



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W O R S H I P

Claremont School of Theology Sunday • August 17, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

PRELUDE Six Songs, Opus. 34, No 2 (Felix Mendelssohn)
"On Wings of Song"

Kevan Torfeh, cello

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #116 United Methodist Hymnal — The God of Abraham Praise

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Glenda Martinez, Lay Leadership Team

Sing to the Lord a new song!

We sing a song of peace and hope!

Sing to the Lord a song of strength.

Our strength is in the Lord of hosts!

Sing to the Lord a song of joy!

Our song is a song of service and faithfulness.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"O sing to the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things. O sing to the Lord a new song!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Glenda Martinez

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.

In August, Sunday School is on break. We are providing Nursery Care in Room 201 for children 6 months through 5 years, and activity bags for older kids in worship.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Batson

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

Thanks be to God!

HYMN #178 UMH — Hope of the World

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Batson

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 LESSON Isaiah 5:1-7

Glenda Martinez

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Co-President of CST

"When God Looks for Justice and Righteousness"

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Glenda Martinez

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

O Love (Elaine Hagenberg)

Kevan Torfeh, cello

O love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be. O Love, that will not let me go, O love, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe and in thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be. O love, that will not let me go.

*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

Glenda Martinez

Creator God, who brought forth the world as your vineyard, provided every needed resource, and asked only that we bear good fruit: As we give our offerings, remind us again of the fruit you desire—justice and righteousness are the ones your prophet Isaiah suggests. Forgive us for the times when our offerings have fallen short and when the only fruit you’ve received is our own self-centeredness. Help us bear the fruit that brings you joy. In the name of your son, our teacher and savior, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

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

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Kuan

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE For the Healing of the Nations (setting: Paul Manz)

Ty Woodward, organ

*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 201 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 24/31, September 7/14/28.

—**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 • 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.premer@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 17, 2025

FOCUS ON
www.santamonicaumc.org

CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY DAY



Claremont School of Theology (CST) forms spiritual, academic, and community leaders for compassion, justice, and belonging, through interreligious and intercultural graduate theological education.

To that end, we seek to form leaders and lifelong learners who are adept at engaging the wisdom in sacred textual and artistic works; tending the movements of the interior life; practicing liberative and creative action; exploring the complex legacies of their traditions; cultivating cultural humility; celebrating diversities; and striving for equitable and accountable sustainability in the institutions, communities, and ecologies of the world.

Core values include:

- **Compassion** – We believe that leaders must have the capacity to be moved by suffering in the world and the courage to act to alleviate it.
- **Justice** – We are committed to the just and equitable treatment, inclusion, and representation of the incredible diversity reflected in today's world.
- **Belonging** – We know that human flourishing is deeply tied to relationships, and we thrive when we are in community with one another.

For more information, visit: www.cst.edu



TODAY! Claremont School of Theology Day

Today we are excited to celebrate CST in worship, with the Co-President and Professor of Hebrew Bible, Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan preaching. Join Dr. Kuan after worship for a Q&A in the Fireside Room.

Today during 10 a.m. worship, followed by a Q&A in the Fireside Room

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1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258
www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org   [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

UPCOMING EVENTS

• 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! We're gladly accepting donations of - **Kitchenware & housewares - Small appliances - Holiday decorations - Toys & books**
Contact Janet Guyette: 310-663-9861 or janetlguyette@gmail.com with questions.

TODAY is the Last Drop-off day (in library off Courtyard): 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

• Kids Night Out

Kids Night Out will be back in August! While parents enjoy a well-deserved night out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team. \$35/child + \$15 for each additional sibling, 2 years – 5th grade. Sign up for the Children and Family Ministries email for registration info: www.eepurl.com/h94fAX
Saturday, August 23, 4 – 8 p.m. in the Ed. Building

• Back to School Blessings

Come to worship next Sunday for Back to School Blessings, where we celebrate the beginning of the school year and ask for God's blessings upon students of all ages, teachers and educators, and the families who support them. Backpack tags will be available to take home. If you would like a blessing tag(s) but can't make it to church, call the church office (310-393-8258) and we are happy to put them in the mail for you.

Next Sunday, August 24, during 10 a.m. worship

• YSP Report Back

The Youth Service Project Team had an unforgettable time in San Diego's South Bay with the Sierra Service Project! They are so grateful to our amazing church family for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout the journey. Stay after worship next Sunday for the luncheon report-back! The team can't wait to share more about all they did.

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

• History and Archives Photo Booth - continues through August

As part of First UMC's 150th Anniversary Celebration, we're honoring the stories that shaped us. The History and Archives Team will be available during Coffee Hour on Sundays for the rest of August, in the United Women in Faith Work Room, to continue our story-telling project! 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 of questions!) If you can't make it in person, email us for the questions, then record a video and send back to us: info@santamonicaumc.org.

50+ Member Check In

If you believe you have been a member for 50+ years at First UMC, but have not been acknowledged, please reach out to the church office to make sure we have accurate records!

Contact Sarah: s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org.



MISSION AND SERVICE

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 worship in the Sanctuary. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary, in the Family Zone in the Narthex, or in the nursery.

www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry

• Sunday School Parent Meeting

Join us after worship for our Back to Sunday School Parent Meeting — it's your chance to get the inside scoop on all the exciting things coming up this year!

Childcare is provided.

Sunday, August 31, after worship in the Alcove

• 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

Returns Sunday, September 7 for Fall Kick-Off, 6 - 8 p.m.

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, September 5, 1 - 3 p.m. Simkins Hall/Chapel

• 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: **Wednesday, August 20**, 10 a.m. at Literati Cafe

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, September 20**

• 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: **TODAY, 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 three 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)