



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

150th Anniversary Celebration • October 12, 2025



BE THE HOPE

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Fantasy on Wareham (Searle Wright)

Ty Woodward, organ; Brass Quintet & Timpani

*OPENING HYMN Centennial Hymn *(see insert)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

(from Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise the Lord, in the heights!

Praise the Lord, all his angels, praise the Lord, all his hosts!

Praise the Lord, sun and moon, praise the Lord, all shining stars!

Praise the Lord from the earth, all living things, young and old alike.

Let all praise the name of the Lord, whose glory is above heaven and earth.

Praise the Lord!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"O praise ye the Lord! Your voice in concert ring! All men in accord shall hymn and chant now sing: for love in creation, for fallen man restored, for grace of salvation, O praise the Lord!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Olsen Paget

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

The Centennial Hymn

1. E - ter - nal God, we sing your praise,
 2. On pil - grim ways You call us to go,
 3. We cher - ish the past, re - joice in to - day,
 4. Lord of the years, we hum - bly ask

With - in whose love we live our days;
 At cross-roads of need our love to show;
 And chal-lenge the fu - ture's broad - 'ning way.
 For strength that is e - qual to our task.

In burn - ing bush, through dark - est night,
 To fol - low Christ, our wit - ness bear,
 With King - dom hope we rise to claim
 O Spir - it come, de - scend with pow'r,

Your Pres - ence comes as Truth and Light.
 Pro - claim-ing the Gos - pel ev - 'ry - where.
 Your prom - ised Grace in Je - sus' name.
 And make us read - y for this hour.

WORDS: Donald J. Shelby, 1975

MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738; harm. from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875

WAREHAM

LM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

#2233 The Faith We Sing — Where Children Belong

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.

#558 United Methodist Hymnal — We Are the Church

(Refrain:) I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. *(Refrain)* We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. *(Refrain)*

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.

Following the Children's Message children (6 months through 7th grade) will be led to Sunday School on the 2nd floor of the Education Building.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

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

Thanks be to God!

HYMN #393 UMH — Spirit of the Living God

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING *(see insert)*

Rev. John Woodall, Rev. Martha Wingfield

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dorothy Bimber Worley

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Joshua 6:1-16 (CEB)

Rev. Patricia Farris

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

SERMON "Hiding in the Wine Press"

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

150TH ANNIVERSARY LITANY

Today we come together in this space made holy by the faith and witness of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica as we celebrate 150 years as a church community.

We remember with gratitude.

Our mothers and fathers in the faith brought the word of God to this place. By their courage and commitment, the Methodist Church in Santa Monica was gathered and given life.

We remember with gratitude.

Remembering those who have gone before us, let us follow as they followed in the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus Christ.

We dedicate ourselves anew in faith that follows the way of Jesus Christ.

God calls us to love our neighbors in our community, nation and world, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God,

We dedicate ourselves anew to serve and witness to Jesus Christ.

Trusting that God will continue to speak God's love for all people, to welcome and include all in our community of faith,

We dedicate ourselves anew to being the Church.

Building upon the past, we look forward to the future, filled with God's love,

We renew our commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ to be the hope for the world. Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Tricia Guerrero

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

OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

I Will Sing with All My Soul (Tom Trenney)

O God, my heart adores You; I will sing and make music! I will sing and make music with all my soul. For great is Your love, higher than the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, high above the heavens; let Your glory over all the earth arise! O God, my heart adores You; I will sing and make music! I will sing and make music with all my soul. Sing to the Lord! Declare God's glory among the nations. Sing to the Lord! Declare God's marvelous deeds among all people. For great is the Lord and most worthy of Praise. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, let the sea resound: let the trees clap their hands! O God, my heart adores You! I will sing and make music with all my soul!

