

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Lent • Moments for Mission • March 10, 2024

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

PRELUDE *Kyrie from Requiem* (Michael McClish)

Ty Woodward, organ

*OPENING HYMN #707 United Methodist Hymnal — Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Larry Wilson, Lay Lector

Merciful God, whose ways are good and true,

Wrap me in your mercy.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation:

Give to us your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you with willing hearts,

Bearing witness to your abundant grace in all the world.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!"

*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jamie Jones

#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

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget

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

Thanks be to God!

Moments for Mission: UCLA Wesley Foundation 580 Cafe Emily Wang and Jhakur McLeod

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

Larry Wilson

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

SERMON "The Rhythm and Dance of Grace"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #2162 TFWS — Grace Alone

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith, every difference we can make is only by his grace. Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine, every blessing left behind is only by his grace. (*Refrain*): **Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.**

Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone. Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach, everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace. Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away, every sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace. (*Refrain*.)

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Rev. Olsen Paget

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

Larry Wilson

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

More Love to Thee (arr. Howard Helvey)

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee; this is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee! Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now thee alone I seek, give what is best; this all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee! Then shall my ev'ry breath sing out thy praise; this be the only song my heart shall raise; this still my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee!

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Larry Wilson

In the silence of our hearts or in spoken words, we give thanks for the gift of this day and pray for the life of the world. Be our strength this day, O God, the strength of new beginnings in our lives and in our world. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #378 UMH – Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in D minor (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.

—**Flowers in the Narthex:**

- "In loving memory of Ronald Krieger." From his family.
- "In loving memory of Audrey Rogers." From her family.

—**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
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Pastoral Associate
Tricia Guerrero
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Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
Rev. Keri Olsen Paget
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Music Director
Dr. James Smith

Organist
Ty Woodward
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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

**Q&A ON THE UMC AND
UPCOMING GENERAL
CONFERENCE WITH
REV. PATRICIA FARRIS**



Stay after worship to hear an update from Rev. Farris who has participated in nine General Conferences, and will be attending GC April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Sunday, March 10, 11 a.m.
in Simkins Hall**

Today! Q&A on the UMC General Conference with Rev. Farris

The General Conference of the UMC brings together lay and clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come. It is the only body that can set official policy and speak for the international denomination. Stay after worship today to hear updates from Rev. Farris, who has participated in nine General Conferences, and will be attending GC April 23 - May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. For more info, visit:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference>

Today after worship in Simkins Hall

**PLANTING DAY
with Rev. Keri**

at the Upward Bound House FARM

**Saturday, March 16
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Plan to get dirty, enjoy community fellowship, and help reduce food insecurity in our neighborhood. No gardening experience required.



Planting Day with Rev. Keri at the UBH Farm

Feel God's creation in your hands and watch new life emerge by gardening with us at the Upward Bound House FARM! The UBH FARM is a full-fledged organic farm in our own neighborhood. It provides "fresh produce to homeless families in conjunction with key curriculum to support mental and physical health and wellbeing." During our visit we will be "turning" the garden beds and planting a new round of crops. Wear your gardening clothes and hat. **Plan to get dirty, enjoy community fellowship, and help reduce food insecurity in our neighborhood. No gardening experience required.** If you'd like to attend, please email Rev. Keri by March 12, at: k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Meet at the Farm (1417 Yale St. SM, CA)

WOMEN OF ACTION PRESENTS

**St. Patrick's
Day Luncheon**

**Sunday, March 17
11:15 a.m. in Simkins Hall**

- Suggested donation of *\$10 per person includes lunch
- Rousing singalong!
- Crafts for the kids!

*UWF will donate the proceeds to 580 Café Wesley Foundation at UCLA in honor of Rev. Patricia Farris for her 26 years as our Sr. Pastor.



Don't forget to
Wear Green!

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - Get your tickets now!

Women of Action, a circle of United Women in Faith, in partnership with Fellowship and Events and Children's Ministry, presents the 22nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 17 after worship in Simkins Hall. **UWF will donate the proceeds to 580 Café Wesley Foundation at UCLA in honor of Rev. Patricia Farris for her 26 years as our Sr. Pastor.** The suggested donation of \$10 per person includes lunch and a rousing singalong led by JoAnne Bailey, with virtuoso piano accompaniment by Mary Crawford. Children will be provided seasonal crafting materials. Children under 5 admitted free. Don't forget to wear green! Tickets are available today at the Women of Action table.

