



SENTINEL



HORIZONS

BY REV. GREG BATSON

Last month, we culminated our 150th anniversary with a special worship service and luncheon. With over 250 in attendance, we celebrated our legacy with Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, District Superintendent Saia Tu’itahi, Rev. Patricia Farris, and other clergy who have served this congregation over the years. We also welcomed Jean Shelby, the spouse of our former senior pastor Rev. Don Shelby. There was joy in abundance as we reunited with friends and shared memories. Thank you to all of the members and church staff who made it such a great success.

As we enter November, we now look forward with hope. There are many opportunities for us as we meet and serve in new ways. On All Saints Sunday, November 2nd, we will remember all of our loved ones who have died and entered new life over the past year. We then shift our focus to our Stewardship Campaign over the next three weeks (November 9, 16 and 23). Our theme is **150 Years – Be the Hope** as we pledge to support our ministries in 2026. Our campaign concludes on November 23 with Consecration Sunday in conjunction with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Please also mark your calendars for our annual Church Conference on Sunday, November 16, at 11 a.m. following worship. All are invited to attend as we vote on important matters and conclude the celebration of our 150th year.

Let us give thanks for God for our many blessings in this season.



CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE 2025

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 so online viewers can be a part of the conference. This year’s theme is “Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Cherish!” We are excited to welcome Presiding Elder Rev. Melissa MacKinnon. The agenda includes reports on the ministries and missions of First UMC, financial items, membership matters, and election of officers and council members for the coming year. And look for the Spiritual Mothers paper prayer quilt on display—made from cards honoring women who have influenced your faith, written during the October 5 Women in Leadership worship service.

Lunch will be served and child care will be provided. Contact Jamie Jones for childcare: j.jones@santamonicaumc.org

Sunday, November 16, after worship, in Simkins Hall

Online viewers may join us via Zoom. Link here: <https://santamonicaumc.org/church-charge-conference/>



The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully,** and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE VISION

During Church Charge Conference, we will honor the First UMC church members and congregants who have reached the 50 year mark this year:

- Karen Ing
- Eva Maria Duppel
- Dana Bellerue
- Wendi Sears
- Christina Smith
- Martha Ross
- Yvonne Dodd
- Roberta Ankenbauer
- Nancy Cohen
- Charleen Smith
- Kathy Naylor
- Sandra Jones



NOVEMBER *at a Glance*

Sat Nov 1	All Saints Sunday UWF Peanut Brittle making day
Sun Nov 2	<i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i> All Saints Sunday / Holy Communion/ White Ribbon Memorial Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk
Tues Nov 4	<i>Election Day</i>
Fri Nov 7	Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open
Nov 7-9	Seasons of Wisdom Women's Retreat
Sat Nov 8	Messy Church
Sun Nov 9	Laity Sunday / Stewardship begins Free Blood Pressure Screenings Santa Monica Conservancy Tour
Tues Nov 11	<i>Veterans Day</i>
Wed Nov 12	November Mid-Week Recital
Sat Nov 15	The People Concern volunteer day Prayer Quilt Ministry Workparty
Sun Nov 16	Charge Conference Sunday
Fri Nov 21	SCROOGE The Musical performance Westside Food Bank monthly volunteer day
Sat Nov 22	SCROOGE The Musical performance
Sun Nov 23	Consecration Sunday Thanksgiving Sunday Advent Bible Study begins United Women in Faith Christmas Bazaar
Mon Nov 24	Advent Bible Study begins online
Thurs Nov 27	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
Sun Nov 30	First Sunday of Advent Angel Tree Project begins Advent Bible Study

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY / WHITE RIBBON MEMORIAL

Each year in our All Saints Sunday worship, we lift up the names of the beloved members of our congregation who have died in the past year and gone home to be with the Lord. We also offer the White Ribbon Memorial, where you may sign a ribbon before worship on November 2. We give thanks for their life and life everlasting and pray for God's comfort and peace for their families.

