

150
YEARS
1875 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

SENTINEL

HORIZONS

BY REV. GREG BATSON

On October 14, 1875, the Rev. J.D. Crum brought together a handful of residents for their first meeting as the Methodist church in Santa Monica. The city had been established just three months earlier, and there were few structures available for hosting a worship service. They gathered together in a second-floor loft of Mr. Brady's hardware store, and thus our congregation was born.

Over the past 150 years, First United Methodist Church has been an integral part of this community and our denomination. We began our sesquicentennial celebration last month with the opening of our History and Archives exhibit in the Fireside Room (it remains open this month for viewing). Each Sunday, we have had a special focus on a part of our history, including music and the arts, missions, and our legacy of giving. Our celebration continues this month with two more special Sundays.

On October 5, the Rev. Keri Olsen-Paget and Tricia Guerrero will lead worship on **World Communion Sunday** with a focus on **Women in Leadership** in our church. Women-led ministries will be highlighted during our Coffee Hour, including a special performance on the Labyrinth in Simkins Hall.

On October 12, we culminate our 150th Anniversary with a special worship service. Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank will preach, and many of the clergy who have previously served our congregation will be in attendance. All are invited to a luncheon in Simkins Hall and the courtyard following the service, providing an opportunity for reunions and fellowship.

We give thanks for this history. As we look back, let us also look forward with a renewed commitment to **Be the Hope** for Santa Monica and the world.



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, the festivities continue 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 luncheon in Simkins Hall**

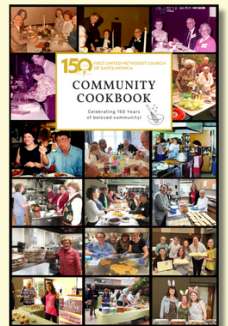
150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

First UMC is thrilled to announce the release of our *150th Anniversary Cookbook*, which will debut on our 150th Anniversary Celebration Day, October 12! As Rev. Greg shares in the foreword: "Hospitality is a spiritual gift, and the church potluck is a fundamental part of our identity as a community of faith. Part of that tradition is the handing down of recipes from generation to generation."

Inside, you'll find:

- Recipes preserved from our historical archive cookbooks
- An alphabetical collection of recipes submitted by congregation members.
- In Loving Memory recipes submitting by family members.
- Photos and quotes reflecting the meaning behind these dishes.
- A special section dedicated to the recipes of Marilyn Hedges.

Sunday, October 12, after worship in Simkins Hall



OCTOBER *at a Glance*

Thurs Oct 2	Deadline to sign up for Seasons of Wisdom Women's Retreat
Fri Oct 3	Labyrinth/Chapel Open
Sun Oct 5	World Communion Sunday, Celebration of First UMC Women in Leadership; Special Coffee Hour hosted by women-led ministries.
Tues Oct 7	Investment, Trustee & Finance Committee Meeting
Wed Oct 8	October Mid-Week Recital
Sun Oct 12	150th Anniversary Celebration! Special worship service with Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank preaching, followed by a Celebration Luncheon in Simkins Hall
Sat Oct 18	Blessing of the Animals The People Concern Volunteer Day
Sun Oct 19	United Women in Faith Craft Day Free Blood Pressure Screenings
Mon Oct 20	Nominations Committee Meeting
Fri Oct 24	Westside Food Bank Volunteer Day United Women in Faith Peanut Brittle making day
Sat Oct 25	Preschool Fall Festival
Sun Oct 26	Moment for Mission: Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk Missions Council Meeting
Mon Oct 27	Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting A Halloween Pipe Organ Spooktacular
Tues Oct 28	Trustees and Finance Committee Meeting
Fri Oct 31	Westside Food Bank Volunteer Day

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, October 3, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall, Chapel

CELEBRATION OF THE LABYRINTH

A celebration of the Labyrinth will be part of the October 5th festivities, which will include a sacred dance performance on the Labyrinth by eight First UMC women:

