

150 YEARS SENTINEL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

1875 2025

HORIZONS

BY REV. GREG BATSON

When we proclaimed "Christ is risen!" on Easter Sunday, we entered a new season in the church calendar: Eastertide. Over a 50-day period, from Easter to Pentecost, we celebrate new life as the news of Jesus' resurrection spreads. Our gospel scriptures for these Sundays highlight the appearance of the resurrected Christ to the disciples, confirming that death had been conquered.

We continue to offer opportunities to grow in our faith this month. On May 3rd you can pray and meditate by walking our labyrinth on World Labyrinth Day, followed by Messy Church for our families. We have the opportunity to support our ongoing work in Haiti as our mission focus. And on May 18th, we celebrate new life through the gift of music as our Chancel Choir is joined by other voices from our community and the LA Concert Orchestra for our Spring Concert. We will also celebrate Dr. Jim Smith's 60 years of service as our Music Director!

Our art work for this season is a visual reminder of this theme. What began as a seed buried in the darkness of the ground has now sprouted into a seedling in the early morning light of Easter. Now it quickly grows into a full tree with branches and foliage, signifying the rapid growth of the good news throughout the world. The season culminates with the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church on Pentecost.



Celebrate the gift of new life this season!

150 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

SPRING CONCERT

Fauré "Requiem"

&

Choral Masterpieces

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 4 P.M.

IN THE FIRST UMC SANCTUARY
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

60 VOICE CHOIR L.A. CONCERT ORCHESTRA

FREEWILL OFFERING

SPRING CONCERT

The Annual Spring Concert is right around the corner, and this year, it's extra special. We're celebrating 150 years of music and memories at First UMC, and we're also honoring the incredible legacy of our Music Director, Dr. James Smith, who is marking his 60th year of musical leadership with us!

The 2025 concert theme, "Choral Masterpieces," is a tribute to the beauty and power of choral music, featuring excerpts from some of the most iconic choral works spanning three centuries. You'll hear stunning performances of:

- Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*
- Excerpts from beloved classics such as Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Verdi's *Requiem*
- Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*, and Duruflé's *Requiem*
- Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and, the powerful *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*.

A chorus of 60 talented singers and the renowned Los Angeles Concert Orchestra will bring these masterpieces to life, conducted by none other than Dr. James E. Smith, himself. The concert is free, though 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

JOIN WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

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. 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.

Saturday, May 3, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Simkins Hall

Last year's World Labyrinth Day at First UMC



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



United Women in Faith

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):

uwf@santamonicaumc.org

Sunday, May 4, after worship in the Fireside Room

MAY ONLINE MID-WEEK RECITAL

First UMC is pleased to present the Online May Mid-Week Recital, featuring First UMC's principal organist, **Ty Woodward**. Ty holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Southern California.

He is a former Dean of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and has served on the Commission of Liturgy and Music for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. He is currently Staff Organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, Organist, Temple Beth Shalom of Whittier, and Organist here at First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica.

View the complete bio on 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/channel/UCSantaMonicaUMC)
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- The First UMC App: (Go to the App Store, search *FirstUMC_SM*)

You may view past recitals on these channels as well.

Wednesday, May 14, at 12:10 p.m., online



MAY 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.

May theme: Teach Us to Pray

Saturday, May 3, 4 - 6 p.m.

Simkins Hall



METHODIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Methodist Foundation of Santa Monica, founded in 1967, exists to provide aid to religious, educational and charitable causes. The Foundation is administered by a volunteer Board of Trustees with First UMC member John Youngman currently serving as president. First UMC has a long tradition of honoring the academic achievements of students in our church and community who pursue post-secondary education. Every year the Loans & Scholarships committee acknowledges outstanding scholars, including graduating high school seniors, continuing undergraduates, and graduate students, for their scholastic excellence, commitment to community, and dedication to our church.

Calling all First UMC Students!

Final days for our First UMC students pursuing their educational goals to apply! Deadline is

May 4, 2025, 9 p.m.

Application link on the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation

Save the Date for Scholarship Sunday: Sunday, June 29, 2025



GROUNDING IN TRANSITION Cultivating "Home" when life has been turned upside down



In the wake of the wildfires many are in discernment about what's next or how to move forward. Many are living, working or going to school in temporary locations. Join us to explore ways to cultivate a sense of "home" in this unexpected season of transition. Please RSVP or ask questions to Rev. Keri Olsen Paget at k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org.

