

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent • Baptism • December 17, 2023

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

PRELUDE Greensleeves (arr. Richard Purvis)

Ty Woodward, organ

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** #240 United Methodist Hymnal — Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!" Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!" Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Andy Goebel, Lay Lector

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, "Rejoice!"

Let us pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.

The coming of the Lord is near.

God's name be praised.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Today, Christ is born. Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia."

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Molly Smith

#2233 The Faith We Sing — Where Children Belong

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Andy Goebel and Carlos Mercado

Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As these candles are lit, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us in hope. 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.

BAPTISM Vaughn Charlotte Vinson (*see insert*)

#217 UMH — Away in a Manger (verse 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

As the congregation sings, the children are invited to Sunday School in the Education Building.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Andy Goebel

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 1:26-38

Glenda Martinez, Lay Leadership Team

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

HOMILY "Sing a New Song! Do Not Be Afraid"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #219 UMH — What Child Is This (verse 1)

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



Sunday, December 17, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Patricia Farris

Brothers and Sisters, from the beginnings of Christianity, baptism has been our entrance into the family of faith. We believe baptism is a visible sign of the grace and love of God at work in our lives. In baptism, we are marked as Christ's follower and welcomed as part of the universal church. We believe that Jesus gives children a special place in the family of faith. He said to us: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

PRESENTATION

Glenda Martinez, Lay Leadership Team

I am pleased to present to you **VAUGHN CHARLOTTE VINSON** for Baptism.

THOSE TO BE BAPTIZED

Rev. Farris

Do you believe in God the source, the fountain of life; and in Christ, the offspring of God, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church; and in the liberating Spirit of God?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you of new life in Christ, resisting evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Will you nurture Vaughn in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

BAPTISM

Rev. Farris

VAUGHN CHARLOTTE

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

TO THE CONGREGATION

Glenda Martinez

Members of the household of faith, I commend Vaughn to your love and care. Let us do all in our power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

As members with her in the body of Christ and in this community of faith, we renew our promise to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Glenda Martinez

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. Or, 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

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director
Ty Woodward and Elyssa French, pianists

Angels from The Realms of Glory (arr. Dan Forrest)

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth. Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King! Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. Come and worship, come and worship, worship, Christ, the newborn King! Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar. Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen His natal star. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King! All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son. Ever more your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One! Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andy Goebel

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth—giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #249 UMH – There's a Song in the Air

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in F (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 Let's Connect Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or sign in online: www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new, or scan this QR code for the online form.



—**Nursery Care:** Nursery Care is available on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 11 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are also welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—**Baptism:** If you would like to learn more about baptism or inquire about baptism for your children, please see one of our pastors.

—**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.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.

—**Give:** Your gifts help us grow our ministries today and into the future. Thank you for considering giving to the General Church Fund to support everything we do. You may give today during service, or other ways; by mailing payment, dropping by the business office, or securely through the online giving portal located on the website front page. Questions about financial gifts, or gifts of time? Give us a call anytime at the church office.

—**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. To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: 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.

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

Resident Bishop
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

West District Superintendent

Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

Senior Minister

Rev. Patricia Farris

p.farris@santamonicaumc.org

Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries

Tricia Guerrero

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Deacon Associate

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget

k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

Business Administrator

Christina Eddy

c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org

Congregation Care Associate

Anne Premer

a.premier@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

Family Ministries Coordinator

Jamie Jones

Program and Outreach Coordinator

Brandon Searfoss

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.

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



Artwork: Kerri McCabe
www.artistkerrimccabe.com



Today is the third Sunday 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 "Sing A New Song!"

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

First UMC's Advent Guide

TODAY! Advent Brunch

Stay after worship today for our special Advent Brunch, hosted by Fellowship and Events. Activities will include seasonal crafts, caroling, and a special visit from Santa. Let's celebrate the season together! We also take time to highlight the Missions featured in the Alternative Christmas Fair, the UWF Christmas Boutique, and Angel Tree, happening in the Alcove.

Today, after worship in Simkins Hall

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. Visit the tables in the Alcove celebrating this year's featured missions:

The People Concern • The Wesley Foundation

Children Youth and Family Collaborative (CYFC) • Upward Bound House

Vietnam Clinic • Harvest Home

InnerChange • Homeboy Industries (new this year!)

To find out more about each group, and to donate through December, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/alt-christmas23/

Last day today, December 17, in the Alcove. Donate online through December.

United Women in Faith: Peanut Brittle Sales, and Christmas Boutique

United Women in Faith are selling their hand-made peanut brittle and Christmas Boutique items today after worship in the Alcove. All proceeds benefit the missions supported by the UWF.

Last day today, December 17, in the Alcove

First UMC's Advent Guide



Angel Tree Project

Today is the last day for Angel Tree Project, providing new household items to families of Family Place/Upward Bound House with new things for Christmas. Wrapped gifts are due today.

Today after worship, in the Alcove



ACT presents "It's a Wonderful Life Radio Stage Play"

ACT brings back the 2009 video recording of "It's a Wonderful Life Radio Stage Play!"

This wonderful recording had been lost for 14 years! Tune in to see this gem starring David Wilson, Larry Young, Shannon Sturges and so many of your First UMC friends. The video has been made available in honor of Leonard De Leon who recorded it and his wife Bernice as a gift to the congregation this holiday season.

