Anniversary of our Sanctuary, a momentous accomplishment made possible by the deep generosity and far-sighted vision of faithful church members. How grateful we are for this beautiful sacred space, precious not only to our congregation but to so many across our community who have experienced here the power of worship, the beauty of music, and the presence of God's living Spirit.

To top it all off, Thanksgiving Day comes 'round the following week, opening our hearts to deep gratitude, grounding us in love and joy as we give thanks for family, friends, neighbors, church community, and the creation itself.

This is indeed Our Season of Joy! May God grant us grateful hearts and hope-filled spirits. We give thanks!

Rev. Patricia Farris

Senior Minister





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.

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:** During 10 a.m. service:

www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream After service the following Tuesday:

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive

- **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 Nov 3 (special day and time), Nov 15
- **Listening Hearts Women's Group** Nov 1 & 15, Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025) Nov 8, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Prayer Quilt Ministry** Third Saturday of the month: Nov 18, 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 Nov 12, 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

Children's Message is back in worship! Jamie Jones, the Sunday School teachers, and a few other special guests, offer weekly messages to children at the beginning of worship each Sunday. This means our families will begin worship with us in the Sanctuary 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. We meet for coffee and community at Literati Cafe on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 10 a.m. We also 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.

November meetings: November 3, 6:30 p.m. off-site, November 15, 7 p.m. off-site

Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets weekly, and is open to all 6th - 12th graders in the community. They gather 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



The Youth and counselors during their Halloween overnighter

November at a Glance

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Wed Nov 1,8 | Rev. Larry Young Online Bible Study: Study of Psalms |
| Thurs Nov 2,9 | Rev. Larry Young Online Bible Study: Study of Psalms (repeat class) |
| Fri Nov 3 | Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers |
| Sun Nov 5 | All Saints Sunday/Holy Communion Larry Wilson hosting Marine First Platoon Reunion screening Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk <i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i> |
| Tues Nov 7 | Investment Committee Meeting |
| Wed Nov 8 | November Mid-Week Recital |
| Sat Nov 11 | Special Session Annual Conference via Zoom |
| Sun Nov 12 | Free Blood Pressure Screenings |
| Fri Nov 17 | Kids Night Out |
| Sat Nov 18 | Prayer Quilt Ministry workparty |
| Sun Nov 19 | Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting Consecration Sunday Charge Conference (in-person and Zoom) UMYF Sweets for a Cause |
| Wed Nov 22 | 70th Anniversary of the First UMC Sanctuary |
| Thurs Nov 23 | Thanksgiving |
| Sun Nov 26 | Thanksgiving Sunday - Rev Larry Young preaching Angel Tree Project begins, in the Alcove |

Fall Bible Study with Rev. Larry: Study of Psalms

You can still sit in on the last two sessions of Rev. Larry Young's Bible Study, *The Study of Psalms*. This study, like the previous one on Matthew, is based on Yale Bible Study curriculum, and features a video in each session by Yale faculty with a study guide sent in advance. There is no charge for the class. To sign up, please email Larry at lyoung@lyoung.net.

Wednesdays November 1 & 8, 7 p.m., Thursdays, November 2 & 9, 2 p.m. via Zoom Zoom link on the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/study-psalms

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, November 3, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall and the Chapel

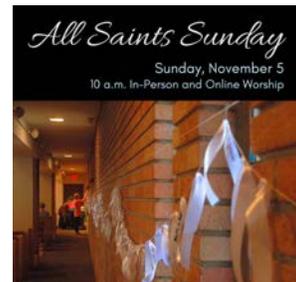


The First UMC Chapel

All Saints Sunday/White Ribbon Memorial

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 also offer the White Ribbon Memorial, with opportunities to request a ribbon online, and also sign a ribbon before and after in-person worship, beginning today, October 22. We give thanks for their life and life everlasting and pray for God's comfort and peace for their families.

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



Screening of "Marine First Platoon Reunion"

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 at 11 a.m. 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. At 12 p.m. noon, lunch will be sponsored by Executive Producer Peter McNulty, Esq, provided by El Cholo restaurant.

