

SENTINEL

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HORIZONS

BY REV. GREG BATSON

As we enter November, we are called into a season of gratitude. I know our culture often jumps from Halloween into the Christmas season, but we should pay attention to the Thanksgiving holiday, for it reminds us of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us by God. We give thanks for family and friends, for health and well-being, for life itself. We express our gratitude for our faith and our church as we enter into our annual Stewardship campaign.

Our theme this year for our Stewardship Campaign is "Building Our Home: A Celebration of Belonging." My family and I resonate with this theme as we returned here to Santa Monica First UMC this past July. My appointment as your Senior Pastor brings us back to where my journey as a pastor began twenty-four years ago as one of your Associate Pastors. This church and the community feel like home, and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve.

The past four months have been filled with energy and new life. We have enjoyed reuniting with old friends and being introduced to new ones in worship and during the fellowship time. Our worship is filled with beautiful music, both choral and instrumental, every time we gather. We recently received new members in September and anticipate another group joining in November. Messy Church has returned, offering another opportunity to gather for worship and fellowship. Our award-winning Preschool is adding new families and continues to grow. Each week is filled with opportunities for discipleship: small groups, classes and seminars, youth group, a women's retreat, and others. We continue to reach out to our community through



the support of organizations such as Homeboy Industries, the Westside Food Bank and Upward Bound House. The list goes on, but the message is the same: our church is alive and well, building upon our long history and great traditions.

What makes all of this possible is your generous giving. Our support builds our church home where all belong, making the ministries listed above a reality. By giving of our time, talents, and resources, we deepen our relationship with God and one another. If you've not yet begun the spiritual practice of regular giving, I invite you to do so by making a pledge commitment for 2025. If you can increase your giving in support of our growth, I invite you to commit to that in the next year as well.

Let us give thanks for God as we practice gratitude for our many blessings by giving to others.

ALL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

Join First UMC for the annual Church Charge Conference! We will engage in a joyful and worshipful celebration of this year's accomplishments, both in person in Simkins Hall, and via Zoom. This year's theme is "Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Flourish!" We are excited to welcome District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi. Lunch will be served and child care will be provided (email Jamie Jones: j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)

For Zoom link, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/church-charge-conference

Sunday, November 17, after worship, in Simkins Hall



During Church Charge Conference, we will honor the First UMC church members and congregants who have reached the 50 year mark this year:

- Charlsa Boone
- Mary Crawford
- Richard Crawford
- Rebecca Leong
- Sun Gi May
- William May
- Chris Ruud
- Lois Stine
- Diana Stumpf
- Gabrielle Mayeur Weinman



BUILDING OUR HOME: A CELEBRATION OF BELONGING

Soon each of us will receive a special Stewardship letter from Reverend Greg Batson. During the month of November, we will focus on what it means to Build our Home through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Join us on the Sundays of Nov. 10, 17, & 24 to hear members share how giving has made a difference in their lives. What makes all of this possible is your generous giving. By pledging any amount, you help plan for the new year to maximize all we can do. There are three easy ways to submit a pledge to the church:

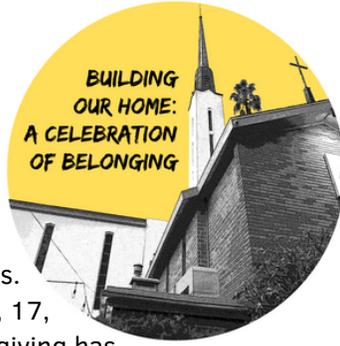
1. Return the pledge card you received in the mail to church on Consecration Sunday, November 24.

2. Fill out an online pledge card:

www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

3. Email our Business Administrator, Christina Eddy, with your pledge at c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org by November 30.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous support as we continue to build our faith together.



WORSHIP: IN-PERSON AND ONLINE



WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person in the Sanctuary each week. If you feel ill, please choose to worship from home online.

COMMUNION SUNDAYS



Ben Ing will be baking the bread for this month's Holy Communion. **Berneice Southcott** prepares the Communion elements before worship, with the help of Congregation Care Associate **Anne Premer**. **Mary Crawford** and **Rose Kujawa** help take care of the elements after worship. Thank you all for your service!

WORSHIP ONLINE

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

• **Website:** www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

After worship: www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive

• **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc/live

• **YouTube Channel:** [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC)

• **The First UMC App:** Download from the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

Let us know if you need assistance in joining online.