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

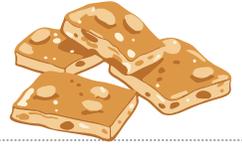
We Remember 

Paul A. Agnew, Edith Andersen, Connie Brekke, Rosalio Casillas, Ella Mae Sheesley Holmes, Ralph Conrad Jr. Immel, Maxine Guillot Keeling, Ronald Krieger, Ray Langeland, Pok Sun "Sun Gi" May, Diana Yea Bin Oh, Mary Clare Van Iderstine Petersen, Marlene Ranta, Janet Rawuka, Danny D. Ricketts, Nancy Ringwald, Herbert Emil Roney, Jennie Elena Scheer, Shelley Wiggins, Ellen Johanna Wise, Ilsavanda Elaine Wollman

UWF PEANUT BRITTLE MAKING DAY

Help the United Women in Faith gear up for the holidays and make their legendary Peanut Brittle! Upcoming volunteer day:

Sunday, November 1, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Simkins Hall Kitchen



WESTSIDE FOOD BANK HUNGER WALK

It's not too late to join or donate to 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:

www.santamonicaumc.org/hunger-walk

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



Scenes from last year's walk

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, November 7, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall, Chapel

NOVEMBER MESSY CHURCH

We hope you will join us for Messy Church on Saturday, November 8 from 4 - 6 p.m. Our theme is "Growing



Generosity." Through games and crafts, storytelling and song, food and fun, we will explore the meaning of giving and the impact we can have when we share what we have with others. We will close our time with a delicious home-cooked meal prepared by church members and shared together in community.

Saturday, November 8, 4 - 6 p.m. in Simkins Hall

150 YEARS - BE THE HOPE STEWARDSHIP BEGINS



Soon each of us will receive a special Stewardship letter from Reverend Greg Batson. As Jerry Brown stated in our newly revised 150th history, "Now, as First UMC of Santa Monica embarks on a new chapter in its impressive history...this is, indeed... God's time...a time for His purposes to be fulfilled." We ask you to Be the Hope of our future and commit to giving generously. During the month of November, we will look forward to the next chapter of our ministry. Join us each Sunday (**November 9, 16 and 23**) to hear members share how giving has made a difference in their lives. We invite you to participate as well. There are three easy ways to submit a pledge to the church:

1. Return the pledge card you received in the mail to church on **Consecration Sunday, November 23**.
2. Fill out an online pledge card: www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship
3. Email our Business Administrator, Christina Eddy, with your pledge at c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org by November 30. Thank you for your prayerful and generous support as we continue to "Be the Hope!"

TAKE A TOUR OF THE FIRST CHURCH

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! Register 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

TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Westside Food Bank** continues to help with the long recovery period in the aftermath of the LA fires along with their ongoing efforts to end food insecurity. Join First UMC in November to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.
Friday, November 21, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

-The People Concern

Volunteer 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, November 15, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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



NOVEMBER ONLINE MID-WEEK RECITAL

First UMC is pleased to present the Online November Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Laurent Jochum, organ**. Holder of the great Cavallé-Coll organ of the Saint Jean-Baptiste church in Belleville in Paris, where he succeeded great musicians such as Pierre Vidal, and of the organ of the chapel of the Saint Louis-de-Gonzague college and high school, Laurent Jochum has had a particularly eclectic career for more than twenty years.



To read full bio and 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/SantaMonicaUMC)
- Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
- The First UMC App: (App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

You may also view past recitals on these channels.

