



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

6th Sunday of Easter • Memorial Day • May 25, 2025

WE GATHER



## WELCOME

Howard Wollitz, Lay Lector

## PRELUDE *Adagio Sonata No. 1* (Felix Mendelssohn)

Ty Woodward, organ

## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #697 United Methodist Hymnal — America

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Crawford, Lay Lector

*(from Psalm 67)*

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

**May God's face shine upon us and bring us peace!**

Let all people praise you, O Lord.

**Let all people shout their joy to your holy name.**

God blesses us continually throughout all our lives.

**Thanks be to God, for God's eternal love and blessing.**

## \*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Almighty God, God of our fathers immortal, mighty art Thou, the Lord of Lords!"

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Mary Crawford

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

\*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dot Plukas, Sunday School Teacher

#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

Howard Wollitz

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

**Thanks be to God!**

HYMN #437 UMH — This Is My Song

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Mary Crawford

## 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 14:23-29

Howard Wollitz

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

SERMON "Christ's Peace"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

---

## WE RESPOND

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Howard Wollitz

*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](http://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

Thee Will I Love (Craig Courtney)

Thee will I love, my strength, my tow'r; thee will I love, my joy, my crown! Thee will I love with all my pow'r, in all my works, and thee alone; thee will I love, till thy pure fire fills all my soul with chaste desire. Thee will I love, my joy, my crown. I thank thee, uncreated Sun, that thy bright beams on me have shined; I thank thee, who hast over thrown my foes and healed my wounded mind; I think thee, whose enliv'ning voice bids my freed heart to thee rejoice. Thee will I love; my joy, my crown. Thee will I love, beneath thy frown or smile, thy scepter or thy rod. What though my flesh and heart decay? Thee shall I love in endless day! Thee will I love, my Lord, my God!

### \*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

Mary Crawford

**Holy God, we bring our gifts and pray that you will dedicate them to your work of love and reconnection with all your children. In our giving, may we grow in gratitude, trust, and faithfulness. In the name of Christ, who gave all for us, we pray. Amen.**

---

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

### \*HYMN #428 UMH – For the Healing of the Nations

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE *Variations on America* (Charles Ives)

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](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: June 1/15/29

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** *Reredos:* "In memory of my mother, Mary Friedrichsen." From Sue Payne. *Narthex:* "In loving memory of Marcia, always in our hearts." From Clive Reid.

—**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.



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

*Resident Bishop*  
**Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank**  
*West District Superintendent*  
**Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**

#### MINISTRY

*Senior Minister*  
**Rev. Greg Batson**  
[g.batson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:g.batson@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation*  
**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**  
[k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Pastoral Associate*  
**Tricia Guerrero**  
[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Congregation Care Associate*  
**Anne Premer**  
[a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Family Ministries Coordinator*  
**Jamie Jones**  
[j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)

#### MUSIC STAFF

*Music Director*  
**Dr. James Smith**  
*Organist*  
**Ty Woodward**

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

*Business Administrator*  
**Christina Eddy**  
[c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Communications Director*  
**Tina Gage**  
[t.gage@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.gage@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Office Manager*  
**Sarah Rold**  
[s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Membership and Facilities Coordinator*  
**David Penson**  
[d.penson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.penson@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Program and Outreach Coordinator*  
**Brandon Searfoss**  
[b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Head Custodian*  
**Javier Espinoza**

#### PRESCHOOL STAFF

*Preschool Co-Director*  
**Dane Rold**  
[d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Preschool Co-Director*  
**Johanna Holman**  
[j.holman@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.holman@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Preschool Director Emerita*  
**Dee Menzies**  
[d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org)

SUNDAY INSERT  
MAY 25, 2025

# MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

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



## 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](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) Sign up for a day(s) that works for you.



## Speaking Across Differences: Navigating Dialogue in Polarized Times

Throughout the summer we invite you to watch this three part minicourse from the Institute for Islamic, Christian, Jewish Studies (ICJS) in Baltimore, MD, featuring **Jewish Scholar Ben Sax, Ph.D.** This course will interrogate the question of what it means to dialogue within our current sociopolitical climate. Very often we teach that tolerance is a virtue in dialogue, yet should we also be tolerant of intolerance? How does that work? This course will consider a variety of views and try to chart a new dialogical path together by examining how different philosophers, political theorists, historians, and theologians have broached these questions during their own times of political peril.

First UMC will provide the links to prerecorded class sessions and resources that you can watch when it is convenient for you. **Then, via Zoom on the following dates, Rev. Keri will facilitate a dialogue with those who have viewed the content.**

**Wednesday, June 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Class One: The Many Ways into Dialogue

**Wednesday, July 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Class Two: Dialogue as Liberation

**Wednesday, August 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Class Three: Dialogue as Resistance

To RSVP and receive the course content please register at the following link:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/differences-workshop](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/differences-workshop)



## Today - 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 and discussion of healthy lifestyle habits for maintaining optimal blood pressure levels. We give thanks to the Health Ministry for providing this service! **Today, after worship in Simkins Hall**

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • Preschool Spring Fair

Stay after worship next Sunday for our Annual Preschool Spring Fair. Fun for all ages! Featuring a bake sale, bubbles, arts & crafts, and bounce houses. Tickets: \$20 for first child / \$10 each additional child (*all inclusive*); \$10 for food ticket for adults.

**Sunday, June 1, 11 a.m. after worship in the Courtyard, Simkins Hall and the Preschool Playground**  
(Regular Coffee Hour will be held in the Fireside Room)

### • June Messy Church

We hope you will join us for our last Messy Church of the season! We will learn about the *Fruit of the Spirit* and discover ways we can grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and more through games and crafts, storytelling and song, food and fun. We will close out the evening with a delicious cookout for all! We'll provide the burgers and hotdogs and all the fixin's (veggie and gluten-free options will be available); and we invite you to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Invite a friend to join you for this special time of Messy Church fun and community!

**Saturday, June 7, 4 - 6 p.m. Courtyard**

### • 41st Annual Session of the Cal-Pac Conference

With the theme "Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Cherish!" the 41st Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference will be held **June 11-14, in Indian Wells, CA**. Participants from First UMC this year include Rev. Greg Batson, Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Rev. Larry Young, Mary Crawford, Dick Crawford, Adam Guerrero, Karen Ing, and Todd Erlandson.

### • 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 welcome 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](mailto:g.batson@santamonicaumc.org)), Rev. Keri Olsen Paget ([k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)), Tricia Guerrero ([t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)), or call the church office: (310) 393-8258.

## 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](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.

[www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions](http://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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/ysp)

## 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)

**On Summer Break**

## 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/](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: **June 4** 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](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, 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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space).

IG: @openspacesm. Next meeting: **Sunday, June 8 after worship, onsite**

### • Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship.

Next meeting: **Sunday, June 22** 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)

## 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 to 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

## 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](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 - Send in Your Recipes!

Now's the time to send in your cherished family favorite, a dish with a story, or something that brings back fond memories - we'd love to feature your recipe!

- **Share your recipe(s):** **Submit one or two recipes (updated!)** 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](mailto:t.gage@santamonicaumc.org)

Or drop them off at the Sunday Welcome Table.

**EXTENDED Deadline: Sunday, June 15**

*Cookbooks will be available for purchase in the Fall*