

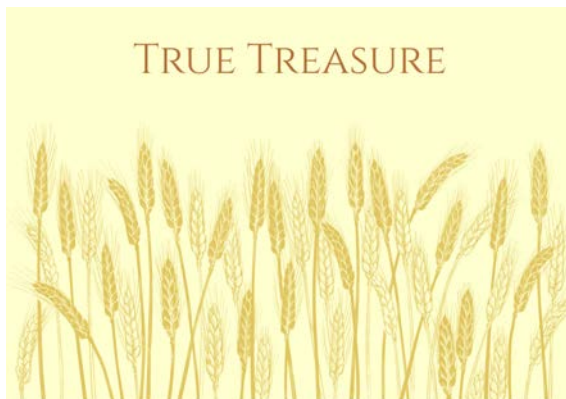


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Holy Communion • Eighth Sunday after Pentecost • August 3, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

PRELUDE Sicilienne (Maria-Theresia v. Paradis)

Jim Smith, piano; Kevan Torfeh, cello

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #2236 The Faith We Sing — Gather Us In

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leigh Erlandson, Lay Leadership Team

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

The Holy One has redeemed us and sustained us through the time of trouble.

The Merciful One heard our cry in our time of need.

Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth to all generations.

Amen."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leigh Erlandson

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ann Wilson, Lay Lector

#2233 TFWS — 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.

In August, Sunday School is on break. We are providing Nursery Care in Room 204 for children 6 months through 5 years, and activity bags for older kids in worship.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Leigh Erlandson

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

Thanks be to God!

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

Todd Erlandson, Lay Leadership Team

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

HOMILY "True Treasure"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Todd Erlandson

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. Offering plates are located in the Narthex. You may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give; mail your gift to the church; or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. 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

Nearer, My God, to Thee (arr. Dan Forrest)

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee, e'vn though it be a cross that raiseth me. Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God to Thee, nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee. Oh, let the way appear, leading to heav'n, all that Thou sendest me, in mercy giv'n. Thy Spirit beckons me, nearer, my God to Thee, nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee. There in my Father's home, safe and at rest, there in my Savior's love, perfectly blest. Age after age to be nearer, my God to Thee! Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

***RESPONSE #94 United Methodist Hymnal — 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**

Todd Erlandson

Holy and ever-present God, you call us to set our minds on things above, to let go of all that weighs us down, and to embrace the new life found in Christ. As we bring these gifts, shape our hearts in generosity, our hands in service, and our minds in faithfulness. May these offerings be used to transform lives, to build up your kingdom, and to reflect your love in this world. Keep us ever mindful that we give because you have first given so abundantly to us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

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.

#613 UMH — O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread

#632 UMH — Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

#629 UMH — You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Olsen Paget

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN #402 UMH — Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Batson

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God (J. S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox)

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.



—We welcome **Community UMC of Pacific Palisades** each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the chapel with open arms and generous hospitality as they move forward during this time of transition.

—**The Chancel Choir:** During the summer months the Chancel Choir is singing some of their favorite anthems from the prior year. We hope they are your favorites also.

—**Children and Families on Sundays:** In August, our Sunday School teachers will be taking a well-deserved break and then we'll resume after Labor Day. We are providing Nursery Care in Room 204 for 6 months through 5 years, and activity bags for older kids in worship.

—**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: August 10/17/24/31.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "In loving memory of my husband Wendell's Birthday." From Karen Furnas.

