



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

20th Sunday After Pentecost • October 26, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Whitney Hagan, Lay Lector

PRELUDE I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #110 United Methodist Hymnal — A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ron Theile, Lay Lector

This is the day the Lord has made:

a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.

This is the time God has given us:

a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.

This is the life to which God calls us:

a life of humility and service; a life of faith and trust.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Rise up singing praise to our God and our King, with hearts full of gladness for ev'ry good thing! Rise up singing praises! Rise up singing praises! Rise up singing praises to God and our King!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ron Theile

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 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.

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

Whitney Hagan

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 Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk

Janet Searfoss

HYMN #355 UMH — Depth of Mercy

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Ron Theile

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Luke 18:9-14

Ron Theile

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

SERMON "Humility"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Whitney Hagan

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

Cornerstone (Shawn Kirchner)

Vera Lugo and Andrew Pringle, soloists

Refrain: O the stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone of a whole new world. A grain of wheat may be knocked to the ground and suffer through the winter's cold, only to rise right up again and bear its seed a thousand fold. (Refrain) Never can our journey fail; a little child will lead the way, whose eyes are filled with a shining light, to whom the night is bright as day. (Refrain) The love that rolls the stone away gives us life that we may sing "Grave, where is thy victory? Death, O death, where is thy sting?" (Refrain)

*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

Whitney Hagan

Humble and merciful God, you do not require perfection, only a heart that is open. Receive these gifts, not as a sign of our righteousness, but as a humble offering from those who know they need your grace. Teach us again that generosity begins not in pride, but in gratitude—not in proving our worth, but in trusting yours. May what we give today grow into mercy, justice, and joy in the lives of others and in our own. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #121 UMH – There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Toccata from Suite Gothique (Léon Boëllmann)

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.

—**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 16/23/30.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "With loving remembrance of Auntie Florence." From the family of Florence Workman.

—**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.

—**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.

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
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WESTSIDE FOOD BANK

Westside Food Bank, one of First UMC's mission partners, is a "central hub that distributes healthy food to 60 nonprofit partner agencies on the front lines of social services and hunger relief. Our food delivers more than nutrition. We enable social service agencies to focus their resources on their programs without having to pay for food. With the network of community food pantries, we supply food security to people in need and help to prevent homelessness."

In addition to food, many of their partner agencies provide services that help the people they serve transcend the destructive effects of poverty and homelessness, such as employment assistance, housing placement, psychological counseling, job training, money management assistance, and parenting classes. Their food nourishes their bodies and minds for those working hard to achieve independent success.



In addition to their ongoing efforts, since January's fires, they saw a 30% increase at their direct-service mobile pantries which has continued throughout the year. For those who experienced unimaginable loss, including homes, jobs, and cherished memories, Westside Food Bank and their partners have been an invaluable support.

Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk Sign Up Now!

Sign up now or donate for 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:

www.santamonicaumc.org/hunger-walk

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

Scenes from last year's walk



UPCOMING EVENTS

• 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!

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

• All Saints Sunday / White Ribbon Memorial

Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday, and the White Ribbon Memorial. Today and next Sunday, 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 call the church office to write a name on a ribbon.

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

• Take a Tour of the First Church Building

The History and Archives Committee 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

• November Highlights

Save the dates for these additional November events:

Sun Nov 9 **Laity Sunday**

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

Sun Nov 16 Church Charge Conference

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

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

• Scrooge: The Musical

Live performance for the first time since 2017!

First UMC's All Community Theater (ACT), in collaboration with Community UMC of Pacific Palisades and St. Paul's Lutheran Church is presenting “Scrooge: The Musical.” Come join Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, four helpful ghosts and 23 of your favorite church friends as they become Londoners and joyfully retell the classic Charles Dickens tale of greed and redemption, with glorious music by Leslie Bricusse. Suggested ticket donations are just \$10 each and may be purchased online here: www.santamonicaumc.org/act. A reception will follow. Don't miss the show!

Performances: Friday, November 21, at 7 p.m.;
Saturday, November 22, at 6 p.m. Simkins Hall

MISSION AND SERVICE

• UWF Peanut Brittle Making Day

Help the UWF gear up for the holidays and make their legendary Peanut Brittle! There is one more volunteer day, and all are welcome to join in! They need 12 volunteers. Send an email to the UWF to sign up:

UWFSantamonica@gmail.com

Saturday, November 1, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Kitchen

TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Westside Food Bank

Join First UMC for two Fridays in October to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.

Friday, October 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 (with the help of Janet Searfoss) run 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, November 15

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, November 5, 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, November 15**

• 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

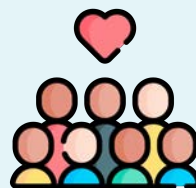
Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

Next meeting: Saturday, November 8, 4 - 6 p.m. in Simkins Hall. Theme: Growing Generosity

• Blood Pressure Screenings

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

Next meeting: **Sunday, November 9, after worship** in the Alcove



150th ANNIVERSARY OFFERINGS CONTINUE

Even though our 150th Anniversary Celebration took place on October 12, there are still plenty of opportunities to reflect on and celebrate our rich history:



• History & Archives Exhibit in the Fireside Room Continues

It's not too late to view the History and Archives exhibit! The final day of the display is Charge Conference Sunday.

Exhibit open at 9 a.m. thru coffee hour each Sunday in the Fireside Room

• Be the Hope: The Story of First UMC - Second Edition

The 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 continue to be available to pick up Sundays after worship in the Fireside Room. 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

• 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. 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/>

• 150th Commemorative Mug

You may still pick up a FREE Commemorative Mug after worship today! (*one per person, while supplies last*).

• 150th Anniversary Community Cookbook

It's not too late to pick up the 150th Anniversary Cookbook! 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." The book includes: 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. And don't forget it makes a great stocking stuffer!

Book available for a \$20 suggested donation at the Welcome Table or church office.

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.