Movie run time: approx. 25 min. All ages welcome. For more information about the documentary, see page 5 of the October Sentinel:

www.santamonicaumc.org/church-newsletter

Sunday, November 5, after worship in Simkins Hall.

Lunch from El Cholo at 12 p.m. noon.



Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk 2023

First UMC is proud to support the Westside Food Bank's 33rd Annual Hunger Walk! Join team captain Martha Ross, and honorary captain Russ Whittenburg, and let's continue to work together to end hunger in our communities by providing access to free nutritious food to all who need it. Every \$1 donated will provide four meals to families in need of food. The Hunger Walk will be held at Santa Monica's Ocean View Park (2701 Barnard Way) along the Ocean Front Walk. Registration begins at 12 noon, with the walk at 2 p.m. Join the First UMC Church and Preschool Team! www.santamonicaumc.org/hunger-walk

November 5, 12 p.m. Ocean View Park



Scenes from last year's Hunger Walk

November Mid-Week Recital

The November Mid-Week Recital features **Rufus Choi, piano, Noah Choi, cello.**

Rufus Choi has always felt that his American birth and Korean heritage have imparted an international aura and underlying wanderlust to his musical career, which is defined by passionate, sold-out performances in numerous countries across the globe. Recently added to the distinguished roster of Steinway Artists, Mr. Choi won First Prize and the People's Choice Award in the notable Jose Iturbi International Music Competition which offers one of the largest monetary prizes for piano competitions in the world.

Noah Choi, 14-year-old cellist, embarked on his musical journey from the age of seven. Noah began his studies under the mentorship of Michael Kaufmann and is currently studying with Bongshin Ko. Noah has won 1st prize in the 2022 Southwestern Youth Music Festival garnering his orchestral debut performing Haydn's C Major cello concerto. After his victory and blessings from his father, pianist Rufus Choi, Noah decided to pursue a music career as a cellist. At a youthful age, Noah has already been gaining experience performing in major venues in southern California, such as Zipper Hall at the Colburn School, Daniel Recital Hall at Cal State Long Beach, and Chamber Hall at CSU Fullerton. Noah enjoys performing chamber music with his friends and has also won 1st prize at the Junior Chamber Music Competition. When he is not practicing or studying, Noah enjoys playing basketball.

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: search [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSantaMonicaUMC)
- 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, November 8, 12:10 p.m. online



Kids Night Out

Kids Night Out is back for the Fall! While parents enjoy a well-deserved night out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team.

When: Friday, November 17, 4 – 8 p.m.

Where: First UMC Santa Monica, Second Floor Education Building

Cost: \$30/child + \$15 for each additional sibling

Ages: 2 years – 5th grade

Register Now! www.santamonicaumc.org/kids-night-out



Consecration Sunday

The 2024 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

or fill out a pledge card

available throughout the church campus and bring it in to **Consecration Sunday worship on November 19.**

To read more, see page 5.



The Consecration box at the chancel during last year's Consecration Sunday

UMYF and Sweets for a Cause

The First UMC Youth are excited to hold their annual in-person fundraiser during Church Charge Conference! This year they are fundraising for **Meals on Wheels West**, who provide community based

services that nourish and enrich the lives of our homebound neighbors of all ages by providing nutritious meals, friendly calling and friendly visiting, including referrals to other services that promote independent living and wellbeing. Support the youth and Meals on Wheels West by picking up slices of pie, cookies and brownies.

Sunday, November 19, 11 a.m. in the Alcove during Charge Conference.



