



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

5th Sunday of Easter • May 18, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE *Arioso from Cantata No. 156 (J.S. Bach)*

Wayne Smith, cello

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #62 United Methodist Hymnal — All Creatures of Our God and King
(verses 1-4, 7)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Larry Wilson, Lay Lector

(from Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights!

Praise the Lord, angels and all the hosts of heaven!

Praise the Lord, sun and moon and shining stars!

Praise the Lord, all creatures great and small!

Praise the Lord, rulers of the earth and people everywhere,

Praise the Lord, young and old!

Let all the earth praise the Lord, at whose word creation came into being.

We gather to praise and worship our God!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Let the people sing praise unto the Lord. Alleluia. Let all the people sing praise to the Lord,
now worship the Lord, give thanks and sing, praise the Lord!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Larry Wilson

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 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 #2223 TFWS — They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

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 13:31-35

Larry Wilson

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

SERMON "Love One Another"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Rev. Olsen Paget

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

He, Watching Over Israel *from* Elijah (Felix Mendelssohn)

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.

*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

Rev. Olsen Paget

Giver of life, you are the source of all good things. We entrust to you our gifts, that you would use them to make all know that with you, they are beloved, whole, and restored. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #384 UMH – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in F (J. S. Bach)

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 25, June 1/15/29

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "In loving memory of my mother Marcia Gayle, always in my heart." From Pony Gayle.

—**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.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street
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www.santamonicaumc.org
310-393-8258

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Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

West District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

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SUNDAY INSERT
MAY 18, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org

FIRST UMC SPRING CONCERT

The Annual Spring Concert is tonight, 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!

Tonight, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Pennies for Peanuts 2025 - Last Day!

Our annual Pennies for Peanuts Fundraiser concludes today. Every penny counts—help us support vital outreach in Haiti! Read Haiti team leader Todd Erlandson's latest update, and [Donate online:](#)

www.santamonicaumc.org/haiti, or drop off cash/check donations after worship today at the Pennies for Peanuts table. Let's turn small change into big change!

• 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

• 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 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.

• 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.

www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions

• Youth Service Project 2025 Trip

This year a group of 10 youth and adult volunteers from First UMC Santa Monica will be spending a week **(July 5-13, 2025)** working in San Diego's South Bay with an organization called the Sierra Service Project. This urban placement will offer opportunities connected to the unique challenges of this area, specifically focusing on poverty, immigration and the environment. The type of work includes costly home repair projects for low income families and elderly residents, as well as environmental restoration projects and community-led initiatives. More info: www.santamonicaumc.org/ysp

• First UMC Membership

Membership is a celebration of the fact that someone belongs to our faith community in connection and commitment. Our belonging promotes service to and with each other, values mutual care, and develops meaningful and supportive relationships. Becoming a member of First UMC is an act of publicly entering into a relationship with our faith community. The church offers thanks and welcomes in the spirit of belonging to one another. At First UMC, we belong to God and to one another.

If you have questions on becoming a member of First UMC, you may contact:

Rev. Greg Batson (g.batson@santamonicaumc.org), Rev. Keri Olsen Paget (k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org), Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org), or call the church office: (310) 393-8258.

We will be receiving new members during worship on Sunday, June 8.

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

Meeting: Tonight, May 18: End of Year Party

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!

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 21** 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, June 21**

• 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, June 7, 4 - 6 p.m.** in Courtyard/Fireside Room. Theme: Fruits of the Spirit

• 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: @openspacescm.

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship. Next meeting: Next **Sunday, May 25** in the Alcove

We Welcome Community UMC to Our Campus

Over the past few months, we have helped many community members of Pacific Palisades in the aftermath of the January wildfire. This includes the Community United Methodist Church whose sanctuary and properties were destroyed. For example, we provided a space for that congregation to collect and distribute essential items immediately after the fire and hosted a music concert for them in our sanctuary this past week. Recently, in response to a request from their pastor, The Rev. Catie Coots, we have been working together to provide a safe and welcoming worship space for the Community UMC congregation. We have reached an agreement and are pleased to announce that we are sharing some of our facility space and resources with these fellow United Methodists.



On May 4th, the Community UMC congregation began to use our Chapel for Sunday worship at 11 a.m. We are also providing parking on the 3rd floor of our parking garage, a space for a coffee/fellowship hour following worship, a Sunday School room, and office space. We anticipate this arrangement for the next year and will work together to coordinate our schedules for special events. This is a concrete way we can help our neighbors as they move forward during this time of transition.

As we continue the celebration of resurrection and new life in Christ, let us welcome the staff and members of Community UMC with open arms and generous hospitality.

– Pastor Greg

Charge Conference Special Session: Rev. Keri Olsen Paget

From Pastor Greg: We are excited to share some news about expanding the role of the Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, our Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation. We have been blessed by her leadership in spirituality, pastoral care and worship, and now have the opportunity to benefit more from her ministry with us. We give thanks to God for this season of hope and new life.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee has recommended **Rev. Keri Olsen Paget** expand her role as Deacon Associate of Spiritual Formation. She has been working quarter time, and with charge conference approval, she would move into half time ministry on July 1, 2025. **All members of the church are invited to join the meeting and vote for this expansion of her appointment to our church.** Keri says:

“It has been an honor to learn about the deep spiritual roots of this community and witness how individuals and groups grow and flourish in their faith. I can’t wait to see how we will continue to bloom and grow through the work of the Holy Spirit.”

To participate in the Charge Conference Zoom, and read full statement, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/rev-keri-olsen-paget

Wednesday, May 21, 7p.m. via Zoom



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.

