



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Service of Lessons and Anthems • Holy Communion • April 6, 2025

## WE GATHER

This service of Lessons and Anthems is an annual tradition. Through the Word and music, this service prepares us to enter into the events of Holy Week in deep prayer and reflection. May the Spirit of God quiet and open your heart, mind and soul, as together we consider God's great gift of Christ Jesus.

### \* SILENT PROCESSIONAL

*Please stand as the choir and clergy process.*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

O Christ our Savior, help us to follow you deep into the waters of baptism, to break the chain of past wrongs, to become fit to face your coming age.

**Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Help us to follow you on the road to Jerusalem, to set our faces firmly against friendly suggestions to live a safe, expedient life, to embrace boldly the way of self-offering.

**Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Help us to follow you even to the cross, to see our hope in your self-sending love and mercy, to die to all within us not born of your love.

**Jesus, help us to follow you.**

### \* HYMN #286 United Methodist Hymnal — O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

### CORPORATE PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

**Almighty God, through love you have made us, and for love you call us to repentance. Grant that we who need to mend our sinful ways may find strength in your compassion and forgiveness. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; give us your Holy Spirit that we may serve you with willing hearts, bearing witness to your abundant mercy in all the world; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

### SILENT PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. \*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Whitney Hagan

THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Gilbert M. Martin)

\*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Shannon Sturgess

**O God, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, open the promise of healing for us and for your whole creation. Fill us with the bounteous gifts of your love, that we may share in the joys of your kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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## *The Last Supper*

THE GOSPEL Mark 14:12-16, 22-25

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

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.*

#616 UMH – Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

#626 UMH – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#628 UMH – Eat This Bread

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## *The Agony of Gethsemane*

HYMN #292 UMH – What Wondrous Love Is This (verses 1 & 2)

FIRST LESSON Mark 14:32-42

Shannon Sturgess

ANTHEM

Jacob Stucki and Andrew Pringle, soloists

*from The Crucifixion (John Stainer)*

And they came to a place named Gethsemane; And Jesus saith to his disciples, "Sit ye here, while I shall pray." Could ye not watch with me one brief hour? Could ye not pity my sorest need? Ah! if ye sleep while the tempests lower Surely, my friends, I am lone indeed. Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish And bearing all the evil we have done, Oh teach us how to love thee for thy love; Help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with thee. Could ye not watch with me one brief hour? Did ye not say upon Kedron's slope, Ye would not fall into the tempter's power? Did ye not murmur great words of hope?

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## *The Betrayal & Arrest*

SECOND LESSON Mark 14:43-50

Michael Lamb

CHORALE – Ah, Holy Jesus (Johann Crüger)

Ah, Holy Jesus, How hast thou offended, That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted! Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered; For our atonement, while we nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.

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## *The Trial Before Religious Authorities*

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**THIRD LESSON** Mark 14:53-65

Whitney Hagan

**ANTHEM** — *from* The Crucifixion (John Stainer)

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, That whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world: But that the world through Him might be saved.

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## *The Denial of Peter*

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**FOURTH LESSON** Mark 14:70-72

Tricia Guerrero

**CHORALE** — *from* The St. John Passion (J. S. Bach)

Peter, while his conscience slept, Thrice denied his Savior. When he woke, he bitter wept At his base behavior. Jesus, let not me forget; True devotion teach me; When on evil I am set, Through my conscience reach me.

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## *The Trial Before Pontius Pilate & The Journey to Calvary*

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**FIFTH LESSON** Mark 15:1-15

Ron Theile

**ANTHEM** — Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs (G.F. Handel)

Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

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## *The Cross*

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**SIXTH LESSON** Mark 15:16-21

Rev. Olsen Paget

**ANTHEM** — Cross Cry (Gilbert M. Martin)

Andrew Pringle, soloist

I think I heard him say, when he was strugglin' up the hill, I think I heard him say, "Take my mother home." I think I heard him say when they were rafflin' off his clothes, I think I heard him say, "Take my mother home. Then I'll die easy, take my mother home; I'll die so easy, take my mother home." I think I heard him say when they were liftin' up the cross, I think I heard him say, "Take my mother home." I think I heard him cry when they were nailin' in the nails, I think I heard him cry, "Take my mother home; I'll die this death on Calvary, won't haf' to die no more. I'll die on Calvary, won't haf' to die no more. Then I'll die easy, take my mother home; I'll die so easy take my mother home."

