



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W O R S H I P

Charge Conference Sunday • November 16, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Gabriel's Oboe (Ennio Morricone)

Kevan Torfeh, cello

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** #126 United Methodist Hymnal — Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Annie Lee, Lay Lector

The Lord is continually creating something new.

We are part of that creation, renewed, redeemed, beloved.

Through all this change, God is with us.

Though we struggle and doubt, yet God is faithful.

Praise be to God who continually blesses us.

Let our hearts, our voices, and our spirits sing God's praises.

***CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE**

"All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, O God!"

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Annie Lee

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

Tricia Guerrero

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

Thanks be to God!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

John and Johanna Stutsman

HYMN #730 UMH — O Day of God, Draw Nigh

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

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 LESSON Isaiah 65:17-25

Howard Wollitz, Lay Lector

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

SERMON "The New Creation"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Howard Wollitz

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

Come to Me (Dan Forrest)

Vera Lugo, soloist, Kevan Torfeh, cello

"Come, Come to Me, all you who labor, come to Me, and I will give you rest. Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and you will find rest for your souls. Come My Child, learn My heart, for I am gentle and lowly. See how great My love, my love for you, that I have called you My child. Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and you will find rest for your souls. See how great My love for you, that I have called you My child, My child. Come my child, learn my heart, come to me, I will give you rest. Come to me. Come."

*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

Howard Wollitz

Restoring God, Maker of new heavens and a new earth, where sorrow is lifted, and joy takes root: as we bring our gifts this day, may they be seeds of your promised future—an offering of hope, justice, and mercy in a weary world. Use what we give and who we are to proclaim your reign, where none are forgotten, where the wolf and lamb lie down in peace, and where the sound of weeping is no more. Let this act of giving remind us that your dream is still unfolding—and that we are called to help build it. In Christ's name, who is our joy. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #428 UMH – For the Healing of the Nations

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Fanfare on *Onward Christian Soldiers* (arr. Gordon Young)

Ty Woodward, organ

*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:** "In memory of my dear husband Wendell Furnas." With love from, Karen Furnas.

—**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
Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

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Organist

Ty Woodward

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STEWARDSHIP 2026

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. Last Sunday, we heard First UMC member Sam Johnson give a Stewardship moment.



Here are a few excerpts:

“When I first came to this church, I put money into the collection plate because that’s what you do. That’s what my parents did. But also, because I was getting something I deeply valued: respite from my worries, from my cares. The strength for the week ahead. Spiritual uplift. A good sermon. A chance to sing and be part of this little community. Plus, donuts. But when I was asked to be a Trustee, that’s when I came to fully appreciate the extent to which this church serves a much greater community stretching far beyond these pews. Did you know that for years a Swedish school has met here on Tuesday evenings? Did you know that Seven Arrows Elementary School, a really great little school, had to relocate after the fires?...Every day they use our kitchens to prepare lunches for their students...The Santa Monica synagogue makes use of this campus for High Holy Days and special events. And until just recently, when they found their own place, the Islamic Center also held services here. That’s three faiths worshiping harmoniously under one roof. That is a mitzvah. Plus, we also housed a Santa Monica quilt guild. Some would say that’s a fourth faith. And of course, we have our beautiful Preschool. If you want a little joy in your life, come to the courtyard when school lets out. These organizations bring income to the church, but from Upward Bound House all the way to the village of Sobiet in Haiti, we also serve and comfort, feed and shelter the needy—to say nothing of the victims of unexpected calamities. The Palisades Fire affected all of us, some more directly than others. We pray for our friends and neighbors, but we also stand by to help in material ways—whether that’s opening the chapel to members of the Community Methodist Church in the Palisades, or helping the parents of our preschool replace the sand here because of toxic fallout from the smoke.... As our friend Martha Ross said so beautifully last year: this is not like paying a utility bill. This is an expression of my values—who I am, and who I want to be. And I do want to be the hope...”

