

# 150 YEARS 1875 2025 SENTINEL

## HORIZONS

BY REV. GREG BATSON

With the observance of Labor Day on September 1st, we mark the traditional start of the fall season (although school has already begun and warm temperatures will continue through October). This month we begin a six-week celebration of our 150th anniversary. Each Sunday will feature a ministry area of our congregation, culminating in our Anniversary worship and luncheon on October 12.

We kick off on **September 7** with a special **History and Archives Exhibit** in the Fireside Room. This exhibit will feature photos and memorabilia that trace our journey from 1875 to the present, and will be on display through October.

On **September 14**, we celebrate the **Legacy Circle**, remembering those who have given generously over the years, gifts that continue to support our ministries today. **Ron Theile** will lead a tour of our beautiful stained-glass windows in the sanctuary, sharing the story of our faith depicted in them.

On **September 21**, we highlight our commitment to **Missions**. We have and continue to support a variety of outreach ministries in our local community and around the world. Among those are the **Upward Bound House**, founded by this congregation to provide transitional housing for families and low-cost apartments for seniors. We will celebrate this mission, including a tour of UBH following worship.

On **September 28**, we highlight the great tradition of **Music and the Arts at First UMC**. Our organist, **Ty Woodward**, will offer a tour of our magnificent organ, and an exhibit featuring our theater programs will be unveiled on the stage in Simkins Hall.

There's more to follow next month, but you can already see that we have much to celebrate here at Santa Monica First UMC. Let's enjoy every week as we remember the past and plan for the future. Be the Hope!



## HISTORY AND ARCHIVES EXHIBIT

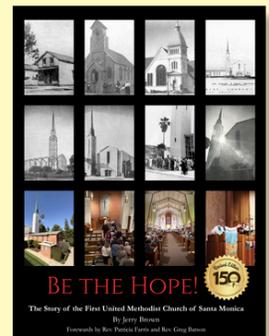
As part of our 150th Anniversary celebration, the First UMC Archives Committee has opened the treasure chests of our past! From carefully preserved photographs to cherished memorabilia, we've gathered pieces that tell the rich story of our church's 150 years at the heart of Santa Monica.

The exhibit will be on display in the Fireside Room, opening Sunday, September 7, and continuing through the anniversary celebrations. Come wander through the memories, discover familiar faces, and celebrate the legacy that has shaped our community.

**Sunday, September 7, after worship, Fireside Room**

## BE THE HOPE: SECOND EDITION

First UMC is pleased to announce that a **second edition** of First UMC member **Jerry Brown's** book: *Be the Hope! The Story of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica*, will be available to pick up on **Sunday, September 7**, after worship in the Fireside Room, as part of the History and Archives Exhibit. Included is a new chapter written by Jerry encapsulating 2018-2025; a new forward by Rev. Batson; and a new set of photographs. Be sure to pick up your copy!



## SEPTEMBER *at a Glance*

- Mon Sept 1** Labor Day, church campus closed
- Fri Sept 5** Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel open for Prayers
- Sat Sept 6** United Women in Faith Craft Day
- Sun Sept 7** **150th Kick-Off begins; History & Archives Exhibit in the Fireside Room**  
Free Blood Pressure screenings  
Youth Group Kick-Off
- Wed Sept 10** September Mid-Week Recital
- Sat Sept 13** Messy Church returns
- Sun Sept 14** **Celebrating the Legacy Circle in worship and coffee hour, followed by a tour of the First UMC stained glass windows with Ron Theile.**
- Sat Sept 20** Homeboy 5k Run (offsite)  
Prayer Quilt Workparty  
Ella Mae Holmes Memorial and Reception
- Sun Sept 21** **Celebrating Missions at First UMC; Special Coffee hour featuring a tour of Upward Bound House**
- Fri Sept 26** Westside Food Bank volunteer opportunity
- Sat Sept 27** Diana Oh Memorial
- Sun Sept 28** **Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday, followed by a tour of the First UMC organ with Ty Woodward, principal organist.**

## WALK THE LABYRINTH / CHAPEL OPEN FOR PRAYERS

This month the Labyrinth is open on the first Friday of the month, 1–3 p.m. in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation, or see a labyrinth host for guidance. Children and families welcome! For those unable to walk, we have finger labyrinths available. The Chapel is also open for prayers during this time.

