

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Baptism • 7th Sunday after the Epiphany • February 23, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE *Adagio Trio Sonata No. 1* (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #549 United Methodist Hymnal — Where Charity and Love Prevail

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Lamb, Lay Leadership Team

Come and learn the ways of life.

**We have come to follow Jesus.**

Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

**We have come to follow Jesus.**

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

**We have come to follow Jesus.**

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**We have come to follow Jesus.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, praise ye the Lord. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praise while I have my being. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul!"

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Michael Lamb

*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.*

BAPTISM Eloise Elaine Nearing (*see insert*)

HYMN #611 UMH — Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (vs. 1,2)

*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 #164 UMH — Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

## 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

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

Tricia Guerrero

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

SERMON "Love Your Enemies"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister



# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



Sunday, February 23, 2025

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Michael Lamb, Lay Leadership Team

Brothers and sisters in Christ:  
Through the Sacrament of Baptism  
we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.  
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation  
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.  
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

I present **ELOISE ELAINE NEARING** for Baptism.

## RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:  
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?  
**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?  
**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,  
put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
in union with the Church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?  
**I do.**

Will you nurture this child  
in Christ's holy Church, that by your  
teaching and example she may be guided  
to accept God's grace for herself,  
to profess her faith openly,  
and to lead a Christian life?  
**I will.**

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,  
reaffirm both your rejection of sin  
and your commitment to Christ?  
**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life  
and include this child now before you in your care?  
**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.  
We will surround this child  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that she may grow in her trust of God,  
and be found faithful in her service to others.  
We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple  
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

**ELOISE ELAINE**, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN #611 United Methodist Hymnal — Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (vs. 1,2)  
Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this water God  
has sealed you unto love and grace divine. Child of love, our love's expression, love's  
creation, loved indeed! Fresh from God we fresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

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## 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](http://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

A Prayer on Psalm 126 (Text by Laura Farrand; Music by Susan Siphron)

O Lord, the loving gifts you have granted to your people, fill my mind and my remembering dreams, gifts of life and love, food and shelter, friends and family, strength and health, work and learning, faith and hope, that flood my heart with gladness, and my soul with thankfulness for all your gifts to us. Yet with all the blessings you have given, we need your loving hand to guide us. As desert streams flow back in springtime, lead us to a fairer world for all your people. Strengthen our faith and love to share the seeds of your goodness. Though we may sow the seeds in tears, grant us grace to reap with songs of joy. O Lord, the loving gifts you have granted to your people. Amen.

### \*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

**Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

### \*HYMN #428 UMH – For the Healing of the Nations

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE Concerto in C (Bach/Vivaldi)

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](http://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.

—**Baptism:** If you would like to learn more about baptism or inquire about baptism for your children, please see one of our pastors.

—**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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund).

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "In honor of Eloise Elaine Nearing's baptism." From Dena Nearing.

—**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](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org). To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://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](http://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

**Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**

Senior Minister

**Rev. Greg Batson**

[g.batson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:g.batson@santamonicaumc.org)

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**Dr. James Smith**

Organist

**Ty Woodward**

Office Manager

**Sarah Rold**

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**David Penson**

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Preschool Co-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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) · 310-393-8258



## Today - Blood Pressure Screenings

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. We give thanks to the Health Ministry for providing this service!

**Today, after worship in Simkins Hall**



## March 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.

*March theme: Love Your Neighbor*

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



## Ash Wednesday Services and Events

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent - a time of introspection and self-examination of our lives and relationship with God. The ritual of the ashes represent a visual reminder of the day as we pause to remember our physical limits in contrast to the infinity of God. Here at First UMC, we offer two Ash Wednesday services in the Chapel (*in-person only.*) We invite you to this intimate and reflective service that marks the beginning of the Lenten season.

**March 5, 12 p.m. & 7 p.m., in the Chapel**

## Ash Wednesday Brunch

Prior to the Ash Wednesday 12 p.m. noon service, all are welcome to an Ash Wednesday Brunch hosted by Listening Hearts in the Fireside Room, for food and fellowship together as we begin the Lenten season.

