

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

18th Sunday after Pentecost • September 22, 2024

WE GATHER



*Following  
Jesus*

WELCOME

Molly Smith, Lay Leadership Team

PRELUDE Adagio Molto *Sonata No. 3* (Alexandre Guilmant)

Ty Woodward, organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#589 United Methodist Hymnal — The Church of Christ, in Every Age

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

God of our Saviour Jesus Christ, when we do not follow in your ways,

**Forgive us and bring us back to you.**

When we are afraid of what it might cost us if we really opened ourselves to you,

**Forgive us and bring us back to you.**

When we allow self-concern to rule all other concerns,

**Forgive us and bring us back to you.**

When we doubt our path or think we've lost our way,

**Guide and help us to follow Jesus and your Holy Wisdom with all our hearts. Amen.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Guide us, O Thou great Jehovah, we will ever give to Thee. Songs of praises, we will ever give to thee."

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jamie Jones

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

\*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 Rooms 204 and 206.*

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Molly Smith

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

**Thanks be to God!**

HYMN #338 UMH — Where He Leads Me (verse 1)

## SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Molly Smith

## 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

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Mark 8:27-38 CEB

Kate Beckerman

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

SERMON "Following Jesus"

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

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## WE RESPOND

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Kate Beckerman

*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](http://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

Don't Be Weary, Traveler (arr. Karen Seals)

Zack Borowiec, oboe

Don't be weary, traveler, come along home to Jesus. My head got wet with the midnight dew, angels bear me witness too. Where to go I did not know, ever since He freed my soul. I look at the world and the world looks new, come along home to Jesus.

### \*RESPONSE #94 UMH – 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

Kate Beckerman

**God, we hear and we respond to your words of wisdom, your words of call and life. May these gifts, not only of our resources, but of our very selves—our words, our thoughts, our actions—be acceptable to you, and help spread your words of life and love. Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

### \*HYMN #2130 TFWS – The Summons

### \*BENEDICTION

Tricia Guerrero

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE Toccata (Gordon Balch Nevin)

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org). To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://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](http://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. Greg Batson**

[g.batson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:g.batson@santamonicaumc.org)

*Pastoral Associate*

**Tricia Guerrero**

[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

*Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation*

**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**

[k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)

*Business Administrator*

**Christina Eddy**

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*Congregation Care Associate*

**Anne Premer**

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*Music Director*

**Dr. James Smith**

*Organist*

**Ty Woodward**

*Office Manager*

**Sarah Rold**

[s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)

*Membership and Facilities*

*Coordinator*

**David Penson**

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**Tina Gage**

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*Head Custodian*

**Javier Espinoza**

*Family Ministries Coordinator*

**Jamie Jones**

[j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)

*Program and Outreach Coordinator*

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*Preschool Director Emerita*

**Dee Menzies**

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*Co-Associate Preschool Director*

**Dane Rold**

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*Co-Associate Preschool Director*

**Johanna Holman**

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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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) · 310-393-8258



### Women's Tea with the UWF

The United Women in Faith will be hosting their second annual Women's Tea on Saturday, September 28, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. This will be an opportunity for community with other women from First UMC, and to learn about the mission and work of our unit of the United Women in Faith. We welcome special guest Tania Batson, Rev. Greg Batson's spouse, to the Tea! **If you haven't RSVP'd yet, please do:** [UWFsantamonica@gmail.com](mailto:UWFsantamonica@gmail.com) Childcare is available upon request, email: Jamie Jones [j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)

**Saturday, September 28, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Simkins Hall**



### Walk the Labyrinth / Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth is open on the first Friday of every month, 1-3 p.m. in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation, or see a labyrinth host for guidance. Children and families welcome! For those unable to walk, we have finger labyrinths available. The Chapel is also open for prayers during this time.