Thursday, May 22, 1-2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

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! **Sunday, May 25, after worship in the Alcove**



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, Santa Monica 90404

Contact Tricia to register: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

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

You will need to sign a volunteer waiver and photo release upon arrival.

Visit the website to learn more about how WFB is continuing its efforts to assist those affected by the fires:

www.santamonicaumc.org/hunger-walk



From the April WFB
Volunteer Day



150TH PLANNING CONTINUES!

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.**

Here are some special events leading up to the celebration:

- **Sunday, September 7:** 150th Kick-Off begins, Special Coffee hour includes History & Archives Exhibit in the Fireside Room.
- **Sunday, September 14:** Celebrating the Legacy Circle in worship, Special Coffee hour featuring Legacy Circle information and pie treats.
- **Sunday, September 21:** Celebrating Missions at First UMC, with a Special Coffee hour.
- **Sunday, September 28:** Music Sunday with Choir Recognition in worship.
- **Sunday, October 5:** World Communion Sunday, Celebration of FUMC Women in Leadership.

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

PENNIES FOR PEANUTS 2025 IS UNDERWAY!

Thanks to your continued generosity—and a matching gift from our partners at the Hearts of Hollywood Foundation—we're once again able to support twenty families in Sobier as they prepare and plant twenty peanut fields. These crops provide both food and income for the coming year. In 2024, our \$3,000 investment yielded nearly \$6,000 in income for participating families. With the addition of fertilizer and the guidance of our local agronomist this season, we're hopeful that this year's harvests will be even more abundant!

In other exciting news, our on-the-ground support lead, Jean-Kedy "Didy" Aurelien, recently introduced us to Wesnet Dieujuste, an evangelist with the Miragoâne Circuit of the Haitian Methodist Church, which includes Sobier. Over the past several months, Wesnet has helped organize regular nursing clinics—including dental care—in the village (see photos below). It's truly moving to see images of these clinics taking place in the community medical center that our congregation helped fund and build. Locals say it's a perfect fit for this kind of care. With the funds we continue to raise, the Missions Council is exploring a partnership with other U.S. Methodist churches to provide consistent, much-needed monthly medical support to Sobier and nearby communities—a blessing for young and old alike.

While we continue to read about the many challenges facing Haiti and pray for their resolution, we're deeply grateful to walk alongside our friends in Sobier, offering tangible support and hope. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and love—and for all that God makes possible through this mission.

With gratitude,

Todd Erlandson

Haiti Mission Leader, Missions Council

Pennies for Peanuts 2025

Join us for our annual Pennies for Peanuts Fundraiser, running from **Sunday, May 4 through Sunday, May 18.**

Every penny counts—help us support vital outreach in Haiti!

- Donate online: www.santamonicaumc.org/haiti
- Or drop off cash/check donations after worship on Sundays at the Pennies for Peanuts table.

Let's turn small change into big change!



**Haiti
Mission**

APRIL'S FAITH IN ACTION MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

In April, our youth and children took part in a meaningful Faith in Action project where we came together to make sack lunches for The People Concern, a Los Angeles-based organization dedicated to supporting those experiencing homelessness. The organization provides essential services such as food, shelter, and assistance with finding jobs and housing. They work tirelessly to ensure that people know they are not alone and that there is a community that cares for them.

We began the project by reading *Lulu and the Hunger Monster* by Erik Talkin. This book is a powerful story that highlights the realities of childhood hunger and food insecurity. It follows Lulu, a young elementary student, who invites others into her world to help them understand what it's like to face the "Hunger Monster." Through Lulu's journey, readers also learn about potential solutions to this critical issue.

After reading the book, the children broke into groups to start the Faith in Action project. The older students, grades 6 through 12, were responsible for making the sandwiches, each carefully wrapped in a zip-lock bag. Meanwhile, the younger children, from preschool to elementary school, decorated the 50 paper lunch bags. Once the bags were decorated and the sandwiches made, the middle school and high school students paired up with a younger child to assemble the lunches in a fun assembly line. Each team worked together: the older youth held the bags while the younger children added the lunch items.

It was truly a heartwarming sight to witness. The older students were not only helping the younger ones, but also taking the lead in organizing and ensuring every bag was packed with care. This project was a wonderful example of intergenerational collaboration where everyone, regardless of age, played an important role in making the project a success. The energy, teamwork, and thoughtfulness that went into preparing each lunch was inspiring, and it was clear that everyone involved had a genuine passion for the project.