NOVEMBER ON-GOING MINISTRIES

- **Men's Bible Study** Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom
- **Open Space Young Adults** Wednesday Nov 20, Offsite
- **Listening Hearts Women's Group** Nov 6 & 20, Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, LA CA 90025) Nov 13, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Prayer Quilt Ministry** Third Saturday of the month: Nov 16, 9:30 a.m., Room 300
- **The Chancel Choir** Thursday night rehearsals: 7:40 p.m. in the Choir Room
- **Blood Pressure Screenings** Sunday, Nov 24, 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room
- **Sunday School for Kids** Sundays, 10 a.m. Meets in the Sanctuary for Children's Message, then led to Room 204 (Toddlers) and Room 206 for K through 5th Grade.
- **UMYF Youth Group** Sundays, 6 p.m. Youth Lounge (No meeting Nov 17)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY / SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 "Prayer Ground" Family Area 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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group is open to all 6th - 12th graders in the community. They gather on Sunday evenings for dinner, games and a program or topic for discussion and reflection. Meetings are on Sundays, 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge.

www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry

LISTENING HEARTS WOMEN'S GROUP

Listening Hearts is a group for women of all ages, grounded in the practices of sacred listening, prayer and reflection. We gather both in person and online weekly. On the first and third Wednesdays we meet in person at Literati Cafe, and for the second and fourth Wednesdays we meet via Zoom in the evening. All are welcome to join! Contact Tricia Guerrero to learn more: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

November Meetings: Nov 6 & 20, Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, LA CA 90025) **Nov 13**, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom



NOVEMBER *at a Glance*

- Fri Nov 1** Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open
- Sat Nov 2** UWF Peanut Brittle making day
Kids Night Out
- Sun Nov 3** *Daylight Saving Time ends*
All Saints Sunday - White Ribbon Memorial
Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk
Westside Food Bank Food Drive concludes
- Mon Nov 4** UWF Board Meeting
- Tues Nov 5** Good Grief Support Group Meeting
- Nov 8 - 10** "Sensing the Divine: Communing with God and Creation" with Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Tania Batson, and Sue Conklin
- Sun Nov 10** Baptisms / Reception of New Members
Stewardship Speaker
- Mon Nov 11** *Veterans Day - campus open, student free day*
- Wed Nov 13** November Mid-Week Recital
- Sun Nov 17** **Annual Charge Conference**
Stewardship speaker
Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids
- Tues Nov 19** Good Grief Support Group Meeting
- Sat Nov 23** Messy Church
- Sun Nov 24** Consecration Sunday
Stewardship Speaker
Free Blood Pressure Screenings
UWF Christmas Bazaar
- Nov 28/29/30** Thanksgiving weekend, *church campus closed*

WALK THE LABYRINTH & CHAPEL OPEN FOR PRAYERS

The Labyrinth is open every first Friday of the month from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation. The First UMC Chapel will also be open for prayers.

Friday, November 1, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Simkins Hall, Chapel

KIDS NIGHT OUT

Kids Night Out is back in November! While parents enjoy a well-deserved night out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team. *Registration is closed.*

Saturday, November 2, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the Education Building

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: November 17 & 24



WESTSIDE FOOD BANK HUNGER WALK

Join Team First UMC at Westside Food Bank's 34th Annual 5K Hunger Walk at Ocean View Park. We're walking to make a difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity in LA County! This free, family-friendly event is the perfect opportunity to raise awareness and show your support for the cause. Put on your walking shoes, gather your friends and family, and let's come together to make a meaningful impact in our community! **Donate to the team:**

www.santamonicaumc.org/hunger-walk

Sunday, November 3, Check-in at 12 p.m.

Race begins at 2 p.m.



WHITE RIBBON MEMORIAL / ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Each year in our All Saints Sunday worship, we lift up the names of the beloved members of our congregation who have died in the past year and gone home to be with the Lord. We also offer the White Ribbon Memorial, with opportunities to request a ribbon online, and also sign a ribbon before and after in-person worship on November 3. We give thanks for their life and life everlasting and pray for God's comfort and peace for their families.