**March 5, 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room**

## Ash Wednesday: Walk the Labyrinth

The First UMC Labyrinth extends hours for walking from **12:30 - 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall on Ash Wednesday.**

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

### • **Next Sunday: Confirmation Sunday**

Confirmation is a time to explore what it means to be Christian and a Child of God. We prioritize it as a space for youth to ask questions, bring doubts, and authentically explore church and faith. This part of the youth's faith journey concludes with next Sunday's Confirmation Sunday worship service, where the youth confirm their faith and sense of belonging with the community. Come celebrate with these youth!

*\*You may say a prayer and tie a knot on the Confirmation squares hanging on the north wall of the Sanctuary today.*

**Sunday, March 2, 10 a.m. worship**

### • **Lenten Devotional**

The Spiritual Formation Council invites you to read your Lenten Devotional online and in print. Printed copies will be available next **Sunday, March 2**, at church and in the church office, and daily emails begin on Ash Wednesday. The devotional is written by the First UMC congregation and provides a wonderful opportunity to share Lent with family and friends. To sign up for the emails, visit the website at: [www.santamonicaumc.org/lent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/lent)

### • **Lenten Book Study**

Join Rev. Greg Batson and Rev. Larry Young as they co-host a 5-week Lenten Book Study based on the book *The Third Day*, by Bishop Tom Berlin. Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding of the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Class schedule: *(same class, one in-person and one online)*

**• Sundays, 11:30 a.m., in the Fireside Room**

led by Rev. Larry Young

**March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6**

**• Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom** led by

Rev. Greg Batson

**March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9**

Zoom link on the website:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/lenten-book-study-25>

Book available to buy after worship for \$20 at the Welcome Table, or order online.

## MISSION AND SERVICE

### • **St. Patrick's Day Luncheon**

Save the date for the 23rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon! **The proceeds will benefit Children, Youth and Family Collaborative, which serves foster youth both during and after their school years.** The suggested donation of \$12 per person includes lunch, a spirited singalong led by JoAnne Bailey and the ACT Singers with virtuoso piano accompaniment by Mary Crawford, and spellbinding prestidigitation by Ron Theile. Emcees Cindy McQuade and David Mayhan will supply the witty banter, colorful quips, and Irish antics. Craft materials for children, and kids under 5 dine free. Purchase your ticket on Sundays, March 2 and 9 after worship; online:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/uwf](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/uwf); or at the door.

**Sunday, March 16, 11:15 a.m. in Simkins Hall**

### • **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.

### • **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](mailto: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. **Visit the website:**

[www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry)

**Upcoming Meetings: Feb 23, Mar 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, March 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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org). Next meeting: **Mar 12** via Zoom, 2 p.m.

### • Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, March 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](mailto: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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space).

IG: @openspacesm. Next meeting: **Wednesday, Mar 19, 7 p.m.**, offsite

### • Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship.

Next meeting: **TODAY 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.



## LA Fires Response

In the wake of the fires that have devastated the Los Angeles area, 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. Visit the website for support and volunteer opportunities:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/la-fire-response](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/la-fire-response)

## 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](http://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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)

**Instagram:** @santamonicaumc

**YouTube:** @SantaMonicaUMC

**The First UMC App:** App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM.

## Sunday Flowers

Do you have a loved one you would like to dedicate flowers to on a given week? Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, or online, the cost is \$80. [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund) Available Sundays: March 2/ 9/16/23/30



Chamber Music Palisades

PRESENTS

## AN AFTERNOON CONCERT

With music for all ages, featuring piano, flute and violin introduced by the musicians.

SUNDAY  
FEB  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
2025  
at 3PM

### FREE ADMISSION

Donations welcome in person or on our website: [cmpalisades.org](http://cmpalisades.org)

HUI WU, PIANO  
STEPHANIE YU, VIOLIN  
PIERRE LONG-TAO TANG, PIANO  
SUSAN GREENBERG, FLUTE  
SUZANNE SNIZEK, FLUTE

All are welcome to **Chamber Music Palisades' "An Afternoon Concert,"** **TODAY** at 3 p.m. in the First UMC Sanctuary. First UMC is pleased to hold this concert, which was originally intended for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pacific Palisades, but was moved due to smoke toxicity.

For more information, visit their website:

<https://www.cmpalisades.org>