



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Easter • April 27, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

PRELUDE Prelude in G (Felix Mendelssohn)

Ty Woodward, organ

*OPENING HYMN #715 United Methodist Hymnal — Rejoice, the Lord Is King

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner, Lay Leadership Team

God is our strength and our salvation; let everything that breathes praise our God!

This is the day that God has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Praise God for mighty deeds and extravagant love. Praise God for loving care and answered prayer.

We will give thanks this day, for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.

We are witnesses to the God who acts.

We come to offer our worship and praise.

*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

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jamie Jones

#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

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner

We give thanks for God's Creating Spirit that continues to give us life and lead us forward!

Thanks be to God!

MOMENT FOR MISSION World Labyrinth Day

Rose Kujawa, Labyrinth Docent

HYMN #331 UMH — Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Ron Theile, Lay Lector

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 John 20:19-29

Ron Theile

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

SERMON "A Faith Worth Doubting"

Rev. Larry Young

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner

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

Awake the Harp *from* The Creation (F.J. Haydn)

Awake the harp, the lyre awake, and let your joyful song resound. Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God. For He both heaven and earth has clothed in stately dress.

*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

Jocelyn Hicks-Garner

For the breath of life, for eyes to see, for insight to believe, for courage to witness, we give thanks, gracious God. May this offering witness to your grace and love.

Use these gifts for your transforming work in our world; and bless our service in your name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #505 UMH – When Our Confidence Is Shaken

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Young

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in D (David N. Johnson)

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. Available Sundays: May 4/11/18/25.

—**Rose Remembrance:** The rose and strawberry bon bon candies on the altar table are in honor of Ben Beeman on the anniversary of his death.

—**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 Rold 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.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org
310-393-8258

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THE FIRST UMC Labyrinth

SUNDAY INSERT • APRIL 27, 2025



• What is a Labyrinth Walk?

Labyrinth walking is a spiritual practice that involves following a single, winding path to the center and back out again. Unlike a maze, there are no dead ends, just a purposeful path used for centering, contemplation, and prayer.

• Stages of Walking:

- Releasing: Letting go of thoughts and distractions as you walk inward
- Receiving: Listening and reflecting in the center
- Returning: Walking out with intention, often holding others in prayer

Walking the labyrinth can help quiet the mind, calm anxieties, reduce stress, and foster a deeper connection to God, self, and others. The Labyrinth laid in the Simkins Hall floor of First UMC Santa Monica is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth laid in the cathedral around 1220 CE.



The Installation of the Labyrinth in Simkins Hall

Join World Labyrinth Day at First UMC

Saturday, May 3, 2025
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Simkins Hall

The Labyrinth Society — in collaboration with Veriditas, and The Legacy Labyrinth Project— invites you to join in celebrating World Labyrinth Day on Saturday, May 3, 2025. On this 17th Annual World Labyrinth Day, as in previous years, many will walk a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. local time creating a unified rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe. **Walk as One at 1 p.m.**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

• UWF Senior Scholarship Luncheon

The United Women in Faith are excited to celebrate six high school graduates for a special scholarship recognition, on Sunday, May 4, after worship in the Fireside Room. All are invited to join in the celebration! There is a \$15 charge for the lunch to offset costs. Please RSVP (for lunch count): UWFsantamonica@gmail.com
Sunday, May 4, after worship in the Fireside Room

• May Messy Church

An all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. At Messy Church, today's busy families of all shapes and sizes are invited into a welcoming space to experience faith. Messy Church meets once a month. 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.

May theme: Teach Us to Pray

Saturday, May 3, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Simkins Hall

• Spring Concert

Save the date for the Annual Spring Concert! Don't miss this very special concert as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, and also honor the extraordinary work of our Music Director, Dr. James Smith, celebrating his 60th Year as First UMC Music Director!

The 2025 Spring Concert consists of "Choral Masterpieces," excerpts from some of the most beloved choral works of the last 3 centuries. The program will include: *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure; and excerpts from these choral favorites: Vivaldi *Gloria*; Bach *Magnificat*; Mozart *Requiem*; Verdi *Requiem*; Orff *Carmina Burana*; Randall Thompson *Alleluia*; Durufle *Requiem*; Mendelssohn *Elijah*; and the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*. A chorus of 60 singers and the Los Angeles Concert Orchestra, conducted by James E. Smith. A freewill offering will be taken.

Afterward, join us for a reception to celebrate the 60 years of incredible musical direction from Jim Smith. There'll be cake, conversation, and plenty of memories to share!

Sunday, May 18, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

MISSION AND SERVICE

• 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.

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

Westside Food Bank continues to help 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. Join First UMC for the last Fridays of the month to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.

Fridays: May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. 1710 22nd Street, SM 90404

Contact Tricia to register:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Sign up for a day(s) that works for you.

• 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. Mission Partners include:

Harvest Home

Upward Bound House

Wesley Foundation of UCLA

Children's Youth & Family Collaborative (CYFC)

InnerChange

The People Concern

Haiti Missions

Westside Food Bank

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: Apr 27, May 4/18, 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!

**World Labyrinth Day, Saturday, May 3, 1 - 3 p.m.,
Friday, June 6, 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 meeting: **May 7** 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, May 17**

• 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: **Wed May 7, 7 p.m., onsite**

• Blood Pressure Screenings

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

Methodist Foundation Scholarships

Applications open now for our First UMC students of all ages pursuing their educational goals – deadline to apply is **Sunday, May 4, 9 p.m.**

Application on the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation

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, 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.



Calling All Cooks! Join Our 150th Anniversary Cookbook Celebration!

We're celebrating 150 years of faith, family, and community—and we want YOU to help make our All-Church Cookbook extra special! Whether it's a cherished family favorite, a dish with a story, or something that brings back fond memories, we'd love to feature your recipe. Here's how you can be a part of this exciting project:

- **Share your recipe:** Submit one (1) recipe that's been passed down through your family or holds a special place in your heart.
- **Include a photo:** Share a picture—whether it's of the dish itself or a beloved family photo to bring your recipe to life.
- **Tell us why:** Write a short (2-3 sentence) story about why this recipe means so much to you and your family.
- **Submit your recipes to:**

Tina Gage: t.gage@santamonicaumc.org

Or drop them off at the Sunday Welcome Table.

Let's create a cookbook filled with the flavors and memories that make our church family so special!

Deadline: Sunday, May 25

Cookbooks will be available for purchase in the Fall