**Friday, September 5, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall, Chapel**

## 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 two to four rehearsals this month 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.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CRAFT DAY

Come explore your crafty side! Please join the UWF and other friends to help create ornaments, decorations and more for our annual Christmas Bazaar. All you need to bring are your nimble fingers and joyful hearts. All materials and instructions will be provided. RSVP to [UWfsantamonica@gmail.com](mailto:UWfsantamonica@gmail.com) or just come!

**Saturday, September 6, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., UWF Workroom**



## YOUTH MINISTRY: YOUTH KICK-OFF

Youth Group is back for the fall! Youth Kick-off brings together youth and their families - a catered dinner, a chance to meet the youth counselors and other youth, and hear about the year ahead!

**Sunday, September 7, 6 - 8 p.m. 3rd Floor Edu Building**

## SEPTEMBER ONLINE MID-WEEK RECITAL

Online Mid-Week Recitals are back for the fall! First UMC is pleased to present the Online September Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Philip Vaiman, violin**. Philip has performed in major halls across the world and at international festivals including The Huddersfield International Music Festival in England, The Spoleto Music Festival in Italy, The Music Festival of Pitea in Sweden, The Hvar International Summer Festival in Croatia, The Soesterberg International Music Festival in the Netherlands, and the Bruman Chamber Music Festival in California. View the complete bio on the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream)
- The First UMC App: (App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM)

You may also view past recitals on these channels.

**Wednesday, September 10, at 12:10 p.m., online**

## SEPTEMBER MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is back for the fall! 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. *September theme: Called to Be - Make a Difference*



**Saturday, September 13, 4 - 6 p.m. in Simkins Hall**

**150 YEARS 150th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS**

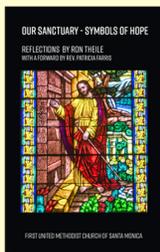
**LEGACY CIRCLE SUNDAY**

Join us as we celebrate FUMC and its members for being a part of our future. The Legacy Circle was started in 2013 to provide church members meaningful and effective ways of funding future growth of the mission and ministries by raising awareness to the possibility of including FUMC and the Foundation in your estate planning. Congratulations to our current 50 members!

- After worship, come join friends in Simkins Hall for a brief recognition program with pie and ice cream served by your pastors, and guest speakers **Michael Lamb, David Guyette, and Rev. Greg Batson** who will share what this special Legacy Circle means to our church now and into the future.

- At 11:45 a.m., all are invited to head back to the Sanctuary for a special 30-minute tour of the Sanctuary stained glass windows led by **Ron Theile**. Back in 2016–2017, Ron took us on a journey through our sanctuary’s stained glass, writing 15 captivating monthly installments for the Sentinel that revealed the stories, history, and meaning behind each window. Now, Ron is bringing those stories to life! Copies of his book, “Our Sanctuary-Symbols of Hope” will be available to pick up.

**Sunday, September 14, after worship in Simkins Hall and the Sanctuary**



**CELEBRATING MISSIONS AT FIRST UMC**

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.



On **Sunday, September 21**, we highlight our mission partner **Upward Bound House**. Stay after worship to sit down with a panel of First UMC members who are also UBH Board Members, as they discuss the history of Upward Bound House. Following the discussion we'll walk across the street for a tour led by Christine Mirasy-Glasco, President and CEO of UBH.