On the website now: <https://santamonicaumc.org/act>



The First UMC Christmas Concert

If you missed attending the First UMC Christmas Concert on December 3, or if you came and want to see it again, you may watch the concert at any time on our YouTube channel! Featuring Haydn: Te Deum; Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols; and the ever popular Carols, Etc. With the Chancel Choir and guest singers, orchestra & Mark Twain Alumni Ringers. Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceeYBqgHL9k>
Or visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/music-theater



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

• Sunday, December 24, 10 a.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

The annual worship service of music and word, featuring a Brass Quartet. In-person and online.

• Sunday, December 24, 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

A "No Muss, No Fuss" Christmas Pageant for all ages. Family Friendly! Celebrate with Christmas carols, re-telling the Christmas story, and rejoicing together. Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate. In-person and online.

• Sunday, December 24, 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Special choir music and candlelight. In-person and online.

If you're celebrating with family and friends on Christmas morning, remember that you can access the worship services LIVE, or through the week ahead on these platforms: Our Facebook Page, YouTube, on the website, or the First UMC app.

Welcome to First UMC of Santa Monica!

Welcome to the worship, service, and fellowship of Santa Monica First United Methodist Church. First UMC is committed to a ministry that touches the lives of people in many significant ways. Through our worship and music, study opportunities, social groups, mission involvement and ministries of care, we proclaim the good news of God's love for all people. We also work to help make the world a better place in which to live, here in the communities of the Westside and around the world, and eagerly invite your participation in this beloved community. Our church has been a significant presence in the larger Santa Monica community for over 125 years.

STAY CONNECTED

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

First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc

Instagram: @santamonicaumc

YouTube: @SantaMonicaUMC

The First UMC App:

First UMC offers a free app - download it and give it a try! With the app, you can:

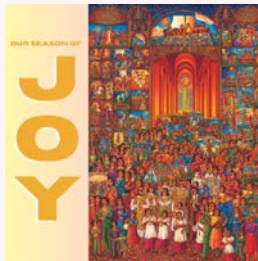
- Participate in Sunday's service, in real time or anytime at your convenience, right from your smartphone or iPad.
- Access our calendar of our events
- Invite a friend to an event, or share info about a special program we offer.
- Access an **audio/written Bible** with a built-in daily reading plan.

To download the app, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM

• Stewardship Continues

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.

We are at 70 percent of our annual goal. Pledge nudges will be mailed soon. Be sure to let the church office know your pledge commitment in the new year so we can plan a bright future. To fill out a pledge card online visit www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship or fill out a pledge card available in the church pews and drop off in the offering plate.



MISSION AND SERVICE

• **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

• 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. **Visit the website:** www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions

• Westside Food Bank

Westside Food Bank's mission is to distribute as much food as possible to local agencies with food assistance programs and to reduce food waste on the Westside of Los Angeles County. Food is collected at First UMC every Sunday, as well as seasonal food drives, to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found outside the Sanctuary and in the Preschool.

• Volunteer Opportunity at The People Concern

The People Concern is seeking to augment its roster of regular weekend volunteers who make sandwiches and assemble sack lunches. The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier. The goal is to create a team of volunteers to fill a monthly weekend schedule. Volunteers do not have to work every Saturday or Sunday but are asked to commit to a regular shift each month. If you want to help, please e-mail Kristen McDermott at volunteer@thepeopleconcern.org.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

• Children's Ministry

Jamie Jones, the Sunday School teachers, and a few other special guests offer weekly messages to children at the beginning of worship each Sunday during the Children's Message. **This means our families begin worship with us each week in the Sanctuary before heading to Sunday School following the Children's Message.** You are invited to look around and greet a child and their family each Sunday. You might hear a few more giggles and whispers or see some wiggles...let's celebrate the joyful and life-filled presence beloved children bring to our community each week! www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry

• Nursery Care

Nursery Care for ages 6 months to 3 years is available on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 11 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are also welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

• Preschool Enrollment Ongoing

Schedule a tour today with Dee Menzies, Preschool Director at 310-395-7292, or visit our webpage for more information: www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool

YOUTH

• United Methodist Youth Fellowship Group

Weekly UMYF meetings held Sundays 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry

PRAYER

• Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth and Chapel will be open on Friday, **January 5**, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Families welcome! Walk the Virtual Labyrinth Online: www.santamonicaumc.org/labyrinth

• Prayer Requests

The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time. www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests

ONGOING MINISTRIES AT FIRST UMC

If you'd like more information for ministry opportunities, you may contact the church office (310) 393-8258, or visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org

• Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom Men's Bible Study is a weekly online meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture. www.santamonicaumc.org/biblestudy

• Listening Hearts Women's Group

Listening Hearts is a spiritual community of women who gather to listen to one another in the midst of life's chaos, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero. Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

Next meeting: Wed, January 10, via Zoom

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a group that makes Prayer Quilts as a service for those in need. To request a Prayer Quilt, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry
Not meeting in December, meeting January 20.

• The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. They meet weekly on Thursday night for rehearsals.

• Open Space Young Adults

Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. Learn more: www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space. IG: @openspacesm. **Next Meeting:** Wed, January 17

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting is **January 28** in the Fireside Room. www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry