

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Epiphany Sunday • Holy Communion • January 5, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Minuet *from* Suite Gothique (Léon Boëllmann)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #254 United Methodist Hymnal — We Three Kings

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Crawford, Lay Lector

God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.

Arise! Shine!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Arise! Shine!

God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.

Arise! Shine!

Nations shall come to God's light and kings to the brightness of God's dawn.

Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us, him the Father gave us. Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Mary Crawford

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.

#217 UMH — Away in a Manger (verse 3)

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

As the congregation sings, the children may go to Sunday School in Rooms 204 and 206.

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!

SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Olsen Paget

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

Mary Crawford

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

HOMILY "Gift Giving"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Lay Leadership Team

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. Offering plates are located in the Narthex. You may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give; mail your gift to the church; or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. 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
Nancy Marfisi, flute

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt (Craig Courtney)

Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find Him as they said: sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed: small Voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare: a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me. Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me? To die, to live, and not alone for me.

***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**

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner

Gracious Lord, whose light guides our steps, we bring these gifts in humble adoration. May they be used to spread your truth and love to all nations. As we journey into this new year, let our hearts remain focused on your presence and our hands open to your service. In the name of Christ, our guiding star, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Batson, Tricia Guerrero

We will use the Musical Setting beginning on page 2257 in The Faith We Sing hymnal. Gluten-free vegan wafers are available. The Ushers will guide you in coming forward to receive the communion elements. You will be invited to take a piece of bread or gluten-free wafer, dip into the cup, and receive. Online worshippers are encouraged to prepare a piece of bread/cracker and juice to receive at home.

#219 UMH – What Child Is This

#242 UMH – Love Came Down at Christmas

#612 UMH – Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tricia Guerrero

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN #237 UMH – Sing We Now of Christmas (verses 1, 4 & 5)**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Batson

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in C (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.



—**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 Prayer Ground 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 wife Jennie Weese." From Tom Weese.

—**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 Rold 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.

—**Sunday Social Gathering:** Come say "Hello" and help yourself to coffee and donuts after worship in the Courtyard. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table if you have any questions!

Resident Bishop
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

West District Superintendent

Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

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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



The 90+ Birthday Club

Each month after worship, during coffee hour, we 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!

Today after worship: Celebrating Jack Fry

January Online Mid-Week Recital

The first of the 2025 Online Mid-Week season features **Althea Waites, piano**. Internationally acclaimed pianist Althea Waites has concertized extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia as a brilliant soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative artist. To view artist bio, and watch past recitals, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

Wednesday, January 8, 12:10 p.m. ONLINE:

- Facebook: @santamonicaumc • YouTube Channel: @SantaMonicaUMC
 - Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
 - The First UMC App: (Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)
-



SPirit SISTERS

SEEKING TO LIVE OUT JESUS' GREAT COMMANDMENT TO LOVE WITH EVERY FIBER OF OUR BEING



Living Fully In God's LOVE
Saturday, January 18
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
in the Fireside Room/Chapel

Spirit Sisters Retreat

The Spirit Sisters, led by Pastor Dorothy Bimber Worley, are holding an annual All-Day January Retreat with the theme "Living Fully In God's LOVE," in preparation for the Season of Lent. Women are encouraged to come at 8:30 a.m. for coffee, tea, juice, and donuts. Please bring your own lunches; beverages and dessert will be provided. All women are welcome! RSVP: Pastor Dorothy (626)826-8301

Saturday, January 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fireside Room & Chapel



United Women in Faith Game Day

The UWF are excited for their annual Game Day! ALL are welcome for an intergenerational afternoon of Scrabble, Bridge, Mahjong, Rummikub tiles, fun and fellowship, with proceeds supporting the missions of UWF.

\$10 suggested donation, includes pie!

Saturday, January 25, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

• Baptismal Renewal

Each year as a new year begins, we enjoy the renewing of our baptismal vows as a time to recommit our lives in the example of Christ Jesus and receive a fresh out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. We invite you to prayerfully prepare for worship on January 12 together, in-person and online. If you are participating online, prepare a small cup or bowl of water which will become for us a source of new life. This is the water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Sunday, January 12, during 10 a.m. worship

• Youth Sunday

Come and join us for Youth Sunday on January 26! It will be a meaningful worship experience as our youth will plan and lead worship, including our seniors who will be giving their sermon reflections. We look forward to what they have to share with us about their faith journey!

Sunday, January 26, 10 a.m. worship

• Stewardship 2025

Thank you to all who have generously pledged for 2025. Pledge Commitments are still due! We are \$50,000 from plan and need your help in fulfilling stewardship commitments to BUILDING OUR HOME. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to commit to giving for 2025, now is the time! It is such a special year as we celebrate 150 years in 2025. Your gifts help every ministry in every possible way. From worship, to congregation care, to local and world outreach, and youth, families and children. Thank you for making a difference in our community and around the world.

www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

• Messy Camp!

Save the date for this Summer's Messy Camp:

Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 1. The Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology and the Christian Faith (PASTCF) asked Jamie Jones to write about her experience leading Messy Camp last summer.

Read article here:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp>

MISSION AND SERVICE

• All Church Faith in Action

We are excited for the second annual all-church Faith in Action Service Project in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Through generous donations at the Alternative Christmas Fair, we have purchased supplies in bulk for **500 UMCOR Hygiene Kits**. We welcome help from all ages to assemble the hygiene kits!

Sunday, January 19, after worship in Simkins Hall



• 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.

• 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.

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: January 12, 19

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, February 7, 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 meeting: **Jan 15:** Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, LA CA 90025)

Jan 22: via Zoom

• 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:

Wednesday, Jan 8, off-site.

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting: **Sunday, Jan 26** in the Alcove.



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.

The First UMC Christmas Concert

If you were not able to attend the First UMC Christmas Concert on December 8, or if you did see it in person but want to see it again, you may watch the concert at any time on our YouTube channel! Featuring "Magnificat" by Gerald Finzi; "Jubilate Deo" by Dan Forrest; and the ever popular "Carols, Etc." With 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.

To watch, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/music-theater



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*) via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot.

To learn more about ways to give, 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.

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