

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Back to School Blessings • Moments for Mission • August 25, 2024

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

PRELUDE *Air from Water Music Suite* (G. F. Handel)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #2271 The Faith We Sing — Come! Come! Everybody Worship

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

Come and hear the good news.

Our God is a God of blessing.

God's love is for all people and all of creation.

Our God is a God of compassion and justice.

No matter who you are or what is happening in your life.

Our God is a God of wisdom and truth.

We are called to lives of faithfulness in beloved community.

We have been blessed to be a blessing.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Share the good news celebration! Sing His praises joyfully. Alleluia, O sing and praise Him! Alleluia, praise the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia! Sing and praise Him joyfully!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jamie Jones

Please greet those worshipping near you.

*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate; Rev. Batson

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

#2233 TFWS— 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 at the Preschool play yard.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

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: Haiti

Todd Erlandson, Haiti Team Leader

HYMN #2242 TFWS — Walk with Me (verse 4)

SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Olsen Paget

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 HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)

Wilbur Fitzgerald, Lay Lector

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

HOMILY "Be Strong. Be Brave. God Is With You."

Tricia Guerrero

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Wilbur Fitzgerald

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

O! What a Beautiful City (arr. Shawn Kirchner)

Oh what a beautiful city! Twelve gates to the city, Halleluia! Have you heard about the City?
The streets are paved with gold! Twelve gates to the city, Halleluia! Three gates in-a-the east!
Three gates in-a-the west! Three gates in-a-the north! Three gates in-a-the south! See those
gates of pearl, open to all the world. Twelve gates to the city, Halleluia! *(Traditional spiritual)*

*RESPONSE #94 United Methodist Hymnal – The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy
Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Wilbur Fitzgerald

**Source of every blessing, you have planted us beside living waters and nourished
our souls with your ways of life. In gratitude and thanks, we return these gifts to
you. Bless them with your grace, that they may go forth to heal our world. In the
name of the one who leads us into life, we pray. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #2153 TFWS – I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*BENEDICTION

Tricia Guerrero

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Hornpipe *from* Water Music Suite (G. F. Handel)

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.



—**Children and Families on Sundays:** Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Family 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:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "In celebration of the new school year and in honor of our wonderful preschool teachers and staff."

—**The Chancel Choir:** During the summer months the Chancel Choir is singing some of their favorite anthems from the prior year. We hope they are your favorites also.

—**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. Greg Batson

g.batson@santamonicaumc.org

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t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation

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k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

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Dr. James Smith

Organist

Ty Woodward

Office Manager

Sarah Rold

s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

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Communications Director

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Head Custodian

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Preschool Director Emerita

Dee Menzies

d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org

Co-Associate Preschool Director

Dane Rold

d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Co-Associate Preschool Director

Johanna Holman

j.holman@santamonicaumc.org

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

SUNDAY INSERT
AUGUST 25, 2024

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org



Preschool Teachers and Staff

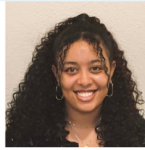
Room 100



Shancee



Susie



Yabi



Toni

Room 104



Tina



Miriam



Aster



Amy K

Room 107



Tonia



Gloria



Amy B



Kate

Room S2



Janette



Sandy

Floater Teachers



Ryli



Emily

Chef



Sheldon

Co-Associate Directors



Johanna



Dane



Today we celebrate Back to School Blessings! We will have a special blessing for teachers and students of all ages. We also have Prayer Squares for our Preschool Teachers on the north wall - you may tie prayer knots on the squares to keep them in love and prayers throughout the school year. Blessing tags are available in the Narthex - you may pick one up for yourself or loved ones.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *of* SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258

www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Pennies + for Haiti

Our annual Pennies + for Haiti drive concludes today, with Haiti Team Leader **Todd Erlandson** giving us an update in Moments for Mission during worship. Our fundraising goal this year is \$4,000. Todd explains, "The focus of the campaign is to build Haiti reserves so we can continue to invest in the yearly peanut harvest; provide goats to needy families; and to help in the construction of cisterns for the storing of fresh water in individual homes." Drop off your loose change, cash or checks after worship, or give online at: www.santamonicaumc.org/give, select *Haiti Mission Donation* in the drop-down menu.

Today, after worship in the Alcove

• United Women in Faith Ice Cream Social

The UWF are hosting an Ice Cream social after worship next Sunday, September 1. Stay after church to enjoy fellowship and an end-of-summer treat!

Sunday, September 1, after worship in the Courtyard

• Cyber Security Workshop

Save the Date for a Cyber Security workshop led by First UMC members **Adam Guerrero, Ben Ing, Will Sweat and Brandon Searfoss** on Sunday, September 8, after worship. These First UMC members work in the field of cyber security, and will update us on the latest in scams and frauds, and answer any of your questions.