Thank you Sam! To watch the full Stewardship moment, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

Other quotes we’ve received from past years:

“I support the mission and ministry of this church and to the glory of God.”

“This church is critical to my spiritual life and service to others.”

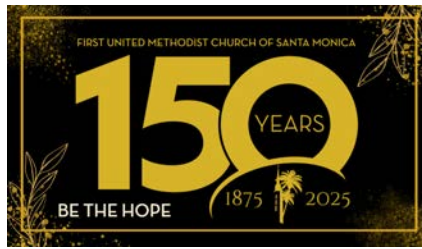
“I love this church and my church family and God.”

“Our lives have been richly blessed by this church and our church family!”

“The church is a beacon and an inspiration.”

“The church provides vital service to our community and the world, and is an amazing witness to God’s love and grace.”

To fill out a pledge card online visit www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship or fill out a pledge card available in the church pews and drop off in the offering plate.



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 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.

SUNDAY INSERT
NOVEMBER 16, 2025

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

www.santamonicaumc.org



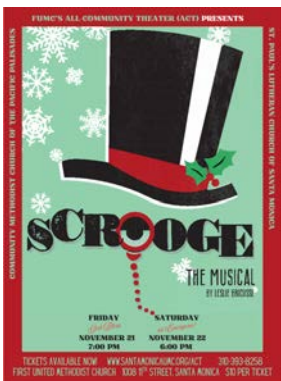
TODAY! Church Charge Conference 2025

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.

Online viewers may join us via Zoom. Link here:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/church-charge-conference/>

Today 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.

Tickets are going fast! 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 with hot cocoa, Christmas cookies, cast and crew will follow.

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



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 The 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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
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UPCOMING EVENTS

• Advent Bible Study

Our Advent study on Amy-Jill Levine's new book, *A Child is Born*, begins next Sunday, in-person with Rev. Larry Young in the Fireside Room at 11:15 a.m. and Monday on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. with Bill Buxton. (Zoom code on the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/advent-bible-study) Study books may be purchased at the Welcome table during coffee hour today. **Please read Chapter One (and the Introduction as you are able) before the class.** This study recognizes that the Old Testament is a record of the faith into which Jesus was born; and how God was at work in Old Testament times throws light on Jesus' coming. Dr. Levine's informative video will keynote each session.

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/>

• First UMC Christmas Concert

The First UMC Music Department joyfully presents our Annual Christmas Concert! This year's musical celebration features Arthur Honegger's *Une Cantate de Noël* with the South Bay Children's Choir—along with the return of our beloved "Carols, Etc." Enjoy the glorious sounds of the Chancel Choir and guest singers, the Los Angeles Concert Orchestra, and the South Bay Children's Choir, all under the direction of James Smith. A festive reception in Simkins Hall will follow the concert

Sunday, December 7, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**For those who can't attend Sunday night, you may observe the Concert rehearsal Saturday morning (December 6) at 9 a.m. at no charge. Carols and readings rehearsal begins at 11 a.m. Out of courtesy to the musicians please no cell phones; families with babies/small children may listen in the Narthex.*

150th FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7, 4 p.m.
in the Sanctuary



MISSION AND SERVICE

• Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree is back for its 22nd year, once again led by church member Chris Ruud. This beloved church 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)

• 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. Donate: <https://umcmmission.org/disaster-responses/hurricane-melissa>

• 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, December 20

Contact Tricia to volunteer: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

• Tonight - Benefit for the Westside Community Thanksgiving Dinner

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is holding a benefit tonight for the Westside Community Thanksgiving Dinner, featuring the Los Angeles Flute Orchestra. \$20 suggested donation. More info and tickets:

<https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesFluteOrchestra/>

Tonight, 7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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**

No 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, December 5, 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 19, 10 a.m.** at Literati Cafe

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. *No meeting in December.*

• 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

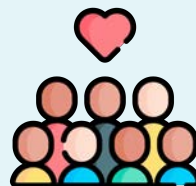
Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

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: **Sunday, December 14, 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 - **Last Day Today!**

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

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