**Sunday, September 21, after worship in Simkins Hall**

**ORGAN TOUR WITH TY WOODWARD**

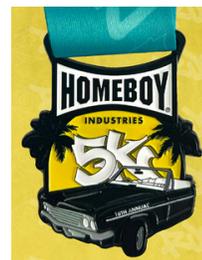
After worship on **Sunday, September 28**, all are welcome to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at our magnificent pipe organ, led by Principal Organist Ty Woodward. Want to know the exact specifications of the First UMC organ? Visit the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/the-first-umc-organ](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/the-first-umc-organ)



**2025 HOMEBOY 5K RUN/WALK**

Join Homeboy Industries (one of First UMC’s mission partners), and 5,000+ runners, walkers, volunteers, and families for our 16th Annual Homeboy 5K Run/Walk through historic Downtown Los Angeles! Sign up with team **Wilson's Walkers**, First UMC member David Wilson’s team. David and Ann will have a table out after worship on **Sunday, September 7**, with registration info. <https://raceroster.com/events/2025/101788/homeboy-5k-runwalk> **Saturday, September 20, 8:30 a.m. 5K Race Starts**



**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.

**Friday, September 26, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

*Fall Dates: October 24, November 21, December 19*

Contact Tricia to register:

[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)



**FLOWERS**

Do you have a loved one you would like to dedicate flowers to on a given week? The church office can assist with the dedication and the cost is \$80. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, or online:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund)

**Available Sundays: September 7/14/21/28**



## CELEBRATING MESSY CAMP!

We're excited to share what a joyful and impactful week we had at Messy Camp 2025! This year's camp (formerly known as Vacation Bible School) brought together children ages 4-10 for a faith-filled week of stories, songs, science, service, and of course plenty of mess as we explored God's Wild World!

Each day of Messy Camp was filled with fun, learning, and faith in action. On Monday, we kicked off with Noah's Ark where the campers made animal masks, built habitats, and were introduced to our mission partner, Heifer International. Tuesday took us into Jonah and the Big Fish, with themed crafts, a messy digestive system science demo, a water relay, and lessons on how Heifer helps families around the world. On Wednesday, we explored Daniel in the Lions' Den through a lion's den obstacle course, lion crafts, sensory science activities, and discussions on global hunger and nutrition. Thursday focused on Elijah and the Ravens, featuring birdhouse building, a beak simulation, and a reading of Lulu and the Hunger Monster. We wrapped up on Friday with the Parable of the Lost Sheep, celebrating God's love through games, a sheep rescue STEM challenge, and bracelet making.



*Jamie Jones, (front left) with some of the youth counselors and volunteers*

This year, our Mission Project focused on **Heifer International**, a global organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty by providing livestock and training to families in need. Throughout the week, our campers learned how goats, chickens, pigs, cows, and other animals help build sustainable futures and they took action.

Each group thoughtfully chose animals to sponsor, and we were blown away by their generosity. From lemonade stands and snack sales to chore money and asking friends and neighbors, the kids got creative and gave from the heart. In total, Messy Camp raised over \$2,200—including four anonymous donations totaling \$750 toward the purchase of a cow, a goat, and 5 flocks of chickens! Here's what each group accomplished:

- **Cub Crew (ages 4–5) raised \$200.85 to buy 10 flocks of ducks.**
- **Eagle Squad (ages 5–7) raised \$439.77 to buy a goat, a sheep, 2 flocks of chickens, and a flock of ducks.**
- **Wolf Pack (ages 7–10) raised \$837.15 to buy a cow, a goat, a pig, and 4 flocks of chickens.**

It's truly inspiring to see what our youngest members can accomplish when they come together in service and faith. Their kindness, teamwork, and hearts for giving were a powerful witness to God's love in action.

A huge thank-you goes to our incredible team of adult and youth counselors who brought energy, care, and leadership each day. And thank you, church family, for your continued prayers, support, and generosity. Messy Camp wouldn't be possible without you.

With deep gratitude,

**Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator**

To view gallery of photos from Messy Camp, visit the website: [santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp](https://santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp)

## FIRST UMC DIGITAL SIGNAGE

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. Donations accepted anytime, online or a part of Sunday's offering.

**Thank you all who have donated to the Special 150th Fund. We have received 13 donations to date so far totaling \$6,300. We are \$19,000 from our goal. There is still time to become part of history!!**



*Artist rendering of signage (not exact representation)*

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS AND BAGS!