Afterward, Sandra Jones and I had the privilege of delivering the lunches to **The People Concern**, one of First UMC's Mission Partners. As we handed out the lunch bags, we shared that they were packed by children from our church community. Their smiles and gratitude were a testament to the impact of our efforts. Each lunch bag contained a personal drawing and note, offering a simple but powerful message of kindness and love.

This project was not only meaningful but also cost-effective. Each lunch consisted of a turkey and cheese sandwich, a bottle of water, chips, a fruit cup, a granola bar, mustard and mayo packets, a set of silverware, and a decorated paper bag. Each lunch bag costs \$3 to make, and the assembly process was straightforward, making it accessible for all ages to participate.

This initiative is particularly timely, as many programs that were previously supported by government funding are now facing cuts. Organizations like The People Concern are increasingly in need of food donations. We are grateful to this church community that supports outreach efforts in our community, and it's wonderful to see our children and youth engage in acts of service. Not only do they help meet the needs of those in our community, but they also learn firsthand the value of service and faith. This project was a beautiful reminder that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. We look forward to continuing this tradition of service and helping others in the future.



Community News



THANK YOU!

- Huge thanks to the incredible **Health Ministry Council** for organizing an amazing **Red Cross Blood Drive** at Simkins Hall on Sunday, April 6. We broke our record with 42 units collected, saving 126 lives! A heartfelt shoutout to the American Red Cross crew, and all the volunteers and generous donors who made it happen—you truly made a difference! (see photos on page 6)
- Thanks to the dedication of team Wesley Walkers - Captain **Chris Reagh, Debi Jenkinson Wong, and Ann & David Wilson**, for their support of American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, held at UCLA on Saturday, April 19. Your commitment, compassion, and strength in the fight against cancer inspire us all.

DEATHS

- First UMC member **Pok Sun "Sun Gi" May** died March 23, 2025.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

First UMC wants to recognize all its graduates. Let us know where you're graduating from, your major, and what your future plans are. **Deadline: Monday, May 19.** Contact Sarah Rold in the church office: (310-393-8258 x 106 or s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)



Sunday Flowers: Order Sunday Flowers for a loved one. The cost is \$80. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, or online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund
Available Sundays: May 4/18/25



REQUEST A PRAYER QUILT

Led by **Sue Payne and Maile Marquand**, the Prayer Quilt Ministry offers Prayer Quilts to those in need. To request a quilt: 1. Talk to the intended recipient. Ask if the person is willing to be prayed for and to receive a quilt. Ask what specific prayers are wished for. There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love. 2. Contact Maile Marquand and Sue Payne at: prayerquilts@santamonicaumc.org. (Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.) 3. Select the quilt, if some are already made, or suggest colors if one is to be selected for you. First UMC will display the quilt in the Friday Community Email, and during Sunday 10 a.m. worship, where you may tie a prayer knot during in-person worship, or view the quilt on the Livestream. **The next meeting date is Saturday, May 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 300.**



Contact info@santamonicaumc.org if you would like to volunteer. www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry

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



Looking forward to **JUNE**

- **Sunday, June 1: Preschool Spring Fair**
Save the date and stay after worship for our Annual Preschool Spring Fair. Fun for all ages! More details coming soon.
- **Sunday, June 8: History and Archives Gathering**
We offer a second opportunity to participate in viewing old pictures and memorabilia and help us identify people, places, events...and share our stories! After worship in Simkins Hall.
- **June 11-14: Cal-Pac Annual Conference**
With the theme "Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Cherish!" the 41st Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference will be held June 11-14, 2025 in Indian Wells.
- **Sunday, June 22: Social Security Workshop with David Guyette**
- **June 29: YSP Commissioning and Scholarship Sunday**
This year's Youth Service Project with the Sierra Service Project will take place in San Diego's South Bay from Saturday, July 5 – Sunday, July 13, We celebrate their commissioning, and the scholarship recipients of the Methodist Foundation Scholarships.





Community Photos



The Red Cross Blood Drive in Simkins Hall

Family Lunch after worship on March 30



Palm Sunday worship and festivities



*Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service
and 10 a.m.
Sanctuary Service*



Maunder Thursday in the Chapel

WORSHIP



The altar table on Palm Sunday

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person in the Sanctuary each week. If you feel ill, please choose to worship from home online.

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

Berneice Southcott prepares the Communion elements before worship, with the help of Congregation Care Associate **Anne Premer**. **Mary Crawford** and **Rose Kujawa** help take care of the elements after worship. Thank you all for your service!