Carol Greenwood, Mary Jo Dalton, Shalimar Carducci, Cindy McQuade, Kathy Naylor, Ann Wilson, Sandra Williams Krieger, and Dorothy Nichols. They will be joyfully dancing to "Morning Has Broken" by Cat Stevens.
Sunday, October 5, during Coffee Hour in Simkins Hall

OCTOBER ONLINE MID-WEEK RECITAL

First UMC is pleased to present the Online October Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Trio Autunno**, a trio that includes **Kevan Torfeh, cello; Kenton Youngstrom, guitar; and Peter Doubrovsky, string bass.**

To view past recitals, visit the website:

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
 - The First UMC App: (App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)
- You may also view past recitals on these channels.

Wednesday, October 8, at 12:10 p.m., online

MID-WEEK RECITALS



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Don't miss the 18th Annual Blessing of the Animals! This year we feature:

- Walk-Up pet blessings in the First UMC Courtyard.
- Kids can bring stuffed loviess to be blessed.
- All are invited to bring donations of pet food for our local pet shelters.
- Messy Church will host craft tables 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 Courtyard



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 or just come!

Sunday, October 19, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

UWF Workroom



UWF PEANUT BRITTLE MAKING DAY

Help the UWF gear up for the holidays and make their legendary Peanut Brittle! Upcoming volunteer day:

Friday, October 24, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

They need 12 volunteers. Send an email to the UWF to sign up:

UWFsantamonica@gmail.com



TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



- **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 two Fridays in October to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.
Fridays: October 24 & 31, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

-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.

Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Contact Tricia to sign up for either opportunity:
t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org



ANNIVERSARY OFFERINGS CONTINUING

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. Come wander through the memories, discover familiar faces, and celebrate the legacy that has shaped our community. Exhibit will be on display through November 15, Charge Conference Sunday!
Exhibit open Sundays at 9 a.m. thru coffee hour



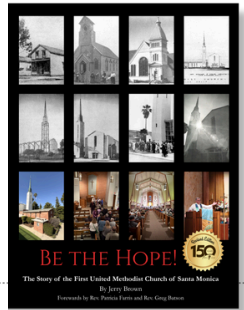
Scenes from the opening of the exhibit



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:

<https://www.santamonicaumc.org/first-umc-history>



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/>



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!!



Artist rendering of signage (not exact representation)

WHITE RIBBON MEMORIAL

As we approach All Saints Day, First UMC will honor those who have died with the White Ribbon Memorial. On the Sundays of **October 12, 19, 26, and November 2**, look for a table set up by the north wall of the sanctuary near the prayer quilts. There, before or after service, you may write the names of loved ones on a white ribbon (*as many as you like or one name per ribbon*), say a prayer, and tie it to the string or place it in the bowl on the table. Ribbons hung last year will be rehung this year. You may also come to the Welcome Table or the church office to write a name on a ribbon. For our All Saints Day service on November 2, all ribbons will be tied to the string and hung in the sanctuary for the worship service.

All Saints Sunday: Sunday, November 2, during 10 a.m. worship

Looking forward to **NOVEMBER**

- Sun Nov 2** All Saints Sunday / White Ribbon Memorial
Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk
- Fri Nov 7** Seasons of Wisdom Women's Retreat
- Sun Nov 9** Laity Sunday
- Sun Nov 16** Church Charge Conference
- Fri/Sat Nov 21/22** All Community Theater performance of *Scrooge*
- Sun Nov 23** United Women in Faith Christmas Bazaar

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 on the website by Thursday, October 2, 2025

(for discounted hotel rates. You may still join later but the cost will be higher):

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

Registration fee directly paid to church: \$115.

Retreat Dates: November 7-9, Brave Grace Ranch

<https://bravegrace.com>



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



Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Tania Batson and Sue Conklin, LCSW, will be leading the retreat on the campus of Brave Grace in Silverado Canyon.