**Friday, October 4, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall and the Chapel**



### Reflections on Living Toward Life's Final Transition, Led by Rev. Larry Young

Thinking about our life's end is not something most of us embrace eagerly, for a variety of reasons. Yet that day is certain to come for all of us. If we can grow to anticipate it in a more positive light, our living here and now can have more hope and less anxiety. This is the spirit in which this class is offered. Topics to be covered include: • Facing our fears about our death • The witness of Scripture and Christian tradition to what lies beyond • Our distinctive Methodist heritage with regard to facing life's end • The witness of some contemporary Christians to their end-of-life faith • Implications for our lives here and now. There is no class fee. An in-person class, with a possible Zoom option. Register on the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/reflections](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/reflections)

**First Meeting: Sunday, October 6, 11:30 a.m. Room 206**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • October Mid-Week Recital

The October Mid-Week Recital features **Rodell Rosel, tenor**. Originally from the Philippines, Grammy-nominated tenor Rodell Aure Rosel appears regularly in major opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and Royal Opera House. He also was First UMC's tenor section leader/soloist in 2003-2004.

How to watch the Livestream:

• Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](#) • YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](#) • Website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](#) • The First UMC App: (Search FirstUMC\_SM at the App Store ) *After livestream airs, recitals remain on above platforms to view anytime.*

**Wednesday, October 9, at 12:10 p.m., online**

### • Let's Talk About Medicare Workshop

Join us after worship on Sunday, October 13, to talk about Medicare for 2025. Our guest speaker, Bruce Johnston, is a Medicare expert who has been assisting folks with their Medicare-related health insurance coverage for more than 25 years. He's also a preferred broker for UCLA and Providence St. John's health care systems. Open enrollment for Medicare starts October 15 and continues through December 7. So bring your questions and join us for an informative discussion! If you'd like additional information, please email Anne Premer at [a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org).

**Sunday, October 13, at 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room**

### • Women's Spiritual Retreat

Sign Up Now: November 8-10, 2024

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Tania Batson and Sue Conklin, LCSW will be leading a retreat for women on the campus of Brave Grace in Silverado Canyon, entitled "Sensing the Divine: Communing with God and Creation." We will have the opportunity to pray, reflect and engage in calming and healing encounters with horses. No experience with horses required, and riding will not be expected. The retreat can accommodate up to 10 participants. More details to come. For more information and to sign up, contact Rev. Keri: [k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org).

## 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](http://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. Foods requested:

Peanut Butter and other nut butters • Pasta and noodles  
Cereal (hot and cold) • Canned soups • Canned meats and fish • Beans (dry and canned) • Canned stews or chili  
Canned pasta • Canned vegetables • Canned or dried fruits • Canned tomatoes • Pasta sauces (no glass, please) • Protein, energy, or granola bars • Lentils  
Baby foods and formula • Shelf-stable milk or nondairy substitutes • Cooking oil • Flour and baking mixes • Nuts • Rice

**SAVE THE DATE: Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk - Sunday, November 3.**

### • Ways to Serve at First UMC

Many of you have asked... How can I do more? How can I serve? 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. For more info, reach out to Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org). The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry)  
**Upcoming Meetings: Tonight, Sept 22; Sept 29**

## 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, October 4, 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/prayer-requests/](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/)

### • 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

Next meetings: **Wednesday, Sept 25**, via Zoom;  
**Wednesday, Oct 2**, Literati Cafe

### • Prayer Quilt Ministry

**Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month**, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, Oct 19**

### • 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 from 7:30 - 9 p.m. in the Choir Room. Contact Jim Smith if you are interested:  
[djes@roadrunner.com](mailto: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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space). IG: @openspacesm. Next meeting: **Oct 2, 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: **Today, Sept 22**, in the Fireside Room.



# Blessing of the Animals 2024

We look forward to our 17th Annual Blessing of the Animals!

This year we feature:

- Walk-Up blessings in the First UMC Courtyard.
- Kids can bring stuffed lovinies to be blessed.
- All are invited to bring donations of pet food for our local pet shelters.
- View beautiful animal art by the congregation and friends in the Fireside Room. Don't miss this annual tradition!

[www.santamonicaumc.org/blessings-animals](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/blessings-animals)

**Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the First UMC Courtyard**



*Scenes from last year's Blessing of the Animals*



## Blessing of the Animals Art Exhibit

The Blessing of the Animals Art Exhibit in the Fireside Room will be held alongside the Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard.

### Call out for ART:

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**!

Stop by the art table in Simkins Hall today to work on a Blessing of the Animals recycled art creation! We'll provide materials and space for you to create, so you can start your project and take it home to finish. Bring your artwork to the church office before or by **Thursday, September 26.**

**Exhibit: Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the Fireside Room**

