

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Holy Communion • Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany • February 2, 2024

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

PRELUDE *Allegro Trio Sonata No. 1 in E-flat* (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #578 United Methodist Hymnal — God of Love and God of Power

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sam Johnson, Lay Lector

In you, O Lord, let us take refuge,
so we might never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, O Lord, let us find deliverance,
so we might experience your saving power.

In your presence, O God, let us place our trust,
so we might find confidence in you alone.

You are our rock and our refuge, our fortress and shield.

We turn to you again this day.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“God is our refuge and our strength; a very present help in trouble. Amen and Amen.”

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Sam Johnson

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

Leigh Erlandson, Lay Leadership Team

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 Luke 4:16-30

Sam Johnson

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

HOMILY "A New Jubilee"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Leigh Erlandson

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

Vera Lugo and Andrew Pringle, soloists

Greater Love Hath No Man (John Ireland)

Many waters cannot quench Love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death.

Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus. Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

***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**

Leigh Erlandson

Compassionate God, who sees beyond our boundaries and loves without limit, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim your good news, heal the broken, and extend your love to all, especially those we struggle to accept. Transform our gifts into a beacon of hope and inclusion that reflects the boundless love of Christ in every corner of our community. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Batson

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.

#340 UMH – Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

#375 UMH – There Is a Balm in Gilead

#632 UMH – Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Olsen Paget

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

***CLOSING HYMN #548 UMH – In Christ There Is No East or West**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Batson

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee (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 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.

—**Communion Server Ministry:** After today's service, members of the Communion Server Ministry will be taking the communion elements to those who were unable to worship with us.

—**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.

Resident Bishop
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West District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

Senior Minister
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God is real. God is love. ■ Together we can change the world.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

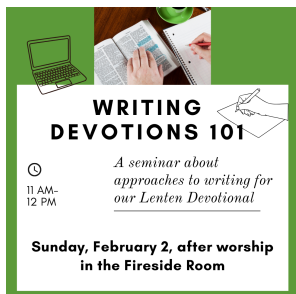
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258

Today: 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, then learn from a panel of writers how this writing practice can be easy, spiritually moving, and create connections within our community. Sign up to write a devotion reflection for Lent 2025 by emailing Sarah Rold at: s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org.

Today after worship in the Fireside Room



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, February 7, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall and the Chapel



Children's Sabbath

Next Sunday is Children's Sabbath, a day set aside to celebrate children as active participants in the life of the church. Our theme is "Thank you!" and our children are excited to share their stories of God's loving activity in their lives. Disciples come in all ages and this week our children will serve as worship leaders throughout the service. Following worship, **we invite everyone to help make Thank You cards for the firefighters and first responders in our community.** We will have cards at each table in Simkins Hall and we hope you will help us show our appreciation to those who have sacrificed so much in the past month to serve our community during the devastating fires across Los Angeles. Let us give thanks for God's love that radiates from our children's hearts as they lead us in worship, sharing their gifts and their faith.

Sunday, February 9, 10 a.m. worship, followed by card making in Simkins Hall!



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

• February Online Mid-Week Recital

First UMC is pleased to present the Online February Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Erin Wood, soprano, and Philip Hoch, organ**. Wood is an accomplished vocalist and an El Camino applied music faculty member with a distinguished opera career. Hoch is a faculty member at the University of Redlands and prolific concert organist from Southern California's Inland Empire. 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/@SantaMonicaUMC)
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- The First UMC App: (Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

You may view past recitals on these channels as well.

Wednesday, February 12, at 12:10 p.m., online

• 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!

Sunday, February 16, after worship: celebrating Ellen Wise

• Kids Night Out

Kids Night Out is back in February! 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.

Saturday, February 22, 4 – 8 p.m. in the Education Building

MISSION AND SERVICE

• Westside Food Bank

Westside Food Bank is preparing for a long recovery period in the aftermath of these catastrophic fires. The damage has been devastating, and Westside Food Bank is doing everything in its power to help our community. We can rally together to help those impacted. Food is collected at First UMC every Sunday to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found outside the Sanctuary and in the Preschool.

• 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.

• 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: Feb 2/9/16/23 in the Youth Lounge

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 meetings: **Feb 5:** Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m.

Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, LA CA 90025)

Feb 12: via Zoom, 1 p.m. (*note new time*)

• 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, March 1, 4 - 6 p.m.** in Simkins Hall. Theme: Love Your Neighbor

• 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, Feb 23** 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 150 years.



Cal-Pac Conference Wildfire Updates

We continue to pray for our congregations and communities during the current fire disaster. Current updates and resources can be found on the Cal-Pac website: www.calpacumc.org/lafires2025

• 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.

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, including the annual Stewardship campaign, Planned Giving, Tree of Life, support for the Music Program, and the flower fund, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/give



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

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:

Mid-Week Recitals - *View past recitals anytime*

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

Audio Sermon Archives - *Listen to past sermons*

www.santamonicaumc.org/sermon-archives

Worship Service archives - *View past services anytime*

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive

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 Sundays: February 9/16/23