

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Church Charge Conference • November 17, 2024

WE GATHER

Where you go, I will go



WELCOME Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

PRELUDE The Happy Flutist (Ramón Noble) Ty Woodward, organ

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** #62 United Methodist Hymnal —
All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1 - 5)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Molly Smith, Lay Leadership Team

Throughout all our lives God is with us.

Praise be to God for God's mercy and love.

Even when we are faced with difficult decisions, God's presence is near.

When we don't know which way to go, God will guide and lead us.

Open your hearts today to God's gently leading.

We open our lives to God, that we may faithfully serve God all our days.

***CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE**

"O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands, serve the Lord with gladness and come before Him with a song!"

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Molly Smith

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

#2233 The Faith We Sing— Where Children Belong

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping 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!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Lindsay and Spencer Dewald

HYMN #2146 TFWS — His Eye Is on the Sparrow

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 Ruth 1:1-18

Ben Ing, Lay Lector

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

SERMON "Where You Go, I Will Go"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Ben Ing

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

Jacob's Ladder (Calvin Hampton)

We are climbing Jacob's ladder, soldiers of the cross. Ev'ry round goes higher, higher, soldiers of the cross. Sinners, do you love my Jesus? Soldiers of the cross. If you love him, why not serve him? Soldiers of the cross. Rise, shine, give God glory; soldiers of the cross. We are climbing higher, higher, soldiers of the cross.

*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

Ben Ing

Merciful God, whose wisdom surpasses all understanding, we offer these gifts as a token of our faith and devotion. In a world full of uncertainties, may these offerings be used to spread your hope and love. Teach us to listen to your voice amid the noise and to trust in your steadfast presence. Bless our giving, that it may build your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #102 UMH – Now Thank We All Our God

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Strong Tower Postlude *A Mighty Fortress* (Mathias Nagel)

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 memory of my dear husband Capt. Wendell J. Furnas." From Karen Furnas.

—**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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Ty Woodward

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Co-Associate Preschool Director

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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 · 310-393-8258

Church Charge Conference 2024



In-Person and via Zoom
November 17, 11 a.m.
in Simkins Hall



Today! All Church Charge Conference

Stay after worship today 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 so online viewers can be a part of the conference. 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. Zoom link on the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/church-charge-conference

Today after worship in Simkins Hall

2024

NORA CHIANG-WROBEL, piano
CHIKA INOUE, saxophone

November Mid-Week Recital

Chairs
Wed, Nov 13
12:10 p.m.
*then view
anytime!*

www.santamonicaumc.org

November Mid-Week Recital

You may watch the November Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Nora Chiang Wrobel, piano, and Chika Inoue, saxophone**, at any time! To read complete artists' bios, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series.

View recordings: • YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC) • Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream • App: (Search FirstUMC_SM at the App Store)



November 23
Messy Thanksgiving!
4 - 6 p.m.
First UMC Campus



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. www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch
Saturday, November 23, 4 – 6 p.m. Theme: Messy Thanksgiving!



United Women in Faith Christmas Bazaar

The United Women in Faith are ready 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.

Next Sunday, November 24, after worship in the Alcove

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS

• 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 next 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

Next Sunday, November 24, during worship

• 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.

Next Sunday, November 24, after worship in Simkins Hall

• First UMC Christmas Concert

The First UMC Music Department is pleased to present the annual Christmas Concert! Featuring: "Magnificat" by Gerald Finzi; "Jubilate Deo" by Dan Forrest; and the ever popular "Carols, Etc." Featuring the The Chancel Choir and guest singers; Santa Monica College Concert Chorale, Los Angeles Concert Orchestra; Mark Twain Alumni Ringers. Conducted by Ryan Brown and James Smith. *No admission charges - freewill offering will be taken.* Reception in Simkins Hall to follow performance.

Sunday, December 8, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**For those who can't attend Sunday night, you may observe the Concert rehearsal Saturday morning (December 7) at 9 a.m. at no charge. Carols and readings rehearsal begins at 11 a.m. Out of courtesy to the musicians please no cell phones; families with babies/small children may listen from the Narthex.*



MISSION AND SERVICE

• 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. To explore 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.

• Santa Monica Community Thanksgiving Dinners

- **St. Monica's Catholic Church:** Wednesday,

November 27, 1 - 4 p.m. 725 California Ave, SM
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.

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

1645 Corinth Ave, L.A., CA 90025
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!

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

Upcoming Meetings: Nov 24, Dec 8, 15

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!

Next Opportunity: Friday, December 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/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

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 meetings: **Wednesday, Nov 20**, Literati Cafe;

Wednesday, Dec 4, Literati Cafe

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, Jan 18**

• 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

• 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: **Nov 20, 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, Nov 24** in Simkins Hall.

Welcome to First UMC of Santa Monica!

Welcome to the worship, service, and fellowship of Santa Monica First United Methodist Church. First UMC is committed to a ministry that touches the lives of people in many significant ways. Through our worship and music, study opportunities, social groups, mission involvement and ministries of care, we proclaim the good news of God's love for all people. We also work to help make the world a better place in which to live, here in the communities of the Westside and around the world, and eagerly invite your participation in this beloved community. Our church has been a significant presence in the larger Santa Monica community for nearly 150 years.



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:

Pledge Now – Stewardship 2025:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/stewardship/>

Messy Church - upcoming dates:

www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch

Audio Sermon Archives - *Listen to past sermons*

www.santamonicaumc.org/sermon-archives

Sunday Worship Service archives -

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive

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

The First UMC App:

First UMC offers a free app - download it and give it a try! With the app, you can:

- Participate in Sunday's service, in real time or anytime at your convenience, right from your smartphone or iPad.
- Access our calendar of our events
- Invite a friend to an event, or share info about a special program we offer.
- Access an **audio/written Bible** with a built-in daily reading plan.

To download the app, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Our theme this year for our Stewardship Campaign is “Building Our Home: A Celebration of Belonging.” Last Sunday, we listened to new First UMC member **Brian Wong** give a Stewardship Moment during worship. Here are some of his thoughts:



"What I love about this community is that there are so many ways to give. It's really a Community of Faith and Action and every week we see opportunities to give and to love others just as Jesus loved us, and so I'm thankful to be part of this community where we truly see Faith and Action. Now I'd be remiss to speak about giving without mentioning my grandfather who taught me how to give. He was a devout Christian and he gave to the church but that's not what I remember. I remember him giving thanks constantly in good times and in bad. What he frequently said is, "Thank you God for these opportunities to love others just as Jesus loved us, and thank you God that as Christians we're all so much better at receiving (everlasting life) than giving."

And as **Pastor Greg** said: “There is power in giving generously to others in need. There is the practical level where the material gifts we give – money, food, clothing – help another person or family that is struggling. But here is a deeper level as well: our relationship with God is transformed when we give generously, without consideration for recognition or glory. God has given us the gift of grace, without calculation for who deserves it and how much, and it is that grace offered to us through Jesus Christ that redeems us. When we give in the same way, our faith in God is deepened, for we have now put that principle of grace into action. The free gift given to us is now given to others, and that is a power that every person in this world possesses, regardless of their income or wealth.”

Thank you Brian and Pastor Greg for your thoughts. Our support builds our church home where all belong, making the ministries we offer 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, we invite you to do so by making a pledge commitment for 2025. If you can increase your giving in support of our growth, we invite you to commit to that in the next year as well.

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 each Sunday in November to hear members share how giving has made a difference in their lives. We invite you to participate as well. There are three easy ways to submit a pledge to the church:

1. Return the pledge card sent to you in the mail to worship 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.