Join the celebration of our 150th Anniversary in style! Pick up one of our premium logo t-shirts—available in adult and children's sizes with a variety of colors to choose from—and don't forget the sturdy, high-quality canvas bag to carry with you everywhere. There's also a sweatshirt hoodie, available in several colors! Let's wear our joy and celebrate together! Visit the store:

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/first-united-methodist-church-of-santa-monica/>



# Community News



## MEMORIALS

- First UMC member **Ella Mae Sheesley Holmes** died June 3, 2025. A memorial will be held on Saturday, September 20, at 11 a.m. in the Chapel.
- First UMC Member **Diana Oh** died June 17, 2025. A memorial will be held on Monday, September 29, at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

## NEW LARGE SCREEN TVS IN SIMKINS HALL



We are excited to share a new space to worship! Simkins Hall will be open during the 10 a.m. service each week with our new large screen TVs streaming the service live.

## 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.roid@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.roid@santamonicaumc.org).

## SANTA MONICA CLASSIC 10K: CHECK YOUR ROUTE

The Santa Monica Classic 10K will be held **Sunday, September 7, 7 a.m.** Start and finish lines are on Ocean Avenue and Santa Monica Blvd. Check the course map for road closures: <https://www.mccourt.foundation.org/event/santa-monica-classic/course/>

## CITY OF SANTA MONICA CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY



First UMC was founded the same year as the City of Santa Monica, and we are excited to celebrate with the city! To commemorate Santa Monica's 150th anniversary, the community is coming together December 2025 to reflect on our shared history—honoring achievements and sharing stories, while acknowledging the injustices that have shaped our past. This milestone marks 150 years since July 14, 1875, when the town of Santa Monica was first mapped out and the initial plots of land were sold. As we look back, we also look forward—celebrating Santa Monica as a hub of innovation and collective civic engagement. To read more and view list of celebration events, visit the website:

<https://santamonica150.com>

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH DONATE TO SHERMAN INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL



UWF has gifted \$5,000 to Sherman Indian High School. Located in Riverside, SIHS is an off-reservation boarding high school for Native Americans. The school's mission is to empower Native students to find their passion, purpose, and power at school and in their communities.

Opened in 1892, the high school has been accredited since 1971 by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The student body represents over 76 federally recognized tribes from across the United States. About 68% come from reservations with remaining students from urban or suburban settings. For more information, see [shermanindianhs.org](http://shermanindianhs.org)



## MEET THE TEAM BEHIND FIRST UMC!

Welcome to the third installment of our monthly Staff Spotlight series! Each month, we'll lift up members of our dedicated team—sharing how they help bring the missions and ministries of First UMC to life throughout the week, and offering a glimpse into who they are beyond the office. It's a chance to celebrate their gifts, their service, and the lives they lead both within and beyond our church walls.

**David Penson - Facilities & Membership Coordinator:** David joined the First UMC staff in 2015, and originally hails from Phoenix, Arizona. He has been an active church member at First UMC since 2005. He graduated from Santa Monica College with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. David is the project manager for all facility maintenance for the church and preschool - everything from preschool room renovations, lighting in the Sanctuary, electricity in Simkins Hall, to parsonage maintenance. David is also the Sunday worship coordinator. In his free time, David enjoys traveling with his wife, Jen. Stop by and say hello to David in the church office or on a Sunday morning!



# Community Photos



*Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom every Tuesday*



*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Free Market, led by Janet Guyette (third from the left) was a huge success!*



*Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan preached and led a Q& A on Sunday, August 17*



*Celebrating the Sunday School teachers*



*The Youth Service Project Team gave their trip Report Back on August 24*



*Karen Hopkins with Rev. Batson, on her last Sunday before moving out of town*



*The United Women in Faith, Greg and Tania Batson, and Rev. Keri celebrated with the 580 Cafe at UCLA*



## PRESCHOOL CORNER



*Every year the Preschool staff attend Safe Sanctuary Training and CPR training before the new school year starts.*

# WORSHIP

## WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and we Livestream the service on the platforms listed below.

## COMMUNION SUNDAYS

**Dane Rold** will bake the bread for this month's Holy Communion. **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!



## WORSHIP ONLINE

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

- **Website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream)  
After 10 a.m. livestream airs, go to:  
[www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](http://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.