All Saints Sunday: Sunday, November 3, 10 a.m. worship

We Remember

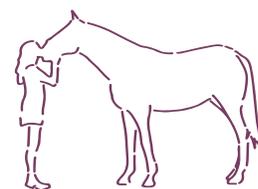
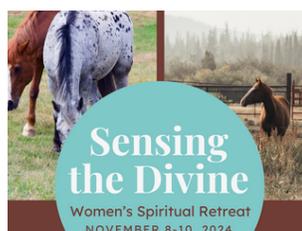
Paul Eugene Ballmer, Frances Blemker, Robert Velez Casillas, Marcia Jean Gayle, Glenn Ernest Hopkins, Audrey Jean Ojala Rogers, Joyce Rose, Edith Rachel Schidel, Christine Stumpf, Lawrence Arthur Vredevoe, Allan Walker, Theodore Wood



WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Tania Batson, and Sue Conklin will facilitate a retreat on the campus of Brave Grace Ranch from **November 8 -10**. Those who registered will have an opportunity to reconnect with God through connecting with creation, nature, horses and each other in a SENSING way! Although Registration has closed for this event, if you are interested in participating in something like this in the future please reach out to Rev. Keri

(k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org) about your interest.



NOVEMBER MID-WEEK RECITAL

The November Online Mid-Week features **Nora Chiang Wrobel, piano, and Chika Inoue, saxophone.** Nora Chiang Wrobel began her piano studies at the young age of four. At thirteen, she was awarded a merit scholarship to attend the Juilliard School. She went on to earn merit scholarships at the Eastman School of Music, New England Conservatory and the University of Southern California where she received a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music degree and earned membership into Pi Kappa Lambda, a national music honors society for academic excellence.



Concert saxophonist, **Chika Inoue** has been praised by The Los Angeles Times with "beautiful tone, acute sensitivity and virtuosic technique." Al Schmitt, 20-time GRAMMY winning recording engineer and producer applauded with "Most delicate tone I have heard throughout my career."



To read complete artists' bios, visit the website:

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

How to watch the Livestream:

- Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)
- YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSantaMonicaUMC)
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- The First UMC App: (To download, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM) You may view past recitals on these channels as well.

Wednesday, November 13, at 12:10 p.m., online

UPWARD BOUND HOUSE 12TH ANNUAL HOME RUN FOR KIDS

Experience a fantastic morning of exercise, community, and fun, all while supporting a good cause! This year's family friendly & dog friendly event will feature a live DJ, MC, a 5K run/walk, a "Kiddie K" race, and an expo area filled with fun, games and so much more! 100% of the funds raised go towards our mission to end family homelessness. The mission of Upward Bound House (UBH) is to eliminate homelessness among families with children in Los Angeles by providing housing, supportive services, and advocacy.

Sign up/donate to the First UMC Church and Preschool

Team: www.santamonicaumc.org/home-run-for-kids

Sunday, November 17

11620 San Vicente Blvd

Race Day Schedule:

8 a.m. - Event Opens!

8:30 a.m. - 5K Warm Up

9 a.m. - 5K Start

9:15 a.m.: Kiddie K Warm Up

10 a.m. - Kiddie K Start



NOVEMBER MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is an all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. At Messy Church, today's busy families of all shapes and sizes are invited into a welcoming space to experience faith. Messy Church meets once a month. Everyone is welcomed as they are. Whether you are single or partnered, young or old, tidy or messy, have questions or doubts, are filled with joy or struggling with life, you will be welcomed at Messy Church.

- Engage in activities, crafts and games that bring the month's biblical story to life.
- Join in a short celebration worship with an interactive bible story, music and prayer.
- Each Messy Church concludes with a meal.

Sitting at a table with new and old friends, sharing the stories of our real and messy lives!

Saturday, November 23, 4 – 6 p.m.

Theme: Messy Thanksgiving!

www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Did you know that regular blood pressure screenings can help detect hypertension early, which can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, and other complications? The Health Ministry Council continues to offer free monthly blood pressure screenings during Sunday coffee hour. We encourage everyone to stop by and check in for a free blood pressure screening and discussion of healthy lifestyle habits for maintaining optimal blood pressure levels.

Sunday, November 24, after worship in the Fireside Room

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

The 2025 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites us each and all to prayerfully consider our financial pledge to support the mission and ministries of First UMC. Join us for worship on **Sunday, November 24**, where we are invited to bring our pledge cards forward to be blessed. Thank you for prayerfully and joyfully offering your 2025 Financial Gift to support, sustain, and grow the vital, life-giving ministry and mission of First UMC. www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The United Women in Faith are gearing up to sell their handmade peanut brittle and Christmas Bazaar items! Through annual events like the Bazaar, the UWF support local and global missions/organizations, including The Westside Food Bank, The People Concern Children, Youth, & Family Collaborative, Meals on Wheels, The Wesley Foundation serving UCLA, and more.



