



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

First Sunday in Lent • March 9, 2025

WE GATHER



Temptation

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE When in the Hour of Utmost Need (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #110 United Methodist Hymnal — A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ben Ing, Lay Lector

(based on Psalm 91)

Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.

Let us worship God!

Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

Let us worship God!

Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

Let us worship God!

Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

Let us worship God together!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“Worship our God in the beauty of holiness! Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim; with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore Him: the Lord is His name!”

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ben Ing

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dot Plukas, Sunday School Teacher

#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 #377 UMH — It Is Well with My Soul

SILENT PRAYER & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Tricia Guerrero

Response: **Open our hearts, O God.**

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 Luke 4:1-13

Ben Ing

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

SERMON "Temptation"

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

Give Me Jesus (arr. L.L.Fleming)

O when I am alone, give me Jesus. You may have all the rest, give me Jesus. O, when I come to die, give me Jesus. You may have all the rest, give me Jesus. And when I want to sing, give me Jesus. You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

*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

Tricia Guerrero

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #269 UMH – Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Litanies (Jehan Alain)

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:** After worship today, come say "Hello" for Coffee Hour 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
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g.batson@santamonicaumc.org

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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.

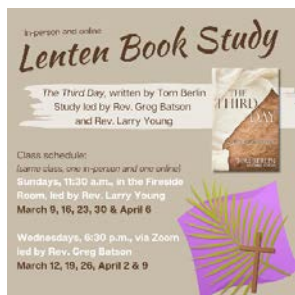
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

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



Lent 2025

Lent is the 40-day period (not including Sundays), beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 5) and ending with the celebration of Easter (April 20). The 40 days is a symbolic reminder of Jesus' fasting and temptation in the wilderness following his baptism. In the early church, it was the time set aside for preparing candidates for baptism. It is a penitential season for all Christians, an invitation to repent of our sins and return to God in our daily living. The spiritual practices for Lent include fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Each of these practices provide space and time for self-reflection. We examine our lives, confess our sins, and ask God for forgiveness. It is a journey from the ashes that symbolize our mortality to the empty tomb that proclaims the resurrection of Jesus and new life for all. We are providing a full schedule of opportunities to observe a holy and meaningful Lent at First UMC. See in this insert, and the church website: 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, March 9 (today), 16, 23, 30 & April 6, 11:30 a.m., in the Fireside Room** led by Rev. Larry Young
- **Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom** led by Rev. Greg Batson. Zoom link on the website: <https://santamonicaumc.org/lenten-book-study-25>



Field Trip: Museum of Social Justice

Everyone is invited to meet and explore the Museum of Social Justice, and view their Spring 2025 Special Exhibit: *That Stubborn Resistance*, La Piedra Art Collective. This exhibition highlights 40 years of art, history, and activism by La Piedra Art Collective and its multilayered social and cultural contributions to state history and culture. *That Stubborn Resistance* explores themes of war, memory, and healing.

www.museumofsocialjustice.org/about.html

Saturday, March 22, meet there at 10 a.m.

Admission Free 115 Paseo de la Plaza, LA, CA 90012

LENT 2025 (cont.)

• Lenten Art Exhibit - Open Today

During Lent there will be an exhibit in the Fireside Room that accompanies the Lenten Book Study based on *The Third Day*. **Today in the Fireside Room**

• Lenten Devotional

The Spiritual Formation Council invites you to read your Lenten Devotional online and in print. Printed copies are available in the Narthex and at the Welcome Table, and daily emails are underway. 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/lenf

• St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - Wear Green!

Next Sunday is 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. Emcees Cindy McQuade and David Mayhan will supply the witty banter, colorful quips, and Irish antics. Craft materials provided for children. Kids under 5 dine free.

Purchase your ticket today after worship; online: www.santamonicaumc.org/uwf; or at the door.

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

• Connecting to God through Prayer: A Workshop and Community Dinner

The First UMC Spiritual Formation Council presents an opportunity to learn about connecting to God through prayer. After an introduction and dialogue, participants will have time to engage two different prayer practices. The program will begin at 5 p.m. and the potluck dinner at 6 p.m. The church will be providing a main dish so sides, salads and desserts are welcome! You can attend both the program and dinner or just one, based on your interest and availability. Please RSVP by emailing Rev. Keri at k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org by **Monday, March 17.**

Sunday, March 23, 5 - 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room

MISSION AND SERVICE

• First UMC Blood Drive - Sign Up Now!

The Health Ministry Council is pleased to announce a Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in Simkins Hall on Sunday, April 6. Consider making a blood donation part of your Lenten practice. The American Red Cross is in critical need for donors of all blood types - give blood and you'll have the knowledge that you've truly helped save someone's life! For more information, questions, or to volunteer, contact Debi Jenkinson debijwong@yahoo.com. Schedule your appointment now on the website: www.redcrossblood.org, and enter sponsor code FirstUMCSM, or, **stop by the Health Ministry table today during Coffee Hour.**

Sunday, April 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall

• NEW! Westside Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

Westside Food Bank is underway helping with the long recovery period in the aftermath of the LA fires. The damage has been devastating, and Westside Food Bank is doing everything in its power to help our community. Come to our volunteer opportunity to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.

Friday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

1710 22nd Street, Santa Monica 90404

Contact Tricia to RSVP: 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. **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 **OPEN NOW!**

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: 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: April 4, 1 - 3 p.m. Simkins Hall

• 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: **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, Mar 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, May 3, 4 - 6 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. Theme: Teach Us to Pray

• 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, 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: **Sunday, Mar 23** in the Alcove.

150th Planning is Underway!!

2025 is a special year for First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica - our 150th Anniversary! Our church was founded the same year as the City of Santa Monica, and we have been an integral part of this community since the beginning. **We look forward to a special worship service and celebration event on Sunday, October 12, 2025.** We will also have special events throughout the season, starting September 7, to commemorate this special milestone. We look forward to the planning and moments together as we remember our past, celebrate the present, and hope for the future. Contact the church office for special volunteer opportunities: info@santamonicaumc.org



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. 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

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



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: 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 Available Sundays: March 23/30

March Mid-Week Recital

We welcome our March Mid-Week Recital musicians, **Erin Young & Christian Cruz, guitars.** To read 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

www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream • App: (Search FirstUMC_SM at the App Store)

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



All Church Cookbook! Call Out For Recipes

In celebration of our 150th Anniversary, we are excited to announce an All-Church Cookbook, and we need your recipes! How to participate:

- Submit One (1) Family recipe
- Submit a photo of your choice (*family pic or of the recipe*)
- A brief description (2 - 3 sentences) of why you chose this recipe

Send your submissions to Tina Gage:

t.gage@santamonicaumc.org, or, stop by the Sunday Welcome Table to drop off your submission.

Deadline to submit is Sunday, May 25. Cookbooks will be available in the Fall.