Wednesday, November 12, at 12:10 p.m., online

SCROOGE THE MUSICAL

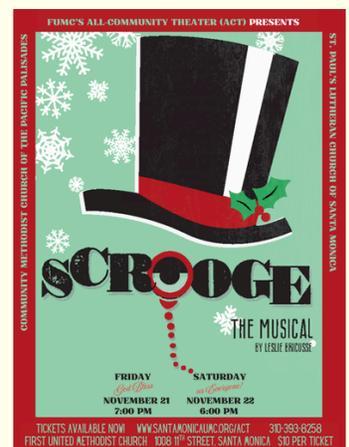
To add to our 150th Anniversary Celebration, All Community Theater (ACT), in collaboration with the Community Methodist Church of the Pacific Palisades and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Santa Monica, (who are celebrating their 100th anniversary) is presenting "SCROOGE The Musical." Come join Scrooge, 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. A reception with hot cocoa, Christmas cookies, cast and crew* will follow. Don't miss the show - the first live ACT performance since 2017!

**Crew needed! (Ticket takers, concession volunteers, backstage assistance with kids and costumes, and stagehands: 2-4 people each.) Text Dorothy to sign up: 310-592-4402*

Performances will be **Friday, November 21, at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, November 22, at 6 p.m.** Suggested ticket donations are just \$10 each and ALL proceeds are being donated by the cast and crew to worthy, non-profit causes.

Ticket sales online:

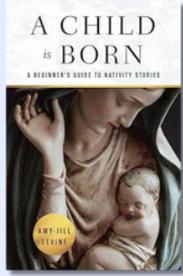
<https://santamonicaumc.org/act>



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Amy-Jill Levine's new study, *A Child is Born*, will be the foundation of this year's Advent study. Her contention is that we cannot properly understand the birth of Jesus apart from the Old Testament material that paved the way for it, giving us a broader and richer picture of our Christian nativity stories.

The class will meet for four weeks, beginning November 23, with an **in-person session led by Rev. Larry Young after worship on Sundays, and a Zoom class led by Bill Buxton on Monday evenings**. As in the past, each session will feature a video keynote by Dr. Levine followed by discussion of the study book *A Child is Born*, which can be ordered from Cokesbury or Amazon. A limited number of copies will also be available at the Welcome Table. No sign-ups are necessary.



First classes: Sunday, November 23, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Monday November 24, via Zoom, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Zoom link on the website:

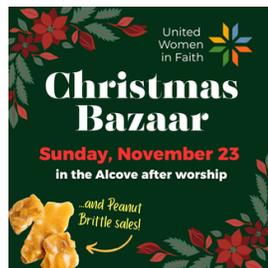
<https://santamonicaumc.org/advent-bible-study/>

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

The 2026 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites us each and all to prayerfully consider our financial pledge to support the mission and ministries of First UMC. Join us for worship on **Sunday, November 23**, where we are invited to bring our pledge cards forward to be blessed. Thank you for prayerfully and joyfully offering your 2025 Financial Gift to support, sustain, and grow the vital, life-giving ministry and mission of First UMC. www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The United Women in Faith are gearing up to sell their handmade peanut brittle and Christmas Bazaar items! Through annual events like the Bazaar, the UWF support local and global missions/ organizations, including Westside Food Bank, The People Concern Children, Youth, & Family Collaborative, Meals on Wheels, The Wesley Foundation serving UCLA, and more. **Sunday, November 23, after worship in the Alcove**



FLOWERS

Do you have a loved one you would like to dedicate flowers to on a given week? The church office can assist with the dedication and the cost is \$80. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, or online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund
Available Sundays: November 16, December 7/21/28



ANGEL TREE RETURNS FOR ITS 22ND YEAR!

We are excited that Angel Tree is back for its 22nd year, once again led by church member **Chris Ruud**. This beloved church and community tradition brings holiday joy to local families served by Family Place/Upward Bound House by filling 26 laundry baskets with brand-new household items—gifts that help make a house feel like home.

Chris will be available after worship for three Sundays to help you sign up. If you worship online or can't make it in person, you can still take part—just call or email Chris at 310.393.3255 or chr10is@yahoo.com to learn what's needed and how you can help. Wrapped gifts can be dropped off on Sundays or at the church office Monday–Thursday. Thank you for helping us share love, generosity, and the true spirit of Christmas!

