



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

150th Celebration Kick-Off • Holy Communion • September 7, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Praise to the Lord (setting: Paul Manz)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #60 United Methodist Hymnal — I'll Praise My Maker While
I've Breath

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dominic Rold, Lay Lector

We have come to worship God,
Who breathed into us the breath of life,
Who knows us even better than we know ourselves,
Whose presence never leaves us,
Whose love for us never ceases.
We have come to worship God!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise. That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Cavan Rold, Lay Lector

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 worshiping 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.

Children meet in the Sanctuary, following the Children's Message children (6 months through 7th grade) will be led to Sunday School in the Education Building on the 2nd floor.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Molly Smith, Lay Leadership Team

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

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE PSALM Psalm 139:1-18

Molly Smith

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

HOMILY "Beginning with God"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Molly Smith

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

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts (St. Saëns)

Praise ye the Lord of hosts, sing his salvation, bless His name, show forth his praise in His holy house! Rejoice, ye heavn's, and be joyful, on earth, rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, alleluia. Alleluia. Rejoice, ye angels rejoice all ye nations, now in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, alleluia.

***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**

Molly Smith

Tender and knowing God, you have searched us and known us—every thought, every fear, every hope that stirs within. You wove us together with care, claiming us before we could speak your name. Receive these gifts, offered not from perfection but from hearts seeking you. Use them to shape a world more reflective of your love and shape us, too, into a people more open, more generous, more faithful. In the name of the one who knows us still. 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.

#614 UMH — For the Bread Which You Have Broken

#618 UMH — Let Us Break Bread Together

#628 UMH — Eat This Bread

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tricia Guerrero

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

***HYMN #2051 TFWS — I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Batson

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE Chaconne (François Couperin)

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.

—**Communion Server Ministry:** After today's service, members of the Communion Server Ministry will be taking the communion elements to those who were unable to worship with us.

—**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:** Children meet in the Sanctuary, following the Children's Message children (6 months through 7th grade) will be led to Sunday School in the Education Building on the 2nd floor.

—**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: September 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.

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 Cortez
j.holman@santamonicaumc.org
Preschool Director Emerita
Dee Menzies
d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org

SUNDAY INSERT
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org

TODAY! 150th Anniversary Celebration Kick-Off

2025 marks a milestone year for First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica—our 150th Anniversary! Today we begin 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.



- **TODAY, September 7** - 150th Kick-Off begins; Special coffee hour includes **History & Archives Exhibit** in the Fireside Room (see info below). The Sunday School children and youth will host coffee hour in Simkins Hall.
- **Sunday, September 14** - **Celebrating the Legacy Circle** in worship followed by 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. After this, head over to the sanctuary for 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 highlighting Upward Bound House, 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 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**; During worship, Rev. Keri will preach and as a congregation we will recall and bless the women who have shaped our faith. After worship, join us in honoring women-led ministries at First UMC: The United Women in Faith, The Labyrinth, The Prayer Quilt Ministry, Health Ministry Council, and Home Communion Servers.

Sunday, October 12 - 150th Anniversary Celebration!

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

History & Archives Exhibit in the Fireside Room

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 open Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. through coffee hour, and will be on display during the anniversary celebrations. Come wander through the memories, discover familiar faces, and celebrate the legacy that has shaped our community.

Today after worship in the Fireside Room

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

• 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 today 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. Copies available at the Welcome Table as well.

Today after worship in the Fireside Room

• 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**. To read full bio, and to view past recitals, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

Wednesday, September 10, 12:10 p.m. ONLINE:

- Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)
- YouTube Channel: @SantaMonicaUMC
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- The First UMC App: (Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

• 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

• BAH HUMBUG!

Kids, Youth and Adults needed for "Scrooge the Musical." Join ACT in presenting this classic Dickens tale with music, to be performed November 21 and 22. Text Dorothy at 310-592-4402 if you would like to join the fun.

MISSION AND SERVICE

• 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 **TODAY** with registration info.

<https://raceroster.com/events/2025/101788/homeboy-5k-runwalk>

Saturday, September 20, 8:30 a.m. Race Starts

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 volunteer day: Friday, September 26

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. Volunteers do not have to work every Saturday or Sunday but are asked to commit to a regular shift each month.

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

Beginning today, we will 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

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

• 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 Tonight, 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, October 3, 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, September 10**, 2 p.m. via Zoom

• 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! Thursday evening rehearsals begin again on **Thursday, September 11**, 7:40 - 9 p.m. Contact Jim Smith if you are interested in joining: djes@roadrunner.com

• Messy Church

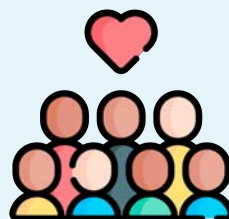
Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

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

• Blood Pressure Screenings

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

Next meeting: **TODAY** in the Alcove



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! Order online 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! Samples can be seen at the Welcome Table after worship on Sundays.

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



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 two to four rehearsals 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.

Seasons of Wisdom Women's Retreat

We invite you to this Fall women's retreat to reflect on the season of life you're experiencing, as well as the wisdom of seasons passed. We will explore themes from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Life contains rhythms of taking in and letting go, death and new life, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing. And God accompanies us through it all. We will offer experiences to help connect to the wisdom of God within us and around us. Part of the experience will be with horses at Brave Grace Ranch. Riding the horses is not expected. Register by **Thursday, October 2, 2025** (*for discounted hotel rates*):

<https://santamonicaumc.org/seasons-of-wisdom/>

Registration fee directly paid to church through credit or debit: \$115.



*Scene from last year's
Women's Retreat
at Brave Grace Ranch*