



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Music & Arts Appreciation Sunday • September 28, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Nimrod *from* Enigma Variations (Edward Elgar)

Ty Woodward, organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #140 United Methodist Hymnal — Great Is Thy Faithfulness

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Bumiller, Lay Lector

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;

**Praise God in his mighty heaven!**

Praise God with the trumpet sound;

**Praise God with lute and harp!**

Praise God with tambourine and dance;

**Praise God with strings and pipe!**

Praise God with sounding cymbals;

**Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Let the people sing praise unto the Lord. Alleluia. Let all the people sing praise to the Lord, now worship the Lord, give thanks and sing, Praise the Lord!"

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Bill Bumiller

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

*\*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sandra Jones, Sunday School Teacher

#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.**

*As the congregation sings, the children may go to Sunday School in the Education Bldg.*

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Tricia Guerrero

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## MOMENT FOR MISSION Music and Arts Recognition

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

HYMN #348 UMH — Softy and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (verses 1,2,4)

## SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

## 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

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Bill Bumiller

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

SERMON "Homecoming"

Rev. Batson

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## WE RESPOND

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Bill Bumiller

*Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. Or, you may also give online at [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give), or mail checks through your online banking programs. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts. Thank you.*

### OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

The Windows of Heaven (Craig Courtney)

You bend from the windows of heaven, where there is no darkness or night to shine on this imperfect servant and fill me with Your perfect light. Your Spirit, the breath of my service that fans into flame as I move in an everwidening circle, where the center is always You. Your light shining within me; the times I serve alone; the hands that work beside me beyond these walls, these walls of stone; the joy and pain of living; the gift of gratitude. All these windows around me as I make my way to You. I sing to the windows of heaven, to the heights I cannot see, a song beyond music or language, from the depth of Your love for me. I sing! O I cannot be silent; for the sound of my voice must rise to join with the saints in Your service and sing in Your house of light. You bend from the windows of heaven and fill me with Your light.

### \*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

Tricia Guerrero

**Forgiving God, we are grateful that you receive us as beloved children. Like the father in Jesus' parable of the lost son, you rejoice when we repent and return to you. Help us to welcome each person as someone you love. Use our offerings to support ministries that encourage people as they live into new life in Christ. We pray in his precious name. Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

### \*HYMN #383 UMH – This Is a Day of New Beginnings

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE Fanfare (John Cook)

Ty Woodward

*Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world.  
You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.*

—**Welcome New Visitors!** We're happy you're here. You may fill out a Let's Connect Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or sign in online: [www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new), or scan this QR code for the online form.



—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.

—**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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund). Available Sundays: October 5/26.

—**Give:** Your gifts help us grow our ministries today and into the future. Thank you for considering giving to the General Church Fund to support everything we do. You may give today during service, or other ways; by mailing payment, dropping by the business office, or securely through the online giving portal located on the website front page. Questions about financial gifts, or gifts of time? Give us a call anytime at the church office.

—**Prayer Quilts:** If there is a Prayer Quilt in worship, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilt on the north wall of the Sanctuary, or call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or [s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org). To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry).

—**Prayer Requests:** The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. Request a prayer at any time. Go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests).

—**Westside Food Bank:** We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. Bins are located outside the Sanctuary Sunday mornings.

—**Sunday Social Gathering:** After worship today, come say "Hello" for Coffee Hour in Simkins Hall. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table if you have any questions.

*Resident Bishop*  
**Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank**

*West District Superintendent*  
**Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**

#### MINISTRY

*Senior Minister*

**Rev. Greg Batson**

[g.batson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:g.batson@santamonicaumc.org)

*Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation*

**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**

[k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)

*Pastoral Associate*

**Tricia Guerrero**

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

*Congregation Care Associate*

**Anne Premer**

[a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org)

*Family Ministries Coordinator*

**Jamie Jones**

[j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)

#### MUSIC STAFF

*Music Director*

**Dr. James Smith**

*Organist*

**Ty Woodward**

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

*Business Administrator*

**Christina Eddy**

[c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org)

*Communications Director*

**Tina Gage**

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

*Office Manager*

**Sarah Rold**

[s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)

*Membership and Facilities*

*Coordinator*

**David Penson**

[d.penson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.penson@santamonicaumc.org)

*Program and Outreach Coordinator*

**Brandon Searfoss**

[b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org)

*Head Custodian*

**Javier Espinoza**

#### PRESCHOOL STAFF

*Preschool Co-Director*

**Dane Rold**

[d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)

*Preschool Co-Director*

**Johanna Holman**

[j.holman@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.holman@santamonicaumc.org)

*Preschool Director Emerita*

**Dee Menzies**

[d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org)

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



SUNDAY INSERT  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

# MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

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

## 150th Anniversary Celebrations Underway!

2025 marks a milestone year for First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica—our 150th Anniversary! We continue our 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! Sunday, September 28 - Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday** in worship, followed by a presentation and tour of the First UMC organ with **Ty Woodward**, principal organist, **starting at 11:15 a.m. Simkins Hall.** Also visit the Theater Arts display curated by **Emily Payne**. Take a trip down memory lane at the Simkins Hall stage, and relive some of your favorite CAST (Children's After School Theater) & A.C.T. (All Community Theater) moments and songs. Explore various shows through programs, photography, and costumes.