Sundays, November 30, December 7 & 14 in the Alcove (gifts due Dec 14)

*Basket drop-off at
Upward Bound House*



SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNERS

- **St. Monica's Catholic Church: Wednesday, November 26, 1 - 4 p.m.**

725 California Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90403

"Each year on Thanksgiving Eve, St. Monica Catholic Community hosts a free Thanksgiving meal for the greater community. We continue this tradition for our 46th year by inviting guests to a Thanksgiving Feast in person at St. Monica for a warm sit-down thanksgiving meal and afterwards they will receive a package of new clothing and toiletry items for the winter months ahead. Last year we were able to serve over 1000 guests, provide home bound meals to those that could not attend and were able to administer vaccines to those that needed them."

- **Westside Thanksgiving Community Dinner & Celebration, Thursday, November 27, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

1645 Corinth Ave, L.A., CA 90025

"For over four decades, we've put on a free Thanksgiving Day community celebration! We provide a wonderful sit-down Thanksgiving dinner, a huge selection of clothing to choose from, a "Mercado" (store) where you can shop for perishable and non-perishable items, live music, companionship, and more – ALL FOR FREE!" Visit their website for ways to donate or volunteer: <https://www.westsidethanksgiving.org/>



To view the First UMC Santa Monica 150th Anniversary Celebration Video, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/150th-anniversary



Celebrating the Legacy Circle



History & Archives Exhibition the Fireside Room, and coffee hour with the kids



Tour of the sanctuary stained glass with Ron Theile

Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday: presentation of the First UMC organ with Ty Woodward; Theater Arts display curated by Emily Payne



Special performance celebrating the Labyrinth



Celebrating Missions: featuring Upward Bound House, and a tour of the facility



150th Anniversary Celebration: Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank with a certificate from the Cal-Pac Conference, pastors celebrating worship, and Jean Shelby with daughter Dana Knowles.



Celebrating First UMC Women in Leadership



Thank you to those in the congregation who volunteered to make our 150th Anniversary Celebrations so special. We couldn't have done it without your time, your gifts and your talents!

Sunday, September 7 - History & Archives Exhibit

Thank you: Janet Guyette, Karen and Ben Ing, Char Smith, Sue Payne, Leslie Nordby, Claudia Flanders, Ron Theile, Tina Gage, Adam and Tricia Guerrero.

Sunday, September 14 - Celebrating the Legacy Circle

Thank you: Todd Erlandson, Michael Lamb, David Guyette and Christina Eddy, and

- to Ron Theile for the tour of the sanctuary stained glass windows.

Sunday, September 21 - Celebrating Missions at First UMC

Thank you to: Cindy McQuade, Jane Spiegel, Booker Pearson and Glenda Martinez, and

- thank you to UBH CEO Christine Mirasy-Glasco and Alexis Bodkin for the talk and tour of the facilities.

Sunday, September 28 - Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday

Thank you to: the Chancel Choir, and

- to Ty Woodward for the tour of the First UMC organ.
- to Emily Payne for the Theater Arts Display in Simkins Hall.

Sunday, October 5 - World Communion Sunday, Celebration of First UMC Women in Leadership

Thank you to: Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Tricia Guerrero, Anne Premer, with presentations by Karen Ing, Sue Payne, Debi Jenkinson Wong, and Mary Crawford, representing the United Women in Faith, The Prayer Quilt Ministry, the Health Ministry Council, and In Home Communion Server Ministry.

- to Carol Greenwood, Mary Jo Dalton, Shalimar Carducci, Cindy McQuade, Kathy Naylor, Ann Wilson, Sandra Williams Krieger, and Dorothy Nichols for a special Labyrinth performance.

Sunday, October 12 - 150th Anniversary Celebration!

Thank you to the following clergy who attended the special worship: Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, West District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi, Rev. Patricia Farris, Rev. John Woodall, Rev. Martha Wingfield, Rev. Dorothy Bimber Worley, and Rev. Larry Young.