*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

Rev. Larry Young

Gracious God of every growing gift, you call forth saints not with perfection, but with purpose—to grow in faith, abound in love, and serve with steadfastness. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude, given by those you are shaping for good works in Christ. Use them to build up your church, to bless the world, and to honor those who have taught us to love more deeply. May our generosity today reflect your glory and strengthen us to walk ever more faithfully in your way. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #87 UMH – What Gift Can We Bring

*BENEDICTION

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

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Grand Chœur Dialogué (Eugène Gigout)

Organ, Brass Quintet & Timpani

*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.

—**Welcome Guest Musicians:** We welcome guest musicians Stephen Billington and Jason Gamer, trumpets; Rachel Berry, horn; Ron Minor, trombone; Beth Mitchell, tuba; Aaron Smith, timpani.

—**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: November 2/16/23/30.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "In memory of my wife Marilyn Leoni, with love, Paul."

—**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



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Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

West District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

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Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
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SUNDAY INSERT
OCTOBER 12, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org



Blessing of the Animals 2025

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

- Walk-Up pet blessings in the First UMC Courtyard.
- Kids can bring stuffed lovelies to be blessed.
- All are invited to bring donations of pet food for our local pet shelters.
- Commemorative pet tag for your pet.
- Craft table for all ages to create a recycled art animal, and extra craft tables hosted by Messy Church, with a 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

Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk - Sign Up Now!

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. Let's come together to make a difference in our community. **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)



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.

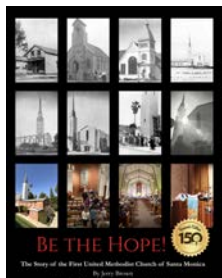
Exhibit open at 9 a.m. thru coffee hour each Sunday



Be the Hope: The Story of First UMC - 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 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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

• White Ribbon Memorial

As we approach All Saints Day, First UMC will honor those who have died with the White Ribbon Memorial. Today we have a table in the Narthex where 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. On the Sundays of October 19, 26, and November 2, look for a table set up by the north wall of the sanctuary near the prayer quilts to write ribbons. Ribbons hung in previous years will be rehung this year. 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 worship

• Take a Tour of the First Church Building

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 by registering through the Santa Monica Conservancy:

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

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

2520 2nd St. Santa Monica, CA 90405

• Church Charge Conference: Save the Date!

Join First UMC for the annual Church Charge Conference! We will engage in a joyful and worshipful celebration of this year's accomplishments, both in person in Simkins Hall, and via Zoom.

Sunday, November 16, after worship in Simkins Hall

• November Highlights

Save the dates for these additional November events:

Sun Nov 9 **Laity Sunday**

Wed Nov 12 **November Mid-Week Recital**

Fri/Sat Nov 21/22 **All Community Theater presents "Scrooge: The Musical"**

Sun Nov 23 **United Women in Faith Christmas Bazaar**

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 or just come!

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

• United Women in Faith 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.*) Sign up: UWFSantamonica@gmail.com

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

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

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
- Please contact 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

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 **Sundays, 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge** (*not meeting tonight*)

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, November 7, 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, October 15, 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

• Messy Church

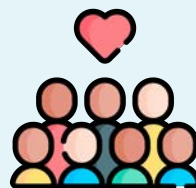
Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

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





From the First UMC archives

While sorting through the Archives room, a lovely piece of church history was uncovered—a card from the Sanctuary’s opening year in 1953. On the back is a heartfelt poem titled “Cathedral Spires,” written by Harriet Rourke, mother-in-law of longtime member Marie Rourke.

Cathedral Spires

Cathedral spires tower high above
Like beacons in the night.
They beckon oft to lonely souls
From their stupendous height.

Like monuments these lofty spires,
On churches far and wide,
Tell the victory of the cross
Where Christian folk abide.

They typify the hopes and dreams,
The faith of men in God
Devotion to His way of life
On earth where Jesus trod.

With stately grandeur, quite superb,
A symbol that inspires,
A true expression of devotion,
These sublime Cathedral spires.

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—Harriet Rourke

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



Stay Connected

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

First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: 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