Sunday, September 8, after worship in the Fireside Rm

• Homecoming Sunday

All are invited to Homecoming Sunday! Our theme is *Building our Home: A Celebration of Belonging*. In an age where we often find ourselves disconnected and alone, this is an opportunity to return to our church home and reconnect with one another. We will join together for worship at 10 a.m., followed by plenty of food and fellowship for all. There will also be opportunities to learn about our upcoming programs and ministries for this Fall.

**Sunday, September 15,
10 a.m. worship, followed by
11 a.m. Lunch and Festival
Fun in the Courtyard**



MISSION AND SERVICE

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

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.



• Ways to Serve at First UMC

Many of you have asked... How can I do more? How can I serve? These are excellent questions to consider! We have ways to serve out in the community with our Mission Partners - AND ways to serve here in our church community. Opportunities include: Labyrinth Host, Lay Lector, Welcome Ambassador, Usher, In-Home Communion Server, Singing in the Chancel Choir. All are vital ways to faithfully share your gifts. If you are interested in learning more or exploring a service opportunity, please reach out to Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

• Volunteer Opportunity at The People Concern

Linda Diane Anderson runs a volunteer group on the **third Saturday of the month** at The People Concern, making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches. If you would like to be part of the group rotation of volunteers, contact Tricia: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org. The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier.

• 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

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

• Children's Ministry

Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Family Zone in the Narthex. You are invited to look around and greet a child and their family in worship. 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

• Preschool Enrollment Ongoing

Schedule a tour today with Co-Associate Directors Dane or Johanna 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

The Youth meetings will return from Summer break beginning with their Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, September 8, 6 - 8 p.m., Room 300 and Youth Lounge

PRAYER

• Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth and Chapel are open on the first Friday of the month, from 1 - 3 p.m. Families welcome! Open dates:
- **Next Opportunity: Friday, September 6, 1 - 3 p.m.**

• 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

• Request a Prayer Quilt

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a group that makes Prayer Quilts as a service for those in need. (**Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.*) To request a Prayer Quilt, visit:
www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry

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: **Wednesday, August 28**, via Zoom

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, September 21**

• The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. **Sing in the Chancel Choir!** We always welcome new members who would like to sing with the choir! Thursday evening rehearsals are on summer break until September 5, but you may still contact Jim Smith if you are interested:
djes@roadrunner.com

• 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. **Starting in September, Open Space will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month, from 7- 8:30 p.m., off-site.**

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting: Sunday, **September 22**, in the Fireside Room.

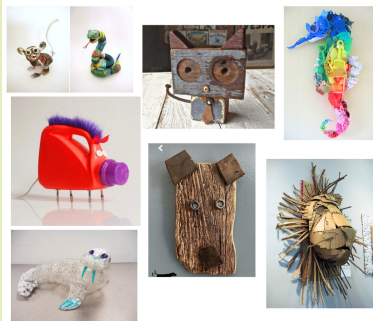
Annual Blessing of the Animals & Art Exhibit Is Coming Soon! **Call out for ART**

Save the Date for our 17th Annual Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday, October 5, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Our annual Blessing of the Animals Art Exhibit will be open at the same time in the Fireside Room. We're excited to once again put the call out for art from YOU, the congregation, and any artist friends or family that would like to participate. **This year, we have a new twist on our theme - we invite all to create their favorite species out of found objects or everyday household items - i.e. Recycled Art!**

Look for opportunities during Coffee Hour on September 15, Homecoming Sunday, to create your creatures - we'll provide materials and space for you to create. Or, work on your piece at home, and bring your artwork to the church office by **Tuesday, September 24.**

The exhibit will run thru October. If you'd like participate or have questions, email Tina Gage: t.gage@santamonicaumc.org.

Recycled Art ideas...



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 (*Point your phone camera at the QR code and click on yellow link— you should be able to still receive the necessary information*), 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



STAY CONNECTED

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

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.



Website Pages to note:

Messy Church returns! Visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch/

Sunday Worship Service archives -

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive

Audio Sermon Archives - *Listen to past sermons*

www.santamonicaumc.org/sermon-archives

Living with Dignity Advanced Care Planning: Schedule an Appointment

The Pastoral Care Staff here at First UMC offers many services, including guidance with advance care planning, and memorial services. The Five Wishes is the first easy to-use Living Will that talks about your personal, emotional and spiritual needs as well as your medical wishes. If you're interested in scheduling an appointment with Anne Premer, Congregation Care Associate, she will assist in answering questions and filling out the paperwork: a.premer@santamonicaumc.org, or call 310-393-8258 x 103.

Sunday Flowers

Do you have a loved one you would like to dedicate flowers to on a given week? The church office can assist with the dedication and the cost is \$80. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, or online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund Available Sundays: Sept 1/8/15/22/29