



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# W O R S H I P

First Sunday of Advent • November 30, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE *Wachet Auf! Sleepers Wake!* (J. S. Bach)  
Ty Woodward, organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #196 United Methodist Hymnal  
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Jane Spiegel, Lay Lector

Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

**We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.**

We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus,  
God Incarnate.

**We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.**

We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching  
for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

**We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.**

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing  
for all creation.

**Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, here make thy home! Marvel now, O heaven and  
earth, that the Lord chose such a birth."

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jane Spiegel

*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 worshiping 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.*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sarah, Dane, Dominic, Cavan & Brennan Rold,  
Claudia & Phil Flanders

We stand at the beginning of a new season. With this new season comes hope, for we await the birth of our Savior.

**We wait with hope.**

As we wait, we hear the cries of the world, a world that seeks justice and compassion.

**We hear the cries and long to help.**

As we light this candle, may we be filled with hope, the hope that brings resistance, renewal, and revival.

#217 UMH — Away in a Manger (verse 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

*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!**

\*HYMN #720 UMH — Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (verses 1, 2)

## SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

Sam Johnson, Lay Lector

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

SERMON "Keep Awake"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

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## WE RESPOND

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Sam Johnson

*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](http://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

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come (Paul Manz)

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy, Love! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more, they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

### \*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

Sam Johnson

**Ever-Watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the "someday" you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

### \*HYMN #211 UMH – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2, 6 & 7)

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God (Sigfried Karg-Elert)

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](http://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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund). Available Sundays: December 21/28.

—**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](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org). To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://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](http://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  
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[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) 310-393-8258



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

#### MINISTRY

*Senior Minister*  
**Rev. Greg Batson**  
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*Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation*  
**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**  
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*Family Ministries Coordinator*  
**Jamie Jones**  
[j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)

#### MUSIC STAFF

*Music Director*  
**Dr. James Smith**  
*Organist*  
**Ty Woodward**

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

*Business Administrator*  
**Christina Eddy**  
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**Tina Gage**  
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**Sarah Rold**  
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*Program and Outreach Coordinator*  
**Brandon Searfoss**  
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*Head Custodian*  
**Javier Espinoza**

#### PRESCHOOL STAFF

*Preschool Co-Director*  
**Dane Rold**  
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*Preschool Co-Director*  
**Johanna Cortez**  
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*Preschool Director Emerita*  
**Dee Menzies**  
[d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org)



Today marks the beginning of Advent. We invite you to celebrate the season, inviting new life to be born in you at this time when we need it most. It is the gift of God's grace, bringing salvation to all. This year for Advent, **we do a deeper meditation on the first candle - Hope.**

On the following pages is a list of ways to engage and move through the holiday season. All events may also be found on the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/advent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/advent)

First UMC's

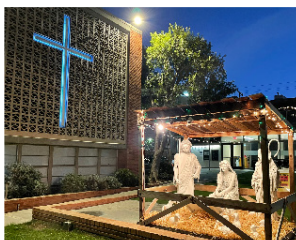
# ADVENT GUIDE



## Advent Devotional

This year's Advent Devotional booklet is now available in the Narthex and at the Welcome table, and daily emails are underway. This year we examine scriptures and we do a deeper meditation on the first candle - Hope. The collection of writings is offered as a framework for your own Advent ponderings. The writers are a diverse group of people, though all are from this congregation. To sign up to receive Advent Devotion daily emails, visit the website and click the Subscribe button:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/advent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/advent). Audio devotions as read by the writers will be included in the emails from Sunday, December 21 thru Thursday, December 25.



## First UMC Creche

We invite you to our courtyard to view our Nativity scene, or creche, with the Holy Family—Joseph and Mary, and the animals that shared their shelter and warmth. We celebrate God's love that comes to be with us, bringing peace, hope and joy for all. The display will be on view through Epiphany Sunday, January 4.

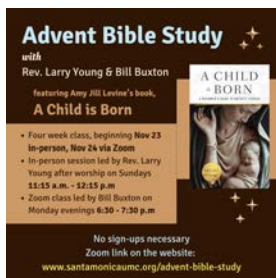


## Spirit Sisters Christmas Lunch/Advent Meditation

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**

# First UMC's ADVENT GUIDE



## Advent Bible Study

Our Advent study on Amy-Jill Levine's new book, *A Child is Born*, continues with in-person classes with Rev. Larry Young in the Fireside Room at 11:15 a.m. and Mondays on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. with Bill Buxton. (**Zoom code and book link** on the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/advent-bible-study](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/advent-bible-study)) **They will discuss Chapter Two today.** Study books may be purchased at the Welcome table during coffee hour. 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.

**Sundays: Today, Nov 30, and Dec 7/14, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room**  
**Mondays: December 1/8/15, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. via Zoom**



## Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree is back and is again being chaired by church member, Chris Ruud. This church/community project provides new household items to families of Family Place/Upward Bound House with new things for Christmas. Chris is excited that she has a table started TODAY in the Alcove after worship to take sign-ups. If you worship online, or can't make it to church, please call or email Chris (310 393.3255, [chr10is@yahoo.com](mailto:chr10is@yahoo.com)) for info on what you can do to help.

