



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Consecration Sunday • Thanksgiving Sunday • November 23, 2025

WE GATHER



Rejoice!

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Prelude *from* Te Deum (Marc-Antoine Charpentier)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #694 United Methodist Hymnal — Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leigh Erlandson, Lay Lector

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

We are the Lord's; we are the people of God, the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

Give thanks and bless God's name!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Come ye thankful people, come. Raise the song of harvest home! Amen!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leigh Erlandson

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

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

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

Thanks be to God!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Whitney Hagan

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Olsen Paget

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 Philippians 4:4-9

Leigh Erlandson

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

SERMON "Rejoice!"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Leigh Erlandson

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

Quartet: Barbara Smith, Vera Lugo, Nolan Frank & Andrew Pringle

Cantate Domino (Heinrich Schütz)

Cantate Domino canticum novum, Laus eius in ecclesia sanctorum. Laetetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum, Et filiae Sion exultant in rege suo. Laudate nomen eius in tympano et choro, In psalterio psallant ei.

Sing unto the Lord a new song, And His praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in Him that made him; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise His name in the dance: Let them sing praises unto Him with the timbrel and harp.

*PRESENTATION OF OUR 2026 GIFTS AND PLEDGES

*HYMN #87 UMH – What Gift Can We Bring

*PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Rev. Batson

O God, Creator of all, you have blessed us with abundance. Thank you for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us, from the fruits of the earth to the promise of new life. We now give a small portion of those blessings back to you, O Lord. Consecrate these gifts and our pledges for the new year. May we as the Church, the Body of Christ, be good stewards of them. May we embody the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, as we share these gifts with our neighbors, in thanksgiving for your generosity and grace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #160 UMH – Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God (J. S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox)

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:** "Dedicated to the healing and continued recovery of Linda Diane Anderson. Happy Birthday, LDA. Long may you organize St. Paddy's Day luncheons. We all love you, especially the dynamic duo you inspired, Mayhan & McQuade."

—**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
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Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

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MUSIC STAFF

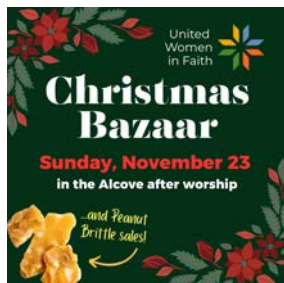
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Organist
Ty Woodward

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TODAY! United Women in Faith Christmas Bazaar

The United Women in Faith are ready 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.

Today, after worship in the Alcove



Spirit Sisters Christmas Lunch/Advent Meditation

The Spirit Sisters, led by Pastor Dorothy Bimber Worley, invite all women to their Christmas Lunch/Advent Meditation. Celebrate the beginning of the season with song, meditation, lunch, and a gift exchange. \$15 for food & beverages. Please bring a gently used or new gift for our Christmas Game. RSVP to Pastor Dorothy at: (626)826-8301.

Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room



Advent Bible Study

Our Advent study on Amy-Jill Levine's new book, *A Child is Born*, begins TODAY, 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. **They will discuss Chapter One today and tomorrow.** 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: Today, 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/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Today! 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. During worship today we are invited to bring our pledge cards forward to be blessed. Thank you for prayerfully and joyfully offering your 2026 Financial Gift to support, sustain, and grow the vital, life-giving ministry and mission of First UMC.

www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

Today during worship

• 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.*

• 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)



MISSION AND SERVICE

• 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@](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

santamonicaumc.org

• Santa Monica Community Thanksgiving Dinners

- St. Monica's Catholic Church

Wednesday, November 26, 1 - 4 p.m.

725 California Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90403

St. Monica continues their free Thanksgiving meal tradition for its 46th year by inviting guests to an in-person sit-down Thanksgiving meal, and afterwards they will receive a package of new clothing and toiletry items for the winter months ahead.

- 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!"



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, 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, December 3, 10:30 a.m.**

Listening Hearts Christmas Brunch, in the Fireside Room

• 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

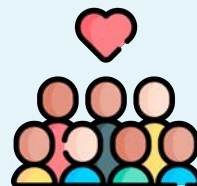
Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

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



STEWARDSHIP 2026

The 2026 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites each of us to prayerfully consider our financial pledge in support of the mission and ministries of First UMC. Over the past two Sundays, we've heard inspiring Stewardship Moments from members of our congregation. Today, we are grateful to welcome Whitney Hagan as our Stewardship speaker. Here are a few quotes from recent speakers:



"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..." – **Sam Johnson**

"One of my North Stars is the notion of leading a creative, well-led life. The holistic effect of all our membership here really resonates with me in terms of that goal. Also, our giving over the years has opened our hearts as we've participated in supporting other special causes. This has been an integral part of our individual faith journeys as we go forward." – **John and Johanna Stustman**

Thanks to Sam, John and Johanna, and Whitney for your Stewardship moments. To view the videos, visit the website www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

Today is Consecration Sunday, and we invite everyone to bring your pledge cards forward to be blessed during the Presentation of our 2026 Gifts and Pledges.

You may also:

- Fill out an online pledge card: www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship
- or email our Business Administrator, Christina Eddy, with your pledge at c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org by November 30.

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.