Community Thanksgiving Dinners

• **St. Monica Catholic Community Thanksgiving Feast**

Wednesday, November 22, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 725 California Ave

More info: stmonica.net/thanksgiving

• **Westside Community Thanksgiving Celebration** will be held

Thursday, November 23, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the West LA Civic Center, 1645 Corinth Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

More info: www.facebook.com/WestsideThanksgiving

Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree is back and is again being chaired by church member, **Chris Ruud.**

This church/community project fills 26 laundry baskets with new household items to provide the families of Family Place/Upward Bound House with new things for Christmas. Celebrating her **20th year** coordinating this fundraiser,

Chris is excited that she will be in the Courtyard after worship for four Sundays to take sign-ups. If you worship online, or can't make it to church, please call or email Chris (310 393.3255, chrl0is@yahoo.com) and she will tell you what is needed and what you can do to help. The wrapped gifts can be dropped off on Sundays, or at the church office Tuesday- Friday.

Angel Tree: runs from November 26 to December 17 (gifts due)



Our Season of Joy: Our Generosity at Work

Our gifts bring life to God's ministries and mission in transformative, life-changing ways. YOUR regular pledge and gifts make all this possible. Give/pledge online at any time, or during in-person worship on Consecration Sunday, November 19. www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

Here's what a Season of Joy looks like at First UMC Santa Monica:

Our Worship Life

In worship, we discover God's grace for our lives. Worship places our lives in the larger perspective of God's love. It sustains us week in and week out. Worship encompasses teaching, spiritual formation, community, and sends us all into service and mission. Worship is also outreach—most of our new members find their way into the life of our congregation through worship.

Congregation and Community Care

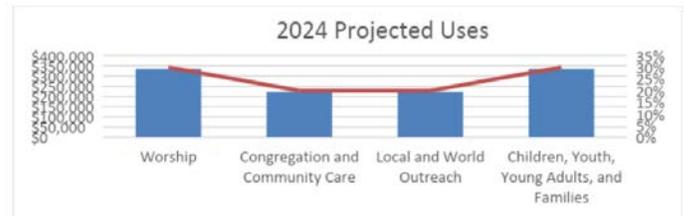
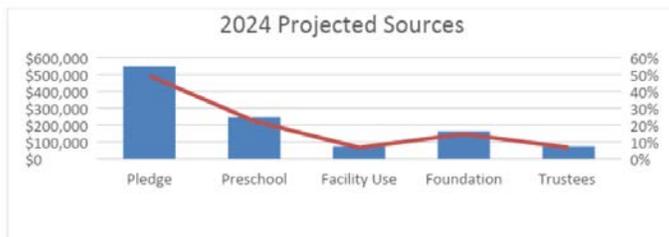
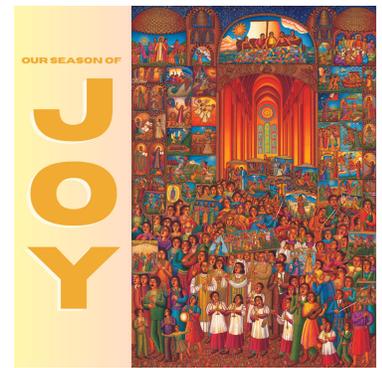
Through all the ages and stages of life, the grace and love of God flow through our pastors, staff, small groups, volunteers and congregation. From the birth of a baby to times of illness and grief, through all the joys and challenges of life, we support and care for one another relying on the assurance of God's grace.

Local and World Outreach

Our giving touches people we may never meet or know. From Upward Bound House across the street, to Lahaina, Appalachia, and Haiti—wherever God's people are hungry or in need, our giving supports missions, disaster relief, ministry education and training. Across the street and around the world, our giving makes real the love of God for all God's people.

Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Families

The lives of children, youth, and families of all kinds are at the heart of our mission. "Welcome, Baby" gifts, weekly Preschool Chapel and support, Sunday School curriculum and Faith in Action, UM Youth Fellowship, Vacation Bible Camp,...weddings, baptisms, counseling, mission trips, parent and grand-parent support...our giving touches lives and welcomes new generations into the love and power of God.