Making peanut brittle!

Sunday, November 24, after worship in the Alcove



CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

First UMC of Santa Monica staff members hosted a special lunch for Claremont School of Theology's Intensive Week. On September 23rd, Staff hand prepared a homemade meal and served over 70 students and faculty at the Westwood location. We met students from all across the United States and felt good nourishing them during such a busy week. We also learned of the struggles the school is facing. We are calling out to the congregation to ask for help and can match each dollar raised up to \$2,000. Will you contribute to the life of the school and students to ensure its continuation past 140 years? You can hear more from our Bishop – <https://vimeo.com/1015881690>

BIRTHS

- First UMC member Dena Nearing's baby, **Eloise Elaine Nearing**, born September 29, 2024.

DEATHS

- Former FUMC Health Ministry staff member Mary Jo Dalton's husband, **Dr. John Dalton** died September 27, 2024. A memorial service will be on Saturday, November 9, 10 a.m., St. Monica's Catholic Church
- First UMC member **Robert Velez Casillas** died October 2, 2024.

THANK YOU, FIRST UMC!

- "I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your incredible generosity and support for the recent St. Jude fundraiser. Together, we were able to make a meaningful contribution to a cause that is near and dear to my heart: helping children and families facing serious medical challenges. The funds we raised will directly support the groundbreaking research and life-saving care that St. Jude Children's Research Hospital provides to children battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Thank you for embodying the spirit of compassion and service that our faith calls us to. I am deeply moved by the outpouring of love from our congregation, and I feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful community. May God continue to bless each of you for your generosity and steadfast support."
- **Sandra Jones**



INTRODUCING THE 90+ BIRTHDAY CLUB!

We're excited to announce our 90+ Birthday Club. Each month after worship, during coffee hour, we'll acknowledge our cherished members who are celebrating their 90+ birthday that month with a birthday cake and song. This acknowledgement is more than just a celebration of age; it's an opportunity for fellowship and connection, allowing us to learn from the rich life journeys of our seniors. We look forward to seeing you there as we uplift and honor the lives that have shaped our community!



November Birthday Celebration:

Sunday, November 10: Yvonne Dodd's 90th Birthday

FIRST UMC MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

- First UMC member **Emily Card, PhD**, was featured on a Smithsonian podcast honoring the 50th anniversary of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), which gave women the right to open credit cards in their name in 1974. Hear Emily's story about how she personally drafted legislation, stood before the Senate to argue her case, (which was met with unanimous support), and on October 28, 1974, President Gerald Ford signed the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. While there was still much work to be done following the passing of this bill, we thank Emily for her groundbreaking work! **Listen to the podcast:** www.si.edu/sidedoor/bankers-boudoir



580 WESLEY FOUNDATION AT UCLA RECHARGE FALL FUNDRAISER

Get ready to unplug and power up on November 9 at the 580 Café, as we come together to recharge our spirits and celebrate the heart and soul of our café's mission. This is more than just an event; it's a powerful gathering that embodies the essence of support and activism, creating safe spaces for all. So, don't miss out on this chance to be part of a fantastic fiesta that promises to invigorate both body and spirit—let's dance, dine, and unite for a cause that matters! Come on down and let's make some magic together!



Saturday, November 9, 2 - 4 p.m., 580 Cafe, 580 Hilgard, 10497 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 90024

GOOD GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Good Grief is a small group designed to offer opportunities to gather in a supportive community with others who have experienced loss and grief. The sessions are guided by Rev. Keri to include time for personal reflection, sharing at the level one feels comfortable, and emotional and spiritual support for one another. There is no set curriculum or “homework.” The reflection themes and/or activities are based on the needs of the group with the goal of cultivating supportive relationships.
November Meetings: Nov 5 /19 , 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room

TIME FOR MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment for Medicare 2024 is now until **December 7**. If you're 65 or older, this is when you can start thinking about signing up for Medicare or reevaluate your coverage and make changes if necessary. Feel free to follow up with our recent guest speaker, Bruce Johnston, who is a preferred broker for UCLA and Providence St. John's healthcare systems. For future assistance, AARP offers the AARP Medicare Enrollment Guide, a Step-by-step tool for first-time enrollees:
www.aarp.org/health/medicare-insurance/enrollment-guide

