

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Second Sunday after the Epiphany • January 19, 2025

WE GATHER



Water, Wine and Weddings

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Be Thou My Vision (arr. Gordon Young)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #103 United Methodist Hymnal — Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Buxton, Lay Lector

(based on Psalm 36)

No matter how far we wander from you, O God,

your steadfast love finds us.

No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,

your steadfast righteousness sustains us.

No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,

your steadfast presence gives us hope.

No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,

you hear our cries and answer our prayers.

Thanks be to God!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Hope in the Lord, O my soul, for I will praise Him who is the health of my countenance, and my gracious Lord and God."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Bill Buxton

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 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

Tricia Guerrero

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

Thanks be to God!

HYMN #408 UMH – The Gift of Love

SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

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 GOSPEL John 2:1-11

Bill Buxton

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

SERMON "Water, Wine and Weddings"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Rev. Olsen Paget

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

Ride On King Jesus (Traditional Spiritual, arr. Howard Helvey)

Refrain: Ride on, King Jesus; no man can a hinder me. King of Kings. He is Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, the First and Last; no man a-works like Him. (Refrain) King Jesus rides a milkwhite horse; no man a-works like Him. The river of Jordan He did cross; no man a-works like Him. King Jesus rides in the middle of the air, no man a-works like Him. He calls the saints from ev'rywhere; no man a-works like Him. (Refrain)

*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

Rev. Olsen Paget

Generous God, who turns water into wine and scarcity into abundance, we offer our gifts to you with grateful hearts. May these offerings be transformed, just as you transform our lives with your grace. Guide us to use these resources to meet the needs we see around us, to share your love, and to build your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #553 UMH – And Are We Yet Alive (verses 1-4)

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Trumpet Voluntary in D (Jeremiah Clarke)

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.

—**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.

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

Resident Bishop
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

West District Superintendent

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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

SUNDAY INSERT
JANUARY 19, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org



TODAY! All Church Faith in Action

Today after worship, we have an opportunity to put our hands to work, our faith into action, and help others with a Faith in Action Service Project in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. Through generous donations, we have purchased supplies in bulk for 500 Hygiene Kits. During Sunday School and Worship our children will prepare the supplies, and then they will lead all of us in the assembling of the kits during coffee hour. We welcome help from all ages to this service opportunity! Coffee, donuts and kids snacks will be provided.

These will then be given to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, to help with relief efforts in the U.S. and around the world. Hygiene kits provide basic necessities to those who are most vulnerable during times of crisis and are distributed during disasters, whether socio-economic or as the result of a natural occurrence. Each kit includes a hand towel, wash cloth, bar of soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, nail clippers, and band-aids. Simple items, but to those most vulnerable it can truly make an impact and lift spirits.

Today after worship in Simkins Hall



40th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Celebration

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition excited to hold their 40th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Celebration with the theme "Celebrating Women of the Civil Rights Movement: Let's Make Real the Promise of Liberty and Justice for All." The keynote speaker will be Sonya Young Aadam, CEO of the California Black Women's Health Project. A Community Involvement Fair immediately follows the celebration. <https://www.mlkjrwestside.org>

National Holiday Celebration: Monday, January 20, 11 a.m.

John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 2425 16th Street, SM CA 90403



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

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1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258
www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org   @santamonicaumc

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Next Sunday: 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! Afterwards, stay for a luncheon benefiting the Cal-Pac Relief Fund hosted by the Youth.

Sunday, January 26, 10 a.m. worship, followed by a luncheon in Simkins Hall.

• **Messy Church**

Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. 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.

February's theme: Love God.

Saturday, February 1, 4 - 6 p.m. in Simkins Hall

• **Writing Devotions 101** *A seminar about approaches to writing for our Lenten Devotional*

All are welcome to join us for a presentation and discussion about writing devotion reflections for our Lent and Advent Devotionals. We especially invite all those who have never written before, and are curious about the process. If you have previously written a devotion and would like to hear how others approach the practice, this seminar is for you too. We encourage all participants to share and receive the wisdom and creativity of our writers. Grab your coffee and donut after worship, and see how this writing practice can be easy, spiritually moving, and create connections within our community.

Sunday, February 2, after worship in the Fireside Room

• **Walk the Labyrinth / Chapel Open**

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, it is a quiet space for a walking meditation, no experience necessary. Children and families are welcome. The Chapel is also open for prayers during this time.

Friday, February 7, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall / Chapel

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.. The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier. Volunteers do not have to work every Saturday or Sunday but are asked to commit to a regular shift each month. If you would like to be part of the group rotation of volunteers, contact Tricia: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

• **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.

• **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 Preschool Co- 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: Jan 19, Feb 2

Youth Sunday: Sunday, Jan 26 during worship

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, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero. Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

Next meeting: **Jan 29:** via Zoom

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, Feb 15**

• The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. **Sing in the Chancel 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

• Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

Next Messy Church: **Saturday, Feb 1, 4 - 6 p.m.** in Simkins Hall. Theme: Love God

• 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, Feb 12**, 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.

A message from Pastor Greg:

In the wake of the fires that have devastated the Los Angeles area over the past week, we now take time to connect with one another and process what has happened. We give thanks for the firefighters, law enforcement, first responders and government officials who have worked around the clock to save lives. We also grieve with our neighbors who have been directly impacted. So many have lost their homes and all of their possessions. In this time of crisis, we come together to support one another.



Many of you have inquired about how you can help. First, pray for all who have been affected by these fires and those who are risking their lives to protect us. Families in our church and preschool have lost their homes, and many remain evacuated. Two of our United Methodist churches, Community UMC in Pacific Palisades and Altadena UMC, have been destroyed by the fires. You can provide direct assistance to those who suffered these losses by contributing to the **Los Angeles Fires Recovery Fund** created by our Annual Conference.

Go to: www.calpacumc.org/donate

Check donations payable to the California-Pacific Conference can be mailed to California-Pacific Conference, Los Angeles Fires Recovery Fund, PO Box 6006, Pasadena CA 91102.

While we grieve with and for our neighbors and friends, there is hope. People are coming together to help one another in their greatest time of need. The road of recovery and rebuilding will be long, but it can be achieved through sharing God's love with one another. Be the hope.

• Cal-Pac Volunteer Opportunities

The Cal-Pac Disaster Recovery Task Force is working with local agencies, and we will announce volunteer opportunities as they are identified. Opportunities to distribute water and personal protective equipment will be first, followed by support with sifting through affected areas. We will communicate as we know more.

• **Westwood UMC** held "A Service of Prayer & Conversation for Those Affected by the Southern CA Wildfires" on Sunday, January 13, with Rev. Greg Batson participating. You may watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@westwoodumcla/videos>

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.

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 dates: Jan 26/Feb 2, 9, 16, 23