- Thank you to the Lay Leadership team of: Michael Lamb, Todd and Leigh Erlandson, Glenda Martinez, Molly Smith, Jocelyn Hicks-Garner.
- 150th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon: Thank you to the Fellowship and Events committee - Sandra Jones, Jamie Jones, Dot Plukas, Glenda Martinez, Brandon Searfoss, and Chloe Rebibo.
- Thank you to Mike Eskridge for the 150 roses in the floral display on the chancel.
- The First UMC staff: Rev. Greg Batson, Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Tricia Guerrero, Anne Premer, Christina Eddy, Sarah Rold, David Penson, Tina Gage, Jamie Jones, Brandon Searfoss, Dr. Jim Smith, Ty Woodward, Javier Espinoza, and Brenda Miranda.

THANK YOU SPECIAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

Thank you to all donors who have generously given towards the 150th special campaign of the digital signage on the corner of Washington and 11th Street:

Anonymous 1, Anonymous 2, Pat Alston, Heather Arena, Greg and Tania Batson, Linda Berg, Bee Campbell, David and Mary Clark, The Dodd Family, Todd and Leigh Erlandson, Patricia Farris and David Bremer, Jack and Marj Fry, Guy Cass, Phebe Guerrero, Kathy Hall, Robin Henning, Margaret Irwin, Vard Johnson and Ruth Purtilo, Sandra Krieger, Rose Kujawa, Michael Lamb, David and Joyce Landsverk, Maile Marquand, Michael and Kathleen Mellor, Jim and Dee Menzies, Dorothy Nichols, Christine Odionu, Titi Osoba, Emily Payne, Sue Payne, Mary Lois Roney, Martha Ross, Janet Searfoss, The Shelby Family, Sandra Shippy, Jim and Barbara Smith, Mary Stewart, John and Johanna Stutsman, Sharon Tool, Siosaia Tuitahi, Dorothy Williams, David and Ann Wilson, Larry Wilson, Howard and Debra Wollitz.



Artist rendering of new signage.

 **Community Photos**



We're grateful to everyone who attended our 18th Annual Blessing of the Animals! To see the full gallery of pictures from the day, visit the website:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/blessings-animals/>

Community News



DEATHS

- Long-time First UMC member **Janet Rawuka** died October 12, 2025.
- Long-time First UMC member **Ellen Johanna Wise** died October 15, 2025.

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

Ben 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, November 15, 11 a.m. in the Alcove**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY / SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE FALL

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. 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. **Website:** www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry

Two of the three
Sunday School
classes



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: November 5 & 19, Coffee & Connect, 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd)

Wednesday, November 12, 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, November 15, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 300. Contact

info@santamonicaumc.org if you would like to volunteer.



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

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



Looking forward to



Advent Study continues

Through Dec

Alternative Christmas begins online

Sat Dec 6

Spirit Sisters Christmas Luncheon

Sun Dec 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Concert

Youth Ice Skating

Sun Dec 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Blue Advent Service

Sun Dec 21

Service of Lessons and Carols

Advent Brunch

Wed Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services:

4 p.m. Family Service

8 p.m. Candlelight Service

11 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service



MEET THE TEAM BEHIND FIRST UMC!



Welcome to the fifth 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.

Brandon Searfoss, Program and Outreach Coordinator, and AV Tech: Brandon was baptized at First UMC and grew up in the church attending Sunday School, handbells and choir, youth group, and is now a youth counselor. He has explored several options with education but pursued a certification for cyber security. In the church office, Brandon wears many hats—managing our social media pages, providing on-site tech support, and preparing for Sunday services, to name just a few. And, if you look up to the balcony on Sunday mornings, you'll see Brandon running the worship service audio board and livestream broadcasting. In his free time, he enjoys archery, gaming, fiddling with technology, and exploring the outdoors.