PRAYER REQUESTS

The First UMC Prayer Group is a network of persons who provide regular, dependable, and confidential prayer support. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time, and our Prayer Group will be notified of your request. Call the church office, or visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/

REQUEST A PRAYER QUILT

Led by **Sue Payne and Maile Marquand**, the Prayer Quilt Ministry offers Prayer Quilts to those in need. To request a quilt: 1. Talk to the intended recipient. Ask if the person is willing to be prayed for and to receive a quilt. Ask what specific prayers are wished for. There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love. 2. Contact Maile Marquand and Sue Payne at: prayerquilts@santamonicaumc.org. **(Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.)** 3. Select the quilt, if some are already made, or suggest colors if one is to be selected for you. First UMC will display the quilt in the Friday Community Email, and during Sunday 10 a.m. worship, where you may tie a prayer knot during in-person worship, or view the quilt on the Livestream.
The next meeting date is Saturday, November 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 300.

Contact info@santamonicaumc.org if you would like to volunteer. www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry



CONGREGATION CARE

Feel free to leave a phone message anytime (310-393-8258) or email message for any of the church staff.

The Pastoral Care line **(310-393-8258**

and enter extension 1), is always

available for people to leave a message

requesting care. **Pastoral Care Resources:** If you have any

questions, need assistance, or would like to volunteer to help with our homebound folks, please contact: Anne Premer:

a.premier@santamonicaumc.org or (310)393-8258 ext 103. To

see a full list of local community resources, go to the First UMC

Congregation Care Resources webpage:

www.santamonicaumc.org/care



Congregation Care Associate Anne Premer has been delivering care packages made by the kids who attended summer's Messy Camp to (from left) Jeanne Dahm, Joan Humphreys, and Janet Rawuka.

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNERS

- **St. Monica's Catholic Church: Wednesday, November 27, 1 - 4 p.m.**

725 California Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90403

A warm Thanksgiving meal will be served outside at tables. Following their meal guests will be escorted to a clothing boutique where they can choose new items such as: sleeping bags, thermals, new clothing, toiletry items and more. And finally, guests will have the opportunity to receive homeless prevention and assistance services, low-income assistance, medical assistance, and other housing related resources!

- **Westside Thanksgiving Community Dinner & Celebration, November 28, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

1645 Corinth Ave, L.A., CA 90025

Our annual tradition is back! For over four decades, we've put on a free Thanksgiving Day community celebration! We provide a wonderful sit-down Thanksgiving dinner, a huge selection of clothing to choose from, a “Mercado” (store) where you can shop for perishable and non-perishable items, live music, companionship, and more – ALL FOR FREE!

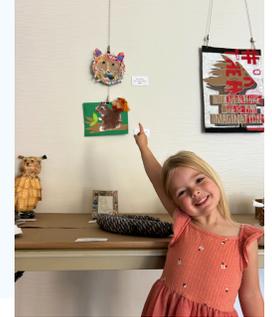


Community Photos



Thank you to all who came to our annual Blessing of the Animals on October 5!

And thanks to those who participated in the Blessing of the Animals Recycled Art Exhibit. Elly Paget (far right) proudly shows off her lion mask.



On Sunday, September 29, we welcomed New Members Carlee Forbes and Amy Lindley



One of the October Open Space gatherings



On Sunday, October 20, we celebrated Laity Sunday, with worship led by congregation members. Ron Theile preached the sermon, "To Those Who Serve."

The Youth made care packages to send to former youth away at college



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (SANTAFONIA) PRESCHOOL CORNER



Preschool Fall Festival!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA



Scan to visit
the website

1008 11th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310-393-8258
@santamonicaumc
www.santamonicaumc.org



FIRST UMC OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by
appointment. *(Office closed on Fridays.)*

Pastoral Care : 310-393-8258, enter ext. 1



LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER

- Sun Dec 1** First Sunday of Advent
Angel Tree Project begins
- Wed Dec 4, 11 & 18** Advent Study with Rev. Batson: Jesus and John:
Reflections on Luke 1-2, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fireside Room
- Sat Dec 7** Spirit Sisters Christmas Lunch
- Sun Dec 8** Angel Tree Project
First UMC Christmas Concert
- Sun Dec 15** Blue Christmas
Alternative Christmas
Angel Tree Project
- Sun Dec 22:** Alternative Christmas
Advent Brunch in Simkins Hall
- Christmas Eve Services:** 3 p.m. Family Service
7 p.m. Candlelight Service
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