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS NEEDED

We are looking for Communion bread bakers to join our ministry team. Baking Communion bread is a special way to serve from home and share your gifts with our congregation. If you're interested, please contact Anne Premer: a.premer@santamonicaumc.org

WORSHIP ONLINE

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

- **Website:** www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
After 10 a.m. livestream airs, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc
- **YouTube Channel:** [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC)
- **The First UMC App:** Go the App Store, search *FirstUMC_SM*
Let us know if you need assistance in joining online.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY / SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 "Prayer Ground" Family Area in the Narthex.** Let's celebrate the joyful and life-filled presence beloved children bring to our community each week!
www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group is open to all 6th -12th graders in the community. They gather on Sunday evenings for dinner, games and a program or topic for discussion and reflection.
May Meetings: May 4 / May 18 Year-End Party, Youth Lounge
www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study is a weekly Zoom meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture. As men try to navigate the stresses and complexities of this modern world and daily life, Men's Bible Study is a place for community, prayer and fellowship through the sharing of God's Holy word. For more information and to add yourself to the email list call the church office: 310-393-8258.

Tuesdays: 7 a.m. via Zoom

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

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

LISTENING HEARTS WOMEN'S GROUP

Listening Hearts is a group for women of all ages, grounded in the practices of sacred listening, prayer and reflection. We gather both in person and online. All are welcome to join! Contact Tricia Guerrero to learn more:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

May 7 & 21, Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe
(12081 Wilshire Blvd, LA CA 90025)

May 14, 2 p.m. via Zoom

PRAYER REQUESTS

The First UMC Prayer Group is a network of persons who provide regular, dependable, and confidential prayer support. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time, and our Prayer Group will be notified of your request. Call the church office, or visit:

www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/

OPEN SPACE

A place of community for "youngish" adults (loosely in your 20's, 30's... even 40's!). We seek to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. We gather monthly for conversations and connection.

Wednesday, May 7, 7 p.m. Off-site

CONGREGATION CARE

Feel free to leave a phone message anytime (310-393-8258) or email message for any of the church staff. The Pastoral Care line (**310-393-8258 and enter extension 1**), is always available for people to leave a message

requesting care. **Pastoral Care Resources:** If you have any questions, need assistance, or would like to volunteer to help with our homebound folks, please contact: Anne Premer: a.premer@santamonicaumc.org or (310)393-8258 ext 103. To see a full list of local community resources, go to the First UMC Congregation Care Resources webpage: www.santamonicaumc.org/care



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA



Scan to visit the website



@santamonicaumc
www.santamonicaumc.org

1008 11th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310-393-8258



FIRST UMC OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment. (Office closed on Fridays.)

Pastoral Care : 310-393-8258, enter ext. 1



MESSY CAMP REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Coming this summer, July 28 - August 1! Join us for an unforgettable week of adventure at **Messy Camp**, where kids will explore the amazing creatures and wonders of **God's Wild World!** Each day, kids will enjoy hands-on science experiments, exciting games, Bible story adventures, creative crafts, catchy songs, and participate in a hands-on mission project. It's going to be a fun and wild ride you won't want to miss! Come get messy and see how wild and wonderful God's world can be!

The cost is \$150 for the first child and \$125 for each additional sibling. **Sign-ups close on July 14.** We can't wait to explore God's Wild World with you!

Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 1, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Registration on the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp



CYFC WALKATHON

As part of its 25th anniversary, the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative is sponsoring a Walkathon fundraiser on May 17 in the Village Green area of L.A. It will be 3.3 miles on mostly flat terrain. We are proposing a team of walkers from First UMC. If we have at least 5 walkers the entry fee will be \$30 per person. Those unable to do the walk can participate as Virtual Walkers with a \$25 contribution. A Health Fair will also be a part of the event. For more information or to sign up, contact Rev. Larry Young at lyoung@lyoung.net.

Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m. Susan Miller Dorsey High School
3537 Farmdale Ave Los Angeles, CA 90016



Linda Diane Anderson and Sandra Kreiger delivering the check from the St. Patrick's Day proceeds to Children Youth and Family Collaborative and Lydia Templeton, Executive Director

CYFC
25TH ANNIVERSARY
FOSTER YOUTH AWARENESS WALK
MAY 17, 2025
START AT 08:00 AM
SUSAN MILLER DORSEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
3537 FARMDALE AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90016
REGISTER TODAY!
EventBrite.com