—**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.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street • Santa Monica, CA 90403
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
Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
Rev. Keri Olsen Paget
k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

Pastoral Associate
Tricia Guerrero
t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Congregation Care Associate
Anne Premer
a.premier@santamonicaumc.org

Family Ministries Coordinator
Jamie Jones
j.jones@santamonicaumc.org

MUSIC STAFF

Music Director
Dr. James Smith
Organist
Ty Woodward

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Business Administrator
Christina Eddy
c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org

Communications Director
Tina Gage
t.gage@santamonicaumc.org

Office Manager
Sarah Rold
s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Membership and Facilities Coordinator
David Penson
d.penson@santamonicaumc.org
Program and Outreach Coordinator
Brandon Searfoss
b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org

Head Custodian
Javier Espinoza

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Preschool Co-Director
Dane Rold
d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Preschool Co-Director
Johanna Holman
j.holman@santamonicaumc.org

Preschool Director Emerita
Dee Menzies
d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org

SUNDAY INSERT
AUGUST 3, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org



Second History and Archives Community Gathering

As part of First UMC's 150th Anniversary Celebration, we're honoring the stories that shaped us. Join us for the second History and Archives Gathering during Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 3, in the United Women in Faith Work Room. **We'll have a video booth set up—an easy and fun way for you to share a short memory, a meaningful moment, or answer one of our story-starter questions (we'll provide a list!)** Whether it's a joyful milestone, a funny moment, or a quiet act of kindness, your story is part of our shared legacy. Come help us tell it! All are invited to participate - whether you've been part of this community for 50 years or a few weeks!

Sunday, August 3, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. UWF Room

Prayer Workshop Lectio Divina & Ignatian Examen

Interested in trying different ways to engage Scripture, pray or reflect on your day?

**Sunday, August 10
4:30 p.m. study
6 p.m. pot luck dinner**
in the Fireside Room

RSVP Rev. Keri at
k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org
by Friday, August 8.

Prayer Workshop: Lectio Divina and Ignatian Examen

Are you interested in trying different ways to engage Scripture, pray or reflect on your day? The FUMC Spiritual Formation Council presents an opportunity to learn about and engage two different prayer practices that do just that: Lectio Divina and the Ignatian Examen. The program will begin at 4:30 p.m. and a pot luck dinner will be held at 6 p.m. *Please remember to bring serving utensils for your dish to reduce waste and clean up time.* You can attend both the program and dinner or just one, based on your interest and availability. Please RSVP to Rev. Keri at

k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org by Friday, August 8.

Sunday, August 10, 4:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room



Third Annual Community Free Market

First UMC is pleased to present the third annual Community Free Market—a one day event where all are welcome to come by and pick up FREE new or gently used kitchen / household items! Now's the perfect time to start decluttering and donate your gently used goods to the Market. We're gladly accepting: - **Kitchenware & housewares - Small appliances - Holiday decorations - Toys & books.** We will NOT be accepting furniture, clothing of any kind, electronics, large appliances, or items that aren't gently used or new. Contact Janet Guyette: 310-663-9861 or janetlguyette@gmail.com with questions. **Drop-off days (in library off Courtyard):**

Saturday, August 9, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Sunday, August 17, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Community Free Market: **Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Courtyard**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Speaking Across Differences: Navigating Dialogue in Polarized Times

Participate in the last of a three part minicourse from the Institute for Islamic, Christian, Jewish Studies (ICJS) in Baltimore, MD, featuring **Jewish Scholar Ben Sax, Ph.D.** This course interrogates what it means to dialogue within our current sociopolitical climate, and examines how different philosophers, political theorists, historians, and theologians have broached these questions during their own times of political peril. Watch the prerecorded class sessions when it is convenient for you. Rev. Keri will facilitate a dialogue on August 6th with those who have viewed the content.

Final Zoom class: August 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Session Three: Dialogue as Resistance

To RSVP and receive the course content, register here:

www.santamonicaumc.org/differences-workshop

• Claremont School of Theology Day

On Sunday, August 17, we are excited to celebrate the Claremont School of Theology in worship, with the CoPresident (along with Bishop Hagiya) and Professor of Hebrew Bible, Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan preaching, followed by a Q&A with Rev. Kuan after worship during coffee hour.

Sunday, August 17, during 10 a.m. worship followed by a Q&A Coffee Hour in the Fireside Room

• YSP Report Back

The Youth Service Project Team had an unforgettable time in San Diego's South Bay with the Sierra Service Project! We're so grateful to our amazing church family for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout the journey. Don't forget to save the date for our report back on Sunday, August 24 after worship! The team can't wait to share more about all they did.

