



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Third Sunday in Lent • March 23, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Berceuse (Gabriel Fauré)

Kevan Torfeh, cello

*OPENING HYMN #140 United Methodist Hymnal — Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leigh Erlandson, Lay Lector

We seek God's presence in our lives today.

Forgive us Lord when we fail to bear good fruit.

God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

God forgives and heals our weakness.

Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, O God!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leigh Erlandson

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

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 #357 UMH — Just as I Am, Without One Plea (verses 1,2,5,6)

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 13:1-9

Leigh Erlandson

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

SERMON "Repentance and Mercy"

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. 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

O Love (Elaine Hagenberg)

O love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be. O Love, that will not let me go, O love, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe and in thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be. O love, that will not let me go.

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tricia Guerrero

Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #438 UMH – Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Fugue in G minor *the "Little"* (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*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.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "With love for Dr. Crystal Pritchard as a mother, therapist, and pollinator of goodness. We remember you in springtime." With love, Elissa and Scott Ashwood.

—**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

Rev. Greg Batson

g.batson@santamonicaumc.org

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Organist

Ty Woodward

Office Manager

Sarah Rold

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Dane Rold

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Preschool Co-Director

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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
MARCH 23, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org



Tonight! 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 some instruction and dialogue, participants will have time to engage in silent contemplative prayer practices, doodle, and/or written prayers. Program at 5 p.m., potluck at 6 p.m. The church will be providing a main dish so sides, salads and desserts are welcome! Please let Tricia know today if you plan on attending.

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



Community Lunch for Families

All families are welcome to join Pastors Greg and Tricia for a Community Lunch following worship next Sunday, March 30. We will gather to eat in Room 300. The church will provide baked chicken and we invite everyone to bring a side dish, salad, or fruit to share. Supervision of children and youth in the youth room and playground will be available after lunch giving parents the chance to visit with the Pastors and one another. We look forward to this opportunity to connect with families!

Please RSVP to Tricia - t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

Sunday, March 30, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Room 300 in Education Building



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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258
www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org   [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

LENT 2025

• Lent 2025

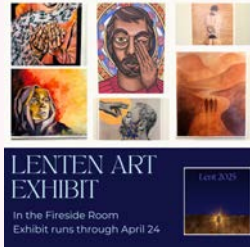
Lent is the 40-day period (not including Sundays), beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 5) and ending with the celebration of Easter (April 20). We are providing a full schedule of opportunities to observe a holy and meaningful Lent at First UMC. See in this insert, and the church website for full schedule:

www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

• Lenten Art Exhibit - Open Now

During Lent there is a print exhibit in the Fireside Room that accompanies the Lenten Book Study based on *The Third Day*.

Thru Lent 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. To sign up for the emails, visit the website at: www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

• Lenten Book Study - Continuing

All are welcome to 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. **Today's class after worship will go over Chapter 2 & 3.**

Class schedule: (*same class, one in-person and one online*)

• **Sundays, March 23, 30 & April 6, 11:30 a.m., in the Fireside Room** led by Rev. Larry Young

• **Wednesdays, March 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>

• Service of Lessons and Anthems

Through the Word and music, this annual service prepares us to enter into the events of Holy Week in deep prayer and reflection.

Sunday, April 6, during 10 a.m. worship

HOLY WEEK 2025

Sunday, APRIL 13: Palm Sunday

10 a.m. Sanctuary, Livestream

The day we celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, with the waving of palms and loud Hosannas!

Sunday, APRIL 13: Palm Sunday Celebration

11 a.m. Simkins Hall

Brunch/Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt. Fun for all ages!

Thursday, APRIL 17: Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. First UMC Chapel

Command to Love One Another: Remembering Jesus' Last Supper and Washing the Disciples Feet

Friday, APRIL 18: Good Friday

• Prayer Vigil

12 p.m. - 6 p.m. First UMC Chapel

Open all day to pray and "watch with Jesus."

• Good Friday Labyrinth Walk

12 p.m.- 6 p.m. Simkins Hall

• Good Friday Ecumenical Service

7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church

with Rev. Greg Batson, and the First UMC Choir
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (958 Lincoln Blvd)

Easter Worship Services

SUNDAY, APRIL 20: Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m. Palisades Park

Palisades Park (Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)
Family-friendly worship, Holy Communion, hot coffee & fellowship. Bring blankets, chairs, & fresh flowers for the cross.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20: Easter Celebration Worship

10 a.m. Sanctuary, Livestream

Family Service, Choir, Organ, Easter Flowers, and Alleluias!

MISSION AND SERVICE

• **NEW!** Westside Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

Westside Food Bank is underway helping with the long recovery period in the aftermath of the LA fires. 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

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 23, Apr 6/27 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
April 18, Good Friday: 12 p.m. - 6 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: **April 2** at Literati Cafe, 10 a.m.

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, April 12**

• 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: **Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.**

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship.
Next meeting: **TODAY, 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

March 7, 2025: See Message of Support from Bishop Escobedo-Frank (sent to First UMCSM as well as 10 other local UMC churches)

On the website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Order Easter Flowers

Now is the time to dedicate Easter Flowers in honor of a loved one for a small donation. Dedications will be listed in the OOW for the April 20 Easter service. Order flowers online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flowerfund, or at the Sunday Welcome Table. \$15 per plant.

Deadline to order: Tuesday, April 15



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.



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.