# ONGOING MINISTRIES

## 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/](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/)

## 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 join, call the church office: 310-393-8258.

**Tuesdays: 7 a.m. via Zoom**

## THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Sing in the Chancel Choir! **Thursday evening rehearsals begin again on Thursday, September 11, 7:40 - 9 p.m.** Contact Jim Smith if you are interested: [djes@roadrunner.com](mailto:djes@roadrunner.com)

## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

The Health Ministry Council hosts Blood Pressure screenings one Sunday of the month in the Fireside Room. We are grateful to this ministry for their continued care of the congregation! Next Screening: **Sunday, September 7, 11 a.m in the Alcove**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY / SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE FALL

As our family ministry grows, we see a need for more age-appropriate and developmentally relevant spaces for children, especially the older elementary/incoming youth. Our plan starting in the fall is to have 3 groups for Sunday School following the children's message in worship:

- **Nursery Care for 6 months through toddler**
- **Younger Elementary for Kinder-3rd graders**
- **New Sunday School group for 4th-7th graders**

**Jamie Jones and Cady Senior** will be providing Nursery Care for 6 months through toddler, with additional youth who will come in to assist as needed. **Dot Plukas and Sandra Jones** will be leading the Younger Elementary group for Kinder through 3rd grade using the Cokesbury's *Deep Blue* curriculum which provides fun and hands-on theologically sound resources for faith building with young children. **Adam Guerrero and parent volunteers** will be leading the new Sunday School group for our 4th through 7th graders. They will be using *Illustrated Ministry's Mini Revolutions* curriculum, which follows the Lectionary Year and will match the Scripture/theme we have in worship each Sunday.

If you are interested in helping or serving as a volunteer, please contact Tricia ([t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)) or Jamie ([j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)) for more information.

Website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry](http://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. Youth Group will start up on **Sunday, September 7, 6 - 8 p.m. 3rd Floor Edu Building with the Youth Kick-Off.** See page 2 for more info. Contact Tricia with questions: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

## 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](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

**Wednesdays: September 3 & 17,** Coffee and Connect, 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd)  
**Wednesday, September 10,** 2 p.m. via Zoom



## 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)

**The next meeting date is Saturday, September 20, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 300.**

Contact [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to volunteer.



# 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



Looking forward to  
**October**

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

## Sunday, October 12

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!**

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



## Sunday, October 18 - Blessing of the Animals 2025

We look forward to our 18th Annual Blessing of the Animals!  
This year we will have:

- Walk-Up blessings in the First UMC Courtyard.
- Kids can bring stuffed lovies to be blessed.
- All are invited to bring donations of pet food for our local pet shelters.
- Craft table for all ages to create a recycled art animal.

Don't miss this annual tradition!

**Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the First UMC  
Courtyard**

## SPIRITUAL RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

After the dust settles from our 150th Anniversary Celebrations there will be even more opportunities to continue growing in your faith! Please save the date for some upcoming retreats meant to nourish your faith and connection with God and one another. More information will be coming soon, but reach out to **Rev. Keri Olsen Paget** ([k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)) for questions or interest.

- **November 7-9, 2025** - Women's Overnight Retreat at Brave Grace Ranch in Trabuco Canyon
- **Saturday, January 31, 2026** - Single Day Spiritual Formation Retreat at FUMC SM, open to all interested participants

## 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:** Caring for You – Body, Mind, and Spirit at First UMC. Your well-being matters to us. Explore the resources on our website to see how we can support you and your loved ones through every season of life. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact: Anne Premer [a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org) or (310)393-8258 ext 103.

[www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry)

## YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

As the fall and winter season approaches, let's care for ourselves and one another by staying healthy and strong. Getting vaccinated for flu, COVID-19, and RSV is one way we can show love in action - protecting our own well-being and looking out for the most vulnerable among us. Talk with your healthcare provider to make the choice that's right for you, and remember that vaccines are easy to find at doctors' offices and local pharmacies. Together, we can look forward to a season filled with worship, connection, and shared joy without having to miss the moments that matter most.

