

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

First Sunday in Lent • February 18, 2024

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

PRELUDE *Allegretto Sonata No. 4* (Felix Mendelssohn)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #189 United Methodist Hymnal — Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast. Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

David Wilson, Lay Lector

In these forty days of Lent, God leads us into a time of reflection and prayer.

You open our eyes, O God, to your presence within us and in the world.

You free us to lead others to the radiant splendor of your mercy.

Be with us in these journey days, O God.

Make us those who are born fresh and loving, open to the life of the earth and all people.

Guide us to new living in Christ Jesus.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!"

*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ann Wilson

#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.

I Am a Child of God

I am a child of God; You are God's child, it's true. Children of God are called to love one another, as Jesus taught to do.

As the congregation sings, the children may go to Sunday School in Room 206.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Carlee Forbes, Lay Lector

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 Mark 1:9-15

David Wilson

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

SERMON "In the Nourishing Silence of the Wilderness"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #311 UMH — Now the Green Blade Riseth (vs. 4)

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

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

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Carlee Forbes

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

Not One Sparrow Is Forgotten (arr. William Hawley)

Not one sparrow is forgotten, e'en the raven God will feed; and the lily of the valley from His bounty hath its need. Then shall I not trust Thee, Father, in Thy mercy have a share? And through faith and prayer, my Mother, merit Thy protecting care?

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Carlee Forbes

God, you who are in relationship with space and time as the love that creates and connects all things, may this Lent be one of thankful remembrance of connection with the earth and your call to care for it and for all your children. May our roots grow deeper and our branches wider. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #111 UMH – How Can We Name a Love

How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind, indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find? Within our daily world, in every human face, Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace. If we awoke to life built on a rock of care that asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there, we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore, Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure. When people share a task, and strength and skills unite in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight, our Friend and Partner's will is better understood, that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good. So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street. Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun: In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Those Who Trust in God to Guide Them (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.

—**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:** Dried floral arrangements at the reredos help to remind us of our Lenten Discipline during the season of Lent. You may still order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship to be displayed in the Narthex: 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.

—**Sunday Social Gathering:** Come say "Hello" and help yourself to coffee and donuts after worship in the Courtyard. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table and visit with staff member David Penson if you have any questions.

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
Tricia Guerrero
t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org
Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
Rev. Keri Olsen Paget
k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org
Business Administrator
Christina Eddy
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Congregation Care Associate
Anne Premer
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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
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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

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica presents:

SEMINAR: SMARTER THAN A SCAMMER - SCAM AND FRAUD SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 18
11 AM
IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM**



WITH
MILES MCNEELEY,
VICE PRESIDENT,
ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION
AT WISE AND HEALTHY AGING

WISE
Healthy Aging

TODAY! Smarter than a Scammer - Scam and Fraud Self-Defense Workshop

Please join Miles McNeeley, LCSW from Wise & Healthy Aging, in an interactive discussion on scams and fraud. This workshop will help participants to identify scams, report instances of fraud to law enforcement, and learn tools to help combat scammers. This discussion will include a question and answer session to address participant's concerns. Grab your coffee and donut, and come to the Fireside Room after worship.

Today, 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room

February Mid-Week Recital

The February Recital features the **Coriolan Trio: Geoffrey Nudell, clarinet; Kevan Torfeh, cello; James Furnston, piano**. Visit the website to read the artist's bios:

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

Wednesday, February 21, 12:10 p.m. ONLINE:

Facebook: @santamonicaumc • YouTube Channel : @SantaMonicaUMC • Website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream • The First UMC App: (To download, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

Lenten Art Exhibit with Emily Payne

Visit the Fireside Room beginning today to view the nature photographs of First UMC member **Emily Payne**. On Sunday, March 3, join Emily in the Fireside Room after church for a Meet and Greet - a time to chat with Emily and ask questions about her photographs and love of gardening.

Exhibit begins today after worship in the Fireside Room.

Meet and Greet with Emily: Sunday, March 3, 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room

2024

**Coriolan Trio: Geoffrey Nudell, clarinet;
Kevan Torfeh, cello;
James Furnston, piano**

Wednesday
**FEB
21**
12:10 P.M. PT

STREAMING LIVE ON

Facebook: @santamonicaumc
YouTube: www.youtube.com/SantaMonicaUMC

Online MID WEEK RECITALS

artist
**MEET
&
GREET**

with
Emily Payne



Exhibit opens Sunday, February 18
Meet and Greet with Emily:
Sunday, March 3, 11 a.m.
IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

www.santamonicaumc.org

LENT 2024: Deeper Roots; Wide-spreading Branches – May Spring come to us, be in us, and recreate new life in us!

The season of Lent is a forty-day season of preparing our hearts for the amazing good news of the Resurrection.

For opportunities to engage in the season of Lent, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

Message from Rev. Patricia Farris

Beloved congregation,

We know that with God, for everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. I am deeply grateful for my season of ministry with you as your Senior Minister. **As I have recently reached the mandatory retirement age of 72, I will retire June 30th at the end of this appointment year.** Our bishop and Cabinet have been aware of this and are already in discussion with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee about our dreams and vision for our next Senior Minister. I am confident that a beautiful season of new life and growth lies before us and that the mission and ministries of FUMC will continue to thrive. Over these next months, we will have many opportunities to reminisce, give thanks, and dream together.