70th Anniversary of the Sanctuary

This month we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the First UMC sanctuary! On November 22, 1953, a little over a year after construction began, the sanctuary was completed. First UMC member Jerry Brown recounts the entire building process in his book, *Be the Hope! The Story of First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica*—from the fundraising efforts, the congregation led by Rev. Kenneth A. Carlson, to the community rallying together to complete the sanctuary even in the midst of Rev. Carlson's heart attack. To read Jerry's book, and to see photos, visit the website, or call the church office for a printed version: www.santamonicaumc.org/firstumc-history



The placement of the cornerstone in the narthex, in 1953

Looking forward to December...

Christmas Concert

The First UMC Music Department is pleased to announce the Christmas Concert will be back this year in the Sanctuary!

Featuring:

Haydn: Te Deum

Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols
and the ever popular **Carols, Etc.**

Chancel Choir with guest singers, orchestra &
Mark Twain Alumni Ringers

Sunday, December 3, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

In-person performance only

No admission charges - freewill offering will be taken.

Reception to follow performance



Flowers: To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund
Open dates for the Reredos: November 12
Open dates for the Narthex: all Sundays in November



Thank You

- “I would like to thank the church for all their prayers for my health scare and the re-tying of my quilt. I would like to thank Debi Jenkinson Wong for being my sponsor for the quilt and Sue Payne for making this happen and getting this request in on very short notice. I am so thankful for having a church family who is there for each other when things get a little scary that there is strength and love to help a person get through the tough times. I am so thankful that we have a prayer quilt ministry that responds to helping those who need a quilt that is wrapped up in prayers. Thank you to all the people who are in the prayer quilt ministry.” - **Chris Reagh**
- “Thank you all so much for praying for me and thinking of me, and for the beautiful prayer quilt. God has answered all of my prayers, as my surgery was very successful and my recovery is going extremely well.” - **Preston Searfoss**
- We would like to thank the **United Women in Faith** for their generosity in purchasing a VERY large freezer in the large kitchen. We look forward to additional food storage for lots of events to come! - First UMC Office Staff

Deaths

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

- First UMC member “**Vangie**” **Evangeline Nancy Jackson** died September 30.
- First UMC member Kathy Naylor’s cousin **Curt Zimmerman**, son of Ruth and Tom Zimmerman died October 12.

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 and Sue Payne at: prayerquilts@santamonicaumc.org. (*Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.*)
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, November 18, 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 Quilt Ministry on the website (includes new 20th Anniversary Celebration video): www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry



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 continued that tradition in worship on November 5. We give thanks for their life and life everlasting and pray God’s comfort and peace for their families.

We Remember

- Bernice Louise Smith De Leon, Emily A. Duff, Steven K. Edmonson Lazaro Carrera Esiao, Gordon D. Fraser, William Fredrick Humphreys, Evangeline Nancy Jackson, Dorothy Jean Kleingartner, Bimal Kumar Masih, Dorothy Anne Harris “Dotti” Mayeur, Jack Oliver Pearson, Walter Roy Ringwald, Barbara Jane Eckhart Roebuck, Dan Laws Smith Shackelford, Ruth Craig Smoot, Alice Elizabeth Eggbutt Stevenson, David Patton “Pat” Stirling, Rosalie G. Heacock Thompson

We honor the First UMC church members and congregants who have reached the 50 year mark this year:

- Jerry Brown
- Margaret Brown
- Mark Burnett
- Evan Davis
- Gary Etter
- Mike Gregory
- Joyce Landsverk
- Janet Roebuck
- Cindy Sarfati
- Jean Stapleton
- Sandy Stirling
- Robert TeSelle



Time for Medicare Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Medicare 2024 is now until 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

Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council will host the November Blood Pressure screening on **Sunday, November 12, after worship in the Alcove**



Community Photos



Blessing of the Animals and the Blessing of the Animals Art Exhibit. To view the online exhibit, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/firesideroomart



On October 15, we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Prayer Quilt Ministry during and after worship



PRESCHOOL CORNER CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA
PRESCHOOL



The Santa Monica Fire Department teaching the kids about fire safety during their annual Preschool visit

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh St.

Santa Monica, CA 90403

email: info@santamonicaumc.org

310.393.8258

www.santamonicaumc.org

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

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](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

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