TAKE A TOUR OF THE FIRST CHURCH

The History and Archives Committee recently discovered that the First UMC original church structure is still standing at 2621 2nd Street, and is part of a **Santa Monica Conservancy 3rd Street Tour**. Join us on Sunday, November 9, at noon, to take a tour! The house was recently up for sale (*now sold.*) The real estate firm describes the property:

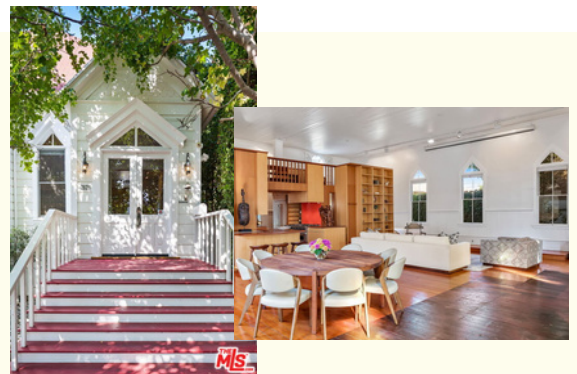
"Welcome to Santa Monica's oldest surviving timbered structure - the iconic 2nd Street Church, now reimagined as a private residence. Built in 1875 by the hands of its devoted congregation, this Carpenter Gothic architectural landmark was Santa Monica's first church. By 1923, its sacred services had concluded, and it found new purpose as a loving sanctuary for the widows of Civil War heroes - a chapter still honored by the original 'Patriotic Hall' inscription above the entrance...This isn't just a place to live - it's a piece of history, beautifully reimagined for modern life."

Register through the Santa Monica Conservancy to join the tour:

Sunday, November 9, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

2520 2nd St. Santa Monica, CA 90405

<https://smconservancy.org/event/third-street-walk-16/>



3rd Street Tour info:

The Conservancy's Third Street Walk reveals the architectural and historical highlights and evolution of Santa Monica's very first historic district, established in 1990. The neighborhood contains 27 original bungalows built between 1903 and 1915, as well as four structures from the late 1800s.

Community News



BAPTISM

- **Everett Harrison Dewald** was baptized on September 14, 2025, by Rev. Batson.



CONGRATULATIONS

- **Lauren Foxwell** and **Kevin Goolsby** we married on September 20, 2025, in Detroit, Michigan. The wedding was officiated by Tricia Guerrero.

DEATHS

- Former First UMC member **Paul A. Agnew** died August 29, 2025.
- First UMC member **Nancy Ringwald** died September 15, 2025.

THANK YOU!

- We thank the **United Women in Faith** for their very generous gift of the new ovens and refrigerator for the kitchen! This new equipment is essential in not only supporting our own ministries but also in serving our community following the Palisades Fire. Your donation is a great example of the legacy of the women who have led, and continue to lead, our congregation.
- To **Ron Theile**, for leading the **Mark Twain Ringers** for **25 years**. Recently this group was discontinued. Thank you, Ron, for your years of service leading this ministry that meant so much to so many students in the public school system, as well as all of those in the congregation who enjoyed their music.



Ron Theile (right) and the Mark Twain Ringers

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: 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.premier@santamonicaumc.org or (310)393-8258 ext 103. www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry

GENTLE REMINDER: HEALTH COVERAGE CHECK-IN

This fall is an important time to review your health care coverage.

Medicare Open Enrollment: October 15 - December 7

Covered California Renewals: October 15 - December 15

Covered California New Sign-Ups: November 1 - January 31, 2026

Taking a few minutes to look over your plan can bring peace of mind and ensure your coverage is still the right fit for your needs. It's a small act of self-care and a gift to those who love you. Please feel free to reach out to Anne Premer at a.premier@santamonicaumc.org if you have any questions.

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.



MEET THE TEAM BEHIND FIRST UMC!

Welcome to the fourth installment of our monthly Staff Spotlight series! Each month, we 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.