**Sunday, August 24,
11 a.m. in Simkins Hall**



MISSION AND SERVICE

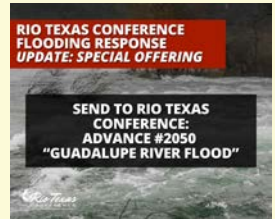
Supporting Victims of the Guadalupe River Flood

Our prayers go out to the Rio Texas Annual Conference and the surrounding area as they navigate the aftermath of devastating floods in their area this week. We are holding

them in our hearts as many have lost loved ones, have friends and family who are missing, and are still discovering the impact of the flooding on their towns, homes, and communities.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank shared: "As United Methodists, we have a connection that holds us together. When one conference suffers, we all suffer. Please take a moment to pray and to send a donation to the Rio Texas Conference fund to help them in their loss and in their future rebuilding of lives, camps, and towns." Your generosity will support immediate needs in the affected areas. Give here:

<https://gbhem-umc.my.site.com/hemgm/s/campaign/a3fPo000000D49r/umcor-us-disaster-response-and-recovery>



TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Westside Food Bank

Westside Food Bank continues to help with the long recovery period in the aftermath of the LA fires. Join First UMC for the last Fridays of the month to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.

Next meeting: Friday, August 29

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

2. 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.

Contact Tricia to sign up for either of these opportunities: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

• Children's Ministry

Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary.

During the summer: following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Preschool Playground. 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

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, *August 8, 1 - 3 p.m. Simkins Hall/Chapel
(*note date change)

• 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: Wed **August 6** at Tacos Por Favor, meet at 10:30 a.m. at church to carpool.

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, August 16**

• The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. Sing in the Chancel Choir! The choir is on Summer break from Thursday night rehearsals, but you may contact Jim Smith if you are interested in joining:

djes@roadrunner.com

• Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

Returns Saturday, September 13, 4 - 6 p.m.

• 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: **Wednesday, August 20**, 7 p.m. Offsite

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship. Next meeting: Sunday, **August 17** in the Alcove

150th Anniversary Celebration!

2025 marks a milestone year for First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica—our 150th Anniversary! We're gearing up for a joyful season of celebration, with a series of special Sundays leading up to the grand 150th Anniversary Celebration! All are welcome to join us as we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward with hope to the future! *All Sundays: 10 a.m. in-person and online worship followed by special events.*

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, followed by a tour of the First UMC stained glass windows with church member Ron Theile.

Sunday, September 21 - **Celebrating Missions at First UMC**; Special Coffee hour featuring a tour of Upward Bound House.

Sunday, September 28 - **Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday** in worship, followed by a tour of the First UMC organ with Ty Woodward, principal organist.

Sunday, October 5 - World Communion Sunday, Celebration of **First UMC Women in Leadership**; Special Coffee Hour hosted by women-led ministries.

Sunday, October 12 - 150th Anniversary Celebration!

Special worship service with Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank preaching, followed by 150th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon in Simkins Hall



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 (*take a photo of the code with your phone camera*), 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



Calling All Ages: Be Part of a Labyrinth Celebration!

We are looking for as many different types of people, young, old and in between to help us CELEBRATE THE LABYRINTH, after church, Sunday, October 5th! Participants will be working with Dorothy Nichols for one to four rehearsals (dates to be set around participants' schedules) to set a very short but very fun theatrical movement piece on the labyrinth. No experience necessary. Sign up ASAP by calling or texting Dorothy Nichols at 310-592-4402.

Become a Part of History!

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary, we are asking all to consider making a special milestone gift. The special donations received will be used to digitize the Sanctuary welcome monument sign, located at the corner of 11th & Washington, so we can spread our message throughout the community. Additional amounts will be used for fellowship and events during the Fall. Donations accepted anytime, online or a part of Sunday's offering. Thank you!



Artist rendering of signage
(not exact representation)