I think I heard him say when he was givin' up the Ghost, I think I heard him say, "Take my mother home, take my mother home, Oh, please take my mother home." (*Based on the American Spiritual*)

**SEVENTH LESSON** Mark 15:21-39

Rev. Batson

**ANTHEM** — Crucifixus (Antonio Lotti)

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis; sub Pontio Pilato, passus, et sepultus est.

*Crucified, also for us, under Pontius Pilate; he suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried.*

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **CHORAL RESPONSE** — O Lord, Thy Little Angel Send *from* The St. John Passion (J. S. Bach)

O Lord, Thy little angel send When'er my mortal life shall end, To bear my soul to Heaven! My body in its chamber sleep, All torment do thou distant keep, Till Thy last call be given! And then from death awaken me, That these poor eyes their Lord may see, See, Son of God, Thy glorious face, My savior and my fount of grace! Lord Jesus Christ, O hear Thou me, Thee will I praise eternally.

**POSTLUDE** Cortège and Litany (Marcel Dupré)

Ty Woodward, Organ

*In keeping with the spirit of today's service, please refrain from clapping after the Postlude.*

—**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.

—**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). Available Sundays: April 13/20/27.

—**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:** 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**  
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*Pastoral Associate*  
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*Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation*

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**Dr. James Smith**

*Organist*  
**Ty Woodward**

*Office Manager*  
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*Preschool Co-Director*  
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*Preschool Co-Director*  
**Johanna Holman**  
[j.holman@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.holman@santamonicaumc.org)

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

# HOLY WEEK

SUNDAY INSERT • APRIL 6, 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 Brunch**

### **Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt**

### **11 a.m. in Simkins Hall**

Following worship, come for a Palm Sunday celebration, hosted by Children and Family Ministries. Featuring an Easter Egg hunt, brunch, games and crafts, a family photo opp, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! 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 for prayer.

### **• Good Friday Labyrinth Walk**

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

The Labyrinth will be open for walking, every step a prayer.

### **• 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 SUNDAY**

### **APRIL 20: Easter Sunrise Service**

#### **6:30 a.m. Palisades Park**

**(Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)**

Family-friendly worship, Holy Communion, hot coffee & fellowship. Bring blankets, chairs, & fresh flowers for the cross.

### **APRIL 20: Easter Celebration Worship**

#### **10 a.m. Sanctuary, Livestream**

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

*(nursery care provided for infants and toddlers  
in the Fireside Room)*



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**[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) • [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org)   [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)**

## LENT 2025

### • First UMC Blood Drive - Today!

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! Walk-in appointments available today, check in at the registration table for openings.

**Today, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall**

### • Lent 2025

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

### • Lenten Book Study - Last classes

Join Rev. Greg Batson and Rev. Larry Young for the last classes of the 5-week Lenten Book Study based on the book *The Third Day*, by Bishop Tom Berlin.

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

• **Wednesdays, April 9, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom** led by Rev. Greg Batson. Zoom link on the website:

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

### • April Mid-Week Recital

First UMC is pleased to present the Online April Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Music Matters Brass Quartet** featuring: Jonathan Sywulka, trumpet; Kristin Morrison, horn; Robert Seitz, trombone; and Beth Mitchell, tuba. View the extended artist bios, photos, and more info about Music Matters on the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://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/channel/UCQmKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKj) • Website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream) • App: (Search FirstUMC\_SM at the App Store ) *After livestream airs, recitals remain on above platforms to view anytime.*

**Wednesday, April 9, at 12:10 p.m., online**

## MISSION AND SERVICE

### • 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

**RSVP Tricia:** [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

### • Ongoing 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)

### • Relay for Life

The Health Ministry Council is excited to announce First UMC is supporting the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life at Drake Stadium at UCLA. Relay for Life strives to bring communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society make a global impact on cancer. A special event is the Luminaria walk – to remember those we've lost, celebrate cancer survivors, and show everyone affected by cancer that we are the light in the darkness. You may walk at any time for any length during the 12 hour event. To sign up or donate to the team:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry)

**Saturday, April 19, 12 p.m. noon to 12 a.m. midnight**

340 Charles E. Young Dr. W, Los Angeles, 90024

## 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 **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](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: 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!

**April 18, Good Friday: 12 p.m. - 6 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/](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: **April 9** 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, 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](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, 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](http://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: **Sunday, April 27** 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund), 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](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.



## 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](mailto: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.**