**Sundays: Today - Nov 30, & Dec 7 & 14 in the Alcove (gifts due Dec 14)**



## Alternative Christmas: In-Person and Online

Christmas and gift-giving go together. The tradition started when the Magi came to the manger with gold, myrrh, and frankincense to laud the birth of Jesus. In the present day, gift-giving often seems to exist only for the benefit of retailers and other entrepreneurs. Each Advent, through the Alternative Christmas Fair, Missions Council carefully selects several local and global mission projects each year, giving us the chance to take "trade" out of tradition and to return to the spirit of gift. Starting today after worship, you may make a donation as a gift to a friend or loved one, and send a card announcing your gift. View this year's missions at the Alternative Christmas Fair on the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/alt-christmas25](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/alt-christmas25)

**Sundays: Today, Nov 30, December 7, 14, 21 after worship in Simkins Hall**



## Youth Ministry Movie Night

Join the First UMC Youth Group for a cozy Christmas Movie Night in the courtyard as we watch *The Grinch* (2018)! **Listen for our own Ty Woodward, who plays the organ on the movie soundtrack!** All proceeds support the 2026 Youth Service Trip. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$50 per family, and each ticket includes one free popcorn. Additional concessions will be available for purchase. Bring your picnic blankets and chairs, and let's make this Christmas season unforgettable together!

**Friday, December 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Courtyard**



## Christmas Concert



### The 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.*

### MID-WEEK RECITALS 2025

### JANE AUSTEN AT 250: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

WED, DEC 10  
12:10 P.M.

...then view anytime!



MEAGAN MARTIN  
MEZZO SOPRANO



VICTORIA KIRSCH  
PIANO



[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

### December Online Mid-Week Recital

First UMC is pleased to present the Online December Mid-Week Recital, featuring **Meagan Martin, mezzo soprano; Victoria Kirsch, piano. Program: Jane Austen at 250: A Musical Celebration.** Martin and Kirsch present a musical celebration of the beloved British author Jane Austen, who was born nearly 250 years ago to the day on December 16, 1775. How to watch the Livestream, and view past recitals:

- Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc) • YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSantaMonicaUMC)
- Website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream).

**Wednesday, December 10, at 12:10 p.m., online**



### Preschool Christmas Concert

The First UMC Preschool is excited to celebrate their annual Preschool Christmas Concert! All are welcome to watch the adorable Preschoolers perform their holiday songs. Join us for coffee hour in the Courtyard prior to the performance.

**Friday, December 12, 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

### Poinsettia Dedications

Beautiful poinsettias will grace our sanctuary for the December 24, 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family service, the 8 p.m. Candlelight Service, and the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table or in the church office. Each plant is \$15, and may be picked up after any of the Christmas Eve services.

**Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 16**



### Advent Brunch

Following the Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 21, everyone is warmly invited to our Advent Brunch, hosted by Fellowship and Events. Enjoy seasonal crafts, joyful caroling with members of ACT, and a special visit from Santa! Come share in the fun and celebrate the spirit of the season together. A light brunch will be served.

**Sunday, December 21, after worship in Simkins Hall**

# ADVENT SERVICES



## **Saturday, December 13: 4 p.m. Messy Church: Messy Manger**

Through games and crafts, storytelling and song, food and fun, we will explore the Christmas story and the birth of baby Jesus. We will close our time with a delicious home-cooked meal prepared by church members and shared together in community. *In Simkins Hall.*

## **Sunday, December 14: 4 p.m. Blue Advent: A Contemplative Worship Service**



While the Advent/Christmas season is known as a time of joy, merriment, and excited expectation it can also include feelings of fear, grief, loneliness, or maybe just the need to step away from relentless cheer. Our lives are complex. Advent and Christmas can be too. The Blue Advent service, led by Rev. Keri Olsen Paget and the Spiritual Formation Counsel, is designed to hold the complexity of the season with gentle grace while in community. Come pray, sing, and worship God-With-Us remembering that through Christ grief and fear dance with gratitude and hope. *In-person only.*



## **Sunday, December 21: 10 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols**

The annual worship service that tells the story of Christmas through Bible readings, carols, and hymns. *(In-person and online.)*

## **Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve**

### **- 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service**

A "No Muss, No Fuss" Christmas Pageant for all ages. Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate. In the Sanctuary. *(In-person and online)*

### **- 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Join us for a traditional candlelight service, accompanied by the Chancel Choir, organ, and harp. This meaningful worship offers a serene moment of beauty and reverence during the Christmas season. In the Sanctuary. *(In-person and online)*



### **- 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service**

Join us for a contemplative Christmas Eve Service as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We will reflect upon the mystery of the Incarnation, the Word made flesh, in song, prayer, and the sharing of Holy Communion. Led by Rev. Greg Batson, with Tania Batson, solo; Thomas Batson, organ; and Wesley and Daniel Batson reading. In the Sanctuary. *(In-person only)*



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