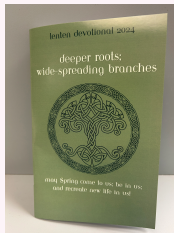
With thanks, **Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister**



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

• Lenten Devotional

The Spiritual Formation Council invites you to read your Lenten Devotional online and in print. The devotional is written by the First UMC congregation and provides a wonderful opportunity to share Lent with family and friends.



This year's theme is **Deeper Roots, Wide-spreading Branches; May Spring come to us, be in us, and recreate new life in us!** Printed copies are available in the Narthex and at the Welcome Table, and daily emails are underway. Sign up online to receive the daily devotional by email (*the email version includes the scripture for the day*) <http://eepurl.com/brFsjL>

• Save the Date: St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Women of Action, a circle of United Women in Faith, in partnership with Fellowship and Events and Children's Ministry, present the 22nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 17, after worship in Simkins Hall.



The suggested donation of \$10 per person includes lunch and a rousing singalong with virtuoso piano accompaniment. Children are welcome and will be provided seasonal crafting materials. Children under 5 admitted for free. Don't forget to wear green!

Sunday, March 17, after worship in Simkins Hall

MISSION AND SERVICE

• **NEW!** Lenten Food Collection

The 580 Cafe is a ministry of the Wesley Foundation serving UCLA students. It serves as a space for students to build collective care and share food, conversation, and activism. Weekly programs and gatherings provide ways for students to create, hold and find brave space to share in collective learning, dialogue, and relaxation together. The 580 Cafe Food Cupboard provides students at UCLA the opportunity to select non-perishable food items, providing an important support to students who have limited access to healthy food options.

How you can help: Your donations of the following food items supports the 580 Cafe in their efforts to end physical and spiritual hunger on campus. Donations will be accepted throughout the Lenten season.

- Peanut-butter (small jars)
- Lentils
- White Rice (short and long grain)
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce (small jars or cans)
- Snack Bars (individually wrapped)
- Snack crackers (individuals package)
- Popcorn (microwave)
- Pretzels (individual packs)
- Ramen (spicy)
- Grocery cards (Ralphs, Target, Whole Foods, Sprouts)



Food Drive runs from Sunday, February 18 - Sunday March 31 (donation bins in the Narthex and at Welcome Table)

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 are open on the first Fridays of the month, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Families welcome!
Open next: **March 1.** 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, February 21, at Literati Cafe**

• 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

Next meeting: **Saturday, March 16**

• The Chancel Choir

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

• Open Space Young Adults

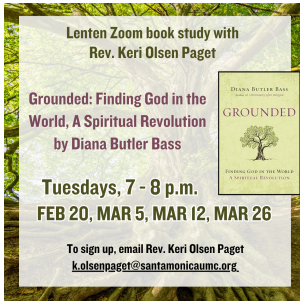
Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. Learn more: www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space. IG: @openspacesm. Next Meeting: **Wed, February 21**

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting: **February 25**, in the Fireside Room.
www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry

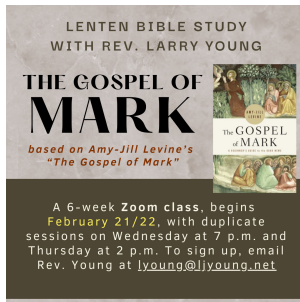
Lenten Book Studies: Two Opportunities

First UMC offers two Lenten Zoom book studies, you may join in at any time:



• **Rev. Keri Olsen Paget** will be leading a study of the book *Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution* by Diana Butler Bass. We will explore the book and our own experiences of “finding God-with-us” in the natural habitat and our human geography. Join us for four sessions of discussion and prayer via Zoom for the Tuesdays in Lent from 7 – 8 p.m. Don’t have time to read the book? Join us anyway, there will be a short introduction to discussion topics at the beginning of each session. To join, or if you have any questions, please contact Rev. Keri at k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org.

February 20, March 5, March 12, March 26, 7 p.m. via Zoom



• **Rev. Larry Young** will be offering a 6-week Lenten study on Zoom, using Amy-Jill Levine’s new book on *The Gospel of Mark*. Dr. Levine brings a unique Jewish perspective on this Gospel as we would expect, having done another of her studies in 2022. She will introduce each session with a video, to be followed with a study based on her student book, available from Cokesbury.com (search book title.)

The classes will begin on February 21/22, with duplicate sessions on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 2 p.m. To sign up, email Rev. Young at lyoung@lyoung.net

Wednesday at 7 p.m. classes: Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20, Mar 27

Thursday at 2 p.m. classes: Feb 22, Feb 29, Mar 7, Mar 14 Mar 21, Mar 28

Book links on the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/lenten-studies-2024

Lent at First UMC: www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

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: Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM. For more info, see column on the right.

Website Pages to note:

View Past Mid-Week Recitals:

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

Reaching Out:

www.santamonicaumc.org/reaching-out

Sunday Worship Service archives:

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive

Audio Sermon Archives:

www.santamonicaumc.org/sermon-archives



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