Sarah Rold – Office Manager: First UMC has been part of Sarah's life since she was a child. While visiting her Aunt Claudia and Uncle Phil Flanders every summer, they would bring her to worship on Sundays. So when she moved from Montana, after receiving her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Montana, to live somewhere much warmer, she continued to come to church and hasn't stopped yet. Sarah also loves reading, scrap-booking, and most of all spending time with her husband Dane and their sons. Sarah and Dane were married here at First UMC twelve years ago and the boys were all baptized here. Sarah has been part of the First UMC staff for more than 13 years; serving as Church Office Manager for the past 7. She enjoys the variety in her work and finds joy in all the ways she is able to serve.



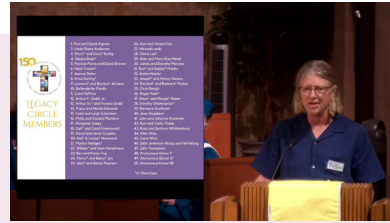
Community Photos



The History and Archives exhibit will be on display through to Charge Conference Sunday in November.

Messy Church returned for the fall with the program: Called to Be – Make a Difference

Thanks to the United Women in Faith for a yummy Ice Cream social on a summer day!



Many thanks to Ron Theile for his tour of the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary.



We celebrated Legacy Circle Sunday on September 14, featured speakers Todd Erlandson, David Guyette, Michael Lamb and Rev. Greg Batson speaking about the Legacy Circle, and a coffee hour with pie and ice cream treats.



PRESCHOOL CORNER



The Preschool new year has begun! Before classes officially started, students and families met for a "Meet the Teachers" morning.



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

Karen Ing 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
After 10 a.m. livestream airs, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive
- **Facebook:** 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/

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 are 7:40 - 9 p.m.** Contact Jim Smith if you are interested:

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, October 19, 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. We now 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 provide Nursery Care for 6 months through toddler, using the Cokesbury's *Deep Blue* curriculum with additional youth who will come in to assist.

Dot Plukas and Sandra Jones lead the Younger Elementary group for Kinder through 3rd grade, using the *Big Faith* curriculum which provides fun and hands-on theologically sound resources for faith building with young children.

Adam Guerrero and parent volunteers lead the new Sunday School group for our 4th through 7th graders. They use 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, contact Jamie (j.jones@santamonicaumc.org) for more information.

Website: 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 meets **weekly on Sundays from 6 - 8 p.m. 3rd Floor Edu. Bldg.** Contact Tricia with questions: 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

Wednesdays: October 1 & 15, Coffee and Connect, 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd)
Wednesday, October 8, 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

The next meeting date is Saturday, October 18, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 300. Contact info@santamonicaumc.org if you would like to volunteer.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA



Scan to visit
the website

1008 11th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310-393-8258
@santamonicaumc
www.santamonicaumc.org



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



HARVEST HOME BENEFIT GALA

Join Harvest Home, one of First UMC's Mission Partners, as they mark 40 years of impact - honoring the past, celebrating the present, and investing in the future of moms and babies at Harvest Home. For a full listing of sponsorship and underwriting opportunities, visit the website:

harvesthomela.org/2025gala

Sponsorship Deadline: Friday, October 3

Gala: Saturday, October 25

Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, AND
The Music Series of First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
PRESENTS

A HALLOWEEN PIPE ORGAN SPOOKTACULAR

featuring Organists:

**Ty Woodward, Kevin Anderson,
Greg Schreiner, Brandon Zhou,
Mark Hilt and Haesung Park**

**Monday, October 27, 2025
8 p.m.**

in the First UMC Sanctuary

1008 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403

www.santamonicaumc.org

FREE
ADMISSION
&
PARKING

A HALLOWEEN PIPE ORGAN SPOOKTACULAR!

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the First UMC Music Series present "A Halloween Pipe Organ Spooktacular"—an evening of hauntingly good performances by Ty Woodward and other talented organists from the Santa Monica area. Free and open to all!

Monday, October 27, 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary