



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W O R S H I P

Laity Sunday • November 9, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Adam and Ruby Guerrero

PRELUDE Air in G (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #64 United Methodist Hymnal — Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ada Sarley

Even though we don't always feel it,

God is with us.

The hurting of the world can overwhelm us,

Yet God is with us.

All around us, people are scared and worried.

God brings to us hope and peace.

We place our trust in God's abundant love.

Let us freely and without fear open our hearts to God's healing words of hope.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"God in three persons, blessed Trinity."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Luke Sarley

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ann Wilson

#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

Kendra Gorlitsky

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

Thanks be to God!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Sam Johnson

HYMN #393 UMH — Spirit of the Living God

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Jim Dodd

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 19:1-10

Terri Pearson

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

SERMON

Mira Pak

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Leah Dimalanta

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

We Walk By Faith (Lloyd Larson)

We walk by faith, and not by sight. No gracious words we hear from Him who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe Him near. We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod; but in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!" We walk by faith and not by sight, led by God's pure and holy Light! Prepare us for the journey, Lord, and may we know Your pow'r and might, as we walk by faith and not by sight. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call on You when You are near, and seek where You are found: that, when our life and faith is done, in realms of clear, clearer light we may behold You as You are, with full and endless sight. We walk by faith, and not by sight, led by God's pure and holy Light! Prepare us for the journey, Lord, and may we know Your pow'r and might, as we walk by faith and not by sight. We walk by faith, and not by sight, led by God's pure and holy Light! Prepare us for the journey, Lord, and may we know Your pow'r and might, as we walk by faith and not by sight.

*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

Annie Lee

Loving God, we bring these gifts as a response to your grace and mercy, just as Zacchaeus did when he encountered Jesus. You call each of us by name and welcome us into your love. May our encounter with you inspire us to give generously and to live lives that reflect your goodness. Receive these offerings, and use them to bring hope and healing to your world. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #2008 TFWS – Let All Things Now Living

*BENEDICTION

Glenda Martinez

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in D (Henry Purcell)

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 30, December 7/21/28.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "To honor and recognize Yvonne Dodd for her November birthday." With much love, all the Dodds and Morgans.

—**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.

Resident Bishop
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
West District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

MINISTRY

Senior Minister
Rev. Greg Batson
g.batson@santamonicaumc.org
Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
Rev. Keri Olsen Paget
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Pastoral Associate
Tricia Guerrero
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Congregation Care Associate
Anne Premer
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Family Ministries Coordinator
Jamie Jones
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MUSIC STAFF

Music Director
Dr. James Smith
Organist
Ty Woodward

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Communications Director
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Office Manager
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Head Custodian
Javier Espinoza

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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Preschool Co-Director
Johanna Holman
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Preschool Director Emerita
Dee Menzies
d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street • Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org 310-393-8258



SUNDAY INSERT
NOVEMBER 9, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org

MID-WEEK RECITALS 2025



LAURENT JOCHUM
ORGAN

WED, NOV 12
12:10 P.M.

...then view anytime!

www.santamonicaumc.org

November Online Mid-Week Recital

First UMC is pleased to present the Online November Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Laurent Jochum, organ**. To read full bio, and to view past recitals, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

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

ONLINE: Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc) • YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/SantaMonicaUMC)

• Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream • The First UMC App: (Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

150 Church Charge Conference 2025

cherish

"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."
CAL-PAC CONFERENCE VISION

In-Person and via Zoom
November 16, 11 a.m.
in Simkins Hall

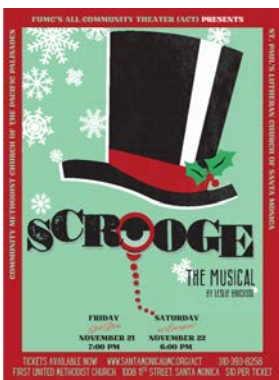


Church Charge Conference 2025

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 and via Zoom. 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 5th Women in Leadership worship service. Lunch will be served and child care will be provided.

Contact Jamie Jones for childcare: j.jones@santamonicaumc.org. Online viewers may join us via Zoom. Link here: <https://santamonicaumc.org/church-charge-conference/>

Sunday, November 16, after worship, in Simkins Hall and on Zoom



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, or in the Alcove after worship. A reception will follow.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

• 90+ Birthday Club

During today's coffee hour, we'll acknowledge our cherished member **Yvonne Dodd**, who is celebrating her birthday this month! This acknowledgement is more than just a celebration of age; it's an opportunity for fellowship and connection, allowing us to learn from the rich life journeys of our seniors.

Today after worship in Simkins Hall

• 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 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 are also available at the Welcome Table for \$15. 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.

Book link and Zoom link on the website:

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

• Angel Tree Project

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. 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.