• **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

### Join us for a truly special Sunday!

Rev. Greg Batson will lead us in worship, joined by several beloved former First UMC pastors returning to share in the celebration. We are honored to welcome **Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank** as our preacher for the day. After worship, continue the joy in Simkins Hall with a special luncheon, celebrating where we've come from, rejoicing in where we are, and stepping forward in faith together.

**Sunday, October 12, 10 a.m. worship, followed by 11 a.m. luncheon in Simkins Hall**

## History & Archives Exhibit in the Fireside Room Continues

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. Come wander through the memories, discover familiar faces, and celebrate the legacy that has shaped our community. **New: 1921 Concert Chorale from the First United Methodist Church on Arizona has been digitized and restored for your listening pleasure - available in the History and Archives display today!**

**Exhibit open at 9 a.m. thru coffee hour each Sunday**



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTAMONICA  
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • 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: \$115.

**Retreat Dates: November 7-9, Brave Grace Ranch**

### • 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*, is available to pick up Sundays 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 also available at the Welcome Table, and a downloadable pdf book is available on the website:

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

### • Blessing of the Animals 2025

Save the date for our 18th Annual Blessing of the Animals! This year we will have:

- Walk-Up pet blessings in the First UMC Courtyard.
- Kids can bring stuffed lovie 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, and extra craft tables and reading area for kids and families. Don't miss this annual tradition!

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

## MISSION AND SERVICE

### • United Women in Faith Craft Day

Come explore your crafty side! Please join the UWF and other friends on Sunday, October 19, after worship to create ornaments and decorations to sell at our annual Christmas Bazaar in support of mission projects. 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!

**Sunday, October 19, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., UWF Workroom**

### • Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk Sign Up Now!

Mark your calendars for November 2, 2025! Join Westside Food Bank's 35th Annual 5K Hunger Walk at Ocean View Park. We are walking to help those facing hunger in LA County. **Join Team First UMC!** Sign up here: <https://my.wsfb.org/team/770534>

**Sunday, November 2, 12 p.m.** check-in and expo begin at Ocean View Park (2701 Barnard Way, Santa Monica, CA)

## 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 two Fridays in October to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.

**Fridays: October 24 & 31, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
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.

**Next volunteer day: Saturday, October 18**

Contact Tricia to sign up for either of these opportunities: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto: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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry)

We 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 Jamie ([j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto: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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool)

## YOUTH

### • United Methodist Youth Fellowship Group

The Youth Ministry at First UMC is a community of youth and adult volunteers who gather weekly to explore and grow in faith together. [www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry) **Sundays, 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge**

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

### • Request a Prayer Quilt

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a group that makes Prayer Quilts as a service for those in need. (*\*Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.*) To request a Prayer Quilt, visit:

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

## ONGOING MINISTRIES AT FIRST UMC

If you'd like more information for ministry opportunities, you may contact the church office (310) 393-8258, or visit the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

### • Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom - Men's Bible Study is a weekly online meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture.

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

### • Listening Hearts Women's Group

Listening Hearts is a spiritual community of women, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero. Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org). Next meeting: **Wednesday, October 1, 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, October 18**

### • The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. Sing in the Chancel Choir! **Thursday evening rehearsals are from 7:40 p.m. - 9 p.m.** Contact Jim Smith if you are interested in joining: [djes@roadrunner.com](mailto:djes@roadrunner.com)

### • Messy Church

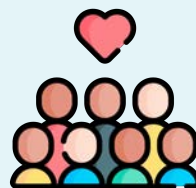
Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

**Next meeting: Join us for Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

### • Blood Pressure Screenings

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

Next meeting: **Sunday, October 19 after worship** in the Alcove







## This week's featured artwork

**The Return of the Prodigal Son** (*Dutch: De terugkeer van de verloren zoon*) is an oil painting by Rembrandt, part of the collection of the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. It is among the Dutch master's final works, likely completed within two years of his death in 1668. Rembrandt scholar Rosenberg calls the painting "monumental," writing that Rembrandt "interprets the Christian idea of mercy with extraordinary solemnity, as though this were his spiritual testament to the world. [The painting] goes beyond the work of all other Baroque artists in the evocation of religious mood and human sympathy. The aged artist's power of realism is not diminished, but increased by psychological insight and spiritual awareness ...The whole represents a symbol of homecoming, of the darkness of human existence illuminated by tenderness, of weary and sinful mankind taking refuge in the shelter of God's mercy."

## 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 18 donations to date so far totaling \$8,950. We are \$16,850 from our goal. There is still time to become part of history!!

### 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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give)



### Stay Connected

To join in fellowship and ministry online, here's how to connect online:

**First UMC website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](http://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)

**Instagram:** @santamonicaumc

**YouTube:** @SantaMonicaUMC

**The First UMC App:** App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM.



### 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/>



Store QR code