Sunday, March 17, after worship in Simkins Hall

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

• March Mid-Week Recital

The March Mid-Week Recital features **Eva Smith Schoenweiss, violin; and Wayne Smith, cello**. Eva and Wayne met and first played together as students in Cincinnati, Ohio. They now live in Berlin, Germany, where both teach at the Hanns Eisler Conservatory and perform together in the Niccolo Quartet. Eva is principal second violinist of the Deutsches Symphonie Orchestra. Visit the website for more info and past recitals:

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

Wednesday, March 13, 12:10 p.m. ONLINE:

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/
FirstUMC_SM)



• Order Easter Flowers

Now is the time to dedicate Easter Flowers in honor of a loved one for a small donation. Dedications will be listed in the OOW for the March 31 Easter service. Order flowers online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund, or at the Sunday Welcome Table. \$15 per plant.

Deadline to order: Tuesday, March 19



• Palm Sunday: Brunch/Easter Bunny/ Egg Hunt

Following worship, come for a Palm Sunday celebration, hosted by Children and Family Ministries. Featuring brunch, an Easter Egg hunt, games and crafts, a family photo opp, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! Fun for all ages!

Sunday, March 24, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

MISSION AND SERVICE

• Help the 580 Cafe UCLA Students - Lenten Food Drive

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. 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.

Peanut-butter (small jars)

Lentils

White Rice (short and long grain)

Pasta

Pasta Sauce (small jars or cans)

Snack Bars

Snack crackers (individuals package)

Popcorn (microwave)

Pretzels (individual packs)

Ramen (spicy)

Grocery cards (Ralphs, Target, Whole Foods, Sprouts)

Food Drive runs thru Sunday March 31

(donation bins in the Narthex and at Welcome Table)

• First UMC Blood Drive

The Health Ministry Council is pleased to announce that an in-person Blood Drive will be held at First UMC for the first time since 2019! The American Red Cross is in critical need for donors of all blood types - give blood and you'll have the knowledge that you've truly helped save someone's life! For more information, questions, or to volunteer, contact Debi Jenkinson (debijwong@yahoo.com). Schedule your appointment now on the website: www.redcrossblood.org, and enter sponsor code FirstUMCSM.

**Sunday, April 28, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
in Simkins Hall**



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: **Good Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the Labyrinth and Chapel**

• 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, March 20, 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, March 20**

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting is **April 7**, in the Fireside Room.

www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry

Holy Week 2024

MARCH 24: Palm Sunday

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship

The day we celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, with the waving of palms and loud Hosannas!

MARCH 24: Palm Sunday

Brunch/Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt

11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

Following worship, come for a Palm Sunday celebration, hosted by Children and Family Ministries. Featuring an Easter Egg hunt, brunch, games and crafts, a family photo opp, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! Fun for all ages!

Thursday, MARCH 28:

• Maundy Thursday

- 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 958 Lincoln Blvd, SM

Friday, MARCH 29: Good Friday

• Prayer Vigil 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

First UMC Chapel. Open all day for prayer.

• Good Friday Labyrinth Walk 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Simkins Hall. The Labyrinth will be open for walking, every step a prayer.

• Good Friday Services

- 12 p.m. Good Friday - Stations of the Cross

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 958 Lincoln Blvd, SM

- 7 p.m. Good Friday Ecumenical Service

Join Rev. Patricia Farris, and the First UMC Choir in an ecumenical service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 958 Lincoln Blvd, SM



EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31: Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m. Palisades Park

(Washington Ave. & Ocean Ave.)

Bring fresh flowers for the cross, and a lawn chair or blankets. Hot coffee served.

MARCH 31: Easter Celebration Worship

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship

Family Service, Choir, Organ,
Easter Flowers, and Alleluias!

(nursery care provided)



Give Online You may give online via the QR code on the left (*take a photo of the code with your phone*), via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot. To learn more: www.santamonicaumc.org/give