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

MISSION AND SERVICE

• 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

• UMCOR Disaster Response: Hurricane Melissa

In response to the catastrophic destruction caused by Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean so far, UMCOR has awarded solidarity grants to the Jamaica District and the Haiti District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). These emergency grants will assist with immediate needs, including food, water, temporary shelter, hygiene kits and over-the-counter medication. More info and donate: <https://umcmision.org/disaster-responses/hurricane-melissa>

TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Westside Food Bank - New date & address

On Wednesday, November 19 from 10 - 11 a.m., First UMC needs a team of 6 people to help Westside Food Bank unpack cases of food to be distributed at one of their mobile pantries. Contact Tricia to volunteer: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Friday, November 19, 10-11 p.m.

1914 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA

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.

Next volunteer day: Saturday, November 15

Contact Tricia to volunteer: 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**

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 12, 2 p.m.** via Zoom.

• 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

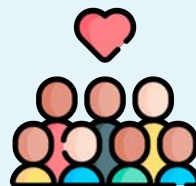
Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

Next meeting: Saturday, December 13, 4 - 6 p.m. in Simkins Hall. Theme: A Messy Manger

• Blood Pressure Screenings

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

Next meeting: **TODAY, 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

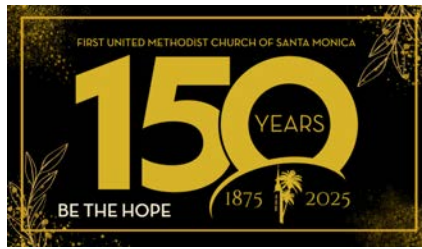
Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc

Instagram: @santamonicaumc

YouTube: @SantaMonicaUMC

The First UMC App: App Store, search FirstUMC_SM.





First UMC Financial Stewardship FAQs

Generous giving is a vital sign of our faithful discipleship in Christ Jesus.

We give out of a sense of generosity and joy, mindful of our many blessings and eager to support the mission and ministries that bring life and hope within our congregation and throughout our community.

Why is my financial support of First UMC important?

We each have a vital part to play, sharing of the riches God has entrusted to us to undergird the on-going work of our congregation and equip it for the future God unfolds.

How is my financial support of First UMC used?

Our regular and generous giving supports our mission in four main areas—worship life (30%), congregation and community care (20%), local and world outreach (20%), and youth, children, families (30%). Support for these ministries also comes from facility usage, Trustees invested funds, our Methodist Foundation funds, and our Preschool.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is your commitment to give a stated amount to First UMC for the year—usually in monthly payments (or weekly or quarterly, if that works better for you). Your pledge helps us budget and plan for the year.

We welcome cash, checks, credit cards via our secure on-line website, automatic checking drafts, and gifts of appreciated stock. The church business office is happy to assist you with any of these options.

What is an appropriate pledge amount?

The amount of your pledge is between you and God. The traditional biblical standard is called a “tithe,” giving 10% from the blessings we have received. Regular giving grows our hearts into a lifetime of extravagant generosity with what God reveals to us.

When am I asked to pledge?

The campaign for 2026 starts on November 9 and ends November 30. Each year, we consecrate (make holy) our giving during worship on **Consecration Sunday, November 23**. Bring your completed pledge card to bring forward in worship, or mail it into the church office, or set-up your pledge online.

For more information about giving, please visit our website at: www.santamonicaumc.org/give.

STEWARDSHIP 2026

Dear Church Family,

When I arrived at Santa Monica First United Methodist Church as an Associate Pastor twenty-five years ago, I quickly learned how connected it was to our community. Now serving as your Senior Pastor, I truly appreciate the depth of that connection as we celebrate our 150th birthday.



On October 15, 1875, the Rev. John D. Crum gathered a small group of new residents together for the first meeting of Methodists in Santa Monica. The City of Santa Monica had just been established earlier that same year. They met in a second-floor loft of Mr. Brady's hardware store located at Fourth and Arizona streets, marking the start of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Santa Monica.

Over the next 150 years our congregation grew. Larger church buildings were built to accommodate our growth in worship and ministry, including our sanctuaries at 4th and Arizona and our current campus at 11th and Washington. A church, however, is much more than a building; it is a community of faith that embodies God's love to the world. Generations of our members have dedicated themselves to reaching out in service to our neighbors. Our Christmas and Spring concerts have provided choral and orchestral performances for the public. Upward Bound House, a non-profit organization providing housing and services for seniors and families facing homelessness, was envisioned and founded by our congregation. We continue to support many other organizations including the Westside Food Bank, the People Concern, and American Red Cross with both volunteers and our financial gifts.

What makes all of this possible is your generous giving. Through the gifts of your time, talents, and resources, we continue to make a difference in the world. If you've not yet begun the spiritual practice of regular giving, I invite you to do so by making a pledge commitment for 2026. If you can increase your giving in support of our growth, I invite you to commit to that in the next year as well.

As Jerry Brown stated in our newly revised 150th history (www.santamonicaumc.org/first-umc-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 found in the pews to **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!"

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Greg Batson
Senior Minister

This year's Stewardship goal is \$550k